

Rescue Road: One Man, Thirty Thousand Dogs, and a Million Miles on the Last Hope Highway

By Peter Zheutlin (Sourcebooks)

Reviewed by Claudia Kawczynska

Have you ever wondered what the great migration of southern dogs to new forever homes in the north is all about? Or who's behind the long-distance transports, how they're orchestrated or why they're needed? And, importantly, who to thank? You'll get answers to these questions, and so much more, in the inspiring and riveting new book, *Rescue Road*.



This is a must-read for anyone who wants to learn about some of the heroes on the front lines of animal rescue—what inspires them and how, miraculously, they pull it all together. The author, a journalist, was at the winning end of the long line of helping hands that brought his family Albie, a dog from [Labs4rescue](#). Inspired by the process, he decided to look into this south/north rescue movement by focusing on Greg Mahle, long-haul transporter and owner of Rescue Road Trips, who chauffeured Albie up from Louisiana. Mahle is also responsible for uniting 30,000 other dogs with their new families, in what he likes to call their “Gotcha Day.”

Zheutlin first profiled Mahle for *Parade* magazine, but for the book, he accompanied the driver on a 4,200-mile road trip, during which they transported more than 80 dogs. The expedition starts out in Mahle's hometown of Zanesville, Ohio, winds down to the Gulf Coast, then back up to the northeast. Along the way, we learn about the amazing rescuers, shelter staff and vets who coordinate with Mahle to get their dogs into his big rig safe and sound as he tries to meet a grueling, precisely timed schedule.

We also meet kind-hearted volunteers in towns like Birmingham, Ala., and Allentown, Pa., where, twice a

month, dozens come out to greet the dogs and the transporters. They walk and play with the rescues, clean out crates, and bring both the humans and the dogs goodies to eat. Mahle calls them the “Angels,” and we agree that it's an apt description. As Mahle modestly notes, “We are all cogs in the wheel of rescue; everyone has a part to play.”

This revelatory and joyous story is sometimes heart-wrenching, particularly when the scale of the challenges and unmet needs of the dogs who are left behind are considered. But it has a vital message, one we hope will inspire many readers to join in however they can to help our country's unwanted dogs no matter where they are from.

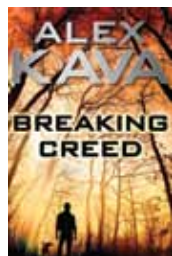
Breaking Creed

Silent Creed

By Alex Kava (GW Putnam's Sons)

Reviewed by Susan Tasaki

Oh, the pleasure of reading far into the night. Just one more chapter, or maybe two ... next thing you know, it's three in the morning. How did *that* happen? For me, suspense novels with compelling main characters written by someone with serious plotting skills are the usual culprits.



Case in point: Alex Kava's new series featuring Ryder Creed, a man of few words and many, many dogs. Creed is a “dogman,” a former marine K9 handler with tours in Afghanistan on his resume. He and his military dog, Rufus, went ahead of the soldiers to sniff out buried IEDs. Along with Rufus, he brought some of the darkness of that far-away war home with him in his head.

When we meet Creed in the first book (*Breaking Creed*), he's on a helicopter with his best multitask search dog, Grace. And here's the first clue to what makes Ryder Creed different: Grace is a 16-pound Jack Russell, a highly focused and amazingly resilient dynamo whom Creed rescued

and trained. In fact, while German Shepherds and Labs are on “staff,” most of Creed's K9 CrimeScents kennels are filled with what could be called “non-standard” scent dogs; several are mixes, and most are rescues.

Rescue is the underlying theme of these books. Creed was rescued from his post-war drunk and belligerent self, and in turn, takes in and trains abandoned dogs in scent-detection work. Like Creed, some of the dogs have a few rough edges, but also like him, they do their jobs every single time.

Florida is Creed's home base, and the cases covered in these two books—drug- and people smuggling in the first, shady activities by a top-secret government research unit in the second—both involve the FBI in the person of scarily composed profiler Maggie O'Dell, the lead character in Kava's other highly regarded series.

A flawed, fierce protagonist whose first and absolute loyalty is to his dogs, plus compelling story lines: a slam-dunk recipe for late-night reading!

Don't miss our interview with the author, Alex Kava on p. 92.

101 Doggy Dilemmas

By Tony Cruse (CreateSpace/Amazon)

UK trainer Tony Cruse's book is a good guide to a better understanding of dogs.

Addressing behavioral questions such as, “Why does my dog get on the chair



the minute I get off it?” Cruse presents the reasons in a charming and straightforward manner, with a nod to the dog's point of view. In this case, he points out

that it doesn't mean a dog is trying to dominate; more likely, it's that we've warmed the comfy chair and it “clearly is a good place” to be. He also offers training tips such as offering the dog a well-stuffed Kong in another spot in the house, away from the chair. So, if you've ever wondered just why your dog does what she does, this delightful read is for you.