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FIND A COW NOW!
An interview with
best-selling author
Susan Stevens
Crummel

Q: What was the inspiration behind the book?

A: My sister, the illustrator, Janet Stevens, rescued a cattle dog named Houdini several year ago. He has herded deer, cats, rugs, chairs, and even his tail. He, too, has never seen a cow.

Q: What makes this book special to you? What important message do you feel it brings to young readers?

A: It's special because it stars a very funny, unique, real dog named Houdini who always wants to herd things. The book has several messages: sometimes you have to step out of your comfort zone to pursue your dreams; dreams are often found when you least expect it; there's no place like home.

Q: What was your favorite book growing up?

A: A How and Why Book of poetry, nursery rhymes, fairy tales, and fables. It had it all!

Q: What is your favorite memory from childhood?

A: Visiting my grandparents' ranch in the heart of Texas and playing with my large number of first cousins.



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Q: Did you have any pets? If so, which one was your favorite?

A: A big black Great Dane named Beauty. She lived to be fourteen years old—and was a gentle giant.

Q: What inspired you to write and when did you know you would become an author?

A: I loved to write (especially poetry) from the time I was old enough to write! As I grew older, I wrote songs, poems, and skits for friends, family, and school. I won a poetry contest in eighth grade and had my first poem published. Janet (Stevens) and I had always talked about it, but it didn't become a reality until an emergency situation arose in 1997. She was asked to write and illustrate a story for a Harcourt School publication and the deadline was rapidly approaching. She knew what she wanted to draw—she just was stuck on how to word it. I became her voice; and in that week of brainstorming, writing, and rewriting, we discovered that the collaboration was purr-r-r-fect. Her illustrations and my writing are a “fit” because we share the same sense of humor!

Q: If there is one thing you could tell your readers about life, what would you say?

A: Each day that you wake up (and hopefully you do), you have two choices: you can choose to be in a good mood or you can choose to be in a bad mood. choose the good mood, and your optimism will affect not only your life, but the lives of everyone you touch.

FIND A COW NOW!

by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

illustrated by Janet Stevens

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