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# WOODBURY

— M A G A Z I N E —

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**AUTHOR**  
**EVA WELLS**  
Reels in a  
Whale of a  
Children's Tale

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# Catching a Wish

Eva Wells reels in a children's book based on a family fishing hobby

BY AMANDA KNOWLES  
PHOTOS BY TATE CARLSON

**T**hough it might seem like the warmth of summer doesn't stick around for long, there is a magical element to this season for Minnesotans of all ages.

Whether it's gazing at dazzling Fourth of July fireworks or holding up a slippery fish after a tiring catch, the memories families form during July are endless.

Eva Wells loves nothing more than to create memories with her husband Peter, her two sons Alex, 6, and Jack, 3, and a third baby boy on the way. She took her fondness

**FISHING FAMILY** > Even at Peter and Eva Wells' wedding, goldfish crackers were spread on each table, and the couple honeymooned in Canada at a fishing resort. Years later during an anniversary fishing trip, Eva began to write her book. Now, the entire family including sons Alex, left, and Jack enjoy the pastime.

for nostalgia to another level by writing a children's book.

"The inspiration is mostly from my son and my husband, and the little kid in [my husband] who can't wait to go fishing," Wells says. The book, *Wishing I Was Fishing*, is written in the same poetic verse that makes many children's books easy for kids to understand, chronicling a young boy's desire to go fishing with his father.

For more than 10 years Wells has been working in the accounting field, currently as a senior financial analyst. It wasn't until she attended a seminar about personal success that the writing bug really bit. "We were asked to write down our personal goals, and one of mine was to write a book," she says.

Wells first started writing about her father, who recently had died. She approached book publisher Beaver's Pond Press with every intention to write a book so her children would always know her dad, but eventually she changed her mind.

"We decided not to follow through, mostly because I wasn't finished grieving," she says. But her creative juices peaked, and she began to carry an idea notebook with her everywhere she went. Inspiration struck during a fishing trip, one of Wells's favorite pastimes. "I wrote most of the book in one day. I think part of it was that I missed the kids, and somehow the story just came out," she says.

Upon returning home, it was back to the drawing board at Beaver's Pond Press. Wells admits she knew nothing about the process of writing a children's book, but the publishers walked her through each stage flawlessly. The entire publishing process took a year and a half, including writing, editing and illustrating. Chandra Dale, a Florida resident and high school friend of Wells, drew each picture for the colorful book.

"I figured all you had to do is send your words to an illustrator, and they draw a picture, but Chandra later called and said, 'I need a little bit more information. I live in



“The inspiration is mostly from my son and my husband, and the little kid in [my husband] who can’t wait to go fishing.”

—EVA WELLS, ON HER BOOK, *WISHING I WAS FISHING*

Florida, we have palm trees, and I don’t have a fishing boat,” Wells recalls with a laugh. So in return, Wells began snapping staged pictures of Peter and Alex fishing on Lake Elmo. In the end, each lifelike illustration in the book is a portrayal of an actual shot of Peter, Alex and the family dog, Sam.

Wells, who says the sky’s the limit after publishing a book, spends her free time not only with her family, but reading at schools and other book publishing events.

“There are so many people who read it and think of memories with their families, and then there are kids who run home and tell their dads they want to fish,” she says. “It’s fun to be a part of inspiring other people to make memories.” **lvb**

Amanda Knowles is an editorial assistant for *Woodbury Magazine*.

## WHERE TO GO ❖

If you’re interested in finding a copy of Eva Wells’s book, check out one of the following:

- [Wishing-i-was-fishing.com](http://Wishing-i-was-fishing.com)
- [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) • [Borders.com](http://Borders.com)
- [Barnesandnoble.com](http://Barnesandnoble.com)

And if you’ve just got to see the real deal, meet Wells at her book reading and signing **Aug. 25–26** at Cabela’s Kids’ Fest in Rogers or **Sept. 8** at Maplewood Barnes & Noble.

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