



## The Great Carp Escape

*Irish Beth Maddock , Lucent Ouano (Illustrator) , Lisa Taron*

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Tadpoles, clams, and minnows wow! For siblings Beth and Paul, growing up on a lake is fun... until they are startled by a fishy find along the shoreline. When they discover the scaly, moustached carp, they become afraid.

Seasons pass, and Beth and Paul avoid the swampy reeds at all costs until a flood brings about a life-or-death situation for the creepy looking carp, right in their own backyard!

With guidance from their father, will Beth and Paul be able to overcome their apprehensions about the carp and help save them before it's too late?

Watch the Trailer! <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=Nn7IvRN...>

## The Great Carp Escape Details

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Author : Irish Beth Maddock , Lucent Ouano (Illustrator) , Lisa Taron

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## From Reader Review The Great Carp Escape for online ebook

### Charles says

A lesson about protecting nature, even when we don't like how it looks

Murky, stagnant water smells and looks bad, something to avoid as it is also generally muddy around and underneath it. Siblings Beth and Paul are growing up on the edge of a lake and there is a reed patch of stagnant water under a willow tree that they don't go near.

One day they are walking on the edge of the lake with their dad and they see a very ugly dead fish on the bank. They are told that it is a carp and it is yet another one of nature's creatures that is part of the natural order.

The seasons change as they always do and in the spring the lake rose due to the snow melt, yet as summer moved on with dry conditions an isolated pond was formed. One day Beth and Paul see many carp that are trapped in a pond. They realize that the fish will slowly die when it dries up so they tell their father and he organizes a group of people that dig a channel from the pond to the lake so that the carp can escape. Once the deed is done and all the carp are in the lake, Beth, Paul and their father stand on the edge of the lake and reflect with pride on what they have done.

This is an excellent nature book for it gives the lesson that animals, even wild ones, need to be taken care of. Despite their dislike of the appearance of the carp, Beth and Paul work to save them and when they are done, they feel very good about what they have accomplished.

The illustrations are also very well done, there is a great deal of detail, the people have all their fingers, eyeballs and curvy kneecaps. There is detail in the background, specifically the sky, which is varying shades of blue instead of the common and simplistic single shade.

This book was made available for free for review purposes and this review also appears on Amazon

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### Diana says

This is a wonderfully illustrated book that teaches compassion, rising above fear and teamwork. It's a Christian book helps teach that God loves all his creatures, regardless of how others see them. This is a beautiful book to share with children and open a discussion on the values shown. Younger children will be able to use the wonderful pictures to help with the discussion. A really good book! I was given a copy of this book for my honest review.

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### Michele Morin says

A Fish Story for the Whole Family

There's nothing like summer fun on the scenic shores of a lake: sand between the toes, an afternoon spent

face-down in the clear, cold water, tiny fish peering back at you through your goggles. Irish Beth Maddock celebrates the beauty of the creatures that God has made through the eyes of Paul and Beth, a brother and sister who are loving every minute of their summer — even the experience of shuddering over the swampy water where the ugly carp fish live.

Is there beauty to be found even in these spiny, scaly fish?

God thinks so, and the kids have an opportunity to ponder their own response to God's "wise and wonderful" creation as they plan and execute a dramatic rescue. No one will mind if you notice that the extent of this rescue effort is a fine picture of God's Great Rescue Plan for humanity. He goes to incredible lengths to steer us into the best current, and bends over backwards to let us know how beautiful we are — and how worth the effort.

Illustrator Lucent Ouano has painted a realistic setting for the adventure . . . oh, and I counted 17 appearances of the adorable white and black-spotted kitty (18 if I count the cover). How many do you find?

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This book was provided by the author in exchange for my review. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

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### **Jalynn Patterson says**

About the Book:

Tadpoles, clams, and minnows wow! For siblings Beth and Paul, growing up on a lake is fun... until they are startled by a fishy find along the shoreline. When they discover the scaly, mustached carp, they become afraid.

Seasons pass, and Beth and Paul avoid the swampy reeds at all costs until a flood brings about a life-or-death situation for the creepy looking carp, right in their own backyard!

With guidance from their father, will Beth and Paul be able to overcome their apprehensions about the carp and help save them before it's too late? Watch the Trailer!

