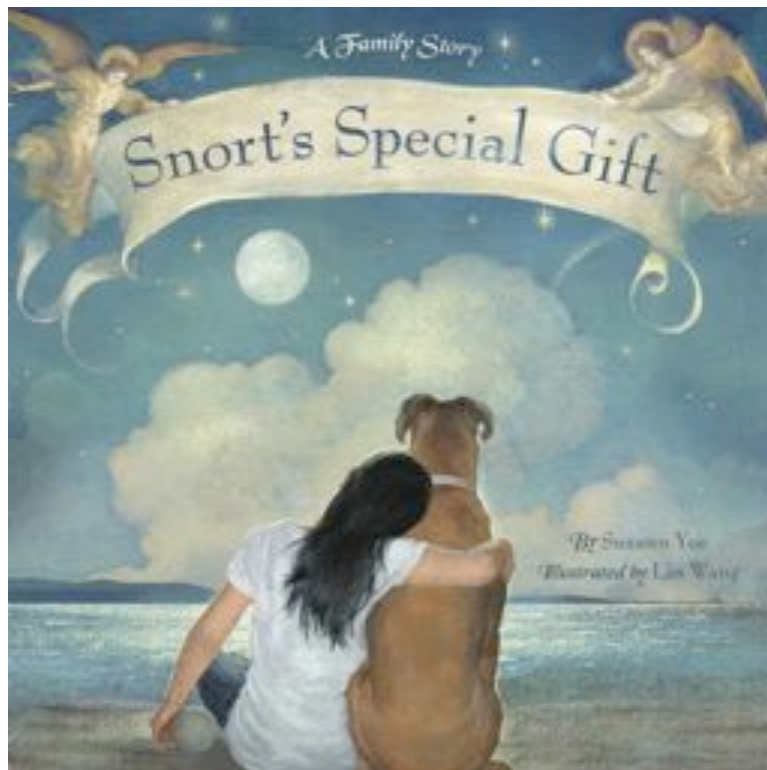




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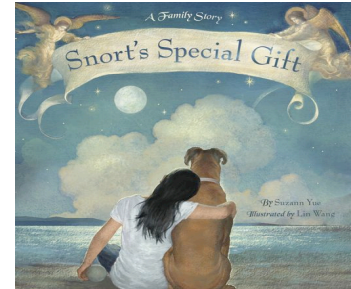
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### **New Children's Book by Twin Cities Author Helps Children Deal with the Loss of a Beloved Pet**

(Wayzata, Minn.) – There are many lessons in life that we consider wonderful experiences. When a child learns to walk and talk, for instance, and what it feels like to win a game. But the human experience isn't all about triumphs.



Savy Yue learned how to deal with a great loss at a young age. She had to say goodbye to one of her best friends. Sensei the Boxer, whose nickname was Snort, was sick and needed to go to heaven.

“Telling Savy we were going to have to say goodbye to Snort was a very difficult conversation,” said her mom, Suzann Wancket-Yue, who at the time was dealing with her own grief. She and Snort had been together for ten years.

After the loss of their beloved pet, the Yues planted a tree in Snort's memory and Suzann thought about her often. Later, a sermon given by her church pastor, Dan Johnson of Plymouth Covenant Church in Minnesota, inspired her to keep Snort's memory alive forever through a children's book.

Beaver's Pond Press published *Snort's Special Gift* in the fall of 2011 and it was an instant hit. Just one month after being released, it already had to go into a second printing. In addition, the book has been recognized with a gold medal in the Mom's Choice Awards in the category: Children's Picture Books, Growing Up/Personal Growth and a silver medal in the Spirituality/Religion category of the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards.

*Snort's Special Gift* is the Yue family's story about how they said goodbye to Snort and the lessons their dog taught them while she was alive. Suzann says her main motivation for writing the book was to help other families deal with this difficult situation.

The story begins with Savy and her brother, Sunne, eager to play catch with their dog. But instead of taking off like a bullet when the ball is thrown, Snort just looks

at the ball and puts her head down. Mommy explains that Snort is in a lot of pain and it's important that Snort doesn't suffer anymore.

Savy asks what is going to happen and her mother carefully explains. The rest of the story is centered on the things the family does to keep Snort's memory alive after she is gone, including the time Savy had a school assignment where she was asked to write about someone special in her life and she chose to write about Snort.

When Wancket-Yue told her veterinarian about the book, Dr. Carissa Williamson of Oakwood Pet Clinic in Plymouth, Minn., couldn't wait to see it. "This book is absolutely wonderful," she said. "The pictures are beautiful and the story made me cry which is a good thing. Kids need to grieve the loss of a pet and they need to have an outlet for expressing their feelings." Williamson says she will recommend *Snort's Special Gift* to families as a way to help prepare young children for what's to come when a pet gets sick. "The book is a great stepping stone for parents to use to start a difficult conversation," she said.



