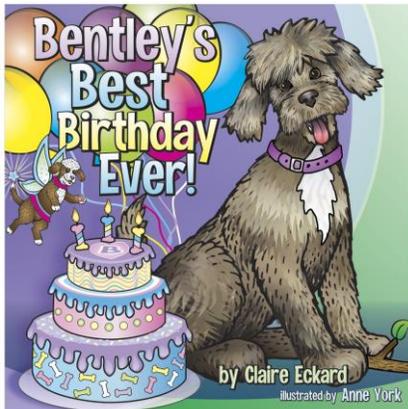


12/14/21

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Children's Book Bentley's Best Birthday Ever! Sequel to Bentley and the Magic Sticks!

YUMA, Ariz. — Claire Eckard Author announces the release of *Bentley's Best Birthday Ever!*, with illustrations by Anne York.



Bentley's Best Birthday Ever! Bentley is back, and it's his birthday! Bentley is excited to share his special day with his new friends, but they are nowhere to be found. Meanwhile, Bentley meets Bella, a lost dog whose family has recently moved to Bentley's neighborhood.

Tia, Bentley's Fairy Dogmother, and the Dog Pack have a BIG secret! They are planning a surprise birthday party for Bentley, and when Tia is around there is always some magic. Wait till you see Bentley's reaction to his surprise party, and especially to the special guest that Tia brings!

This book once again shows Bentley's kind nature, and also shows us that when you move to a new neighborhood there's nothing to be scared of. New friends are ready to welcome you! Beautifully illustrated once again by Anne York, Bentley fans, old and new, will not be disappointed as they follow Bentley's latest adventure.

Bentley and the Magic Sticks and *Bentley's Best Birthday Ever!* were inspired by Eckard's late dog of the same name, who she rescued from The Humane Society of Yuma. When Bentley was rescued, nursing him back to health and assimilating him into the household presented its challenges.

"Bentley tried really hard to be accepted by my three other dogs at home, but he always seemed to be on the outside of the 'pack' which I could never understand because he was such a gentle giant," said Eckard. "Through a lot of effort, I nursed him back to good health, and after a long time, he was finally accepted by the others as one of the family."

Through this imaginative, heartfelt, and beautifully illustrated story, Eckard wants to remind children that it's okay to be different, and it's even better to accept someone new in your life, even if they are not just like you.

Eckard also sees the book as a way to pay tribute to her beloved dog.

"In our short time together, he taught me so much about never forgetting what the power of love can do. His life deserved to be recognized, and I wanted to share the gifts he has given to me with others," said Eckard. "Seeing Bentley bring joy to children is such a beautiful legacy for a dog who never stopped giving to others."

Eckard is an animal lover and believes in volunteering to give back to her community — especially to the homeless animals that need to find their forever homes. Her animals often inspire her writing, blending reality and fiction to entertain, teach, enlighten, and share the joy animals bring to our lives. Eckard is an author, poet, songwriter, wife, mother, and grandmother. She lives in Arizona, splitting her time between her home in Yuma, Arizona and her ranch in the mountains of Prescott. Her life is full of four-legged

family members - 3 dogs, 11 horses and a miniature mule!

Connect with Eckard on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), and visit her website claire-eckard.com.

To set up an interview, reading, signing, or for information regarding *Bentley's Best Birthday Ever!*, please contact Karen Eckard at karenteckard@gmail.com or Claire Eckard at claire@claireeckardauthor.com.

Bentley's Best Birthday Ever! (ISBN: 978-1662832512) is published through Mill City Press and is available online with the following retailers: Amazon, Barnes & Noble.