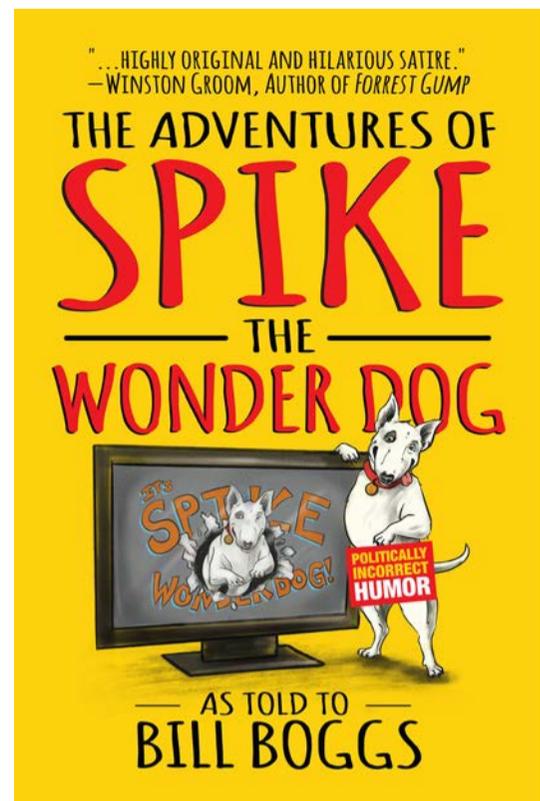


# Praise for *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog*



“Bill Boggs and his friend Spike the Wonder Dog unleash comedic wizardry in this madcap, highly entertaining, satirical novel. Spike is the newest canine literary hero to take on the world with hilarious results.”

—**Winston Groom**, author of *Forrest Gump*

“*The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog* is so smart, witty, and inventive that I had to keep reminding myself that I didn’t write it.”

—**Alan Zweibel**, Original SNL writer and Thurber Prize-winning author of *The Other Shulman*

“Every chapter in *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog* is rife with gossipy name-dropping and bitchy with biting humor. Spike is an equal opportunity offender, so if you’re the type of person who clutches your pearls over ribald behavior and speech, this book might make you paws—I mean pause—at some moments. If Spike was human I could envision him being a stand up comedian in the vein of the late George Carlin.”

— **TheBookshelfBlog**

“Bill Boggs draws upon years of experience as a TV host for this satirical look inside the wacky world of TV talk shows. The non-stop comedic banter from dog Spike (who could have a stand-up comedic career if he was human) makes the story flow like you’re watching a great sitcom.”

—**Richard Baker**, Comedy Manager, Executive Producer of *Last Man Standing* and *Home Improvement*

“Bill Boggs has hit a home run with this highly original and hilarious satire on...everything! A terrific read I highly recommend.”

—**Marc Eliot**, New York Times bestselling author

“Mr. Lee, call your lawyer. There’s a new Spike in town, an acid-tripping terrier who savages the media landscape while avoiding death and castration. Bill Boggs takes us on a darkly comic journey through his twisted world. It takes a hero with four legs—and two balls—to survive.”

—**Richard Johnson**, New York Post

“OMG! Who could write such an outrageous novel? Spike the Wonder Dog! With a little help from his pal, the raconteur Bill Boggs, Spike has gotten his memoirs down (on a better grade of paper than most pets get). His dog-eared hearing picks up the bizarre sounds of people being their fallible human selves, and his soft canine eyes see more than is probably good for him. Spike the Wonder Dog is an irreverent hoot.”

—**Susan Isaacs**, New York Times Bestselling Author

“The wondrous Bill Boggs’ *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog* has another big adventure awaiting: climbing to the heights of the bestseller lists. Spike tells us the story of how he and his master, Bud, go from Spike’s first appearance on local High Point, North Carolina daytime TV, to a big deal appearance on late night TV, to big time NY TV. Spike will keep you laughing—and on the edge of your seat at the same time. Filled with real-life celebs, lots of inside TV info and crazy adventures, this one is made for the big screen. How do you say ‘bravo’ in dog?”

—**Linda Stasi**, New York Daily News columnist, TV commentator, bestselling author of *The Sixth Station* and *Book of Judas*

“A quick escape from life’s stresses with this funny and witty read. Bill Boggs has written a satire populated with a cast of characters worthy of a hit comedy.”

—**Talia Carter**, author of *The Third Daughter*, *Hotel Moscow*, *Jerusalem Maiden*, and others.

“Like Joan Rivers, *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog* is definitely Not Safe for Snowflakes. But fans of transgressive humor will appreciate Spike’s wild tales, which are raunchy, hilarious, and spectacularly politically incorrect. Bill Boggs has the manners of a gentleman, as does Spike—so they’ll both understand if you take offense. Rivers would just have told you to go fuck yourself.”

—**Leslie Bennetts**, author of *Girl Before Freeway: The Life, Loves, Losses and Liberation of Joan Rivers*

(continued next page)

“There’s a hilarious new novel *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog (As told to Bill Boggs)*. It’s a darkly absurdist send up of the television industry, itself a nonsensical environment, written by someone who knows the ins and outs of the business like no other. This is the laugh-packed, decidedly un-PC novel America needs right now.”

—*O. Henry Magazine*

“Spike the Wonder Dog is a bull terrier who drops more pop culture references per page than a 1980s Stephen King novel. This is FUNNY! It’s not in any way being mean-spirited, just unashamedly and unabashedly non-PC. Excitement, intrigue, mystery, romance, and most of all, humor. I literally LOLd at this book more than any book in recent memory.

—*Booksteve Reviews recommends*

“This is laugh-out-loud-funny smart satire.”

—*Ed Kalegi, Host, “The Weekend with Ed Kalegi” syndicated radio program.*

“Such a brilliant book. Funniest book I have read in a long time, made me laugh out loud. Spike is a tremendous character, I couldn’t put it down.”

—*“Downtown with Rich Kimball” Syndicated radio*

“Designed to make you laugh on every page, if you like sitcoms and comedy, you will like this book.”

—*Philadelphia Northeast Times*

“Four-time Emmy award-winning TV host and producer Bill Boggs is debuting *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog: As Told to Bill Boggs* as an adult antidote to these challenging times. It’s no small feat to get a ‘highly original and hilarious satire’ review from Winston Groom, author of *Forrest Gump*. The premise: Spike, an English bull terrier, who lives with his TV talk show owner Bud and is a frequent guest, becomes famous, then moves to New York for Bud’s new job. This canine is irreverent, politically incorrect, savvy and... hilarious, especially when relating his take on behind-the-scenes media life, like flying in the Max Ex Lax drone and exiting the ‘Noonday with Bud’ studio with a guest monkey on his back. Boggs, a part-time Long Islander, incorporated many of his experiences in the book. Proceeds will be donated to an animal rescue organization.”

—*Long Island ADVANCE*

“Spike has a sardonic, often politically incorrect sense of humor that pokes fun at human foibles. He rockets to TV and internet fame after appearing on ‘The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon’ with his master, Bud, who hosts a local morning show in High Point. Together, their fame explodes when Bud signs on for a talk show in New York City, but Spike becomes such a celebrity that evil forces plot to kidnap him, and he has to figure out how to survive on his own. The fun and pace never slackens.”

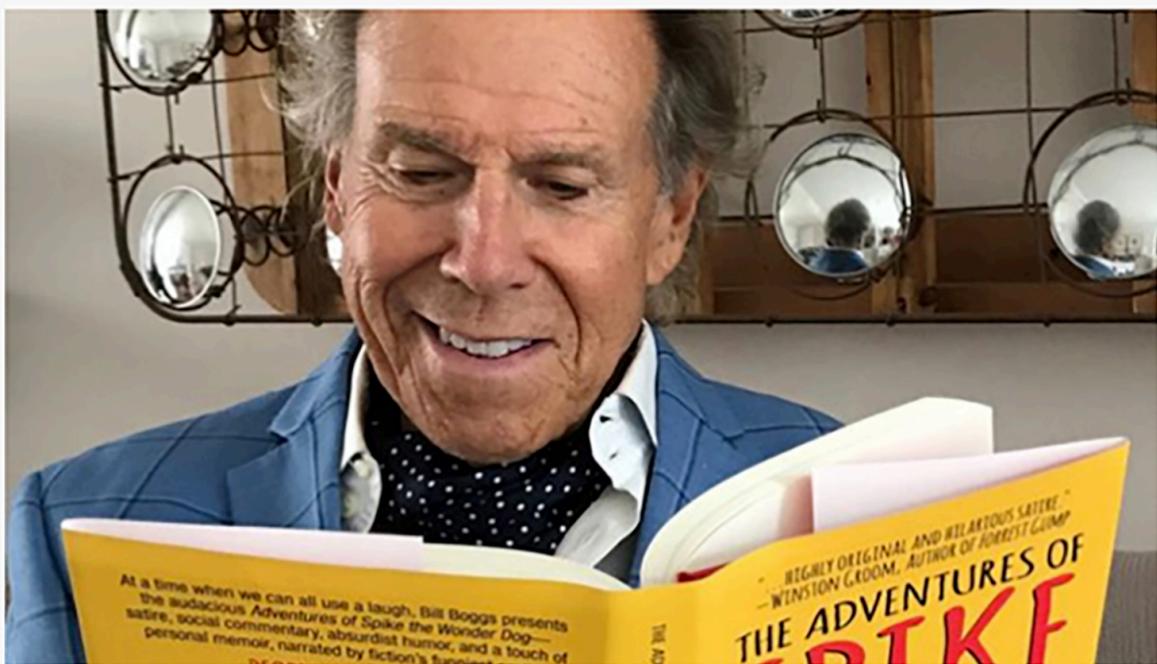
—*HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE*

“With a vaccine for Covid-19 looking like a chimera, the only medicine I trust right now is laughter, and Bill Boggs’ new novel, *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog*, offers up enough chuckles and guffaws for an overdose.”

