



Ghost Dog Secrets

By Peg Kehret

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Each day, sixth-grader Rusty feeds a dog that's left chained in the frigid weather with no shelter, food, or water. When he realizes the dog has been injured, he tries to have Animal Control help - but when that fails, Rusty and his friend Andrew unchain the dog and take it. With the dog in their hideout, the boys face multiple challenges, including Andrew's snoopy sister and the escalating threats of the dog's abusive owner. Even more challenging? The appearance of a ghost dog that appears in Rusty's room, and is trying to lead him to an even deeper secret. . . .

Peg Kehret delivers another fast-paced story with lots of heart, which will leave young readers cheering for Rusty and the dogs.

"Heartwarming, suspenseful, and adventurous, Ghost Dog Secrets is another winner for Kehret." - VOYA

"This tale is both heart-wrenching and heart-racing." - *The News Tribune*

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4-6—Sixth-grader Rusty comes across a German shepherd chained outside with no food, water, or shelter, and knows he has to do something about it. He begins by sneaking food to the dog, but when a ghostly apparition of a collie appears to Rusty, and he realizes that the dog has been hurt, he decides he has to do something more. With the help of his friend Andrew, he rescues the animal and gives it a home in their old fort. But is it rescuing, or stealing? Eventually, the adults in the boys' lives get involved, and while doing the right thing is no less complicated, a happy ending (for most parties) is achieved. Rusty's first-person narrative is not entirely convincing, but dog lovers and fans of thorny moral dilemmas will appreciate this fast-paced story. And three cheers for the author for depicting adults who are loving, involved, and competent.

Laurie Slagenwhite Walters, Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham, MI

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From [Booklist](#)

Mixing hard realities (like animal abuse) with the supernatural, Kehret's latest suspense novel will appeal to readers who like frights but also like them quickly dispelled. The phantom canine of the title turns out to be the spirit of an abused dog that helps Rusty, the book's sixth-grade narrator, find three other abused dogs and save them. It starts when Rusty sees a dog tied up in a yard without access to food or shelter. Rusty tries to do good on his own but by the end of the book has enlisted all of the human resources he has—his best friend, his mother, his teacher, his town's animal-control officer, and the police—to do even better, not only saving three abused dogs but also uncovering a meth lab. Thoughtful but driven to act, Rusty makes a fine protagonist as he careens through the well-paced plot. Young readers will also end up with an illuminating introduction to the important work of animal-rescue organizations. Grades 5-7. --Abby Nolan

About the Author

Peg Kehret was born in Wisconsin, grew up in Minnesota, spent fourteen years in California, and now lives with her husband in Washington State. They have two grown children, four grandchildren, one dog, and one cat.

Peg's novels for children are regularly recommended by the American Library Association, the International Reading Association, and the Children's Book Council. She has won many state "young reader" or "children's choice" awards. Peg's characters are ordinary kids who find themselves in exciting situations and who use their wits to solve their problems. There is usually humor as well as suspense in her books. A long-time volunteer at The Humane Society, she often uses animals in her stories.

Before she began writing books for children, Peg published plays, short stories, articles, and two books for adults. She is a frequent speaker at conferences for librarians and teachers.

At the age of twelve, Peg had polio and was paralyzed from the neck down. Because she can remember that experience and her year of recovery so vividly, she finds it easy to write in the viewpoint of a twelve or thirteen year old. Most of her main characters are that age. Her autobiography, **Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio**, won the Golden Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators, and the PEN Center USA West Award for Children's Literature.

When she is not writing, Peg likes to watch baseball, bake cookies, and pump her old player piano.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Christopher:

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Katie Mueller:

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