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### The Birthday Fish

Emily Hreha

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Yaccarino, Dan. *The Birthday Fish*. Henry Holt and Company, 2005. ISBN 0805074937. \$16.95.  
40 pp.

Reviewer: Emily Hreha

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Birthdays--Juvenile fiction; Goldfish--Juvenile fiction; Pets--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Cynthia loves ponies. She asks for a pony every year for her birthday and has not yet received one. This year, however, she knows will be different. Cynthia knows she will get a pony and will name it Marigold. However, when she opens her birthday present, she discovers not a pony but a goldfish. Disappointed, the only thing that stops Cynthia from dumping the goldfish down the drain is a promise from the fish that if she will take it to the lake and set it free, she will get what she wishes for. On their journey to the lake, Cynthia takes care of the goldfish and once they reach their destination, they watch the sun set together. Now friends, the goldfish (whom Cynthia names Marigold) and Cynthia head home. Cynthia is happy with her new pet even though it was not what she originally expected. Yaccarino's gouache illustrations, with their distinct lines and bold shapes, are the outstanding aspect of this book. They compliment the story, but they can also be used to allow pre-literate readers an opportunity to make up their own story of Cynthia and her goldfish.