—*Zoom Street*

## BOOKS

# Talking with LI's Bill Boggs about 'Spike the Wonder Dog'



Bill Boggs, who divides his time between the Hamptons and Manhattan, has written the comic novel "The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog." Credit: Jane Rothchild

**By Daniel Bubbeo**

[daniel.bubbeo@newsday.com](mailto:daniel.bubbeo@newsday.com) @dbubbeo1014

Updated August 5, 2020 8:00 AM

Bill Boggs really does believe that a dog is man's best friend. Back in the early '70s, before he began his run from 1975 to 1986 as host of "Midday Live" on WNEW/5 in New York City, he was starting his career in High Point, North Carolina where he lived with an English bull terrier named Spike.

"The dog was very funny," said Boggs, who divides his time between his main residence in East Hampton and Palm Beach, Florida. "He was like Jerry Lewis in a dog suit. English bull terriers are pretty much known as the court jesters of the canine world."

Sadly, Spike was hit by a car just before Boggs moved to New York. But the venerable talk-show host never forgot his beloved pet, and has now immortalized him in the satirical novel "The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog" (Post Hill Press, \$25). In the irreverent book, Boggs imagines Spike coming to the Big Apple where he becomes a major success as a talk-show host and a social-media sensation. His comic "Adventures" also include transcendental meditation, appearing on Jimmy Fallon's show and getting involved with an international dogfighting ring.

Boggs, who is now in his 70s, talked about the real Spike and the fictional Spike by phone from Palm Beach.

## **You knew Spike back in the '70s, so what made you decide to set the novel in the present?**

The book is a satire on human foibles and authenticity. It's a satire on the media we have today, on the Kardashian culture we live in. There's so much going on today, it would have been hard to go back to 1975 and write a relevant satire.

## **How long did it take you to write the book?**

The whole process was two and a half years. The first draft took a solid year and a half. I never rushed. When I sat down to begin the next day, I'd go over what I wrote and tighten it up.

Another thing I did, which is what I've done with my stand-up comedy as well, is that I took the first draft of the manuscript and went to eight friends of mine. These were people I could trust. I asked them to please read my manuscript and tell me exactly what you think of it, I'm not looking for praise. ... All eight people said that it was laugh-out-loud funny. That increased my confidence that I had something that would be marketable as a satire.

## **I love the illustrations in the book. Why did you decide to include them?**

My son, Trevor, was one of the eight people who read the book. He said, "Dad you have to have illustrations." I asked why and he said, "I can't explain it, but it's an extremely visual book and illustrations will really help."

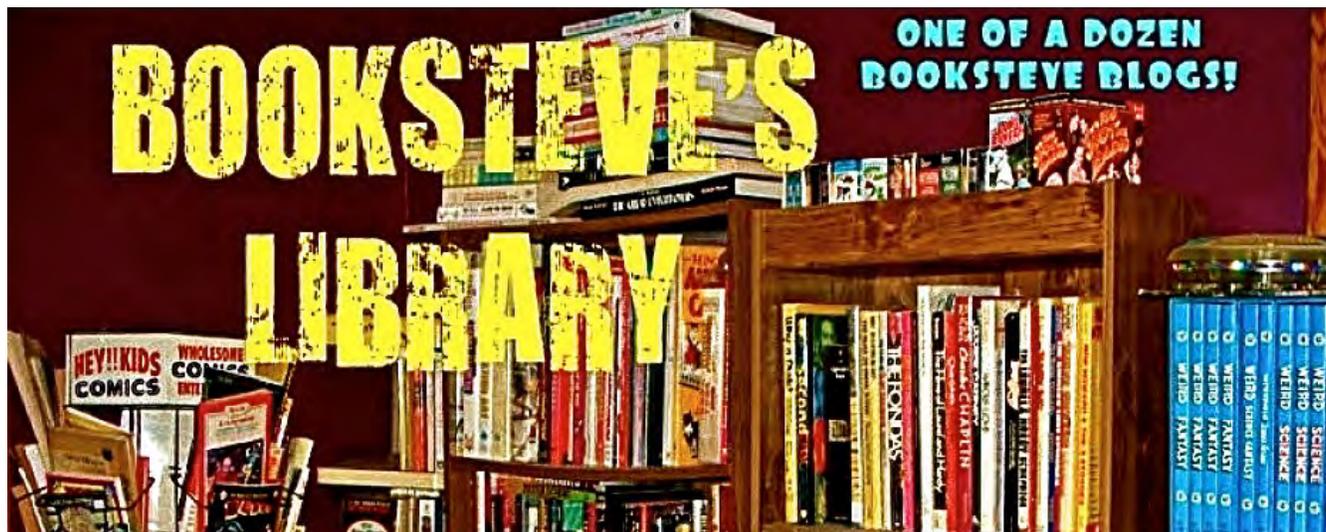
I went to the publisher and I said I'd pay for them. The publisher said what are they going to add? I trusted my son's opinion so much that I fought for the idea. They said OK. Then I had to find an illustrator and that took a while. At first, I couldn't get anyone to take the job. I even went on Facebook and someone suggested an art school in New Jersey and I wrote to the school. The dean said he'd post something. ... Finally a young man named Jacob Below got in touch with me and he was so eager to do it. ... Then I had to reread the book to see where I wanted them to go.

## **If the real Spike were to see the book, what might his reaction be, other than "woof"?**

He would chew on it. I bought a '68 [Mercury] Park Lane convertible, which I still own, and the steering wheel on that car still has teeth marks in it from Spike.

## **You've lived in the Hamptons for a long time. What is it about the area that attracted you?**

There is no one walking around who loves the Hamptons more than I do. It's not the celebrities, it's because of the amazing beauty of the area. ... The physical beauty of these giant trees, the drive in the town, the swans on the lake, farmland next to the beach, it's just gorgeous. I love the vibe, the people, the art galleries, Guild Hall, the library. It's all good.



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Friday, June 05, 2020

## Review: The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog by Bill Boggs

I'm more of a cat person myself, although we do also have a dog so I found myself very much able to relate to the protagonist of Bill Boggs' hilarious novel, *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog*.

Not that one needs any background to enjoy the book on its own merits but it helps. Author Bill Boggs is a renowned talk show host and writer going back a number of years. His track record makes him about as much an industry insider as anyone can be. Although Bill writes himself into his book as an actual character, another character, Bud, seems clearly based on him as well. It's all very meta, you see. Bud is the owner of Spike, the Wonder Dog, a bull terrier who drops more pop culture references per page than a 1980s Stephen King novel.

Inspired by a real bull terrier, Spike is our hero, and the book's narrator. Was it Alan Moore, or perhaps Lewis Carroll, who said if you ask your reader to accept one impossible thing, the rest shall follow naturally? The impossible thing Bill Boggs asks is that we accept that the dog is capable of narrating his own story to Bill, who wrote it all down for us to read.

And the story is a doozy! Bud is a small time TV host/reporter who becomes popular when his dog Spike gets involved in his career. Spike gets so much fan reaction that he's made an official employee of the station where Bud works. He also appears at various local and eventually national events, while Bud is wooed away to the big time in New York City.

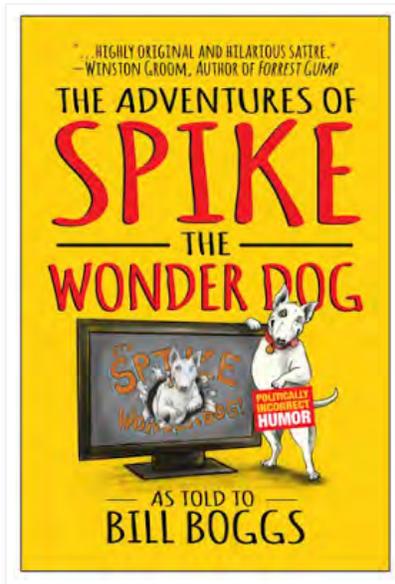
But fame has its perils and in Spike's case, that involves, amongst other things, getting kidnapped to be used for dogfights! How he gets out of it and reunited with Bud makes up the last part of the book but the real fun is in how Spike describes the events in his world through his own bizarre mix of pop culture and canine sensibilities. At first it's a bit jarring to have him telling the reader about his ancestors, whom he couldn't possibly know about, or quoting characters from some old TV sitcom he couldn't possibly have ever seen, or cared about if he had, even if dogs paid attention to sitcoms. With a non-stop barrage of such thoughts from our four-legged friend, though, one quickly gives up any questioning and just accepts that Spike somehow is exceptional enough to just KNOW all the things he talks about.

Other characters come and go, and sometimes come again, often parodies of some of the more vacuous show business types that surely our author has run into many times in his

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career. My favorite is Ike "I Got Money" Piles, aka "Money Piles," a pro boxer turned millionaire who loves to throw his money around in any and all ways, no matter how ludicrous, impulsive, or impractical those ways might be. Money takes a liking to Spike from their very first meeting in a TV green room and is frustrated when Bud won't sell him at any price! Bud does, however, take advantage of some of Money's drugs and women.

