

Love Rhymes
with Everything

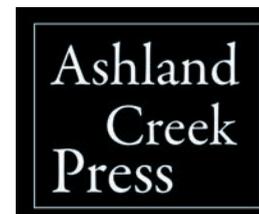
Love Rhymes with Everything

*Animal ruminations
through poetry & paintings*



Art by Dana Feagin

Poetry by Kat von Cupcake



Love Rhymes with Everything
Animal ruminations through poetry & paintings

Published by Ashland Creek Press
Ashland, Oregon
www.ashlandcreekpress.com

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ISBN 978-1-61822-052-3
Library of Congress Control Number: 2016963489

Printed in the United States of America on acid-free paper.
All paper products used to create this book are Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Certified Sourcing.

Foreword

The animals with whom we share this planet have countless stories to tell. The only problem is that we speak different languages (most of the time). Yet it is so important—even when we think we can't understand our fellow creatures—that we listen and observe. So much that gets lost in translation is, in fact, right in front of us—if we pay close attention.

Dana Feagin and Kat von Cupcake are among those who are listening, and they have much to share with us.

Dana's lovely, whimsical paintings have been hanging in Ashland galleries for nearly a decade. And it was at Dana's art show at a Sanctuary One fundraiser that I first met Kat, over a platter of her vegan cupcake minis. Always a fan of Dana and Kat's talents, I'm also incredibly fortunate to call them both friends.

And Dana and Kat, who both serve on the board of Sanctuary One, are friends of the animals in so many ways. They give their time, their passion, and their artistic gifts—and they are generously donating all proceeds of this book to sanctuaries and rescues.

I've had the privilege of meeting many of the animals featured in this book—the horses of Equamore; the farm animals of Sanctuary One; Kat's own Little Inez and Bella; Dana's Riley, Oscar, Nell, and Chive—and Theo, the general manager of Ashland Creek Press and our family cat for

the past seventeen years. It's wonderful to see these animals—so many of them formerly abused or abandoned—honored in paintings and poetry.

Rescued animals have sad stories, but the animals you'll meet in this book are the lucky ones; they ended up at shelters and sanctuaries, where they will live out their lives in peace or be adopted to loving homes. *Love Rhymes with Everything* ensures that all of them will be remembered, as will the humans who have loved them and cared for them.

The poems and paintings collected here remind us that all animals have unique personalities, stories, and histories. And, thanks to Dana, Kat, and all of you who are reading and sharing this book, more animals will have hopeful futures as well.

