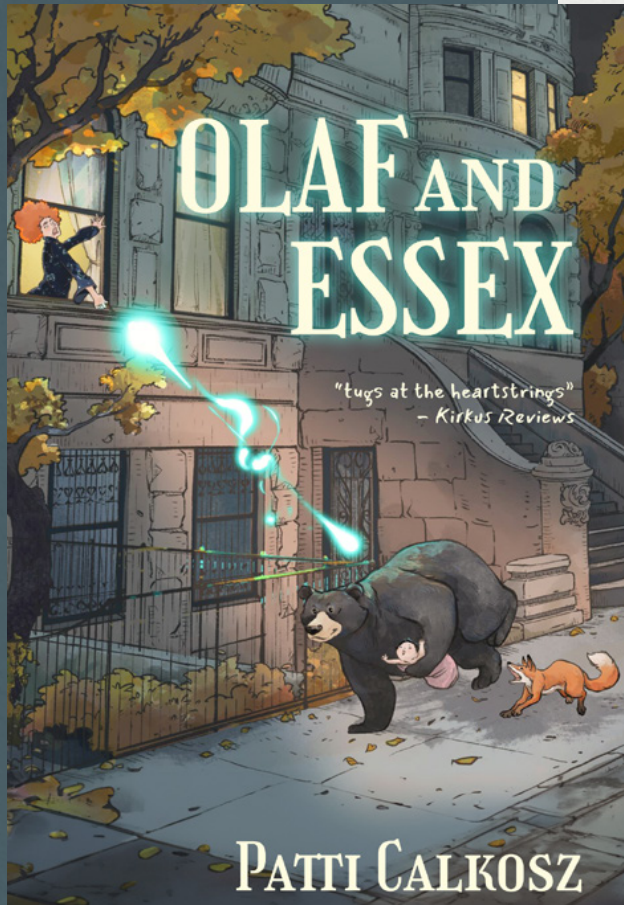


OLAF AND ESSEX

by Patti Calkosz



A fox and bear take on bumbling witch kidnappers and the NYPD's Chief Magic Detector to protect a magical baby and the witches of New York.

In an alternate New York City, Olaf, a bear living in Central Park, accidentally scares away two witches. They leave behind a baby, whom they'd kidnapped to force the father—the NYPD's Chief Magic Detector—to stop harassing the magical community.

Olaf's mother died when he was just a cub, so his natural instinct is to protect the child. When he and his best friend Essex, a fox, find the presumed parents and attempt to return the baby, they witness the female witch, in a fit of pique, turn her husband into a frog.

Now Olaf and Essex must keep the baby safe, find the real mother, keep the magical baby away from her Magic Detector father, and avoid getting turned into frogs.

Olaf and Essex

Author: Patti Calkosz

Illustrator: Xiao

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"This funny, sentimental, and heartfelt tale highlights the importance of family, multi-species or otherwise. Calkosz's story definitely tugs at the heartstrings before it ends with a memorable denouement."

— Kirkus Reviews

"Will entertain children and adults alike . . . a beautifully warm and heartfelt story that will stay with readers long after they finish it."

— IndieReader



PRETTY
COOL





AUTHOR BIO

Patti Calkosz was born in Manhattan and grew up in Queens. She graduated from Duke University with a degree in English. In search of her creative niche all her adult life, Calkosz spent 27 years moving back and forth between New York City, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Being diagnosed with a chronic illness was a wake-up call that set her on the path to both fiction writing and conscious spirituality. The middle grade fantasy book, *Olaf and Essex*, is her debut novel, which reflects her current spiritual understanding. She currently resides in Brooklyn, NY with her cat, Sweetie.


To learn more, please visit PattiCalkosz.com




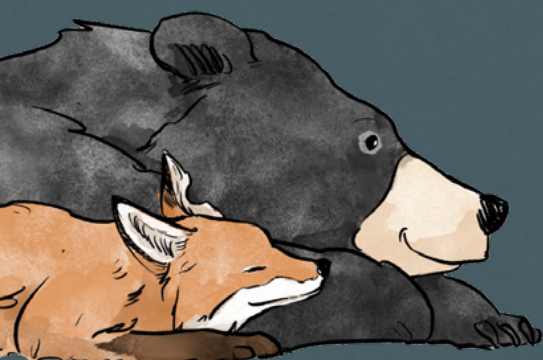
"Author Patti Calkosz utilizes atmosphere, humor, and character to deliver a delightful and thrilling adventure. The unique setting of an alternate New York City, where witches coexist with humans under suspicion, creates an intriguing backdrop that is sure to capture young minds right from the first moment . . . Olaf and Essex, bonded by their duty, provide heartwarming and humorous moments, especially as they navigate the amusing challenges of caring for an infant. This dynamic between them is gorgeously penned with heartfelt dialogue, and the sheer warmth emanating from this aspect of the narrative allows the whole work to ooze with charm. Olaf and Essex is a captivating read filled with themes of bravery and friendship, and I would certainly recommend it for young fantasy fans everywhere to enjoy."

— Readers' Favorite

 @patticalkosz

 @PCalkosz

 Patti-Calkosz-author





SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR PATTI CALKOSZ

1. What inspired you to write Olaf and Essex?
2. How did you come up with the characters' names?
3. Why did you choose to write in multiple POVs?
4. How long did it take to write Olaf and Essex?
5. How did you select your illustrator?
6. You do some illustrating yourself, correct?
7. What is the recommended age range for this book?
8. Who is one of your favorite authors?
9. Are you planning to write another book?
10. Where can readers learn more about you and your novel?



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EXCERPT FROM OLAF AND ESSEX BY PATTI CALKOSZ

Chapter 2, pages 12-13



Olaf growled at the sky that had swallowed the careless parents—parents who were pretty dumb to boot. If the taller-than-most female and the male storing-food-for-the-winter had been paying attention (as they should here in the dangerous woods), wouldn't they have realized he was only trying to alert them their baby was cold? Honestly, if those humans were so dumb as to forget their own baby, they must have been too dumb to realize he was trying to help them.

Perhaps they *were* precise gardeners and experts on the phases of the moon, but witches didn't seem to be any smarter than normal humans, as far as Olaf could tell.

At a sharp cry, he swiveled his head. The baby waved its paws and wailed. He stopped growling, not wanting to scare it. It lay on the ground, obviously wanting its mother. Once *he'd* been a cub, wanting his mother, as huge, scary humans approached. He looked down at his paws. They were big, with claws he couldn't retract. He would have to be careful not to scare the baby.

Staying on all fours, he crept closer. And closer . . . Finally, he was near enough to touch it. He bent, and sniffed. It smelled like milk and wiped-up vomit, which mixed together wasn't too terrible. And the small tuft of fur on top of its head was just as pretty as a pawful of blackberries.

He gently booped his nose against the baby's. It quieted, staring up at him with wide eyes. He booped it again, and it laughed. The stars above seemed to shine even brighter.

"Hi, baby," he said.

The baby probably heard something closer to *GrrwrrWRRwrrr*. But it seemed to understand. It reached out a tiny paw, and touched his furry chin.

None of Olaf's bird friends had ever allowed him to hold one of their young. As if they were afraid he would squash them. This was his chance. Sitting on his haunches, he gently picked up the human baby, cradling it in the soft inner pads of his paws, careful not to scratch it with his claws. He cooed, *GrrwrrWRRwrrr*.

The baby made tiny baby sounds. *GaaWAAwaa?*
And somehow, they understood each other.

