

Dear Reader,

More than any other characters of mine from my novels, Billy Miller and his family were hard for me to let go of. Although it can be bittersweet, I usually get to the place where I'm happy to say goodbye to my characters and move on, happy to start thinking about other, new ones.

But Billy, Sal, Mama, and Papa lingered. I continued to think about them after I finished writing *The Year of Billy Miller*. I continued thinking about them after the book was published, even while I wrote my next novel, *Sweeping Up the Heart*. Billy wouldn't leave me alone.

Part of being a writer is trusting one's inner voice, following one's muse, if you will. So I followed my muse and did something I never thought I'd do. I wrote a second novel about characters I'd thought I was done with.

*Billy Miller Makes a Wish* takes up right where *The Year of Billy Miller* left off. The setting is summer, the summer after second grade.

The book opens with Billy's eighth birthday. As he blows out his candles, Billy wishes that something exciting would happen. I won't tell you what follows, but I will tell you that once again I'm having a hard time saying goodbye to Billy Miller.

Happy reading,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Henkes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin Henkes