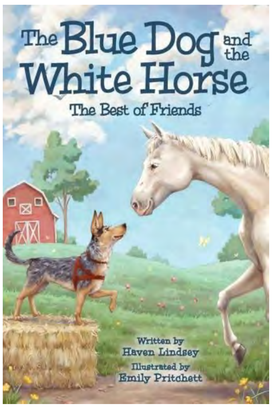
'The Blue Dog and the White Horse: The Best of Friends' wins Southwest Book Award

Staff report Aug 26, 2025 Updated Aug 31, 2025 0



Courtesy image

Author Haven Lindsey's children's book, "The Blue Dog and the White Horse: The Best of Friends," has been awarded the Southwest Book Design and Production Award by the New Mexico Book Association.

Author Haven Lindsey's children's book, "The Blue Dog and the White Horse: The Best of Friends," has been awarded the Southwest Book Design and Production Award by the New Mexico Book Association. The book was recognized in the Children's Book category for its illustrations and design during the NMBA's annual Summer Gala held at the Las Campanas Country Club in Santa Fe on Thursday evening (Aug. 21).

The award honors Lindsey along with Brandylane Publishers and Designers and editor Tanya Pruett, whose work brought the book's heartfelt stories to life.

"It was such a joy to work with Haven Lindsey, shepherding her book project throughout the edit, illustration, and design stages with an exacting eye for detail," Pruett said. "I found myself coming to love these animals, their lessons, and their author every bit as much. We were thrilled to bring aboard Emily Hurst Pritchett, given her illustration talent for conveying animal emotion, expression, and mannerisms with remarkable sensitivity. Our Brandylane designer, Sami Langston, was equally committed to collaborating on the pairing of words and images as we, together, brought this special collection to life. Through our work, we honor Haven Lindsey's deep love for these animals and her commitment to sharing these charming, true stories with a far broader audience."

Released in July, "The Blue Dog and the White Horse: The Best of Friends" shares six true stories of Gracie, a young blue heeler dog, and Max, a retired roping horse. Through their unlikely friendship, the book conveys timeless lessons about loyalty, compassion and the wisdom animals can offer humans. The vibrant illustrations and thoughtful design were recognized as essential to conveying the emotional depth of the animals' stories.

"Gracie and Max's friendship reflects the simple yet profound lessons animals give us when we pause and take notice," Lindsey said. "I'm honored the NMBA recognized not only the stories but the artistry that brings them to life."

The NMBA Gala drew writers and publishers from across New Mexico and featured keynote speaker Deborah Jackson Taffa, author of "Whiskey Tender," a 2024 National Book Award finalist and one of the year's most celebrated books by outlets including The Atlantic, Time, NPR, and The New Yorker.

Lindsey, who lives in Taos, has published two books. This is her first collaboration with Brandylane Publishers.

"The Blue Dog and the White Horse: The Best of Friends" is available in Taos at op.cit. books and the gift shops at the Harwood Museum of Art and the Taos Art Museum at Fechin House. It is also available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, **Bookshop.org**, and can be ordered through any bookstore.

FYI

For more information, contact Haven Lindsey at **haven@4havensake.com** or visit **4havensake.com**.

For media inquiries, review copies or interview requests, contact Jenny Waggoner at Brandylane Publishers Inc. at **admin@brandylanepublishers.com**.