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Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise

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Howe, James. *Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise*. Illustrated by Marie-Louise Gay. Candlewick, 2006. ISBN 0763624055. \$14.99. 48 p.

Reviewer: Marsha D. Broadway

Reading Level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Animal stories;

Subject: Friendship--Juvenile fiction; Birthdays--Juvenile fiction; Parties--Juvenile fiction;

Books--Reviews;

Houndsley is a sad canine--he doesn't know when his birthday is. As he and his feline friend Catina walk in the rain, Catina becomes sad when she realizes that she doesn't know her birthday either. Unaware of the other's plan, they each determine to cheer up the other one. Houndsley bakes a beautiful cake. Catina knits a sweater. Both plan surprise parties. The surprised and happy friends decide to share their birthday celebration every year.

The sequel to *Houndsley and Catina*, this three-chapter beginning reader would make an enjoyable birthday gift to read again and again. Watercolor, pencil, and collage illustrations capture the moods of the characters and add to the festive celebration. A useful addition to school and public libraries.

Free 2-day shipping on qualified orders over \$35. Buy Houndsley and Catina and the Birthday Surprise : Candlewick Sparks at Walmart.com. Good news You can still get free 2-day shipping, free pickup, & more. Continue Shopping. Try another ZIP code. The deals keep coming! Cyber Week savings start now. Shop to it. In Houndsley and Catina & the Birthday Surprise, Houndsley worries that he has made his friend Catina sad by admitting that he doesn't know when his birthday is and reminding her that she doesn't know hers either. He attempts to cheer her up by baking her a birthday cake. Being the dear friend that she is, Catina counters with her own surprise. Together the engaging feline and canine pals once again exhibit the true meaning of friendship in this warm and humorous story. ©2009 James Howe (P)2009 Live Oak Media.