



Bruce Finds a Home

by Kathryn van Beek

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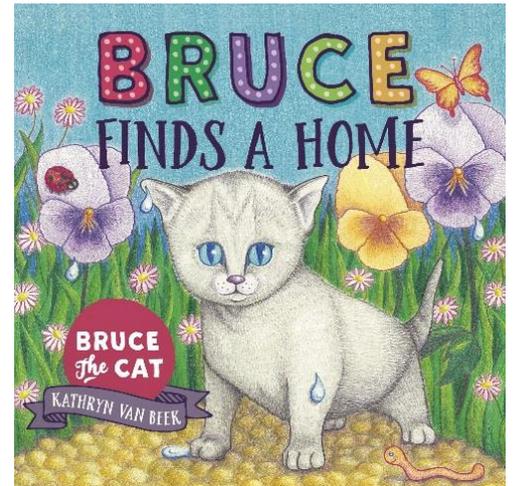
**Bruce the Cat is an internet sensation!
Now the popular moggy features in his first picture book, *Bruce Finds a Home*.**

Two years ago he was a day-old kitten lying alone on the side of the road. Now Bruce the Cat is all grown up – and he's about to release his first book.

"When I found Bruce his survival story quickly went viral," says author Kathryn van Beek. "Now he has fans all over the world – and they helped me bring Bruce's story to life as a children's book."

Kathryn is an award-winning writer who has a master's degree in creative writing. Over the past two years she's also written a steady stream of social media posts about her famous cat ... and she's learnt all about how to care for new-born kittens.

"When I found Bruce he was as small as a mouse and his eyes were still closed," Kathryn says. "I bottle-fed him around the clock to keep him alive. He was also grey due to a condition known as 'fever coat'. There was a lot of speculation on social media that he was Siamese or a British Blue ... but he eventually morphed into a mischievous black moggie!"



Bruce Finds a Home is loosely based on the story of how Bruce was found. In the book, six-year-old Kate finds a kitten on her way home from school. She knocks at every door in the street and speaks to all her neighbours ... but no one can give the kitten a home. What will Kate do?

The book is set in Bruce's neighbourhood of Port Chalmers, Dunedin, and was developed with editorial advice from the new entrants at Port Chalmers School. The richly-coloured illustrations reflect the vibrant landscapes of the quirky seaside town.

Determined to produce a beautiful book that would do justice to Bruce's story, Kathryn enlisted award-winning book designer Anna Egan-Reid and ran a crowdfunding campaign to raise the money to cover printing costs.

"It's incredible to think that hundreds of people from New Lynn to New York played a part in making this book happen," Kathryn says. "I've spent the past few months creating personalised videos and bespoke pet portraits for my backers. And now that everything's finally finished ... I'm looking forward to the book launch!"



About the author

Kathryn van Beek has completed a Master's degree at Victoria University's Institute of Modern Letters and the Fiction Writing Course at The Creative Hub. Her short stories have appeared in Headland, Hue and Cry, Pot Roast and Aerodrome, and she won the 2015 Headland Prize for her short story *Frangipani*. She has also published several zines, and won 'Best of the Fest' at Auckland Zinefest 2015 for a zine that featured her original artwork. Kathryn's articles and essays have appeared in The Spinoff and The Sunday Star Times. She is also an award-winning playwright.

See more at: www.kathrynvaneek.co.nz

Bruce the Cat Internet Sensation!

Bruce was found alone on the pavement when he was just one day old. After checking that the kitten (with umbilical cord still attached) didn't belong to any of the neighbours, Kathryn took him home – and got a crash course in kitten parenting that involved many trips to the emergency vet.

Kathryn started a Facebook page about Bruce ... and it went viral. Bruce's story appeared all over the world. He now has 37K followers on Facebook, and can also be found on Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. www.facebook.com/BruceTheKitten

Bruce uses his platform to share information about responsible pet ownership. He partners with The Animal Rescue Network in Dunedin to help other little kittens in need.

Bruce's website was awarded a 'Top Cat Blog of 2017' by All About Cats. www.brucethecat.co.nz/



For media queries, review and giveaway copies, extracts and interviews, please contact publicist Karen McKenzie.

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