

Souvenir Press Ltd
43 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PA
Tel: 020 7580 9307 Fax: 020 7580 5064
sppublicity@souvenirpress.co.uk

PRESS RELEASE

'This remarkable interspecies family will make you laugh, will touch your heart, and – yes, believe it - just might make you cry.'

John Grogan, author of *Marley & Me*

ONCE UPON A FLOCK

Life With My Soulful Chickens

By Lauren Scheuer

Published by Souvenir Press, 3 October, £18.99, Hb

When writer and illustrator Lauren Scheuer was looking for a new project she decided that chickens were just what she needed to bring her back yard to life. She built a coop, read books on hen rearing, and placed her order for four chickens of different breeds, chosen to provide colour and decoration to her lawn. She expected a daily supply of fresh eggs. What she didn't expect was that her fluffy round chicks would grow-up to be hens with big personalities, and that she would fall completely in love with her quirky flock.

ONCE UPON A FLOCK is Lauren's heart-warming, and often hilarious, account of her adventures raising chickens. She introduces us to her family: Hatsy, the elegant and feisty leader; her chum, the inquisitive and chatty, Lucy; and the outsider of the group, Lil' White, who seemed perfectly content to remain aloof. Then there's the battered and comical, Pigeon, and not forgetting Jenny, who turned out to be a rooster, and had to be re-housed.

With warmth and humour Lauren describes the friendships and rivalries within her tiny flock, and the effect that the dynamic trio have on her own family of three. She describes how Marky, their sparky terrier, is turned from chicken tormentor to trusty guardian to the girls'.

There are moments of heartbreak when first Lucy develops a neurological condition, and then Hatsy comes down with a mysterious illness. The tenderness that Lauren observes between Lucy and her stricken friend is truly touching. When Lucy becomes broody, Lauren brings her some eggs to sit on, and one healthy chick is born - with a little help from 'midwife' Lauren, and a makeshift incubator made from a cardboard box and a desk lamp.

ONCE UPON A FLOCK is beautifully illustrated throughout with Lauren's own colourful drawings and witty photographs making this the ideal gift book for anyone thinking of keeping chickens, or who has already taken the plunge, as well as for animal lovers everywhere.

About the Author: *Lauren Scheuer lives in rural Massachusetts with her family and flock, and writes the popular blog [Scratch and Peck](#). To arrange an interview with Lauren, or for a review copy, contact Jane Beaton at Kew Publicity on 07802 433471, email janebeaton@tiscali.co.uk.*