The Great Carp Escape "truly captures the magic between children and nature. The story paints a beautiful picture of how all creatures on earth are God-given and shows how compassion shouldn't be based on popularity or defined beauty. This delightful and touching story carries such an important message of acceptance and simply joy. A pleasure to read and surely a popular addition to any child's home library. "

My Review:

During the summer months there's lots to do for Beth and Paul. Their favorite place is going to the beach---

there they can have fun for hours. In The Great Carp Escape, we learn real quickly that there is one place the two of them dare not go and that's near the swampy reeds. First of all, the mud is too deep and thick for them but that's not the only reason. There is where the carp live and the two of them don't like the looks of the carp.

Beth and Paul questioned their dad once as to why God would make these fish so ugly. But their dad was quick to show them and tell them that God doesn't find a single one of his creations ugly. He loves them all! But the two children will quickly see that these fish deserve a good life like the rest of us and they will do their best to help save these fish with cute little mustaches.

In The Great Carp Escape, the author points out that we are all God's creation and that He loves each and everyone of us the exact same way. The Great Carp Escape, is a sweet story that will tug at your heart strings and the illustrations are beautiful.

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\*\*Disclosure\*\* This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from the author.

### **Carla Johnson-Hicks says**

Beth and Paul live near the lake and love spending time in the water and on the beach. They do not like going near the willow tree where the water is stagnant and the ugly carp live there. They are worried that the carp might nibble their toes. Their dad tells them that they are one of nature and God's creatures and they are all part of the world. When the lake rises in the spring, the yard floods and a small pond forms near the willow tree. As the water starts to recede, the children check out the pond and find tadpoles and carp. They still think they are ugly. As the pond shrinks though, they are worried the carp will die without water. They go to their dad for help and he tells them that they can try and save the carp by digging a trench from the pond to the lake. When the neighbours hear what they are doing, they come to help and eventually the carp swim to freedom.

Once all the carp are in the lake, Beth, Paul and their father stand on the edge of the lake and reflect with pride on what they have done. This is an excellent nature book for it gives the lesson that animals, even wild ones, need to be taken care of. Despite their dislike of the appearance of the carp, Beth and Paul work to save them and when they are done, they feel very good about what they have accomplished. It also shows us that outward appearances of creatures and people do not measure the worth of that creature or person. Moral decisions and how they affect the world could also be discussed.

The illustrations are also very well done, there is a great deal of detail in the people, the background and the animals.

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I received a copy of this book from netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

## **Kingdom says**

The Great Carp Escape by Irish Beth Maddock is a beautifully illustrated children's story that teaches God's love and guidance for all of His creation.

Filled with wonder and childlike light-heartedness, this story centers on Beth and her little brother Paul and their days at their home on a lake. Created from some of the author's memories growing up, this story is an allegory based on a true story. Perfect for children of all ages, the author combines a sweet hometown feel with a bit of mystery, surprise and good-story telling ability that keeps kids entertained and delighted.

Reaching a little further, the author shows the compassion and love of a father and that the father will help even the "ugly" fish out of someplace that has the potential to harm them. A very endearing story ~ reminding all that God, our Father, will do the same for us when we get stuck . . . His will is for all to have safety and sustenance and this includes even for the seemingly insignificant fish A fantastic allegory as the carp escape to fresh waters....a great message for all and fun and safe Christian based tale for children and adults alike. A highly recommended read that will leave you with a smile!

"Congratulations on authoring such a wonderful children's book. We need more books like yours that can mentor our children."

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## **Theodene says**

The Great Carp Escape is wonderful

A young girl, Beth, and her younger brother, Paul, live near a huge lake where they loved to play on the sandy beach. There was an area nearby where there were swampy reeds with carp swimming in the water. Beth and Paul are curious children who find interest in nature around them.

Sometimes, they would walk along the shore and find a dead carp that they thought was ugly. Their father reminded Beth and Paul that God thinks the fish is wonderful, just like them. Summer's were great for swimming and looking for clams. But in spring, when the snow melted, everything seemed underwater. At least until the water started to dry up. This is when Beth and Paul find several carp trapped without a way to get back out to the lake and the little pond they were in was starting to dry up. What will happen to the carp? Will Beth and Paul be able to save the carp?

The Great Carp Escape by Irish Beth Maddock pulls young readers in with its detail and realistic activities. Trying to save the trapped carp is only natural for a young curious child. Finding a way to help the carp escape comes naturally to children. It's quite interesting to ask a child how they would help the carp before getting to the answers given in the book.

The situation in this story reminds me of a similar situation in an episode of Curious George. But, the answers in the book didn't jog my Curious George memory until I began writing this review.

This is a great book for youngsters who are looking for a small adventure. It is also a wonderful message that

even ugly carp are wonderful to God.

