

Adults Love the Super Bouv Series as Much as the Kids!

By Deborah Abeles*

Books for young children have often been full of colorful canine characters, but to my knowledge none have ever featured the Bouvier des Flandres breed – until now!

Bouvier lovers worldwide can now delight in the Super Bouv Series, a set of three hardcover storybooks featuring a baby Bouvier named Ruby. An added (big) plus is that purchasing the books raises funds for the ABRL! **Each time a book is purchased from www.BooksThatGive.com with the coupon code “ABRL,” 100% of the author's proceeds, plus a portion of the publisher's proceeds, goes to support the valuable work of the ABRL.**

Bouvier owners will especially love these books because, having lived with their own Bouvs, they will be able to understand firsthand how Ruby views the world. Janet Atkinson, who has owned multiple Bouviers through the years and who recently purchased the series, points out, “Author Lee Ann Billings describes a young Bouvier to a tee.”

Atkinson adds, “When I first read the books in the Super Bouv Series, I thought to myself that Lee Ann has to have been hiding on my shoulder, because she’s written about my Bouvier, Angel!” Wanting to spread the joy that she knew the series would bring to other Bouvier lovers, Atkinson gave a set of the books to the breeder from whom she got her Angel.

Robin Visceglia had her grandchildren in mind when she bid on a set of the Super Bouv Series books in the 2013 ABRL Auction. After receiving the three books, Visceglia shares, “I thought they were

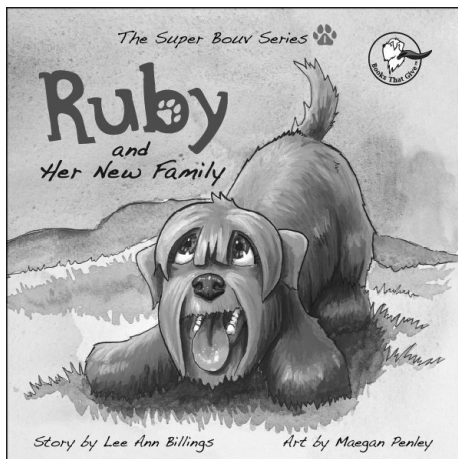
adorable. So much so that, instead of sending my first set to my grandchildren, I ordered another set for them and kept mine! The characters are great and Ruby is a star. The kids loved them and practically have them memorized already!”

The Super Bouv Series was published in December 2013 by Partners Publishing LLC. The series was created by Lee Ann Billings, who has a BA in Journalism. She based the main character, Ruby, on her own Bouvier. After years of observing the antics and talents of her real-life Ruby, she had no shortage of story ideas for the books. In fact, some of the stories in the books are true stories about the dog! For example, at the end of book three Ruby becomes a service dog, much the same as Lee Ann’s Bouv has become for her family. Billings points out, “The project was a labor of love... a way for me to honor my own Bouvier, who has brought so much into our family, while sharing stories about the uniqueness of the Bouvier des Flandres breed.” Indeed, the story behind the story is a fascinating one; I hope it will appear in the Summer RESCUE ROUNDUP.



The real-life Ruby takes a break from work.

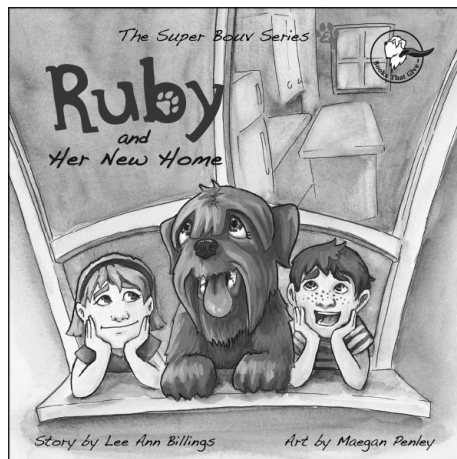
The titles of the three books in the series are: *Ruby and Her New Family*, *Ruby and Her New Home*, and *Ruby and Her New Job*. As the series unfolds, Ruby grows from a puppy and eventually ventures forth



In the first book in the series, Little Ruby enters the world facing the challenge of being the smallest puppy in the pack. After being left behind, she finally finds a home – but only for a while. Journey along as Ruby encounters failure and rejection to ultimately overcome her fears and discover the power of love.

into the world to bravely find a new family, a new home, and a new job – but not without some mishaps!

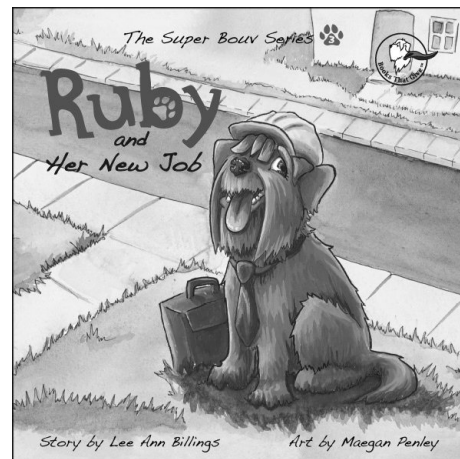
The stories are brought to life by artist Maegan Penley, who has a BFA in Illustration. She used both watercolor and acrylic paints in each scene to create rich artwork that depicts the Bouv intelligence and humor in full action. Penley describes herself as a serious dog lover. She owns both a Boxer and a “Bulldoxer,” whom Ruby gets to “meet” when they make a brief cameo in the first book in the series.



In the second book in the series, Ruby bravely ventures off to her new home. As she crosses over the river and travels through the green hills, she has no idea where she is going – or the obstacles she will face. Journey along as Ruby encounters surprises and solves a mystery that will protect her new family.

Richard Adams, a Bouvier owner himself, feels that Billings and Penley have made a great team. After reading the books he said, “Our five-year-old granddaughter loves the books, especially the illustrations. And the storyline is a great lesson for kids to learn.” Adams adds, “Kids need to read books and this series will capture their attention!”

As word of the Super Bouv Series has spread, Bouvier lovers from many parts of the world – the United States, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom – have enjoyed these delightful books.



In the third book in the series, Ruby makes a difference in her new home, tackling chores with vim and vigor, and creating fun adventures! But as she takes on more responsibility, her helpfulness turns into canine capers – until she finds a new way to communicate with her family. Journey along as Ruby sniffs out a new job for herself!

Visit www.BooksThatGive.com and check them out yourself! **And don't forget to enter “ABRL” in the coupon code field to help Ruby rescue fellow Bouviers.**

Please note: If anyone is interested in hosting a fund-raising event in their local area to help support the ABRL by selling the books in the Super Bouv Series, please contact Lee Ann Billings at 865-963-6758 or leeannbillings@earthlink.net. ♦

** With contributions from Lee Ann Billings.*