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# Ghost Dog Secrets



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## Synopsis

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

## Book Information

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#593 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dogs](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

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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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 --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This book is sad and happy. I would recommend this book to people who like dogs. It also has a bit of mystery involved. The plot is (Spoilers!) this kid finds a dog chained to a fence without food, water, or shelter and he and his friend start to feed it every day. Sometimes when he feeds it he sees a ghost dog with it. One day he finds out that the owner of the dog hurt it and decides he needs to save it. He steals the dog and keeps it in a fort that he and his friend built in the woods. He takes care of it every day. Then one day his friends little sister finds out and tells his parents. Read the book to find out what happens next!

Reading this book with my granddaughters on the week ends and they and I love it teaches a lot about caring for animals and making a difference in the world.

I am typing this review for my 11 year old daughter: "This is the best book ever - I wish it was part of a series. The writing was very interesting - it had a lot of descriptive adjectives and you could picture

exactly what was happening. You should read this book if you like dogs and are interested in action adventure. This book was so amazing! I even got in trouble for staying up 5 hours past my bedtime because I couldn't stop - literally - reading it! P.S. I read this book on my Kindle."

I don't know why this book is pigeonholed in the young reader's section, to me it is universal in theme and written at a high level, so high it is a shame to keep it hidden in the wrong genre. Despite the protagonist being a sixth grade student and much of the action and plot occurring in the school and the class in which he sits, it is more than just about him. A dog is involved, in fact several dogs, and cats are mentioned as well, but more is shown, such as animal cruelty, rescue operations, police response, and the time involved, as well as drug operations with a brief mention of characteristics to note for the presence of methamphetamine preparation. This is only for kids? Parental involvement is also detailed as well as adult response to their children's actions, thus raising the story above the level that would make it only for the kids. Kids would enjoy it as well as adults but I think adults would enjoy it more than the kids themselves, it is so well written and involves so many factors in its plot and development. I think adults should definitely read it. Two boys rescue a dog, keep it hidden fearing their parents would make them return it to its owner whom the boys know is mistreating the animal. That, briefly, is the plot, and the conversion of the parents to the boys viewpoint of the correct action to be taken and its fall out is the content of the book. Read it and be rewarded.

This is an up to date story that kids can relate to. The themes are great for the middle school age group. Compassion and determination are at the heart of the main character. Rusty is likable, believable, and relatable in this story about not being afraid to get involved in something bigger than himself. Plus, the kids loved it!

I actually read the book myself and found it to be a good book. There is a lot of ... lets say "filler" paragraphs of info. / story that doesn't relate to the Dog & Ghost Dog ... I sorta skimmed past those sections. My son is 11 yrs old and not the best reader. It's a good story for his age or younger (if they have good reading skills).

I occasionally buy books for great-grandchildren, and had read about this in my local newspaper. I was charmed by it. The story is well written and almost without being obvious sneaks in many good life lessons and consequences of actions. Highly recommend it.

Read this to my 4h grade students. They loved it!

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