Midge Raymond
February 2017
Ashland, Oregon

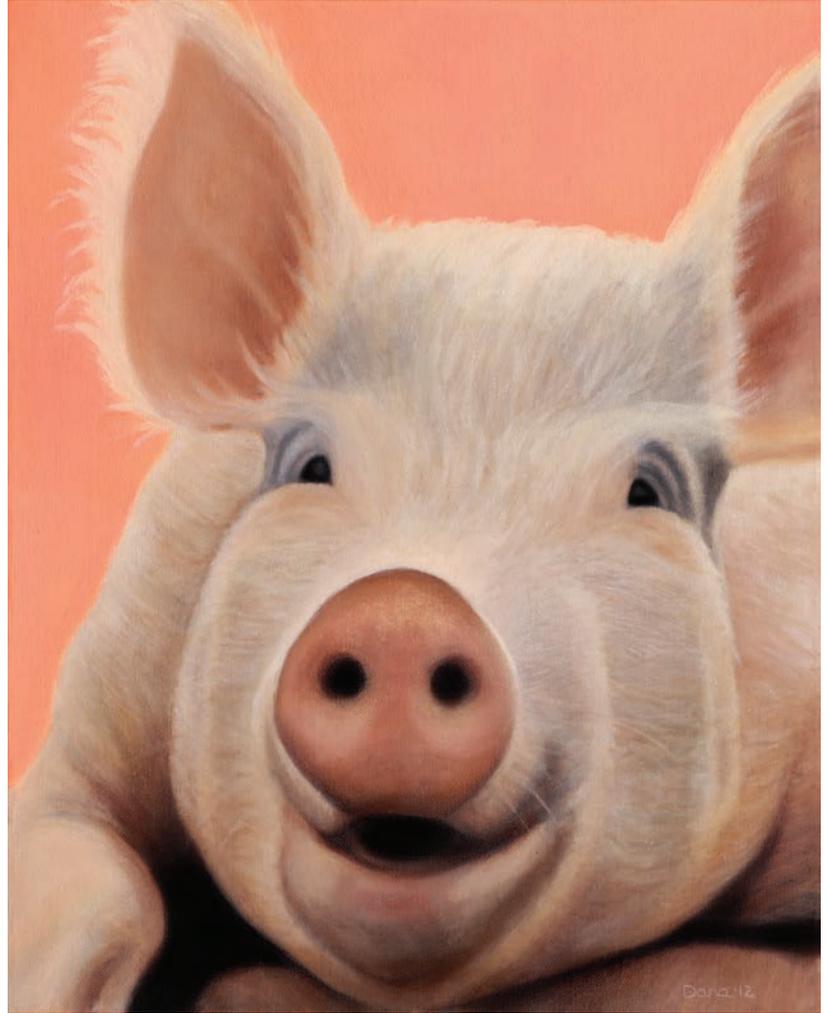
Ambassador

I am the one
you will most likely see
when you arrive at the gate
of the sanctuary

In the front-most pasture
I wait to meet
the visitors who come
they are all mine to greet

I am all snorts and smiles
as I escort you through the gate
Just look at my life now!
Isn't it great?

For my name is Lulu
and I am the start of your tour
I think this is why folks call me
the ambassador



Ode to a Ball

Have you seen my red ball?
Because I don't see it at all.

I woke up from my nap;
now all I see is a gap
where my ball used to be;
oh, woe is me.

Yes, I looked over there
and underneath the blue chair;
no red did I see.
Are you laughing at me?

Soon my dinner will call
so please do not tease;
come on, my dear human,
and find my red ball.



Wardrobe Malfunction

Hey!
Hey you—
over there—
oops, sorry,
didn't mean to scare
and not that you care,
but I think I should share
and make you aware
that when you came out of there,
your skirt—it got tucked into
your pink underwear.



Maynard Loves Brian

He is sitting on the bench
he is right over there
it's that man I call friend
I can tell by his hair

I hop up beside him
and then to his lap
and then my long neck
around his I wrap

My focus is pulled
and I begin eyeing
those shoes on his feet
they beg for untying



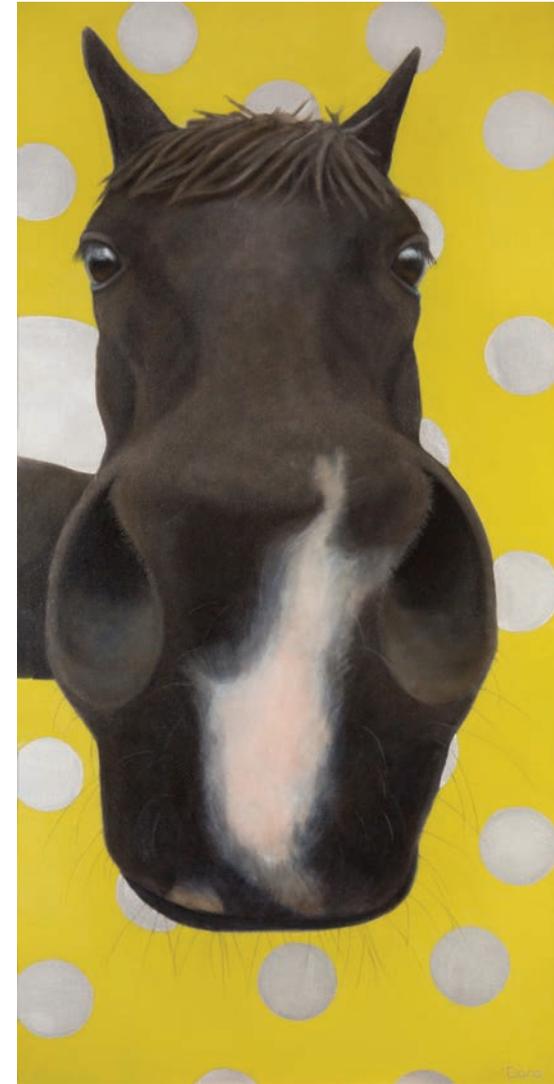
No Words

This one is too hard
I just can't write it
every time I begin
my breaking heart fights it

the way you were treated
it should be a crime
neglect so severe
unforgivable, unkind

sanctuaries and rescues
our need for them soars
in your case sweet Chaps
bless the hearts of Equamore

your ending is happy
not all of them are
you made it through hell
just show them your scar



Stare Down

I won't blink
if you won't.

I won't move
if you don't.

You think you're so clever,
but I can do this forever.

You give up?
Whatever.





About the Publisher

Ashland Creek Press is an independent, vegan-owned publisher of ecofiction, which includes books in all genres about animals, the environment, and the planet we all call home. We are passionate about books that foster an appreciation for worlds outside our own, for nature and the animal kingdom, and for the ways in which we all connect. To learn more, visit us at www.AshlandCreekPress.com.