



## Goldfish Ghost

*Lemony Snicket , Lisa Brown (Illustrations)*

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**Goldfish Ghost** Lemony Snicket , Lisa Brown (Illustrations)

Goldfish Ghost was born on the surface of the water in the bowl on a dresser in a boy's room. The boy's room was pleasant and familiar, but Goldfish Ghost wanted company, so he set out to find a friend.

He floats over the neighborhood, past the pier, and let the breeze carry him into town where he discovers that not many people pay attention to goldfish ghosts.

Off he floats, searching for the perfect home and the perfect friend...

and then he hears a voice...

## Goldfish Ghost Details

Date : Published May 2nd 2017 by Roaring Brook Press

ISBN : 9781626725072

Author : Lemony Snicket , Lisa Brown (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review Goldfish Ghost for online ebook

### Jennifer (JenIsNotaBookSnob) says

Very cute book if a bit morbid. My 6 year old thought this one was great. I loved the illustrations, particularly the one over the ocean with all the dead sea animal ghosts. Additionally, I think it's a cute detail that the goldfish is upside-down throughout the book. It's even a bit sad when he goes back and there's already another goldfish in his bowl. (Those parents are never going to learn that goldfish don't belong in bowls.)

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### Kaethe says

Goldfish Ghost - Lemony Snicket, Lisa Brown The team who brought me The Latke Who Wouldn't Stop Screaming, one of my favorite holiday books, has brought another delight. The former goldfish goes out in search of company. Unexpected and sweet, with a deceptively simple and traditional style of illustration. Special props for the diverse street and beach scene. Brown and Snicket are a fabulous team.

And this business of special endpapers is a great one. That and the common sentence on how the art is created are both splendid additions. I have come to expect them, and am disappointed if a book doesn't include them.

Library copy

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### Suad Shamma says

This was a very sweet way of honoring all the dead goldfish out there in the world. I was never a pet owner myself, so have zero experience in owning a pet and what it takes to have and care for one. However, my understanding is that for whatever reason, goldfish never seem able to survive long enough in anyone's household, so I'm not sure why they continue to buy them as pets.

That being said, this was very un-Lemony Snicket in my opinion, because of its sweetness, but also its straightforwardness. I'm used to Lemony Snicket sarcasm and digression when telling a story. The only reason I gave this 4 stars was because I couldn't really find Lemony Snicket's voice in there. Of course this is a children's book, and so it has to be short and to the point, but I still couldn't really feel his presence.

Otherwise, this is a great book to read to children, especially those who have pets. I liked the idea of the ghost of the goldfish journeying to find company, something we all long for, dead or alive.

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### Shelley says

I absolutely loved Goldfish Ghost. However, I was a bit surprised to see that I actually think I'm in the minority. I'm wondering if this is one of those niche books that only reaches a specific audience?

Initially I was attracted to this story because of the premise. I found the premise hilarious and that's why I

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picked it up in the first place. Anyone who has ever had fish before knows they die very easily. When I was a kid my parents cleaned out the fish tank all the time and my sister and I helped feed them, but fish can get all sorts of weird diseases that you can't do anything about so they really do die real easily. The reason I even mention this is because some of the readers thought this book was teaching the wrong message to kids. They thought it was teaching that it's ok to give a kid a pet and then if they don't take care of it..."Oh well, it can be replaced." But I didn't see it that way. We actually don't know why the fish died. He could of died of disease or of neglect we don't really know and I didn't personally care either.

The fact that the fish is dead and upside down is just freakin' hilarious! But I think it just fits my type of humor perfectly. I really like quirky, awkward, and weird situations. I think I probably have a child' sense of humor. Real mature I know. I grew up reading John Scieszka so this title reminded me a lot of his stories.

As for the plot, I love how the fish goes out in search of finding a friend or a new home. Basically let's just say he goes out adventuring. I found it so sweet that he meets the little old lady in the light house and that they provide each other with companionship. It's so sweet. I have to agree with the comment that someone else made earlier though that they didn't know why these two were just magically the perfect pair. I didn't really catch that either. You would think the fish would want to be with other fish or would go in the pet shop and find some dead fish to be with. I think this is where the reader's suspense of belief has to come in. They are both lonely and want a friend to take care of them. That's how I read it at least.

