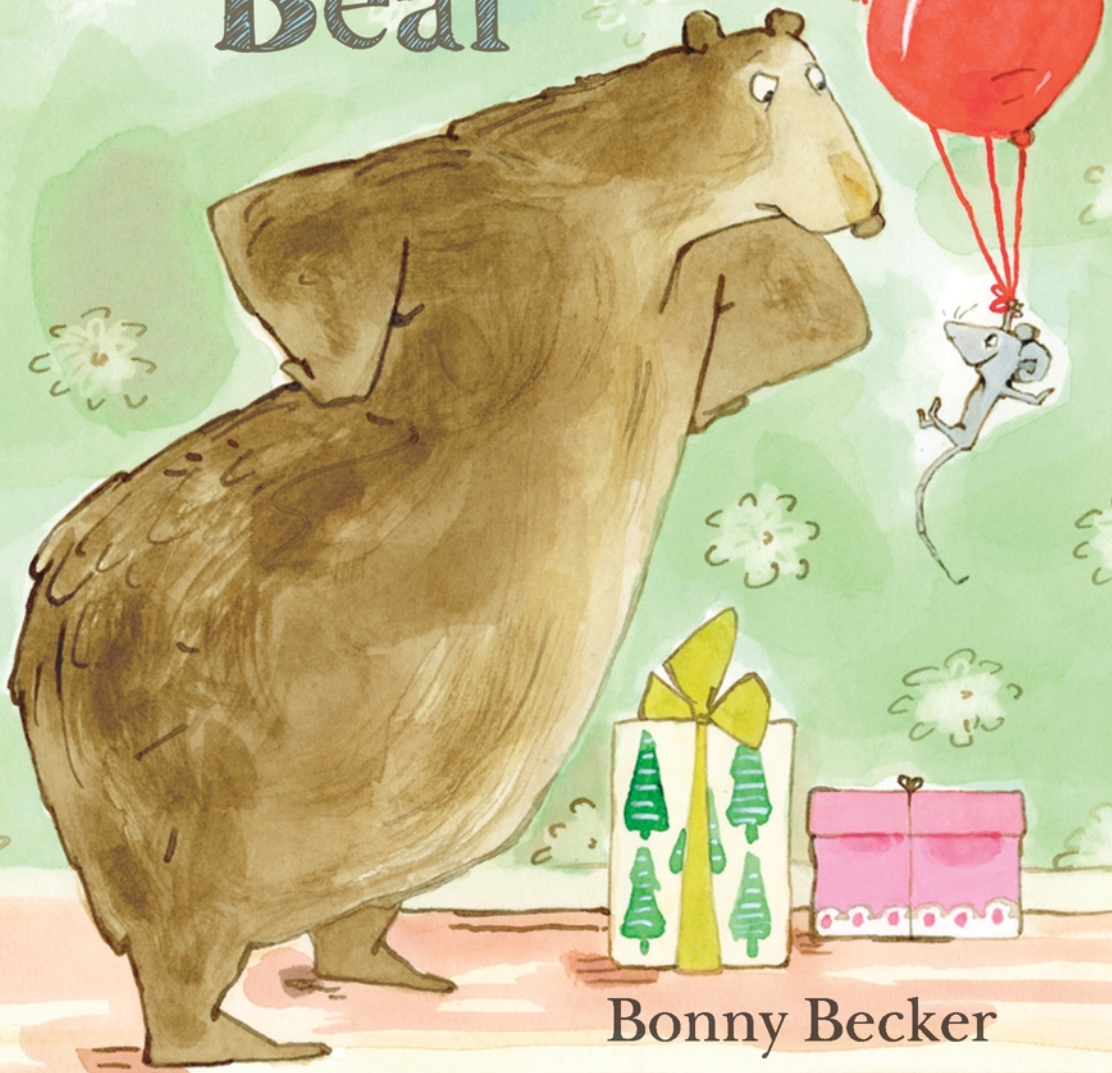


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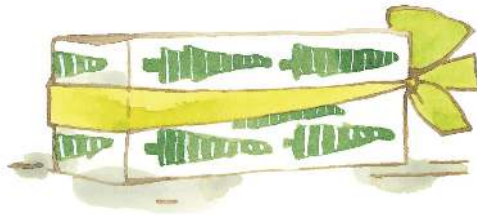
A Birthday for Bear



Bonny Becker

illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton

A
Birthday
for
Bear



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CANDLEWICK PRESS



For Kurt, who celebrates
B. B.