Sherry Fonseth-Lais, a doctor of veterinary medicine and an assistant clinic professor in general practice at the University of Minnesota said, "Almost all of us, at some point in our lives, can relate to the heartbreaking loss of a beloved pet. Suzann Yue and Lin Wang, both figuratively and literally, paint a rich story of Snort, the charming and beautiful boxer dog. The artists offer a very gentle, gracious and effective way of tackling an emotional subject. The focus is on all of the wonderful treasures and lessons that Snort brought to the family, and the story becomes a celebration of life! This book will help a lot of people – children and adults - cherish and commemorate the pets in their relationships."

"This sensitive look at a pet's death is for all ages and parents certainly could help prepare their children for such a loss by sharing and discussing the words and the beautiful artwork," said Maryann Watkins, President of the Boxer Rescue Foundation. When she lost her dog, Esabel, who like Snort was a Boxer, Watkins did a lot of journaling. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, journaling is a great way for kids to deal with depression and withdrawal, which are both emotions brought on by loss.

"The way you've dealt with a difficult issue makes this a must for any kid who has lost a pet. Whether it's a dog or cat, hamster or gerbil, this is one of the better books on the subject of pet loss," said Katie K9, host of the Katie K9 show on myTalk 107.1 in the Twin Cities.

“I wrote this book to share all of the wonderful lessons Snort taught me and our children. I believe that all pets are put on this Earth for a reason. Their unconditional love is priceless. I believe all pet lovers will enjoy this book. Losing a pet is difficult, but my goal with writing this book was for it to be a grieving tool for families,” said Wancket-Yue.

*Snort’s Special Gift* retails for \$17.95 and is available for purchase through the author’s website, SuzannYue.com, direct from the publisher, www.BeaversPondBooks.com, through BarnesandNoble.com and at select bookstores everywhere.

About the Author

Suzann Wancket-Yue is perhaps best known for her accomplishments in karate. She is an eight-time world forms and weapons karate champion and runs her own karate school – Wancket’s Art of Karate – where she trains professional competitors.



Wancket-Yue is also a photographer, mother and author. Originally from Port Byron, Illinois she now lives in Medina, Minnesota with her husband, Jeff, and their two children, Savy and Sunne,

About the Illustrator

Lin Wang graduated from the prestigious Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts in China. Once a portrait painter, Lin now enjoys dedicating herself to children's book illustration. Several of her books have been published in many different countries and languages. Lin lives in California with her husband and children.



Title:	<b><i>SNORT’S SPECIAL GIFT</i></b>
Author:	Suzann Yue
Pub. Date:	2011
Publisher:	Beaver’s Pond Press Books Edina, MN 1-800-901-3480
Cost:	\$17.95
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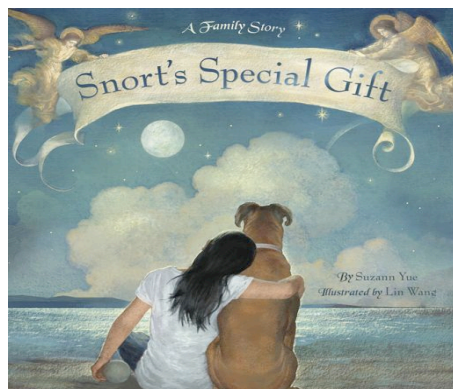
For review copies contact Rachel M. Anderson, Publicist at 952-240-2513 or via e-mail: [rachel@rmapublicity.com](mailto:rachel@rmapublicity.com).

More information about the book can be found at [SuzannYue.com](http://SuzannYue.com).

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### Praise for....



“Almost all of us, at some point in our lives, can relate to the heartbreaking loss of a beloved pet. Suzann Yue and Lin Wang, both figuratively and literally, paint a rich story of Snort, the charming and beautiful boxer dog. The artists offer a very gentle, gracious and effective way of tackling an emotional subject. The focus is on all of the wonderful treasures and lessons that Snort brought to the family, and the story becomes a celebration of life! This book will help a lot of people – children and adults - cherish and commemorate the pets in their relationships.”  
- Sherry Fonseth-Lais, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine & Asst. Clinic Professor in General Practice, University of Minnesota

“The illustrations jump off the page. They are phenomenal....  
This will help in the healing process. It really is a moving story.”  
- Eric Perkins, anchor, KARE 11 Saturday (Minneapolis)

“The way you’ve dealt with a difficult issue makes this a must for any kid who has lost a pet. Whether it’s a dog or cat, hamster or gerbil, this is one of the better books on the subject of pet loss.”  
- Katie K9, host of the Katie K9 show on myTalk 107.1 in the Twin Cities.