Very sweet ending. I loved this book and as the director and program coordinator, I will be putting it on the summer reading list this year for my library.

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### **Angela says**

While I thoroughly enjoyed the illustrations I just couldn't quite get comfortable with the story. Will be very interested to see how the little ones ingest this unique picture book. In any case, a dynamic duo, indeed.

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### **Peacegal says**

What's good about it:

For adult readers--particularly those with a bit of a dark sense of humor--this book is hilarious. I loved the adventures of the lonely Goldfish Ghost and his discovery of a spectral friend at the book's conclusion. If this book was written for adult satire fans such as myself, I would have given it five stars.

What's not so good:

But GOLDFISH GHOST isn't written for adults. Rather, it seems to make light of the unfortunate cultural habit of buying children small pets they don't know how to care for, and then the pets die, only to be immediately replaced. A little, non-aerated fishbowl is the home for the starring fish and the one who immediately follows him. No wonder he's dead. Really, we shouldn't be normalizing this stuff to kids who can't put the story into a broader satirical context. Pets--even small ones--aren't toys just to break and replace without a thought.

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### **Jessica Furtado says**

I wasn't feeling the story, but then that ending pulled me in and I instantly fell in love. As other reviewers have noted, adults will likely enjoy this book more than children will.

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### **orangerful says**

About as odd as you would expect a picture book by Lemony Snicket to be! I might save this one for a Halloween storytime as it has a ghost, but isn't exactly scary. Perfect for little ones that want a ghost story.

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### **India says**

Picked up on a whim at a little book shop in SLC, I've read this one with the kids so many times and it never gets old and they never get tired of it. I personally think this is one of the best picture books I've read (along with *The Three Questions*, *When Mermaids Sleep*, and many Dr. Seuss books.) 'Goldfish Ghost' was so cute and sad and sweet. I love it.

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### **Chance Lee says**

Typically morbid Lemony Snicket story follows the ghost of a small goldfish as he wanders, lonely, looking for a friend. Lisa Brown's illustrations are intricate and appealing. The story is lacking spark and depth. From the death of the goldfish to the ending, all the events seem to just... happen.

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### **Lindsay says**

Such a cute story about a lonely ghost fish who just wants some company and someone to talk to. He tries to find company in the living but realizes he is in need of someone of his own kind. Great story!

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### **Laura says**

A dead goldfish tale?!?! Haha...Brilliant! Only from the story telling mind and soul of Lemony Snicket! It's about time the lost goldfish of the world got a say.

**“It can be hard to find the company you are looking for.”**

In a quiet bedroom bowl, Goldfish Ghost came to be—just floating belly up above the water. As much as he liked his home, he longed for friends and company to share his days with. So off Goldfish Ghost floated into town and over the ocean in search of company. There's lots of fish in the sea, but will Goldfish Ghost find his someone special? Come float along and see.

Our tale unfolds in vivid, soft sand and pale blue sea pictures with strong lines and clear images. The words, pace and pictures produce a kind of peace or stillness in the reader. It's a soft and quiet story with pictures to

match. I love Ms. Brown's little details the most though---like the look in the Teddy Bear's eyes or the pile of books on the chair or the portrait above the bed. Be sure to scour the beach for a special ghost like couple.

Why the 3 stars? I don't really have anything negative to say about the book. I think I just expected more quirkiness or humor or maybe even a little spookiness.

A cute, purely original story about finding someone to share your time with in this world and the next.

Check it out from your local Library.

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### **Rebecca Ann says**

I generally enjoy Lemony Snicket but this one just didn't grab me. It seems to follow a dead goldfish through some air adventures casper style but didn't have a strong storyline.

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### **Elena says**

Boring story, goldfish ghost drawn weirdly. Not a big fan of the text or the illustrations. Lemony Snicket let me down on this one.

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### **Meg says**

Well, I guess the metric for outstanding children's literature these days is whether my niece and nephew will be receiving a copy. And of this book-- yes, they WILL.

What a charming, strange, unique little story. I loved Lisa Brown's illustrations. I loved the story-- its pace, its honesty, how lovely-without-being-tackily-quaint it was. A 5-star children's book for sure, and one that should be in every library!

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