



2017

# Creeksfinding: A true story

Tessa McMillan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

---

### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

McMillan, Tessa (2017) "Creeksfinding: A true story," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 38 : Iss. 8 , Article 39.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol38/iss8/39>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact [scholarsarchive@byu.edu](mailto:scholarsarchive@byu.edu), [ellen\\_amatangelo@byu.edu](mailto:ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu).

# Book Review

**Title:** Creekfinding: A true story  
**Author:** Jacqueline Briggs Martin  
**Illustrator:** Claudia McGhee  
**Reviewer:** Tessa McMillan  
**Publisher:** University of Minnesota Press  
**Publication Year:** 2017  
**ISBN:** 9780816698028  
**Number of Pages:** 36  
**Interest Level:** Preschool, Primary  
**Rating:** Outstanding



## Review

Many years ago, a creek ran through the Iowan countryside. It teemed with fish and insects, attracting local wildlife to the creek's plentiful banks. All of that changed when a farmer bought the acreage and bulldozed the creek away from its natural course. For years the land was farmed until a new owner, Mike, bought the property. Mike wanted to restore the parcel to its original wildness by bringing back the creek. Many thought Mike's plans were foolish, but he moved forward, confident in his vision. After much research, hard work, and help, Mike found and restored the creek to its original glory.

Creekfinding is a unique children's story quaintly illustrating Mike Osterholm's real life undertaking. Though the narrative is simple, this story's message is not naive. Martin takes on the massive debate of man verses the earth and effortlessly switches it to man working with the earth as she relates Osterholm's tale. Using scratchboard, watercolor, and dyes, McGhee exhibits the colorful process of re-discovering and nurturing wildness. Similar to Henry Cole's *On Meadowview Street*, *Creekfinding* will have young readers thinking how they can find and support their own wilderness in the places they live. A thought-provoking, fun nonfiction read for ages five and up.