“Losing a beloved pet is a truly painful experience. We grieve - and it hurts so much - because of the joy these beautiful creatures bring to our lives. That joy is gone and our homes suddenly feel so very empty. *Snort's Special Gift* is a gift to those who feel the pain of this loss, especially children. I lost Esabel, my 11-year-old Boxer, just two months before reading Suzann Yue's book and the pain was still very raw. Tears ran down my cheeks as I read to the end.... This sensitive look at a pet's death is for all ages and parents certainly could help prepare their children for such a loss by sharing and discussing the words and the beautiful artwork.”  
- Maryann Watkins, President, Boxer Rescue Foundation





“The book is wonderful. It made me cry which is a good thing. Kids need to grieve the loss of a pet and they need to have an outlet for expressing their feelings. This book will be a great resource to help kids cope with their loss. I plan on recommending this to my clients.”

- *Dr. Carissa Williamson, owner, Oakwood Pet Clinic, Plymouth, Minn.*

”The story is really sweet. The kindness in dealing with the loss of the dog is heartfelt and told with tenderness.”

- *Doug Hutchings, President, Foundation for Mercy and Unity Hospitals, Twin Cities, Minn.*

“I love this story! It’s a refreshing take on the complexities of losing our family pets – both for children and grown-ups. This is a wonderful story to help parents and kids manage the events and the sorrows that surround death and dying of those pets who have become members of our family. I appreciate Suzann’s insights and ideas for generating comfort and moving forward – a healthy perspective that helps us all to work through the sadness to bring forth the joy. Good wisdom to share and pass along.”

- *Sue Forneris, Abby’s human pet*

“*Snort’s Special Gift* is a sweet story about the ties a family has with their pet dog and the pain and sadness of having to say goodbye. This story made me re-visit some of my own feelings about the decisions we had to make when my 16-year-old dog was waking to seizures and not functioning as a healthy and happy dog. I remember the day vividly that we took the dog to the vet and with the injection said our goodbyes to a member of our family. The story is both emotional and educational. It deals well with a subject that all animal lovers can relate to. This story is one for anyone who ever loved a dog,”

- *Steve Garren, Golden Valley, Minn.*

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### **About the author - Suzann Wancket-Yue**



Suzann Wancket-Yue is perhaps best known for her accomplishments in karate. She is an eight-time world forms and weapons karate champion who has been featured in Black Belt Magazine, Martial Arts Training and Minnesota Monthly for her karate accomplishments. While no longer competing, she still runs her own karate school, Wancket's Art of Karate, where she trains professional competitors.

About a year ago her pastor, Dan Johnson of Plymouth Covenant Church, posed a life-changing question during one of his sermons which was, "What will you leave on this Earth once you're gone?" This question inspired the eight-time world karate champion to write a children's book about her beloved Boxer, Snort, who died a few years ago.

"It became important that I write a book about Snort. This book will honor her memory and hopefully always be a help to pet lovers. I believe it can help other families deal with their losses," Wancket-Yue explained.

*Snort's Special Gift* is a children's picture book with a story told in short, simple sentences that young children can understand and adults will appreciate. The book was originally published by Beaver's Pond Press of Edina, Minn., in fall 2011 and is already in its second printing. It has won two book awards, a gold medal in the Mom's Choice Awards in the category: Children's Picture Books, Growing Up/Personal Growth and a silver medal in the Spirituality/Religion category of the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards.

More information can be found at [SuzannYue.com](http://SuzannYue.com).

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Suzann Wancket-Yue and her husband, Jeff Yue, live in Wayzata, Minn., with their two children, Savy and Sunne, who were both adopted from China. She is currently hard at work on her next book, a continuation of her series about the adventures of Savy and Sunne. She is also working on the manuscript for “Karate and Attention Deficit Disorders.”

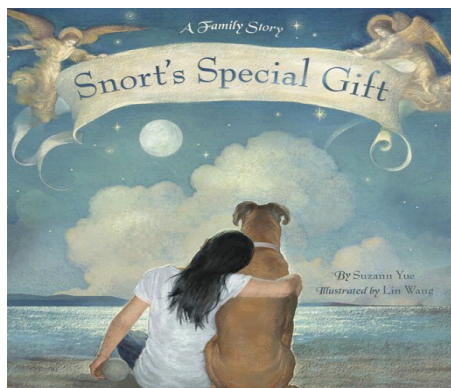
Suzann received a Community Service Award from Park Nicollet Foundation for her work teaching children with attention deficit disorders. Her karate program was awarded the MN Sport of the Year by Minnesota Sports in 1996. Wancket-Yue loves photography and donates her work to hospitals and foundations.

