

Children's Literature Reviews

Item 108 of 130

Call Waiting*Barbara Frackowiak*

Burman Books, \$19.99 2005

Reviews:**Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)**

Philippa Hastings, known as Pippa, is a disgruntled dentistry student whose life gets tangled up with a stray cat, a few friends, a boyfriend who deserves to be drowned, and, in the end, finds true happiness. This is not a children's book, except insofar as much of the narrative involves a loving look at the world through the eyes of the cat. Pippa's parents are dead, and the jacket blurb says that she is "haunted by a terrible accident...stressed and lonely in her final years of dental school.

Unexpectedly, a new free-spirited companion [the cat] enters her life. Together they form a bond that helps them understand the interconnectedness of all things and move beyond their tragic pasts into a bright future." Unfortunately, the story does not deliver on this promise. Pippa's adventures with her so-called boyfriend Jeff and his arrogant rich parents are irritating in their endurance, in spite of the advice of her female acquaintances. The cat as the main story-strand leads her finally to her true-love, the veterinarian. The book is a small (5"x7", 157pp) paperback published by what may be a vanity press (Sanjay Burman evidently made a wad of money by selling his high school to Coca Cola!) with one price on the book, a different price on the website [burmanbooks.com], and yet another price on amazon.com. Frackowiak is evidently a dentist in the town where Burman publishes, making this reviewer wonder if the book made it into print because of some reciprocal professional courtesy.

According to the publisher's website, Frackowiak has also written a children's book and produced a calendar. To add to this reviewer's befuddlement, the cover of the book touts, in all caps no less, "percentage of profits go to wildlife conservation" and that this is "soon to be a major motion picture" which of course, is something a Hollywood guy might be inclined to affix as a promotional tool.

When you visit www.burmanbooks.com, you find that orders are processed through paypal, there are no writers guidelines, no physical address, and an interesting collection of published books, some of which tie to the movie "The Secret" and some of which are by Burman's friends, associates, and perhaps his dentist. Acknowledgements in this book fill a full page (including one to Sanjay Burman), as do dedications, but nowhere is there mention of the "wildlife conservation" organization to which profits will be donated. 2005, Burman Books, \$19.99 Ages adult.

Link to a Web Feature or Search for Other Works by:[Frackowiak, Barbara](#)**Search for other reviews by:**[Gwynne Spencer](#)

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