Oh, did I mention that The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog is VERY politically incorrect? It's dirty, racist, misogynistic, and whatever else might qualify it for an NSFW rating. But it's FUNNY! It's not in any way being mean-spirited, just unashamedly and unabashedly non-PC.



As far as the writing, the only thing even close to a complaint I have about the book is that it feels... well...written. As much as we're meant to buy that Spike himself is narrating his adventures, I can sense Bill taking his sweet time to find just the right words here or come up with just the right expression there. Not a bad thing because he succeeds admirably. Just an observation.

Along the way, there are lots of digs at various over-the-top celebrity types, lots of veiled social commentary on the excesses of the pre-pandemic world, and lots of dog poop jokes. If you've ever had to clean up after a dog you loved, you'll split your sides laughing at all the messes Spike has to have cleaned up by the end of *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog*. Read it to your own canine pals but don't let it give them any ideas!

Excitement, intrigue, mystery, romance, and most of all, humor. I literally LOL'd at this book more than any book in recent memory.

Booksteve recommends.

<https://www.amazon.com/Adventures-Spike-Wonder-Dog-Boggs/dp/1642933767>

Posted by [Booksteve](#) at [10:20 AM](#)

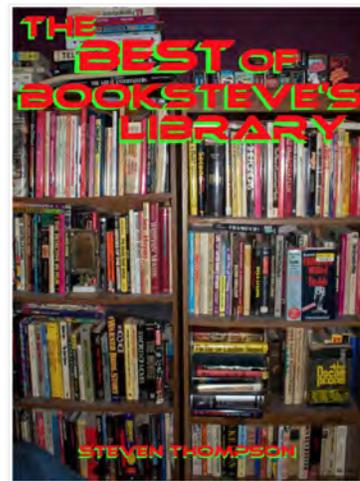
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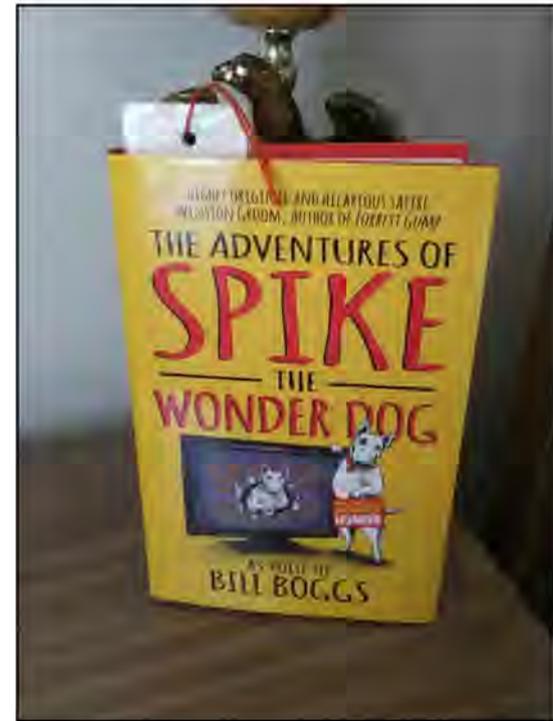
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# THEBOOKSELFBLOG

AUGUST 26, 2020

## Book Review: *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog* as told to Bill Boggs



Man's best friend has often permeated the world of pop culture, literature, and entertainment. We have Lassie, Old Yeller, Benji, and Spuds Mackenzie. But I can't think of a dog quite as unusual as Spike the Wonder Dog. And now Spike's crazy life is brought to us in the recently unleashed book *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog* as told to Bill Boggs.

Bill Boggs, the teller of dog tails-er, I mean dog tales-is quite the character himself. Besides being a writer, Boggs is also an Emmy winning talk show host and television producer. Boggs is responsible for the revolutionary television program The Morton Downey, Jr. Show. If memory serves The Morton Downey Jr. Show was a cross between Sean Hannity and Jerry Springer. I'm sure I disagreed with Downey on many issues, but he was entertaining in a twisted way. And Boggs is also entertaining in a twisted way and it definitely shows in *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog*.

Spike is an English Bull Terrier. Unlike other dogs, Spike isn't content to play with the other canines at the dog park or catch a Frisbee with his mouth. Nope, Spike is drawn to the glitz and glamour of show biz much of it due to his owner, Bud. Bud is a tv show host, but it's Spike who is the true star of the family.

Among Spike's crazy adventures include roaming around a tv soundstage like he owns it, looking for a baby mama to fulfill his need to breed, and kicking some ass in a dog fight. He also gets around, starting in a place called High Point in North Carolina and making his way to Tinsel Town, Sin City, and the Big Apple. He meets local characters like a former rabbi who goes by the name The Heeb Named Zebe, and a woman named Donna Hanover who is not the ex-wife of Rudy Giuliani. But he really hits his stride when he comes across big name stars like Cher, Bill Maher, Regis Philbin, Joy Behar, and Jimmy Fallon.

Every chapter in *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog* is rife with gossipy name-dropping and bitchy with biting humor. Spike is an equal opportunity offender, so if you're the type of person who clutches your pearls over ribald behavior and speech, this book might make you paws-I mean pause-at some moments. If Spike was human I could envision him being a stand up comedian in the vein of the late George Carlin.

Spike really did put a smile on my face in a really tough year. There were times I actually giggled out loud like when Spike claimed he had a hangover that's a ten on the Keith Richards International Hangover Scale.

Boggs is an incredibly talented and funny writer, a complete hoot. I have a feeling *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog* is somewhat based on real life, which gives this book a bit more relatability. So many of us have pets with very human like personalities.

Needless to say, I'm a fan of this book and a fan of Spike. So unless you are barking mad, go fetch a copy of *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog*. And an added bonus is proceeds of the sale of this book go to animal rescue charities.

# Wandering Billy



By Billy Eye

"Unlike productions in the other arts, all television shows are born to destroy two other shows." — Les Brown

There's a hilarious new novel Eye want to tell you about: *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog (as told to Bill Boggs)*. It's a darkly absurdist sendup of the television industry, itself a nonsensical environment, written by someone who knows the ins and outs of the business like no other.

You may remember Bill Boggs as the host of *Southern Exposure*, a local morning talk show airing at 8 a.m. on WGHP-TV from 1972–74. I recently caught up with the author who, for 13 years after leaving High Point, hosted *Midday Live* on WNEU in New York City, picking up four Emmy Awards for his efforts.

He's acted in movies like *Trading Places*, guest-starred on numerous comedy programs such as *Spin City* and *Chappelle's Show*, and produced television shows and specials that include *A Night With Lou Reed* and *The Morton Downey Jr. Show*.

For several years he pulled double-duty jetting to Las Vegas to interview heavyweights on Showtime's *Boxing Report Update* while also sharing kitchen space with celebrities like Richard Simmons, Whoopi Goldberg and Joan Rivers on *Bill Boggs' Corner Table* for the Food Network. "I tell people, 'I have more than one interest,'" Boggs says. You may have seen him more recently as the celebrity correspondent for *My Generation* on PBS.

His latest project, *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog*, "follows the structure of my career, starting in High Point," Boggs tells me. "The character of Bud is not exactly me in terms of how I am and how I act, but it's Bud, no last name. And he has a beloved dog Spike."

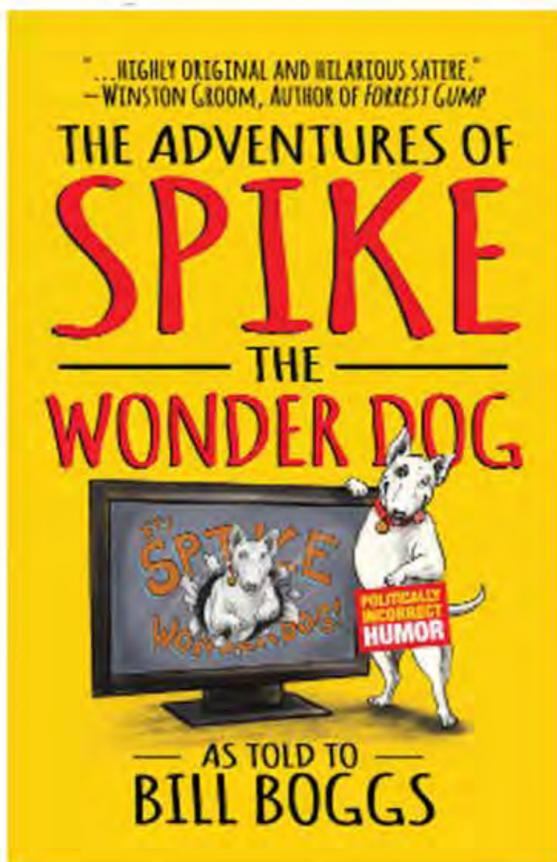
While none of the on-air talent at WGHP are represented in the novel, there are other characters who are inspired by people he's known along the way. For instance, the character of Lombardo is based on WGHP's former general manager. "Phil Lombardo went from being the first Italian-American to be general manager of a television station in America," Boggs notes, "to owning seven television stations worth almost a billion dollars and now heads a huge philanthropic foundation. Buffy is inspired by Buffy Queen, my associate producer at channel 8. They're jumping-off points."

Before arriving in High Point in 1969, "I had an opportunity to do a local show in Philadelphia because Tom Snyder had left to go to California," Boggs explains. "I was associate producer of the morning TV show where I was on the air once a week. After two years of that I learned a lot about producing." In 1972, he made a New Year's resolution that he would go anywhere in America in order to have his own talk show. Within weeks that wish was granted.

