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### The Frog Princess

Rachel Wadham

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Baker, E.D. *The Frog Princess*. Bloomsbury, 2002. ISBN 1582347999. \$15.95. 214 pp.

Reviewer: Rachel Wadham

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Frogs--Juvenile fiction; Princesses--Juvenile fiction; Princes--Juvenile fiction;

While Princess Emeraldalda is walking in a swamp she meets a frog who insists he is the enchanted Prince Eadric. After some indecision Emeraldalda does what one should in such cases and kisses the frog. But the spell backfires and instead of Eadric turning into a Prince, Emeraldalda turns into a frog. To break the now bamboozled curse Emeraldalda and Eadric leave the swamp to find the Witch who originally laid the curse. Adventures ensue as the two enchanted royals encounter, among other things, an evil Witch and large snakes. With the help of Emeraldalda's Aunt Grassina, who is a good Witch, the curse is finally reversed and Emeraldalda and Eadric begin the process of living happily ever after.

While the premise of this book is fresh and enchanting, the resulting novel is clichéd and uninspired. Emeraldalda and Eadric are both sweet characters but neither is enhanced by their time as frogs. Even the additional characters that would normally populate a fairy tale, such as fairies, dragons, and witches, seem to be manufactured into existence. The plot is static and unexciting and the final resolution is insincere. The additional revelations of other curses: the old-enchanted boyfriend of Aunt Grassina and Eadric's enchanted horse, are strained. There are some fun moments especially as Emeraldalda is getting used to being a frog and pre-teen girls may find this novel fun, but overall there is not much excitement.