

Rudy 2

Trailers, Pigs, and New Friends



By Maegan McPherson

“Do you remember the lovable horse from the popular children’s book, Rudy – A Big Horse with a Big Heart? Because of its popularity, Diane’s first book is being re-released by Pathway Book Service, which will provide national distribution opportunities with all of the large book wholesalers. Rudy will delight new readers, who will learn how horses think, the emotions they feel, and what goes into training a horse.”

Diane is also just getting ready to launch the second book of her three book series, Rudy2 – Trailers, Pigs, and New Friends. Like in the first book, Diane tells Rudy’s story from the horse’s point of view.

“In the second book, Rudy moves to a new stable in Rye, NH. He struggles to fit in with a new herd at the stable and is bullied. He reaffirms





that he dislikes trailers, learns that pigs are terrifying, and meets a new horse who becomes a good friend.”

“In Rudy2, more is revealed about horse/human relationship challenges as Rudy forms a close friendship with Diane’s 11-year-old niece, Cece. And, of course, the same endearing Rudy shares his experiences and feelings on his new adventures and the people (and animals) he meets along the way.”

The second book ends with a cliffhanger, and the third book of the series will wrap everything up. Diane once again includes interesting information about horses throughout the book. She tops it off with horse anatomy, an equine glossary, 20 new fun horse facts, and an adorable list of Rudy’s likes and dislikes. Readers will enjoy gorgeous illustrations by local artist, Karen Busch Holman, who also illustrated the first book.

Diane explains her goals with Rudy 2 are to connect with the kids, by sharing Rudy’s emotions. “I share the different things that have happened to him, which helps get kids to open up, just like Rudy does.”

“Just like children do, Rudy was getting bullied, chased and isolated, he got sick and was getting ulcers. He had a complete personality change. Humans have to intervene to help their animals and make changes,

whether it's putting them with a new horse, or a different feed program, etc."

"The book brings up many important topics for parents to talk about with their kids. My second goal was to educate kids. There is so much to know when it comes to owning a horse. Kids grow up wanting horses and ponies and people give in to their kids by jumping into things without ever realizing what all it takes, to actually take care of a horse."

"Emotional trauma can happen to horses so it's nice to be able to educate kids while they are reading. Lots of responsibility comes with owning a horse. There is a night and day difference in personality when people really care for their animal compared to one that is neglected, and the same goes for kids."

Our author Diane never had any intention of buying a horse, but through a series of unanticipated events, she bought Rudy for only one dollar. Not having a clue what owning a horse entailed, Diane dove headfirst into the biggest joy and challenge of her life."

"After a couple years of working with Rudy a story started flowing through me, begging to be shared. As I reflected on what I knew of Rudy's life, I began seeing parallels between experiences he had gone through and the things some children go through. A lack of choice, people coming and going from his life, and abandonment.

Diane was able to sell the entire first book out in the 1st year. "My books are self-published so I dove in and put my boots on the ground, went to craft shows and went in and out of stores to tell Rudy's story."

The past year was very difficult due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. "Stores were extremely impacted, volume was down and everything fell off a cliff. I used to do fairs, and was unable to do so last year." It wasn't until October thru December where she was really

able to sell the book again. "I had to figure out different avenues to drum up business, and it was tricky trying to get people to meet me for the books."

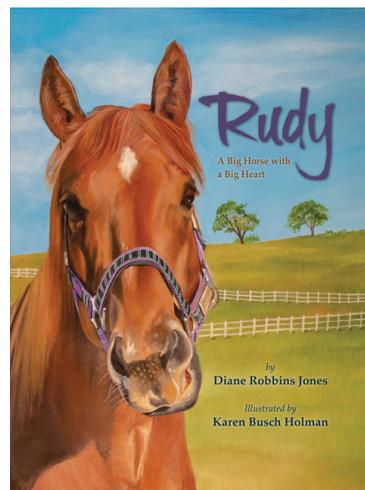
Diane lives in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and not only is she an animal lover, but she is also passionate about protecting the environment. She often enjoys her time off in northern Vermont where she hikes, bikes, and skis. "Writing has served as an outlet for Diane since she was a young child. Over the years, she amassed multiple journals containing poetry, song lyrics, and hundreds of pages for a memoir. Like many, she has a bucket list and publishing a book had been on it for quite a while. The "universe" apparently thought she needed a nudge, and that's when Rudy entered. When she bought Rudy at the age of fifty, she fulfilled a lifelong dream of horse ownership."

"My goals for writing Rudy - A Big Horse with A Big Heart were to have kids fall in love with Rudy by making him relatable through sharing his experiences and emotions. At the same time, I wanted to educate children about horses. My hope is that through reading my books kids develop an understanding and appreciation for these magnificent animals."

The Rudy Book Series will consist of three chapter books. Each book stands on its own or can be bought as a set. Kids will be delighted by the many adventures, mishaps, and surprises of Rudy's life while learning what makes horses tick. Books are complete with beautiful color illustrations, horse anatomy, an equine glossary of terms, and 20 Fun Horse Facts.

"Grandparents are my target market because they love to pull kids off the online avenues. The old-school parents are looking for more hands on ways to learn which I appreciate."

Rudy, or The Rudster as he's often called, is 16. He was born on



April 10, 2005. He's a gorgeous thoroughbred that stands 16 hands tall and weighs 1,300 pounds. Rudy is charismatic, sensitive, cautious and playful. He loves to eat German horse muffins, apples, carrots, celery and watermelon.

"Rudy has a unique way that he connects with people, especially kids. He loves their presence. With me he might be spooky or grouchy, but with the kids he's patient and adores all the kid hugs."

With the first book Diane was able to do meet and greets with Rudy. They were able to give him a carrot, pose with him for photos, and he was the perfect model when Diane went over horse anatomy. Due to COVID though, all of the meet and greets came to a screeching halt, and more than likely they will not be able to do this when the second book goes to the printer in July 2021, and releases in September 2021.

While COVID was happening Diane made the most of her time, and launched a new website. You can visit <https://www.rudytherudster.com> to learn more about the book series and to buy them! Rudy also has Instagram and his own Facebook page where he has a good following so make sure you stop by and check them out!



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