WGHP had been casting about looking for someone to shake up their morning show flop *Farm, Home and Garden*. "I auditioned for Phil Lombardo and he hired me," Boggs recalls. "He was a brilliant manager, he gave me full rein. He really saw that I was highly motivated, that I had left a major market where I was on the air to come to High Point, North Carolina. People in Philadelphia thought I was nuts at the time but I wanted to do a show every day."

Lombardo's plan was to have Boggs on the air a week and a half after settling in. "I was replacing a show that was an asterisk, no ratings whatsoever. How are people going to know I'm on the air? I suggested we create a two-month teaser campaign — 'Who is Bill Boggs and What Is He Doing Here?'" This would allow the Philly native time to get to know the culture of the area and opportunities to pre-tape celebrity interviews.

"To his credit, unlike any other bosses I've met along the way," Boggs says, "[Lombardo] listened with the intention of understanding and not immediately responding. 'Nope, you're going on the air in a week and a half.'" Instead, Lombardo leaned into the idea, instigating a media blitz ahead of the premier of *Southern Exposure*, culminating in a primetime one-hour sneak preview before debuting in its regular daily 8 a.m. slot. The show's cohost was an English bull terrier named Spike the Wonder Dog.



"I had all of the freedom in the world in High Point. It was very successful," Boggs reflects. "A month later I get a call from Lombardo. 'Come to my office I want to talk about ratings.' I got a lump in the pit of my stomach. He says, 'You have done the impossible.' We had beaten the *Today* show in the very first [ratings] book." *Southern Exposure* continued to top the *Today* show for the next three seasons, substantially so.

Whenever a big-name act appeared at the Greensboro Coliseum, Bill Boggs was there with camera and microphone interviewing superstars, usually right before they took the stage. His gets included The Jackson 5, Sonny & Cher with Chastity on their lap, George Burns, David Cassidy, Duke Ellington and Glen Campbell, among others. Even at that early point in his career, he was an insightful interviewer on par with Merv Griffin and Mike Douglas, possessing a knack for asking questions no one else had thought of, resulting in amazingly engaging discussions.

"I also created a late night show called *The Late Bill Boggs* that was as progressive as anything that had ever been on television up to that point," Boggs tells me. That program profiled the kind of guests not normally seen on local TV, like massage parlor workers and the like. "We had a guy who came on the show — this was 1972 — who went out, smoked a joint, then came back in and talked about what the experience was like. It was like R-rated television that came on at 1 o'clock in the morning. That went on for several months."

Noticing this unlikely success percolating down South, Gotham came calling; Bill Boggs received an offer to host a morning program in New York City. "I went from being in complete control of what I was doing to constantly having to pitch my ideas like a salesman, so I wrote an element of that into the book."

The concept behind *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog*? "What if the dog, who had been so popular on the show *Southern Exposure*, hadn't gotten killed shortly before going to New York and had come with me to New York and became a huge TV and Internet star in today's world?" One of television's funniest writers Alan Zweibel (*Saturday Night Live*, *It's Garry Shandling's Show*) calls the satirical novel "so smart, witty and inventive that I had to keep reminding myself that I didn't write it."

Before somewhat reluctantly relocating to the No. 1 TV market in America in 1972, Bill Boggs confesses, "I told myself, 'Never forget you can come back to something like this.' High Point, WGHP-TV, was, no pun intended, a creative high point of my life. I loved High Point one hundred percent, I have not one single negative recollection of my time there."

This laugh-packed, decidedly un-PC novel America needs right now, *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog (as told to Bill Boggs)*, is available wherever books are sold and at [orderspike.com](http://orderspike.com). Check out [BillBoggsTV](http://BillBoggsTV) on Youtube for video highlights from this legendary broadcaster's storied career. OH

Billy Eye is unapologetically O.G. — Original Greensboro.

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## Arts & Entertainment

### Bill Boggs Channels Spike the Wonder Dog with Hilarious Results

Springs resident, talk show pioneer and author Bill Boggs knows television from both sides of the camera. He was executive producer for *The Morton Downey Jr. Show* and built a decades-long career interviewing a long list of important, successful people on programs such as *Midday Live*, *Bill Boggs Corner Table* and *My Generation*. Now, at 78 years old, Boggs has twisted all his knowledge and experience together into a new novel satirizing the industry that made him. *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog: As Told to Bill Boggs* hit shelves (virtual and otherwise) on May 19, bringing big laughs at a time when America desperately needs them.

The novel tells a fictional, contemporary account of his beloved, real-life English bull terrier (think Spuds MacKenzie), Spike, who achieved a level of fame on Boggs' first regional tv show, *Southern Exposure with Bill Boggs*, during the early 1970s. "That's where the book opens," Boggs points out, explaining how his real life and the lives of his characters, Spike and Bud, intersect. "One day I brought him in, put him on the show and people loved him. He was a natural clown, he would just look at guests, yawn, fall asleep, plus I could get him to do a lot of stunts and stuff—he was pretty malleable," Boggs says. "The dog became a huge, huge star. People called him 'Spike the Wonder Dog,'" he adds. "So for a couple years he was a fixture on the show."

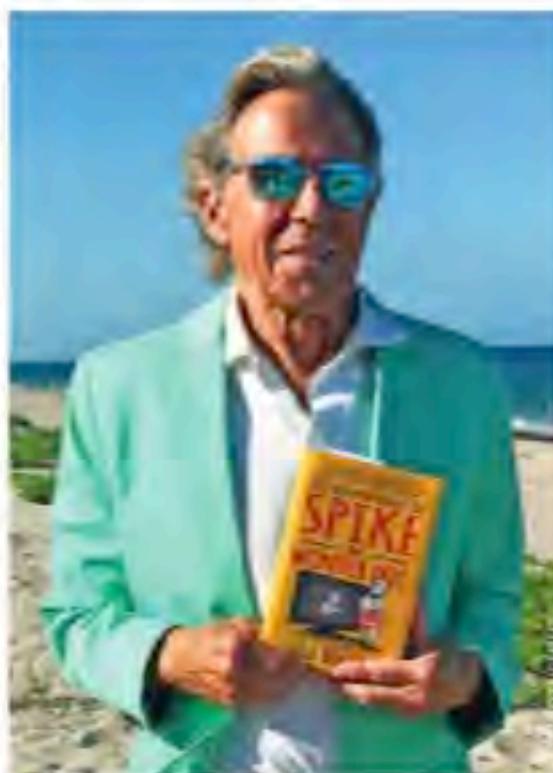
Unfortunately, Spike died before Boggs got his big break doing *Midday Live* in New York, and the television star was left to forge ahead alone. "He was run over by a drunk driver. It was just a horrible thing," Boggs recalls.

Now, more than three decades later, his new book

imagines how things would have gone if Spike had lived and they arrived in the entertainment world together—this time starting in the modern age of reality television and social media, instead of what Boggs calls the "pre-Kardashian era." The result is a hilarious, madcap adventure that pulls no punches in observing human inauthenticity and lampooning the industry he knows so well.

Boggs' concluded his TV career as a regular contributor to *My Generation*, a show for the over-50 set on PBS. Soon after it ended in 2012, he dedicated himself to writing, an art form Boggs did well from the beginning. "I started my career as a comedy writer and producer many, many years ago," he says, noting that Grosset & Dunlap published his debut novel, *At First Sight*, all the way back in 1980. That book, along with Boggs' off-Broadway play, *Talk Show Confidential*, were optioned for a film about his life, but it was never made. In 2009, he also published a self-help book, *Got What It Takes?* through HarperCollins.

"I'm in my '70s now, I've been chasing TV jobs all my life. I learned to give this really deep focus to turn my life to writing," Boggs says, describing how he devoted himself fully to putting his long-percolating ideas and notes for *Spike the Wonder Dog* onto the page. "I knew



BILL BOGGS WITH HIS NEW BOOK

how it was going to end. I knew that the dog was going to become famous and become abducted and essentially have to fight for his own survival. And I knew it was going to be a satire. I wanted to send up the world I'd been working in for 40 years, at least," he adds, noting the story was always meant to be told from Spike's perspective.

"I sat down to write the book and I knew it would be narrated by the dog," Boggs says, recounting the writing process almost as if he was channeling Spike's spirit from the great dog beyond. "As soon as I started writing it, the voice of the central character came through me. It's as if this crazy, funny dog's personality transmuted somehow into the written word."

Whatever happened while Boggs sat writing at his kitchen table, much of it during two summers in Springs, he tapped into something magical, or what *Forrest Gump* author Winston Groom calls "comedic wizardry" while raving, "Spike is the newest canine literary hero to take on the world with hilarious results." 🐾

BY OLIVER PETERSON

Read more of our conversation with Bill Boggs at [DansPapers.com](http://DansPapers.com).

# The Long Island ADVANCE

## TV icon Bill Boggs's new book to benefit animal rescue



Emmy Award-winning talk show host and producer Bill Boggs has written a humorous book, "The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog: As Told to Bill Boggs." Proceeds from the book sale will benefit an animal rescue organization.

### Linda Leuzzi

Four-time Emmy award-winning TV host and producer Bill Boggs is debuting "The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog: As Told to Bill Boggs" as an adult antidote to these challenging times. It's no small feat to get a "highly original and hilarious satire" review from Winston Groom, author of "Forrest Gump." The premise: Spike, an English bull terrier, who lives with his TV talk show owner Bud and is a frequent guest, becomes famous, then moves to New York for Bud's new job. This canine is irreverent, politically incorrect, savvy and... hilarious, especially when relating his take on behind-the-scenes media life, like flying in the Max Ex Lax drone and exiting the "Noonday with Bud" studio with a guest monkey on his back. Boggs, a part-time Long Islander, incorporated many of his experiences in the book. Proceeds will be donated to an animal rescue organization.

