

# A Quilt for Charley

Based on a True Story



By Sharon Winters  
Art by Toby Mickle

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Written by Sharon Winters

Artwork by Toby Mickle

Dedicated to all of the people who are committed to rescuing animals and finding them forever loving homes. In particular:

*The Humane Society of Yuma  
in Yuma, Arizona*

*Friends for Life Animal Rescue  
in Gilbert, Arizona*

*Maricopa County Animal Care and Control  
in Mesa and Phoenix, Arizona*

My name is Charley. A man found me wandering in a park and brought me to a dog shelter.



At the shelter, someone took my picture.

Next, I met a doctor who listened to my heart and checked my eyes and ears. He saw a big scar on my forehead and wondered what happened to me that gave me such a big scar. Then someone put me into a cage.





I have been here for many weeks in a kennel with a bed and a door that goes outside. There are about fifty dogs that are also in kennels. A lot of people go up and down the aisle of the kennels, but no one stops to look at me.



Some dogs are taken out of their kennel and they go to forever homes. Or sometimes the owner of a dog comes and takes their dog home. When owners find their dog at the shelter, they are so happy. My former family hasn't come to take me home. Why don't they want me?

Even though there are a lot of dogs here, I feel alone. The other dogs are all excited and bark when someone comes down the aisle. I don't bark about anything. I feel sad. No one wants me.

I'm about nine years old. That's old for a dog. I'm a big dog, too. I weigh eighty pounds, and I have a big scar on my forehead from being kicked by a horse. My life hasn't been an easy one.





There is a nice woman who feeds all of us breakfast and dinner. When she puts down my bowl of kibble, she says, “Don’t give up hope, Charley. You will find a loving home. You are a gentle giant and a handsome boy.” She is the only person who thinks I’m handsome.



One night I had a dream. A chocolate-colored dog with golden eyes walked into my dream. This dog said, “Hey Charley, of all the dogs in all the towns in all the world, I have chosen you to go to a special forever home. Your hard life is over. The love in this home will fill your heart with happiness.



“Tomorrow, your new mommy and daddy will come to take you home. Look into their eyes with all of the love you have in your heart, and all will be right with the world.”

## Dog Story/Memoir

Charlie is an older dog whose life has been hard. His life becomes even harder after he is found wandering in a park and taken to the Maricopa County dog shelter. He watches as younger dogs come in and are quickly adopted. Why hasn't his family come for him? Why doesn't anyone want him? Will he spend the rest of his life in a small kennel with no one to love him?

### *Charley Winters*



Hatton Pet Portrait Studio

Then one night, Charley has a dream where a mysterious-looking dog with golden-eyes appears. He tells Charley his hard life is over, and he is going to a forever home where his life will be better than anything he could ever imagine.

When Charley wakes up, he wonders, could this dream be true? As he is led out from his kennel to meet the man and woman who have asked to see him, he is hopeful. What does his future hold . . .

**More books  
by Sharon Winters**



**Cutted Chicken in Shanghai**

**Karl's Diary: It's a Dog's Life**

**Runtie the Desert Rat**