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### **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

If you truly know what a Carp is, then you will know that they are not the most desired fish. In fact, most people who fish for them are out to kill them simply for the sport and they are like the rats of the fresh water system. More pests than anything and not even fit for consumption. It is hard to imagine how there could be a great moral lesson tucked into the pages of this beautifully illustrated children's book that debuts from author Irish Beth Maddock. Yet that is exactly the very point.

In fact, this book was laying on my desk waiting for me to write the review when my 17-year-old daughter picked it up and read it while cleaning one day. She absolutely LOVED it but mostly for the message behind it all. Haven't we all at one time or another simply felt unworthy or unloved? This allegory of the Gospel of Jesus and how He brings us - as represented by the carp - from dead water to living water in this beautifully illustrated book. This is based on a true story that Maddock experienced after her and her brother spent many afternoons playing in the shallows and discovering God's creation. It promotes compassion and appreciation for all of God's creatures, and helps children discover God's love through understanding and community. It reminds us that we are all beautiful and created for a unique purpose in this life that only we can fulfill.

This is a heartwarming story of two children who spend their time looking at the creatures they find in the lake, including the carp, which they discover a dead one while walking along the lake shore with their father. They believe it is truly the ugliest fish they have ever seen. Their dad reminds them that in God's eyes, that fish is pretty wonderful. When a spring thawed causes the water to rise, the children discover some carp are trapped far from the lake and face certain death unless they intervene to save them. How it winds up will have to wait for you to read this book.

I received The Great Carp Escape by Irish Beth Maddock compliments of InChrist Communications and Word Alive Press for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation aside from a free copy of this book, in exchange for my unbiased review of the book. I absolutely LOVE how this one is laid out, from the illustrations, the simple words on each page and most of all the very moral of the story itself. It definitely engages an open conversation with parents and their children who are discovering their own worthiness and issues with self esteem. This proves to be that catalyst for those conversations into what makes us each unique and worthwhile to God. For me, this one rates a 5 out of 5 stars in my opinion and my daughter has taken this for her future library for her own children one day.

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### **Sharon Tyler says**

The Great Carp Escape by Irish Beth Maddock is a picturebook. For siblings Beth and Paul, growing up on a lake is fun. However, when they discover the scaly, moustached carp, they become afraid and avoid the area the carp frequent. When a flood brings about a life-or-death situation for the creepy looking carp, they need to overcome their apprehensions about the carp and help save them before it's too late.

The Great Carp Escape starts with a nice connection siblings Beth and Paul have with nature and the world around them. The pair play together well and with the world around them. quickly I discovered that this is a

Christian picturebook as the children and their father mention the ugliness of the carp, and how God created it and still loves it despite its appearance. When the carp's lives are threatened the family works hard to save them and come to see past the appearance of the fish. I liked the message, but think that the quotation of scripture and pushing of the Christian theme will limit the audience. It is a message everyone could stand to learn and enjoy. the illustrations were well matched with the story, but did not stand out as amazing or very interesting. They did their job, but did not add a whole lot to the book.

The Great Carp Escape is a nice Christian picturebook about respecting nature and all of God's creatures. I think works well for what it is, but does not stand out in a good or bad way.

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### **Penny Minding Mom says**

I grew up hearing the words from my Grandmother, "You are beautiful, just the way you are." My Grannie was a firm believer that God has created each and every one of us perfectly...no matter how imperfect we believe we may be! How often in my childhood did I not approach a group of potential new friends because I felt I wasn't pretty enough or had the right clothes. Sometimes it is hard to look past the outside appearance to see the beauty within.

"The Great Carp Escape" written by Irish Beth Maddock is a beautiful story about two siblings who learn a lesson in compassion and true beauty. Beth and Paul love living by the lake. They love playing in the sand and exploring the area. One day while exploring the area by the Weeping Willow they become afraid when they discover an ugly, scaly, mustached fish and refused to go near the area any more. When a flood creates a life-or-death situation for the ugly carp will Beth and Paul overcome their apprehensions about the fish to help save them?

"The Great Carp Escape" has a wonderful Christian message for us all. Very much like the message my Grannie taught me, Ms Maddock teaches our children that compassion and caring should not only be extended to those who meet our standards of defined beauty and popularity, but should be extended to everyone.

"The Great Carp Escape" has another message of what we can accomplish when we work together. While the task of saving the carp seems huge and impossible for Beth and Paul soon the community rally's around them and the impossible becomes a reality.