"It parallels the arc of my career," explained Boggs by phone. "I had a dog named Spike who was on my first television talk show, 'Southern Exposure,' in North Carolina, and there are elements in the book about High Point. Spike became a huge star; he got more mail than I did. Tragically, before I came to New York, Spike was run over by a drunk driver, a horrible experience, and it took place before my going to New York. About five years ago, I said to my partner Jane [Rothschild], 'I'm going to be a writer again.' [Boggs has written two other books.] With this, the idea was, 'what if Spike hadn't gotten killed and in today's world came to New York and got very famous?' I really loved that dog. The first day I sat down to write it, within the first five minutes, Spike's voice transpired on the page as an observational comedian. I was writing in a voice I'd never written before. So that was the origin."

Boggs was asked to comment on a couple of the scenes. "I had been a fan of boxing and covered it at one point, especially a Showtime boxing segment at Caesars Palace," he related. "I was there for two weeks. The whole boxing scene with the Max Ex Lax drone and the boxers was from that. The dog-fighting ring [Spike is forced into] was pure imagination. I had never reported on that, so I had Spike flipping his opponents and other moves." Details like the small Madison Avenue apartment he rented are in the book. "My son Trevor had the idea to include the illustrations. Someone on Facebook suggested I approach an art school in New Jersey. Only one student responded, Jacob Below; he got the job."

The author's career and efforts to try new things offers a gold-standard example of "just do it and do it well." (A big proponent of gratefulness, Boggs is also known as a gentleman in his field.) The accomplishments are prodigious, but here are some: "Midday Live" on Fox; programs on Showtime, The Travel Channel, PBS, ABC, NBC tackling lifestyle, business, food, music, news and celebrity reporting; as well as stage shows and YouTube videos. So fitting in a book, especially after his last one had been written 10 years before, was a risk, but one he jumped into. "I wrote it initially in about 15 months and had a completed manuscript, which I liked and because it was written to entertain, I felt the only way it would be successful is if I made people laugh," he said. "I got 10 people to read it, all friends I trusted, and I looked at it as improv; it's what comedians do before being filmed [Boggs started his career as a comedy writer], so I wanted honest opinions. It took three and a half months to get the comments back. They all loved it and said it made them laugh. Then it took another year. I punched it up and amplified the humor."

"Short of a vaccine, laughter is the best medicine we have and I'm hoping this book will lighten the load. So there will be a sequel. I already have the title. 'Spike Unleashed! The Wonder Dog Returns.'"



Bill Boggs poses with the original Spike, an English bull terrier that sometimes appeared on his High Point-based talk show, "Southern Exposure With Bill Boggs," during the 1970s. SPECIAL | HPE

# Former TV host Bill Boggs writes book inspired by his days in High Point



BY JIMMY TOMLIN  
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

May 18

HIGH POINT — Depending on their age, High Pointers may or may not remember talk-show host Bill Boggs from the early 1970s, but one thing is for sure — Boggs never forgot High Point.

Boggs, 77, hosted WGHP’s “Southern Exposure With Bill Boggs,” a popular morning talk show that featured interviews with celebrities passing through the Triad. The syndicated show aired from the spring of 1972 until December 1974, when Boggs left for greater fame in New York City.

Now, more than 45 years later, Boggs has published a comedic novel, much of which is based on his experiences in High Point. Today is the official release date for the book, titled “The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog” (Post Hill Press, \$25).

“The first third of the book is set in High Point and Thomasville, where I lived with Spike the Wonder Dog,” Boggs said during a telephone interview from his home in Palm Beach, Florida. “How often do novels get written that are set in High Point and Thomasville?”

According to Boggs, the novel was inspired by a real dog named Spike, an English bull terrier that actually appeared with him on “Southern Exposure” from time to time and had a penchant for stealing the show.

“I just brought him on for fun one day, and he was kind of a natural clown,” Boggs said. “He would yawn or roll over and fall asleep — or sometimes even get up and walk away — at funny times during the show. Spike the Wonder Dog became a very popular character, and he even got fan mail. Unfortunately, Spike was hit and killed by a drunk driver shortly before I left for New York City.”

Three years ago, after a long, successful career in television, Boggs decided to turn his attention to writing, and Spike popped into his head.

“That dog was so much a fixture in my life,” Boggs said. “So I started thinking, ‘What if Spike hadn’t gotten killed and had come with me to New York in today’s

world of social media and become a huge TV star and social media star?’ I sat down to write it, and the voice of Spike the Wonder Dog started to flow through me. Within one hour of writing, I knew I had something special, because I had a voice I’d never written in or spoken in.”

Spike has a sardonic, often politically incorrect sense of humor that pokes fun at human foibles. He rockets to TV and internet fame after appearing on “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon” with his master, Bud, who hosts a local morning show in High Point. Together, their fame explodes when Bud signs on for a talk show in New York City, but Spike becomes such a celebrity that evil forces plot to kidnap him, and he has to figure out how to survive on his own.

The novel has received positive advance reviews, including high praise from no less than Winston Groom — the author of “Forrest Gump” — who describes the hook as “highly original and hilarious satire.”

Boggs looks back with fondness at his short stint in High Point. “Southern Exposure” gave him the opportunity to interview a wide variety of celebrities, from David Cassidy and Charles Kuralt to The Jackson 5 and Sonny and Cher. Also while in High Point, he hosted “The Late Bill Boggs,” a late-night show that featured progressive programming on such topics as massage parlors and marijuana.

Those shows gave Boggs invaluable experience for his move to New York City, he said.

“I had my own show in New York for 13 years,” he said, “but I always felt like the root and development of my talent was based on what I did and learned in High Point.”

[jtomlin@hpenews.com](mailto:jtomlin@hpenews.com) | 336-888-3579

# Philly native Boggs publishes Spike the Wonder Dog

By **Mark Zimmario** - May 13, 2020



*Contributed photo*

By Tom Waring

South Philly Review

Philadelphia native Bill Boggs has done a lot in the entertainment field in his long career, including hosting a syndicated television show called Southern Exposure, based in High Point, North Carolina.

A staple of that show was Spike, Boggs' English bull terrier who often received fan mail.

Sadly, Spike was killed by a speeding car.

Boggs would go on to host a daily TV show in New York as part of many decades in the industry.

Some have suggested Boggs write a memoir, but he had another thought.

"What if Spike hadn't been killed, and came with me to New York?" Boggs said.

Now we know what would have happened, as Boggs is publishing his third book, *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog*.

The 288-page book, with illustrations by Jacob Below, is a mix of social commentary and satire, and is a light memoir.

"Much of it is inspired by my life," Boggs said.

Boggs grew up in Northeast Philadelphia. He graduated from Abraham Lincoln High School in January 1959, and has bachelor's and master's degrees from Penn.

He spoke about his book last week in a phone interview from his home in Palm Beach, Florida, where he lives with his girlfriend, "Lady Jane." His son, Trevor, lives in Philadelphia.

Normally, Boggs would be spending the spring in Manhattan, but he and Jane feel safer in Florida, as New York is the hotspot of the coronavirus.

The author is doing his best to promote the book, but public appearances are off-limits due to the coronavirus.

Boggs' career has included an Off-Broadway play, newspaper and magazine articles, stints as a game show host, TV news anchor and executive producer of the Morton Downey Jr. Show and programs on Fox, the Food Network and many other networks.

In 2016, he was inducted into the Northeast Philadelphia Hall of Fame.

Looking back, Boggs said going to Lincoln and growing up in the Northeast had a positive influence on him. He often wears his high school ring.

The book includes a comment written by classmate Howard Higman in Boggs' yearbook: "Never lose your sense of humor, it's the most valued possession you have."

The book also has the following quote from Doris Day, who died last May as Boggs was writing the book: "I have found that when you are deeply troubled, there are things you get from the silent, devoted companionship of your pets that you can get from no other source. I have never found in a human being loyalty comparable to that of any pet."

Spike was a devoted, loyal companion to Boggs, and that comes through in the book.

In the book, Spike's master, Bud, follows the same career path as Boggs, working on a morning show in North Carolina, then a daytime program in New York.

The comedic novel centers around a politically incorrect, 70-pound, large white dog.

"My goal is to have him entertain the folks, to be a new voice in comedy," Boggs said of Spike.

Bud and Spike appear on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, visit Bud's mom in Philadelphia for Christmas and mingle with an A-list crowd of celebrities throughout the book, even coming across a very alive Andy Kaufman.

Philly native Chris Matthews is seen on TV excited about recently discovered DNA that may lead to the cloning of his former boss, House Speaker Tip O'Neill.

Bryce Harper and Jerry Blavat also get mentions.

"I told the Geator, 'You're in the book.' He was happy," Boggs said.

Bud and Spike visit Las Vegas for a big fight card, and Spike later has some harrowing experiences at an animal clinic, in a freezer and as part of a dog-fighting ring.

No matter the serious content, the author interjects a lighter tone.

"It's designed to make you laugh on every page," he said. "If you like sitcoms and comedy, you'll like this book."

We haven't heard the last of Spike the Wonder Dog.