To Sally
K. D.

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First paperback edition in this format 2013

The Library of Congress has cataloged the hardcover edition as follows:

Becker, Bonny.

A Birthday for Bear / Bonny Becker ;
illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton. — 1st ed.
p. cm.

Summary: Despite Bear's efforts to ignore his birthday,
Mouse will not rest until his friend celebrates.

ISBN 978-0-7636-3746-0 (hardcover)

[1. Birthdays—Fiction. 2. Bears—Fiction. 3. Mice—Fiction. 4. Friendship—Fiction.]

I. Denton, Kady MacDonald, ill. II. Title.

PZ7.B3814Bi 2009

[E]—dc22 2008021412

ISBN 978-0-7636-6861-7 (paperback)

13 14 15 16 17 18 SWT 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Dongguan, Guangdong, China

This book was typeset in New Baskerville.
The illustrations were done in ink and watercolor.

Candlewick Press
99 Dover Street
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144

visit us at www.candlewick.com

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Bear didn't like birthdays.

He didn't like birthday parties or balloons.

He didn't like birthday cards or songs or candles.

*In fact, Bear was quite sure he didn't like
anything to do with birthdays at all.*







Chapter 1

Swish! Swish! Swish! Bear dusted his shelves.

Whisk! Whisk! Whisk! Bear swept his floor.

He was very, very busy today. Bear was always very, very busy on his birthday.

He opened the door to shake out his broom, and there was Mouse, small and gray and bright-eyed.



“Happy birthday, Bear!” cried Mouse.
“It’s not my birthday,” lied Bear.

“But it says so right here,” said Mouse, waving a party invitation.

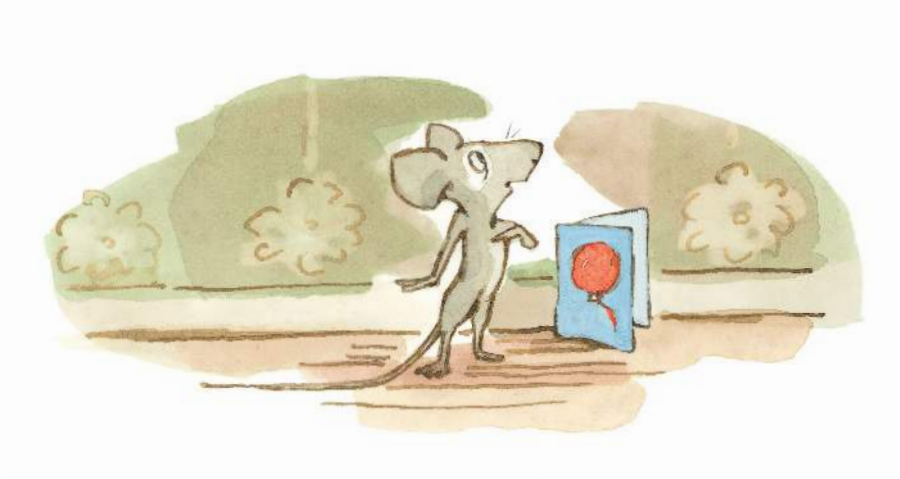


“Let me see that!” demanded Bear. He peered at the card. It read:

Dear Mouse,
Come to Bear’s birthday
at Bear’s house today!
Balloons and presents
and birthday cake.

“This is your handwriting!” protested Bear. “*You* wrote it.”

“Did I?” asked Mouse, most innocently.



“Yes,” said Bear. He sounded quite certain.

Mouse hung his head. “Shameful trickery,” he confessed. “Terribly sorry. But perhaps we could have just a little birthday party?”