

# KIRKUS REVIEWS

## TITLE INFORMATION

### MY FRIEND GIDEON

Heather S. Lonczak

Illus. by Dusica Dimitrovska

IngramSpark (44 pp.)

\$16.00 hardcover, \$9.00 paperback, \$3.99 e-book

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## BOOK REVIEW

A girl realizes her new pet frog belongs in a pond in this picture book.

Six-year-old Becky is thrilled when her parents finally allow her to get a pet. On a family trip to the mountains, Becky enjoys visiting a pond where she sees and hears various critters ("Bzzzzzzzz; Ribbit; Quack, Quack!"). Becky decides to bring a frog home. She thinks: "He'll be such a cool pet...better than a dog!" Becky names him Gideon and keeps him in a box. But Gideon doesn't acclimate and becomes listless and sad. Becky is perplexed until her dad explains that the frog is an amphibian and "should be in his pond, free to leap high and swim!" Though disappointed, Becky realizes Gideon probably misses his home. She returns him to the pond and watches as he is embraced by fellow frogs. Becky will miss Gideon, but she knows she did the right thing. With her relatable protagonist, Lonczak delivers an essential lesson, emphasizing the importance of leaving animals in their natural habitats where they can thrive. The author also includes a note about "Frog Endangerment." Dimitrovska's illustrations are colorful with a hand-drawn quality, offering shadows and textures. The light-skinned Becky is shown in a variety of circumstances, including spending time outside and with Gideon. The images of nature are serene and detailed, and the depictions of critters, mainly frogs, are friendly. Some pages feature a pattern of greenery, bubbles, tadpoles, and frogs.

A thoughtful, educational lesson for animal lovers.

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