"I want to write a sequel to the book. I have an overview," said Boggs, promising an action-packed book that will include a focus on Spike's relationship with his girlfriend, Daisy. ••

The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog is available on Amazon by going to [www.orderspike.com](http://www.orderspike.com). The cost is \$25, or \$9.99 on Kindle. Follow Spike's adventures on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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**Mark Zimmaro**

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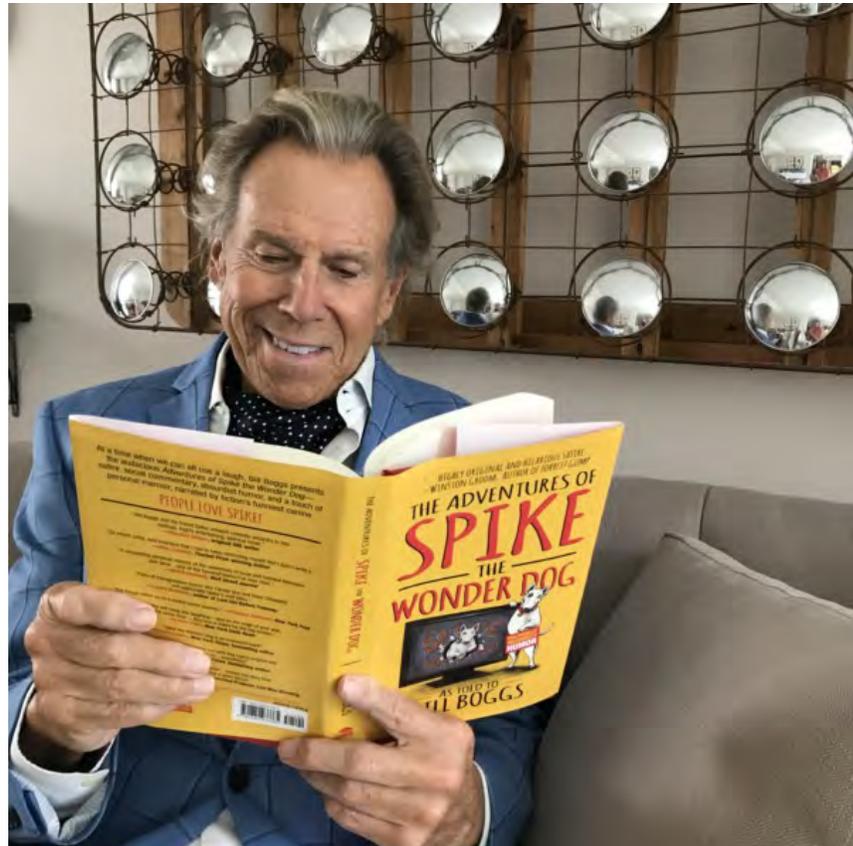
MAY 18, 2020



### STEPHEN SOROKOFF

Stephen studied at the Manhattan School of Music. Besides being a pianist, Stephen's business career was in the Fashion Industry. He was CEO of a textile manufacturing facility and President of an international textile machinery company. Stephen was on the Board of Directors of the "First All

Bill Boggs may be ensconced in his Palm Beach residence with the boredom that comes with COVID-19 self distancing, but he and his lady, Jane can spend some of the time reading the wonderful reviews of Bill's new book, *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog*. Here are some of the praises by his fellow peers and a marvelous review by New York City based author/journalist Tripp Whetsell.



Bill Boggs



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member.  
Stephen is also  
an Honorary  
Board Member of  
The Society For  
The Preservation  
of The Great  
American  
Songbook.  
Stephen  
Sorokoff@gmail.c

*Ida Stasi, New York Daily News*

is laugh-out-loud-funny smart satire.”

Ed Kalegi, Host, “The Weekend with Ed Kalegi” syndicated radio program.

“Bill Boggs takes us on a comic journey...savages the media landscape.”

*Richard Johnson, New York Post*

“Such a brilliant book. Funniest book I have read in a long time, made me laugh out loud. Spike is a tremendous character, I couldn't put it down.”

“Downtown with Rich Kimball” Syndicated radio

*“Exactly the kind of funny book we all need to be reading now.”*

*O Henry Magazine*

“A satire populated with a cast of characters worthy of a hit comedy.” Best selling author, Talia Carner

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Bill Boggs

## Talk Show Veteran Bill Boggs Turns Tragedy into New Comedic Novel

By Tripp Whetsell

The death of a beloved pet in a gruesome hit and run accident is about as unfunny as it gets. When it happened to veteran talk show host and author Bill Boggs, the thought of ever writing about it, much less someday mining it for satire, must surely have seemed inconceivable.

It was 1974, when a reckless driver instantly killed his beloved one-year-old English Bull Terrier named Spike in the middle of the North Carolina countryside and sped off into the night. At the time, Boggs – who during the course of his career has conducted more than 3,000 interviews with just about every famous and infamous person you can imagine – was just gaining a following as host and producer of *Southern Exposure*, a morning talk show that originated on the then ABC affiliate WGHP in High Point, NC. Known as the “wonder dog” for wagging his tail, staring at guests and falling asleep as Boggs interviewed them, Spike too was something of a local celebrity.

Now, more than four decades later, Boggs has immortalized his former canine sidekick in a new novel, *The*



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As soon as I got the idea about three years ago of what might have happened if Spike hadn't died and had come to New York with me and become a big TV and social media star in today's world, the creation process was instant," says Boggs.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Boggs' fascination with broadcasting, show business and comedic storytelling started when he was just four years old after his parents gave him his first radio.

He also developed an early interest in music, particularly rock and R&B performers from Philadelphia, as well as theater and stand-up comedy. In high school, where he was president of the student body, he acted in plays and did comedic bits while frequently attending Broadway shows that were doing out of town tryouts.

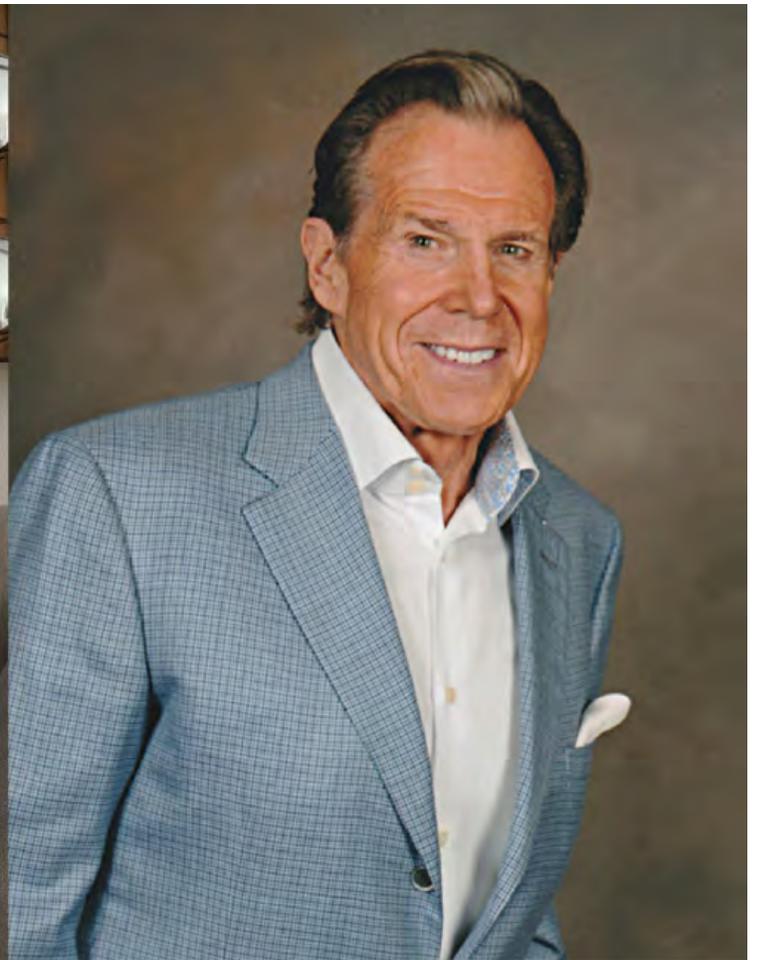
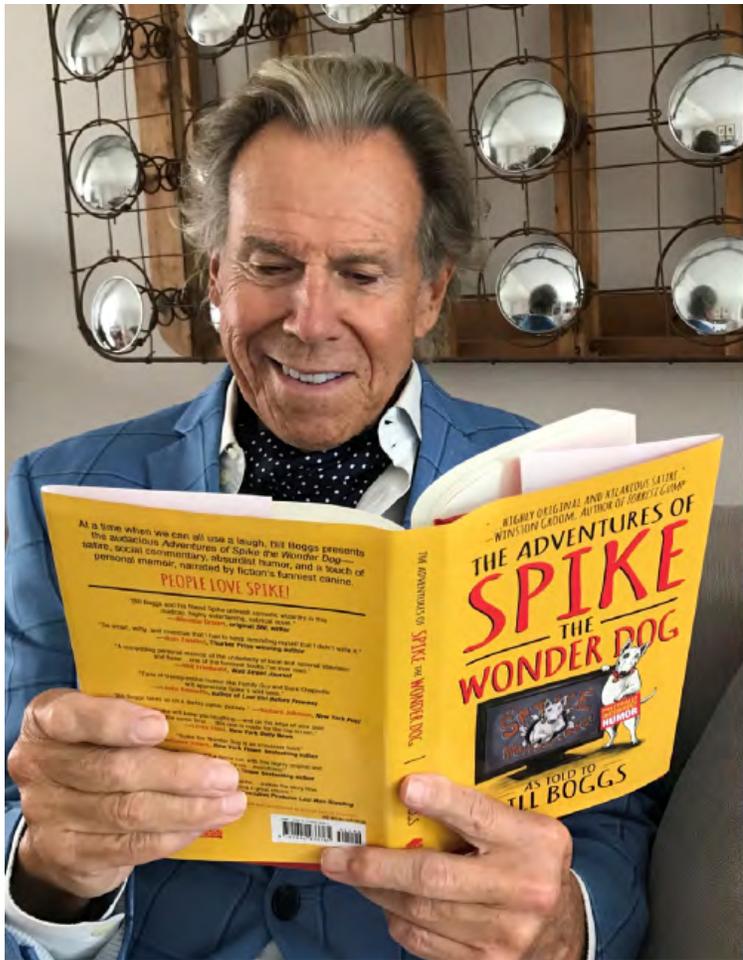


# TV Personality & Author Bill Boggs: Sometimes bigger isn't better; Having control of your life is more important than losing control while striving for greater fame or fortune



Authority Magazine

Jul 5 · 6 min read



...That sometimes bigger isn't better. Having control

of your life is more important than losing control while striving for greater fame or fortune. Also, dogs and people truly love each other.

