



Dex: The Heart of a Hero

By Caralyn Buehner

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Dexter is a little dog. He's so little that the other dogs forget to invite him to play, and Cleevis the tomcat bullies him.

But little Dexter has dreams -- big dreams. He wants to be a superhero. So Dexter starts a superhero training program. And suddenly, even Cleevis needs his help!

In *Superdog*, husband-and-wife team Mark and Caralyn Buehner have created a timeless story about a true superhero. Dexter has determination, spirit, and heart as he proves, above all, that no matter how little you are, you can still do very big things.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 3--Dexter the dachshund is an underdog--literally. Clevis the tomcat enjoys demonstrating how he can stand right over Dex and not even ruffle his fur. What the pooch lacks in size, however, he makes up for in determination, and when he decides to stop just dreaming of being a hero and devote his life to becoming one, he is unstoppable. The first step on his journey is the library, where the poodle who assists him is wearing glasses and sports what looks suspiciously like a bun. He sets himself a strict exercise regime, pushing himself to the limit: "Even at bedtime, when he wanted to flop on the rug with his tongue hanging out, Dex forced himself to circle five extra times." He finally achieves his goal (his muscle-man poses are priceless), dons a Superdog suit, and proceeds to use his hard-earned prowess for the good of all. When he eventually comes to the rescue of a stranded Clevis, a new partnership is formed with "twice the brains and triple the brawn." The story line may be a bit predictable, but the Buehners' considerable talents render it fresh and funny. The author has created a lovable and memorable character in the endearing and stalwart Dex, and the illustrator's retro-style artwork is charming. As in *Fanny's Dream* (Dial, 1996), he has added to the fun by hiding cats, rabbits, and even a Tyrannosaurus rex in the clouds and shadows. This dynamic combination of heart and humor should not be missed.--Grace Oliff, Ann Blanche Smith School, Hillsdale, NJ

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From [Booklist](#)

Reviewed with Steve Bjorkman's *Supersnouts!*

PreS-Gr. 1. Lots of kids want to be superheroes, and apparently so do certain animals. Two new books make good use of every child's longing to be the biggest, bravest, strongest. In *Supersnouts!* young pig Hamlet notices masked men entering the barnyard and alerts two older pigs. They slip into the costumes of the Superhero Pig Patrol and allow Hamlet to get some "on-the-hoof" training as a superhero. He causes almost as much trouble as he solves before triumphantly catching the burglars (though the actual capture is somewhat abbreviated). This rather slight story has a high quantity of hammy jokes along with plenty of bangs and booms. The attraction here is the zippy watercolor artwork, so action-filled that each spread practically quivers with movement. Although the pictures are not cartoon-style, this raucous offering does have elements of that robust medium.

Superdog has the same energy, but less slapstick and more heart. Dexter is a small dog, who decides that the way to get respect, especially from ridiculing cat Clevis, is to become a superhero. He exercises, reads up on other superheroes, and even gets a costume. Almost immediately, he is tackling purse snatchers, rescuing rodents, and in a dramatic denouement, saves Clevis, who is stuck in a tree. This has a stronger story than *Supersnouts*, but again it is the artwork that really shines. Solid shapings, surprising perspectives, and thick paints in dynamic colors combine for artwork that practically jumps off the page. There's plenty of wit, too, such as in the set of six small pictures in which Dexter shows off his newly developed muscles. Pure fun (mixed with a little forgiveness). *Ilene Cooper*

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Review

"Mark Buehner's energetic illustrations are full of bright colors and humorous details." (Washington Post)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sun Byrd:

As people who live in the actual modest era should be update about what going on or information even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era which is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe may update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what one you should start with. This Dex: The Heart of a Hero is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Marie Heidelberg:

The guide with title Dex: The Heart of a Hero contains a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. That book exist new know-how the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world today. That is important to yo7u to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you inside new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

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