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The Frog Princess

Rachel Wadham

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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 Emeralda is walking in a swamp she meets a frog who insists he is the enchanted Prince Eadric. After some indecision Emeralda does what one should in such cases and kisses the frog. But the spell backfires and instead of Eadric turning into a Prince, Emeralda turns into a frog. To break the now bamboozled curse Emeralda 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 Emeralda's Aunt Grassina, who is a good Witch, the curse is finally reversed and Emeralda and Eadric begin the process of living happily ever after.

While the premise of this book is fresh and enchanted, the resulting novel is clichéd and uninspired. Emeralda 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 Emeralda is getting used to being a frog and pre-teen girls may find this novel fun, but overall there is not much excitement.