

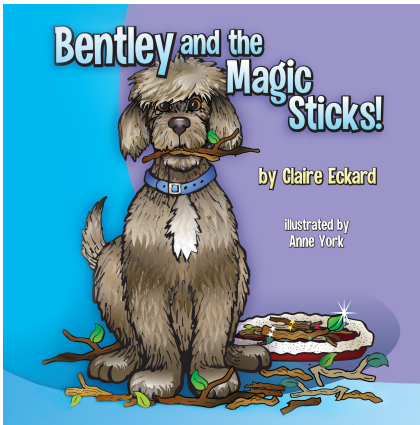


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Children's Book Bentley and the Magic Sticks! Shows Kids the Power of Love and Acceptance

YUMA, Ariz. — Foreword Publicity announces the release of *Bentley and the Magic Sticks!*, written by Claire Eckard, with illustrations by Anne York.



Bentley and the Magic Sticks! follows this extra-large canine as he finds out that his favorite sticks have magical powers, thanks to a delightful Fairy Dogmother called Tia! Because other dogs are afraid of his large size, Bentley has no one to play with. However, with his magic sticks, he manages to make new friends, and discovers the special secret of why he is so big.

Bentley and the Magic Sticks! was 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.

"Even though Bentley was not initially recognized for his wonderfully kind and giving nature, eventually the other dogs in the story were able to look beyond their fear of his enormous size and recognize who he was at the core of his character," Eckard said. "Bentley had a very large heart. Think of the biggest heart you can imagine; well, Bentley's was BIGGER!"

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."

Bentley and the Magic Sticks! has earned several awards and accolades, including a Gold Mom's Choice Award, a Certified Great Read designation from the Reading With Your Kids Podcast and several 5-star reviews from Readers' Favorite.

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 claireeckardauthor.com.

To set up an interview, reading, signing, or for information regarding *Bentley and the Magic Sticks!*, please contact Aly Bourque at aly@forewordpublicity.com or Lori Orlinsky at lori@forewordpublicity.com.

Bentley and the Magic Sticks! (ISBN: 978-1662810381) is published through Mill City Press and is available online with the following retailers: Amazon, Barnes & Noble.

About Foreword Publicity

Foreword Publicity is a full-service PR and marketing firm co-founded by multi-award winning, bestselling authors, Lori Orlinsky and Alysson Bourque. Foreword Publicity specializes in custom book PR campaigns with combined strategies in marketing, sales, and branding. Learn more at www.forewordpublicity.com

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