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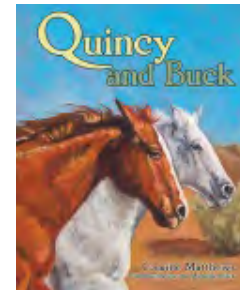
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Soon to Be Released Children's Horse Book Focuses on Bullying

READING PA, February 4, 2014 – **QUINCY AND BUCK**, written by Camille Matthews and illustrated by Michelle Black, is scheduled for release in hardback and eBook by Pathfinder Equine Publications on March 15, 2014.

In his new adventure, a red horse named Quincy finds himself face to face with a bully. On his first trail ride in the desert, Quincy fears wild animals he might encounter. Then he finds out that the real challenge comes from Buck, the horse he seeks out for a trail buddy. Buck is a bully and Quincy learns three crucial things about dealing with bullies. Bullies can be dangerous. It is good to give them a wide berth where possible. They are often cowards underneath a mean façade. In the course of the ride Quincy falls back on his own strengths and conquers his fear.



The story provides a framework for a dialogue between young children and those who want to empower them. The detailed and realistic portrayal of the day's ride will interest and inform K-2 readers and also engage 3rd and 4th graders. Michelle Black's always vibrant illustrations take kids into the desert of the Southwest with its array of wild animals and breath taking scenery, where horses and motorbikes share the same trails. For the younger reader, Quincy's story clearly defines a bully and the associated danger while providing a comforting ending. For the older reader it explores the more complex issues of coping with adversity and how courage evolves.

Previous titles in the Quincy the Horse series are **QUINCY FINDS A NEW HOME** and **QUINCY MOVES TO THE DESERT**, both winners of the Mom's Choice Gold Award. The books are available in print and eBooks at Amazon, bookstores and libraries.

Author Camille Matthews was born in Lexington, KY and now lives near Reading, PA. She is a clinical social worker, equestrian, and equine assisted growth and learning specialist. The real Quincy, whose early experiences inspired the stories, is an American quarter horse. Now 24 years old, he is still working with Matthews as part of the equine therapy team. Michelle Black is an artist residing in La Plata, NM.

Books, photographs and interviews are available upon request. Please visit www.quincythehorse.com (Media Kit) and view galley [Quincy & Buck NetGalley](#)

BIOGRAPHY

Author Camille Matthews and Illustrator Michelle Black

Creators of the Quincy the Horse Books

Camille Matthews and Michelle Black met in Farmington, New Mexico where Camille was a clinical social worker providing psychotherapy and equine therapy and Michelle was a horse trainer and artist. Camille told Michelle about the Quincy the Horse children's books she was creating about the real life of one of her horses. Michelle offered to illustrate the series. Both are equestrians who between them have done just about everything with horses but they agree that the creation of the Quincy the Horse Books for kids K-4th grade is their favorite project. They have just completed the third book of The Quincy the Horse series, *QUINCY AND BUCK*.

Camille was born in Lexington, KY, considered by many the horse capital of the world. She loved to read and treasured her horse books. She was an only child and her favorite activity was visiting her grandfather's farm where she learned to ride. She wanted to become a writer but studied to be a psychotherapist. In 2002 she became certified in the new field of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and opened one of the first programs in New Mexico. Camille relocated back to the East coast in 2010 and now resides near Reading PA. She is an avid trail rider and lover of American quarter horses.

Michelle was born in Yuma, AZ into a world of horses. When she was 11 years old, her family moved to Australia. As she grew older, she did not have a clear plan for her future because training horses was not a respected career for a young woman in the 1970s. When she was 19, she left Australia and returned to the US to visit family. There she finally pursued her dream of becoming a horse trainer. Michelle trained horses for much of her life but now devotes most of her time to her art and her rescue dogs. In addition to painting, she is an avid woodworker. She lives in Farmington, NM.

The real Quincy whose early experiences inspired the Quincy the Horse series, is an American quarter horse who came to live with Camille when he was 7 years old. He was an active trail horse until he contracted EPM. After several years of rehabilitation, he was able to return to light trail riding and became a mainstay therapy horse, providing equine assisted mental health services to teens and adults. Now 24 years old, he is still working as a member of the equine therapy team at Pathfinder Farm in Reading, PA.

Author Interview: Camille Matthews / *Quincy and Buck*

Q: Could you tell us a little about yourself?

I grew up in Lexington, KY, a very horse oriented place, and I have always loved horses. I enjoyed writing as a child and teen but changed directions in college and grad school and became a clinical social worker. As a therapist I helped clients who had experienced trauma and were struggling with various problems related to that. After many years in office practice, I became fascinated by the new modality of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy. I was living in New Mexico at the time and training was readily available. Though I had been a life long equestrian, it was a new way to interact with horses and a very powerful tool for emotional problems that were hard to treat. This brought my two passions, psychotherapy and horses together and I was hooked! It has been life changing for me. I have now retired from the office and do all my work with clients using Equine Assisted Growth and Learning. In 2010, I relocated to Reading PA to be back near family in the Northeast. The real Quincy who inspired the series when he was 7 is now 24 years old. He is an American quarter horse who was a trail riding horse for many years and is still a horse in my equine therapy program.

