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Bink and Gollie #2: Two for One

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As in the second book of this little series, Bink and Gollie are back as two inseparable, quirky friends. Signs are all over around town about the upcoming State Fair and the pair decide to go for some fun. First they visit the Whack-a-Duck booth and Bink tries to whack a duck with a baseball to win the world’s largest doughnut, but all she manages to whack is the poor booth manager. Then Gollie decides to participate in the amateur talent show. But when she gets up on stage she freezes and can’t even perform her talent. So they go to the livestock barn and she recites a poem for the animals and Bink. Finally, the visit Madame Prunely to find out their destinies. Madame Prunely sees into their past which is rife with loss—loss of a doughnut, a duck, and applause. But then she says that in the future she sees two friends, a tall one and a short one (Gollie and Bink), and that they are together. Bink decides that’s all the future she needs to hear and they leave the fair.

Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee’s writing is minimal, yet charming. Full of excellent vocabulary words, this story of friendship and triumph despite losses is touching, sweet, and very humorous. They split the story into three parts that show three different substories, but each falls under the umbrella of an overarching story of these two friends at the State Fair. Tony Fucile’s images are also minimalistic, often only highlighting the main characters or objects of importance with color and keeping everything else in blacks and grays. The illustrations are spot on as they highlight what the words are saying and show even more information and humor. Bink and Gollie: Two for One is sure to delight any reader as they read about Bink and Gollies follies and triumphs.