. . .

**I** had the pleasure to interview Bill Boggs, an Emmy Award-winning TV talk show host and producer, an author and professional speaker.

*He began his career as a comedy writer, and his comic novel, *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog: As Told to Bill Boggs*, reflects strong observational comedy chops.*

*A true industry insider, Bill has interviewed many of the most notable personalities of our time — cultural icons, music legends, presidents, writers, athletes, celebrity chefs — and a movie star or two. In 2008, Harper/Collins published his well-received motivational book, *Got What it Takes?*, based on his interviews with highly successful people.*

*His TV credits include the long-running *Midday Live* on Fox, and programs on Showtime, The Travel Channel, NBC, ABC, CBS, PBS, and ESPN. Bill spent a decade hosting and producing *Bill Boggs Corner Table* on Food Network. Bill was also the executive producer for the groundbreaking *Morton Downey Jr. Show*.*

*Bill is an officer of the Friars Club in New York, a graduate of The University of Pennsylvania, and an inductee into the Northeast Philadelphia Hall of Fame. In 2000, he was selected as Father of the Year. He lives in Manhattan, East Hampton, and Palm Beach with a long-suffering girlfriend, “Lady Jane.”*

. . .

**Thank you so much for joining us! Can you briefly tell us what brought you to this career path?**

**A**round the age of four, I decided that when I “grew up” (not that I ever have) I wanted to be like the men on television who were interviewing people, I used to

walk around the house with a little pencil pretending to be Art Linkletter. I made that dream come true and won four Emmys for my work on television. I have always been a creative person. I was drawing cartoons and writing stories all through high school. I wrote comedy routines in high school and college, and began my career in show business managing a comedy team, producing and writing with them. Producing and writing with them. My current book takes me back to my comedic roots.

**Can you share the most interesting story that occurred to you in the course of your career?**

Of course, "Interesting" is subjective. But having a dream that I would meet Frank Sinatra and he'd appear on my TV show, "Midday Live with Bill Boggs," and then meeting Frank two days later, and having him offer to appear on the program without my inviting him seems interesting to me. Does it to you?

**What was the biggest challenge you faced in your journey to becoming an author? How did you overcome it?**

The biggest challenge was blocking out the time to do it.

On my first novel, "At First Sight," that meant getting up at 5 a.m. in NYC, writing, then jogging, and arriving at the TV station by 9:15a for a live show at 11:30a.

On my new novel, "The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog:" as told to Bill Boggs, it meant clearly defining three hours a day in the afternoon to write with deep focus.

**How did you overcome it?**

By summoning the complete resolve necessary to do so, and then having the momentum of enjoying the writing process replaces the need for complete resolve.

**Can you share a story about that that other aspiring writers can learn from?**

If you have an idea you believe in, act on it! I've heard too many would-be writers say, "I once had a fantastic concept for a book..." That does not honor your inspiration.

Far better it is to dare mighty things than live forever in the twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat.

As Norman Lear told me while interviewing him for my second book, "Got What it Takes?" for Harper/Collins, "Forces align behind you when you truly commit to doing something."

**Can you share a story about the funniest mistake you made when you were first starting? Can you tell us what lesson you learned from that?**

At first, I set "The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog" back in 1975 when I first went to NYC for the "Midday" show. I soon realized that there was much more grist for the mill of satire in today's world rather than back then, in the Pre-Kardashian Era. So the lesson would be "In the creative process, be willing to abandon your preconceptions."

**What are some of the most interesting or exciting projects you are working on now?**

The promotion of the "Spike" book and exploring the opportunities for future projects such as Spike as a cartoon or movie.

**Can you share the most interesting story that you shared in your book?**

You'd have to read it, so, read the chapter VEGAS.

**What is the main empowering lesson you want your readers to take away after finishing your book?**

That sometimes bigger isn't better. Having control of your life is more important than losing control while striving for greater fame or fortune. Also, dogs and people truly love each other.

**Based on your experience, what are the "5 Things You Need to Know to Become a Great Author"? Please share a story or example for each.**

1. Resolve, as stated above
2. In the case of a novel, how to have an inner vision — seeing the story play out in your mind like a movie and then getting it down on the page.
3. How to promote your book and find an audience — not to be a great writer, but to be a great author, as asked.

4. How to promote your book and find an audience. Yes. It's doubly important

**What is the one habit you believe contributed the most to you becoming a great writer? (i.e. perseverance, discipline, play, craft study**

I can't describe "belief in self and your God-given talent" as a habit, but that's the essential thing that has been my driving force in life.

**Can you share a story or example?**

My mother said to me many times through early childhood until she died, "I've seen you do great things in your life when you've put your mind to it."

Those words were my North Star while writing "The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog."

**Which literature do you draw inspiration from? Why?**

Well, I'm offering a pretty wide range in my definition of literature: Shakespeare, Fitzgerald, Carl Hiaasen, Edgar Rice Burroughs, George Carlin, Jerry Seinfeld, Richard Pryor, Maureen Dowd, Leslie Bennetts. Also, the poetry expressed by the great lyricists of the 20th Century-Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, Hal David, Jerome Kern, Sammy Cahn would be a representative sample.

It's that their work touched me. After I finished Carl Hiaasen's comic novel "Razor Girl" a few years ago, I thought, "I can do that, I can write a comic novel." There are all kinds of music references in the Spike story. In fact the plot resolves itself around the interpretation of the lyrics to a Sinatra Christmas recording of a song written by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane.

**You are a person of enormous influence. If you could start a movement that would bring the most amount of good to the most amount of people, what would that be? You never know what your idea can trigger. :-)**

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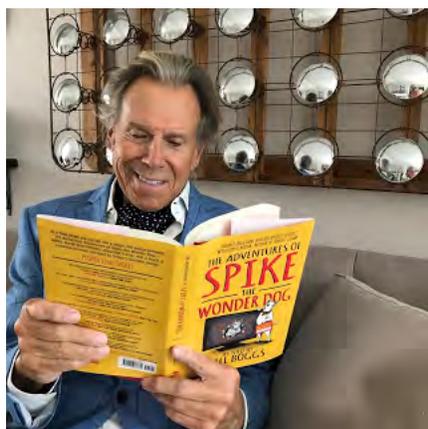


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## Interview with Bill Boggs



**Bill Boggs**  
**The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog**

Long-time TV Host **Bill Boggs** has just come out with a novel about a very funny English Bull Terrier, Spike, with a wry sense of humor and his rise to fame and the price he pays for that fame. He likes to say that the book is inspired by reality and that Spike's master Bud follows the same career path Bill has traveled. He is an Emmy-Award winning TV talk show host, producer, author, and professional speaker.

### Q.1 Tell us a little about yourself? Perhaps something not many people know?

A. I have had a unique relationship with my imagination for the last three years as I channeled the voice of a very funny dog onto the page on my new novel. The voice comes through me only when I write. It's not something I could access in everyday conversation. The dog's name is Spike. So, a dog has been talking to me from...who knows where?

### Q.2 Do you have any upcoming books?

A. Yes, it just was released by long-time publisher Post Hill Press. It's **The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog: as told to Bill Boggs**.

### Q.3 Every writer has their own idea of what a successful career in writing is, what does success in writing look like to you?

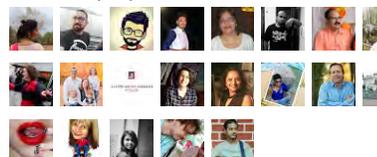
A. Evoking laughter from my readers. The Spike story is a satirical novel. I have a long history in comedy writing, producing and performing, so in my writing I am looking to elicit laughs by shining a bright and irreverent beam on human foibles, television, human behavior, and our "culture" today.

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Interview with Bill Boggs

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**A.** Of course it's the other end of "getting open," and being completely in the flow. I feel you have to keep writing and think of the block as rusty water coming out of a faucet. Leave in on and it will flow. In my case, there was no block because Spike was telling me the story.

**Q.12 What was the most challenging thing about creating this book?**

**A.** Realizing that I could actually block out the time to work. It had been a decade since my previous book was published, and many more years since my first novel. I'm a naturally busy person. I think many of us, when we approach a project like writing a novel, spend too much time contemplating doubts, and asking ourselves questions like, "I don't see how this is possible now." "I'm not really sure I can do it?" "How will I find the time?" That was my inner dialogue when a close friend said, "Look, just sit down, start, and see what happens." Wait a second! Maybe that was the best piece of advice, because the next day I did, and Spike was there and the writing process took off like a rocket. Telling Spike's story just became a new part of my life.

