

finding shelter

PORTRAITS OF LOVE, HEALING, AND SURVIVAL



JESSE FREIDIN



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GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT



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This book is dedicated to Madalin Bernard, the late director of Used Dogs Rescue, and every other animal shelter and rescue volunteer that we've lost over the years. May their beautiful spirits and unending dedication continue to give a voice to the voiceless, inspire us to work as one, fill us with enormous hope, and remind us to always balance the dark with the light.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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acknowledgments

This book would not have been possible had it not been for the thousands of people who supported my Kickstarter campaign. The list is too long to name you all, but I deeply appreciate every single dollar that every one of you gave. You made this book a reality.

Tamara Silva helped me coordinate the very first *Finding Shelter* test shoot at NKLA's (No Kill Los Angeles) beautiful shelter in Los Angeles. Those portraits—all done with a large-format 4:5 view camera and black-and-white instant film—were instrumental in helping me fine-tune my creative process. Clearly, the 4:5 was not the right camera for the job, but those were some great test shots.

Jill Meredith graciously curated all the portraits in this book with her museum-trained eye.

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And lastly, thank you to my agent Anna Olswanger, my editor Holly Rubino, and everyone at Lyons Press for having such faith in this project.

introduction

For the past few years, I have watched my colleagues in the dog photography world get caught up in photographing adoptable shelter animals—and what a great trend to be caught up in! It is incredibly generous and hugely important work. It also tips the balance to survival for so many animals. But what I feel is missing from that trend is a wider view of the shelter system—one that incorporates the human aspect of shelter work. Without the volunteers, our nation's animal shelters simply would not function.

Shelter volunteers are amazing people. They are selfless, dedicated, and deeply attached to their cause. They are looking to give their love to something outside of themselves and in return receive the powerful, unspoken love of a shelter dog. Though rarely discussed within the animal welfare system, volunteers find an environment of support and friendship in their relationships with these animals, making the shelter a place for humans and animals to heal together. *Finding Shelter* gives volunteers an opportunity to tell their own stories, in their own words—all of which focus on how healing and joyful this work truly is.

I started this project in the beginning of 2014 and spent a year driving up and down the California coast on my own dime, convincing shelters and rescue groups that I had a story to tell and that they could trust me. As an artist

The shelters

I encourage you to get involved with any of the groups featured in this book, either by becoming a volunteer, donating, or adopting. You can find them here:

Animal Care and Control Team Philly (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
www.acctphilly.org

Animal Rescue League of Boston (Boston, Massachusetts)
www.arlboston.org

Austin Animal Services (Austin, Texas)
www.austinanimalcenter.org

BADRAP (Oakland, California)
www.badrap.org

Berkshire Humane Society (Pittsfield, Massachusetts)
www.berkshirehumane.org

Big Fluffy Dog Rescue (Nashville, Tennessee)
www.bigfluffydogs.com

Downey Animal Care Center (Los Angeles, California)

<http://animalcare.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/acc>

El Paso Animal Services (El Paso, Texas)

www.elpasotexas.gov/animal-services

Golden Retriever Club of Greater Los Angeles Rescue (Los Angeles, California)

www.grcglarescue.org

The Little Guild of Saint Francis (West Cornwall, Connecticut)

www.littleguild.org

McKinley County Humane Society (Gallup, New Mexico)

www.facebook.com/GallupShelter

Montgomery Humane Society (Montgomery Alabama)

www.montgomeryhumane.com

Muttville Senior Dog Rescue (San Francisco, California)

www.muttville.org

Used Dogs Rescue (New Orleans, Louisiana)

www.facebook.com/Useddogsnola

Wags and Walks Rescue (Los Angeles, California)

www.wagsandwalks.org

about the author

Jesse Freidin is one of America's leading fine art dog photographers, with work in more than one hundred private collections throughout the United States. His award-winning portraiture has been exhibited in galleries across the country, telling a contemporary story of companionship and love that truly honors the role dogs play in our modern lives.

He is the creator of three viral dog photography series: The Doggie Gaga Project (2010), When Dogs Heal (2015), and Finding Shelter (2016). His work has been featured in *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan*, *The Huffington Post*, *Garden & Gun* magazine, *Four & Sons* magazine, and many more. He lives with his favorite dog, Pancake, a ten-year-old Boston terrier.

Jesse works with private dog photography clients nationwide. Learn more about his studio and commission process online: www.jessefreidin.com.

Or follow along:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/jessefreidinphoto

Instagram: @jessefreidin

Twitter: @jessefreidin

An award-winning photographer's tribute
to the softer side of the animal shelter system story



"Jesse Freidin gives us more than just beautiful portraits of these heroes; he gives us a glimpse of the kindness and compassion that leads one to this work."

—CYRUS MEJÍA,
Cofounder, Best Friends Animal Society

"Jesse's portraits beautifully capture the unconditional love between people and their pets."

—KRISTIN BAUER,
star of *True Blood*

"Your heart will break and burst while you flip through the book's pages, and by the end of it you'll have learned something new about the human capacity—and need—for love."

—KATE BRATSKEIR,
journalist, the *Huffington Post* and *Mic*

"Jesse Freidin captures these shelter heroes brilliantly."

—CAMERON WOO,
publisher of *The Bark*

JESSE FREIDIN is an award-winning fine-art dog photographer whose work has appeared in *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan*, the *New York Post*, *Garden & Gun* magazine, *The Bark* magazine, *Inside Edition*, *Every Day with Rachel Ray*, and many more. His Doggie Gaga Project was featured on ABC's *Live! with Regis & Kelly*. Jesse is a committed adoption and rescue advocate.



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