***To arrange an interview, contact Rachel M. Anderson, Publicist, RMA Publicity, 952-240-2513 or via e-mail: [rachel@rmapublicity.com](mailto:rachel@rmapublicity.com)***

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## The Lasting Legacy World Karate Champion Suzann Wancket-Yue Wants to Leave Behind

By Rachel M. Anderson, Freelance Writer



(Wayzata, MN) - Snort, also known as Sensei, was Suzann Wancket-Yue's beloved pet Boxer. Her family's dog passed away of old age a few years ago, but not before teaching Wancket-Yue some of life's most valuable lessons...lessons she wanted to share with others.

Her pastor, Dan Johnson of Plymouth Covenant Church posed a life-changing question during one of his sermons which was, "What will you leave on this Earth once you're gone?" This question inspired the eight-time world karate champion to write a children's book about Snort. "It became important that I write a book about Snort. This book will honor her memory and hopefully always be a help to pet lovers. I believe it can help other families deal with their losses," Wancket-Yue explained.

Shortly after making the decision to share Snort's story, Wancket-Yue sat down and started to write. Once she had the manuscript for a children's book in her hands she presented it to Beaver's Pond Press of Edina, Minn. Their acquisitions editor accepted it for publication and the process of getting it into print began.

Originally intended to be a sweet story about a family's love for their pet, *Snort's Special Gift* quickly turned into a story that could help others. Beaver's Pond Press published the book in the fall of 2011 and it was an instant hit. Just one month after being released, it already had to go into a second printing. In addition, the book has been recognized with a gold medal in the Mom's Choice Awards in the category: Children's Picture Books, Growing Up/Personal Growth and a silver medal in the Spirituality/Religion category of the Moonbeam Children's Book Awards.

In the book, Wancket-Yue shares how her daughter, Savy, dealt with her loss of her family's beloved pet not by mourning Snort, but by celebrating her life. Especially touching is the part of the story where a teacher asks kids in Savy's class to write about someone special in their life, and Savy decides to write about Snort.



*“Most of you probably wrote about people, but I wrote about my dog, Snort. I gave her this special name because she snored all night and kept me awake. Snort needed to go to heaven because she was very sick... Snort was special to me because she taught me important things.”*

When it comes to coping with their loss, The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends parents keep in mind that grief is not a quick process and they will need to help their child cope. Parents should learn to anticipate grieving triggers and let the child know they are welcome to talk about their loss.

Other ways to help children work through their grief, create a memorial for the pet or person they lost, and encourage the child to write their thoughts down in a journal. *Snort's Special Gift* supports both of these grieving tools to help families with the loss of their pet. At the end of the book the author added a page families create themselves to remember their pet. There's a place to add a photograph of their pet and children can share special memories.

*Snort's Special Gift* is different from other books on loss in that it is a picture book with a story told in short, simple sentences that even very young children can understand. The illustrator, Lin Wang of Fremont, Calif., paid special attention to detail in all of her illustrations. Wancket-Yue says she chose Wang as her illustrator because of her great talent, and because she is originally from China. Both of Wancket-Yue's children were adopted from China.



“The book is wonderful. It made me cry which is a good thing. Kids need to grieve the loss of a pet and they need to have an outlet for expressing their feelings. This book will be a great resource to help kids cope with their loss. I plan on recommending this to my clients,” says Dr. Carissa Williamson, the Yues' veterinarian.

Sherry Fonseth-Lais, a doctor of veterinary medicine and an assistant clinic professor in general practice at the University of Minnesota says, “Almost all of us, at some point in our lives, can relate to the heartbreaking loss of a beloved pet. Suzann Yue and Lin Wang, both figuratively and literally, paint a rich story of Snort, the charming and beautiful boxer dog. The artists offer a very gentle, gracious and effective way of tackling an emotional subject. The focus is on all of the wonderful treasures and lessons that Snort brought to the family, and the story becomes a celebration of life! This book will help a lot of people – children and adults - cherish and commemorate the pets in their relationships.”

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*Snort’s Special Gift* retails for \$17.95 and is available for purchase through the author’s website, [SuzannYue.com](http://SuzannYue.com), direct from the publisher, [www.BeaversPondBooks.com](http://www.BeaversPondBooks.com), through [BarnesandNoble.com](http://BarnesandNoble.com) and at select bookstores everywhere.

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