**Q.13 Do you feel that your career in television helped you with your writing? And if so, how?**

**A.** Yes, yes. Spike's master Bud follows the same career path I traveled, from a morning talk show in High Point, N.C., to a daytime program in NYC. I found myself "sending up" all manner of things I experienced over the decades - from overly-controlling and self-protecting producers to strange interns, bizarre guests, ageism, sexism, grifting-ass-kissing TV people, hosting the show with a massive hangover, and more, much more. There are also some elements resonating from my days at Food Network and trips to Las Vegas for Showtime Boxing in the book as well. You might not believe it when you read it, but The TV stuff is rooted in, or perhaps it's better to say, "inspired by" reality. Most of the characters along the way are as well.

**Q.14 Do you have any unique and quirky writing habits?**

**A.** I never begin writing knowing that I only have a limited amount of time - meaning, "I have to stop in 90 minutes." I usually do not write for much more than two and a half hours, but I don't want the pressure of a limit on my time.

**Q.15 What is the best piece of advice anyone has ever given you?**

**A.** I've had so much good advice directed at me over the years, because, of course, I needed it. In this case, I'm going to call up what a high school classmate wrote in my yearbook on graduation day. "Never lose your sense of humor, it's the most valued possession you have." (Note, he wasn't saying, "Hey, Bill, you're one smart dude!") But that advice was a reflection of the success I'd achieved by deploying my humor on the forty-three hundred students at my outstanding school, Lincoln High in Northeast Philadelphia.

**Q.16 What do you consider to be your best accomplishment?**

**A.** This book is the single greatest piece of work of my career. In a professional sense, it is my best. There are a few other "bests" in my personal life.

**Q.17 Tell us about your writing process while you're working?**

**A.** Deep focus. It becomes a movie I'm seeing in my mind. Before I begin a new day's writing, I review the previous day's output and generally make improvements. I continued to polish the Spike material right up to the night before I had to submit the final manuscript.

**Q.18 Which famous person, living or dead would you like to meet and why?**

**A. Marilyn Monroe.** I'd like to spend an afternoon with her. Can this be arranged?

**Q.19 What is your favorite book and why?**

**A. Act One: An Autobiography by Moss Hart.** It is a brilliantly written epic rise from the depths of poverty to the heights of acclaim. It's set in the world of theatre, which I love and it deals with the creative process and collaborative process behind classic works.

**Q.4 What inspired you to write *The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog*?**

A. For the past several years, people have been suggesting that I write a memoir. I've got other plans for that, but I thought it might be interesting to take an element from my life and spin it into a story that has some echoes of a memoir. The idea involved a dog I had named Spike, who frequently appeared on my first TV talk show, the syndicated "Southern Exposure" out of High Point, N.C. Because of his on-camera antics, he was popularly known all over the south as "Spike The Wonder Dog." Most sadly, he was run over shortly before I left High Point for my big break hosting a daily New York TV program. "What if," I wondered, "Spike hadn't died, but had come to New York with me and became a huge star in today's world of TV and social media?" In the first sentence of the first page, his voice came to me. It is a thrilling experience for a writer to have something new moving through him like that. The irreverent, comedic voice of my central character, "*Spike the Wonder Dog*" was flowing. He had me laughing! Laughing at a dog's voice in your head, you ask? Yes. Spike has been talking to me for the last four years, and you probably wouldn't want to know what he's actually thinking about YOU right now as you're reading this.

**Q.5 To craft your words, do you have to travel? Before or during the process?**

A. Yes, I must travel through my home to my desk and the MacBook Air on top of it. About 67 steps.

**Q.6 When was your last memorable learning curving?**

A. Good question. It's going on right now. I am learning about book promotion on social media and how to harness the power of Instagram.

**Q.7 What is something readers would be surprised to learn about you?**

A. When I was around four years old, I was walking around the house with a pencil in my hand pretending it was a microphone and interviewing people. I'm one of those lucky people who made his childhood dream come true because as far back as I can remember, I knew that when I grew up, I wanted to be like the TV hosts, I was watching. Not sure about the growing up, but that's what I've ended up doing in life. I'm a blessed man.

**Q.8 Do you read your book reviews? How do you deal with bad or good ones?**

A. Yes, I read reviews. I've received all good reviews so far for [The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog](#), and all have mentioned "laugh out loud" funny writing. Gratifying experience to have reviews like that. Notably, I once did a stage show called "This Must Be Love," based on the music of Rogers and Hart, where I had to sing many songs. I had never done a full-scale music revue before. During the one-month run at the King Cole Room at the St. Regis Hotel, I did NOT allow myself to read any reviews because I thought bad ones would intimidate me. After we closed, I read all the reviews and I did ok. Phew!

**Q.9 Who would you most like to thank for their involvement in your writing career?**

A. My beloved, long-suffering girlfriend **Jane Rothchild** who has a phenomenal sense of humor is a spelling champion and encouraged me to keep going.

**Q.10 What do you hope is the biggest takeaway from the book?**

A. Laughter, giggles, howls, snickers, screams, snorts, chortles, guffaws, and plenty of them! At a time when we can all surely use a laugh, I'm offering an audacious satire aimed at doing just that. I'd be gratified if some of the takeaways might be that we still have it within ourselves to crack up over each other, even if some of our own sensitivities are tested in the process. I don't think creativity should be stifled because we live in a sensitive time, rather, I think artists and writers should test the times. Maybe you noticed that there's a "politically incorrect humor" label on the cover of the book, right there so you know what's coming at you. Might you be fearless enough to read on?

**Q.11 Do you believe in writer's block? If yes, how do you deal with it?**

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**Q.20 Share the experience of your journey so far?**

**A.** I am walking in gratitude these days for “Lady” Jane, Trevor, my close personal imaginary canine friend Spike, and for my lucky, blessed, and happy life.

**A Few Words for your readers and Books Charming -**

1. Never let a moment of inspiration pass without acting on it.
2. Count your blessings every day and believe in the creative power of optimism.
3. Keep your guard up at all times Covid-19 is lurking everywhere.

**Keep in touch with Bill Boggs -**

**Website** - [www.billboggs.com](http://www.billboggs.com)

**YouTube** - <https://www.youtube.com/user/BillBoggsTV>

**Instagram** - [https://www.instagram.com/spike\\_wonderdog/](https://www.instagram.com/spike_wonderdog/)

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**1 COMMENT:**

**Aastha**

July 8, 2020 at 11:04 AM

Wow what an amazing interview 🙌 Loved it ❤️ keep going. You are doing great 😊

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“Believe passionately in what you do and never knowingly compromise your standards and values. Act like a true professional, aiming for true excellence, and the money will follow.”

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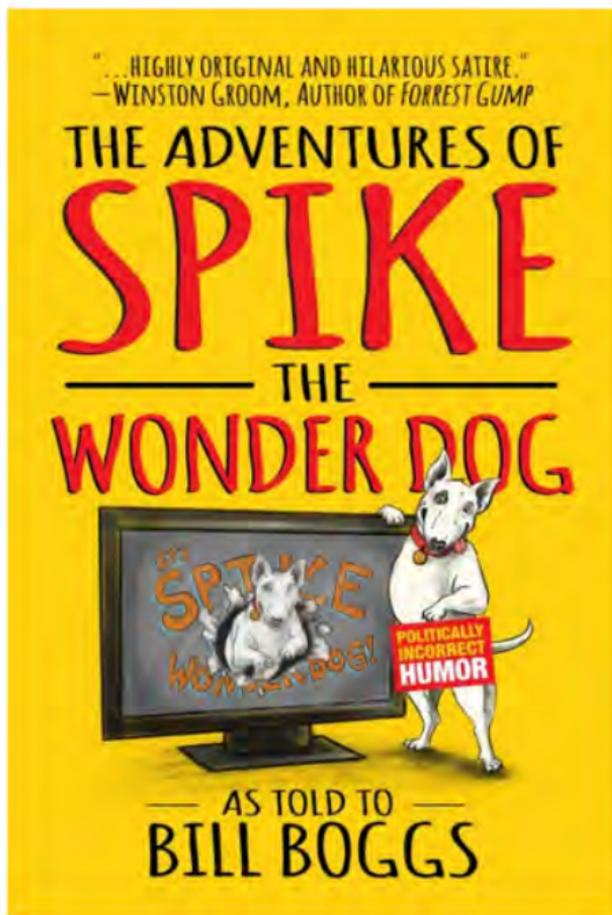
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With a vaccine for Covid-19 looking like a chimera, the only medicine I trust right now is laughter, and Bill Boggs' new novel, **The Adventures of Spike the Wonder Dog**, offers up enough chuckles and guffaws for an overdose.

So there's some good news in these dismal times. A injection to the funny bone is just what the epidemiologist ordered.

Now Spike is no run-of-the-mill English bull terrier—this “wonder dog” has a mouth on him, i.e., he talks and tells his own tale (no pun intended) in an inimitable, hilarious voice. And in case you missed the warning on the cover, Spike is *not* politically correct. No bull—he talks smack and is wickedly wiseass beyond his dog years. In short (move over, Lassie), he's a four-legged superstar.

Spike is based on an actual dog who—like the fictional one—became a TV celebrity. And since **Bill Boggs** is an Emmy award-winning TV talk show host (and—full disclosure—a friend) he knows the territory inside and out, so there's plenty of biting insider humor.

If you're looking for satire that hasn't been paper-trained, **grab a copy on Amazon.**