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**Real-Life Rescued Sea Turtle Makes an Exceptional Debut
in Enlightening New Children's Book**

Author also makes sterling debut with fictionalized account of Eartha, who learns
a lesson or two about thoughtlessness and decency

Boynton Beach, FL, January 4, 2010 — After personally witnessing his first South Florida marine rescue and release — that of a loggerhead sea turtle named Eartha — Dan Bodenstein decided to write a children's book that is already showing signs of just how well suited the theme is to both entertain and inform young readers.

In "The Tale of Eartha the Sea Turtle" (Totem Tales Publishing, 36 pp, illustrated), Eartha becomes entangled in a fishing line and enlists her undersea friends for help, although help ultimately comes in the form of unlikely heroes who Eartha once regarded as villains.

The book presents a fictionalized account of the real Eartha, who was in poor health when discovered by power plant workers on South Florida's Hutchinson Island. She was taken to the Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center in Juno Beach to be nursed back to health, and reunited with her natural ocean environment months later amid the loving cheers of hundreds of visitors who came to see her off.

"When I saw the real Eartha make her way into the ocean, I was immediately struck by the emotional connection so many of us have to our nautical friends, particularly since we are, in some way, responsible for many of the perils that can put them in harm's way," says Bodenstein, a lifelong South

Florida resident who is making his children's book debut. "My goal is to encourage young readers to actually feel the sadness Eartha feels when entangled, and the joy she feels when freed."

Early reactions clearly indicate that Bodenstein's goal has been met. Brightly and cheerfully illustrated by Brian C. Krümm, "The Tale of Eartha the Sea Turtle" is an enjoyable cautionary fable with a main character as lovable as any animated Disney heroine.

The book was written with the approval of the Loggerhead Marinelife Center, where the real Eartha made her home for many months. In real life, Eartha, who was anemic, underweight and had an infection, inadvertently swallowed a flipper tag just before her scheduled release, forcing her to stay a few extra weeks. Many people commented that it seemed as if Eartha *wanted* to stay there because of the love of all the people who looked after her.

"People are capable of doing so much harm, but they're also capable of doing so much good, and giving so much love" comments Bodenstein. "Children are never too young to learn that about people, as well as about our delicate environment and about protecting all species on earth. This book accomplishes all that — while also letting young readers find another adorable sea friend to fall in love with."

The \$12.99 book is available from Totem Tales Publishing (<http://www.totemtales.com>), which also markets special signed copies as well as photo postcards of the real Eartha. The book can also be purchased at amazon.com, best-childrens-books.com and other online booksellers, and is also available for the iPhone and iPod Touch via Istorytimeapp.com.

A separate Eartha website, <http://www.earthatheseaturtle.com>, features additional merchandise and other stories of Eartha the Sea Turtle.

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