Q: How Did You Come to Write the Quincy the Horse Books?

I have been a life long equestrian so it was no surprise that I ended up writing about horses. The Quincy the Horse series was inspired by the real life experiences of my red horse, Quincy. He had many adventures when he first came to live with me that parallel the challenges that children face, like being the new kid, going through a family move, facing a bully. He was a young horse who was learning new things and his personality was as it is depicted in the Quincy books. He had a lot of real talents but he was uncertain in new situations and definitely a worrier. I thought it would be a fun way to explore the feelings children go through when learning new things and finding their own inner talents.

Not long after I purchased Quincy, we moved from New York to New Mexico. There he became ill with a serious neurological problem. He ultimately recovered, but for several years he could not be ridden. While I was rehabilitating him, I thought a lot about his life and experiences and first had the idea for a series of children's books. Maybe I was compelled by a desire to celebrate his recovery.

Illustrator Michelle Black and I loved our children's horse books and we saw a need to fill the niche of keepsake books for kids in the younger range of k-4th grade. I grew up seeing the paintings of the Thoroughbred champions, so I pictured the classic, beautiful style that Michelle presents with her vibrant artwork centered on Quincy and the other horses in the stories.

Q: Tell us about your new book, *Quincy and Buck*.

This is Quincy's third adventure. He has moved to the Southwest and wants to learn to trail ride in the desert, but he fears the wild animals he might encounter. When he is encouraged to actually go out on his first ride, the real challenge comes from Buck, the

horse he seeks out for a trail buddy. Buck is a bully and in the course of the day's ride, Quincy has to learn about dealing with bullies and some other unexpected events.

Q: Is there any lesson or moral you hope the story might reveal to readers?

In *Quincy and Buck*, Quincy discovers that life can get complicated. He finds out that the world can be scary and that everyone you meet won't be your friend. He learns some really good coping skills for dealing with that reality and about courage and where it comes from. I believe the story provides a framework for empowering kids. For younger readers, I hope the story clearly defines a bully and the associated danger while providing a comforting ending. For the older readers, I believe it explores the more complex issues of coping with adversity and how courage evolves.

I am a psychotherapist and parent so I have a firsthand knowledge of the emotions that children experience when they are facing changes or fears. I am pretty sure children will identify with Quincy. Actually I envisioned a message for parents too. Most parents want to support their children but are not always sure what will help them become resilient. In *Quincy and Buck* I tried to take this theme a little further than in the previous books. I hope to convey that the ups and downs of life are the path to growth and inner strength, and to reinforce the importance of communication alongside unconditional love. Reading the story with your child can be a great way to talk about bullying. I also wanted to focus on the importance of getting kids out in the world, learning new things. Michelle Black and I love the landscape and ecosystem of the Southwest and wanted to share that with our readers. I think it comes alive in the story.

Q: What is the Most Important Thing For Anyone To Know About You?

Probably the most important thing for anyone to know about me is how much I love animals and how much my daily existence revolves around the animals in my life. For me the routine of caring for my horses on a regular basis is a source of stability, a path to learning important things, and a way to tap into spiritual energy. When the human genome was mapped some years back and there was a focus on genes as determinants of behavior, it occurred to me that the human connection with animals is probably related to a gene.

Q: Where can people find your books?

The Quincy the Horse Books are available at Amazon, Barnes and Noble and other bricks and mortar bookstores and also at various gift shops, tack shops and public libraries. Quincy and Buck will be released in March and we are really excited that the entire series will also be released as eBooks at that time.

Q: Do you have any book signings, tours or special events planned to promote your book that readers might be interested in attending? If so, when and where?

I will be at Horse Expos throughout the country and Book Expo America. The best way to follow my events is to visit Quincy the Horse on Facebook www.facebook.com/quincythehorse where all my events are posted. If anyone would like to schedule a reading and signing event for their school, library or club, I can be reached through the website contact form at <http://www.quincythehorse.com>