My favourite lesson in the story is what Beth discovers when she looks past the outside appearance of the carp. They really are beautiful in their own way. It is a great reminder to look past what someone looks like on the outside to who the person is in their heart. How often do we as a society get caught up in appearances and forget to look for the true beauty within?

When we were flipping through my kindle for something to read, the kids immediately picked out the cover of this book. The story has beautiful illustrations. They match up with the story perfectly. My children thought that the Dad in the story, looks an awful lot like their vision of Jesus. The whole feeling of the book is warm and comforting, perfect for reading anytime...especially bedtime.

\*Disclosure: I received a complimentary copy of "The Great Carp Escape" in exchange for my review. All opinions are 100% my own.

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### **Vera Godley says**

The Great Carp Escape is a sweet story about a father and his two children enjoying the great out-of-doors. They encounter a carp (fish) that is in danger of being cut off from the water supply by a pond drying up. So father and children devise a plan to save the carp.

The story has a strong Christian message and also teaches children about protecting all living creatures. The story flows gently and is well written.

DISCLOSURE: A complimentary copy was provided by the author to facilitate this review. Opinions are my own and I was not compensated.

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### **debbicat ?~Traveling Sister says**

I first saw this book on Netgalley as a read now and grabbed it. The cover is why I picked it, being a cat lover, but also because I love the water and all things that are part of it. I didn't realize at the time what a great message it carries. I think kids would really enjoy this story about brother and sister, Paul and Beth, helping some funny looking fish and the absolutely charming illustrations. Parents will enjoy reading it to their kids. It's a feel good that also carries a much needed message about acceptance and facing your fears. I also personally loved the added message of the importance of having compassion for all God's creatures. And my favorite part? The little black and white cat named Pickles, who appears on each page sharing in the adventure.

I later received a signed copy from the author in exchange for an honest review. Solid 5 stars! Highly recommended. I plan to share this story with students.

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### **Sandra says**

Beth and Paul don't like carp fish. They are actually a little scared of them. That's why they don't go near the weeping willow anymore.

But one day the carp fish need help. They are trapped and the water level is getting lower and lower. What a challenge for Beth and Paul!

Despite their fear these generous kids, with Dad and neighbors of the area will work together digging a canal to allow the carp fish to escape. How happy everyone was when they finally succeed and the carp fish swam free!

Beautiful message about taking care of all the creatures, even those that aren't "cute". This story is all about sense of responsibility, team work, and concern about the nature.

Age range: 4 to 8 years old.

I received this copy from the author through Bostick Communications in exchange for an honest review.

Check out more children's book reviews in my Reviews in Chalk Blog!

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### **Patrick Reilly says**

As a school based literacy specialist, I have enjoyed using The Great Carp Escape in my teaching practice. The book engages students from the opening sentence with descriptive vocabulary and reliable characters that students can identify with. My students related to the characters and the problems faced and overall, loved hearing the story. We stopped often and talked about vocabulary; like what is a carp, and where the story takes place. The students I work with, for the most part, are English Language Learners and need support with vocabulary and comprehension.

The illustrations allowed students who are not fluent in English to follow along with the story. My students were excited about answering prediction questions like "How would Beth and Paul solve the problem of the trapped carp?" The students all came up with a variety of solutions on how to save the fish, even though many of them also thought that the carp were ugly. However, they all agreed they need to be saved. The story opened up a great opportunity to talk about how everything is unique and special on Earth. This connection was also made to themselves and how each of us is unique and special. I have read The Great Carp Escape to some 200 plus students, all of whom enjoyed it and gave it a huge two thumbs up!

Working in the public system I was concerned about bringing in the book as it is faith based. But I read the story over several time and decided to use it with some edits. I chose to change the words from "God's creatures" to the "Earth's creatures" to not have to dive into the faith component of the story. The story did not lose meaning to the students who I read the story to. They all loved it and wanted to hear it again. The message about caring for others and that everything on the planet is unique and needs to be respected still shone through. I believe a non-faith based version on the story would touch many individuals who are not religious, that such a version would not diminish the message of the story.

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### **Stephanie Ward says**

A sweet story about children learning about the beauty in all creatures.

When Beth and Paul find an ugly, dead fish on the shoreline, they understandably feel afraid and scared. But when they find a group of these same fish stuck in a pond with no access to the sea, they are compelled to help and in doing so learn about the value of life, no matter what form it takes.

A big thank you to the author for sending me a free copy of the book as a winner of a Goodreads giveaway.

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