Publication Slip

QUINCY AND BUCK

Author: Camille Matthews Illustrator: Michelle Black

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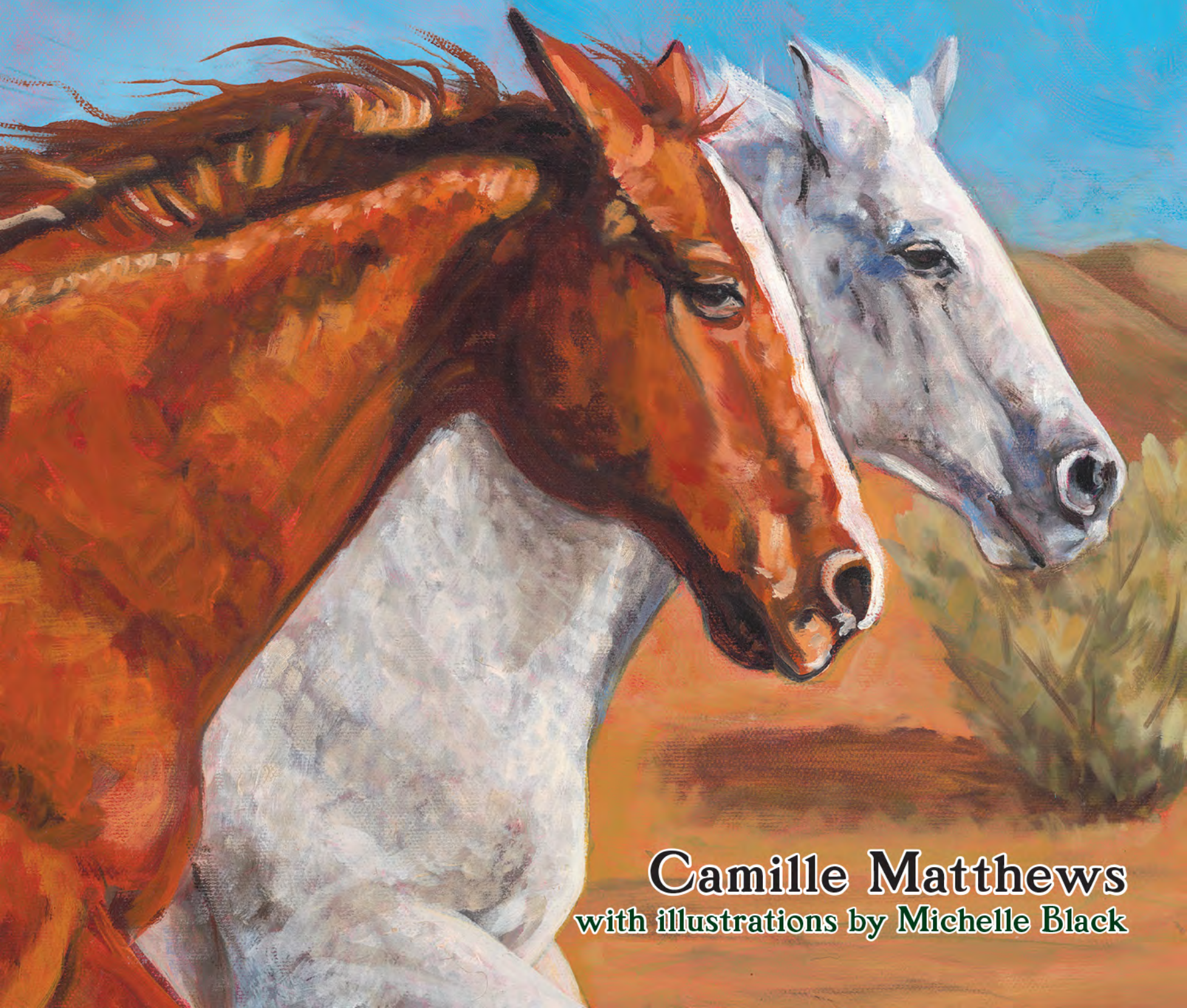
A red horse named Quincy is back with his third adventure. In **QUINCY AND BUCK**, he finds himself face to face with a bully. On his first trail ride in the desert, Quincy fears the wild animals he might encounter but the challenge turns out to be another horse named Buck he seeks out for a trail buddy. Quincy learns three crucial things about dealing with bullies. Bullies can be dangerous. It is good to give them a wide berth where possible. They are often cowards underneath a mean façade. In the course of the ride Quincy conquers his fear.

The tale takes young readers on a very real ride, feeling the sun on their backs, hearing the crunch of Quincy's hooves in the sand wash, and seeing the ominous late afternoon shadows as the sun begins to set. Illustrator Michelle Black's vibrant illustrations set the scene of the high desert Southwest, capture the essence of Buck the bully, and depict the ups and downs of Quincy's struggles. This story continues the theme of cultivating empathy and love of animals that is the signature of the Quincy the Horse series while providing an excellent framework for helping children identify and deal with the emotions and interactions involved in bullying

Previous titles in the Quincy the Horse series are **Quincy Finds A New Home** and **Quincy Moves to the Desert**.

Please visit <http://www.quincythehorse.com>

Quincy and Buck



Camille Matthews
with illustrations by **Michelle Black**









