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Stephanie Campisi

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Stephanie Campisi : The Ugly Dumpling before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ugly Dumpling:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A book about friendshipBy FlutterBug72Dumplings..and steamed buns. Yum. Loved around our house. As a family who has been to China has adopted one child going for #2...this is a very sweet book about a "dumpling" and a cockroach who become friends. Very sweet book about friendship.It's a rather short book with lots of pictures. More geared toward early elementary age, but a sweet story nonetheless.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great fractured fairy tale!By This Kid Reviews BooksSynopsis- An ugly dumpling is upset. It doesn't look like any of the other dumplings, and it is ignored. But one day, a kindly cockroach stops by and shows shows the Ugly Dumpling the world. And what does the ugly dumpling see? A lot of ugly dumplings! In fact, they aren't even dumplings! He realizes he is a beautiful steamed bun ndash; just like all the other beautiful steamed bun! The ugly dumpling is overjoyed, but when the other steamed buns see the cockroach they are HORRIFIED! Soon the Ugly Dumpling realizes he is really not like the other steamed buns and that is a good thing.What I Thought- This is a wonderful book about being different and embracing that. The ugly dumpling is upset that it is different. Once he finds others like him, he realizes they are not truly like him. The book also has a beautiful message of friendship between the ugly dumpling and the cockroach. The Ugly Dumpling gives back to the cockroach, what she gave to him ndash; a feeling of self-worth. The illustrations give you that nice warm feeling, with a good amount of cuteness and bright colors tossed in.It is a fun story (especially as a fractured fairytale) about how it doesn't matter what you look like. I believe that kids will really like the book, and that it would make a nice bedtime story.*NOTE* I voluntarily read an advance reader copy of this book2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Have you ever felt less than yourself or like you don't fit in?By Carrie Charley BrownHave you ever felt less than yourself or like you don't fit in? In this fractured tale, being an outsider captures the ugly feeling once told in the Ugly Duckling. But there's a major difference here. The Ugly Dumpling himself does the casting out, as well as the exploring and self discovery. In a world where so many are trapped inside doubt and even mental illness, this self exploration is worthy of applause. And it makes it a little easier to do it with a friend. Who'd have thought that a cockroach and an anthropomorphic food could bring subtle undertones of mixed race relationships? Even though the story is light-hearted and humorous, too, deep meaning awaits underneath.

"A whimsical story about being different, and the power of love."—Wendy Orr, author of *Nim's Island* and *The Princess and Her Panther*It's not easy being the ugliest dumpling in a dim sum restaurant. Uneaten and ignored, the ugly dumpling is down in the dumps. But when an encouraging cockroach sees the dumplings inner beauty,

this unlikely duo embarks on an eye-opening adventure, leading the ugly dumpling to discover its true identity and realize that being different is beautiful after all. A modern fairytale retelling with a timeless moral: There's a little ugly dumpling in all of us.

From School Library Journal K-Gr 2—A unique take on the classic tale "The Ugly Duckling," this is a humorous story of friendship and self-acceptance, set in a dim sum restaurant. It follows a dumpling who doesn't look at all like the other dumplings in the restaurant. This dumpling (in actuality a steamed bun) is therefore "in a lonely only category. Of one. Uneaten and ignored." The dumpling meets a cockroach who looks past the dumpling's unusual appearance. They go on adventures throughout the restaurant, and the dumpling begins to feel accepted as it notices the beauty around it for the first time. The tables are turned when the diners spot the cockroach and the ugly dumpling comes to its friend's rescue. The minimal text meshes well with the illustrations and at times becomes a part of the action. For example, in a busy kitchen scene, the letters in "hiss" curl like steam from a wok and the letters in "thwak" seem to jump from the cleaver. This narrative moves quickly, and the cheerful visuals do as much to tell the story as the text does. VERDICT An amusing and fun addition for most collections.—Kimberly Tolson, Medfield Public Library, MA "A bright, multicultural twist on a classic tale. ... Specifically told without gendered pronouns, this is simply a story about love. Kobers's illustrations are characterized by delicious changes in perspective, and Campis's sly, humorous asides ensure that the message of identity is not heavy-handed ... Quirky retellings often lean on clever titles alone, but this surpasses and delights."—Kirkus s, Starred "The Ugly Duckling gets a makeover in this wacky tale about a misfit. ... the ultimate end, about accepting people because of their differences, adds an extra moral to this timeless tale. The bright illustrations are detailed and full of energy—never has food been so expressive!—and the concept is just odd enough to succeed."—Booklist "A unique take on the classic tale 'The Ugly Duckling,' this is a humorous story of friendship and self-acceptance, set in a dim sum restaurant. ... This narrative moves quickly, and the cheerful visuals do as much to tell the story as the text does. An amusing and fun addition for most collections."—School Library Journal "A simply delightful reminder in a time of unrest. A gentle calling of tolerance and acceptance. A wooing of kindness. ... Shahar Kobers's well-established talent produces a warm and inviting setting, with each illustration tethering the heart of the story to the mind of its reader."—Story Monsters Ink Magazine "With an underlying message of valuing diversity and anti-bullying, *The Ugly Dumpling* is very highly recommended for preschool, elementary school, and community library collections." —Midwest Book "Setting: Golden Swan, a dim sum restaurant. Of course!—because that's where dumplings live! (And nodding to the original tale in the eatery's name is pretty smooth.) Ingredients: a lonely, misunderstood dumpling and the cockroach who befriends it. (Yeah, this is one classy cockroach, another unexpected element to admire.) Favorite garnish: the expressions on the main character's and other steamed buns' faces. Flavor: clever, funny, and lively writing with undertones of deeper meaning. Yelp review: a story about seeing past appearances that will have you coming back for seconds."—This Picture Book Life (collaboration with Thirsty for Tea) "Everyone loves the dumplings at the Golden Swan Chinese Restaurant, but no one wants the ugly dumpling of the title: it doesn't look anything like the other pot stickers in the bamboo steamer, not even when it tries to wrinkle its brow or wear pleated pants (one of several excellent foodie jokes from debut author Campisi). ... From the wordplay of the premise to Kobers's (The Flying Hand of Marco B.) crisp pictures and Campis's easygoing sense of humor, it's a story with plenty of promise."—Publishers Weekly "Stephani Campis's *The Ugly Dumpling* is a fresh and delectable dish-up of the classic Ugly Duckling story for a new audience. Stuffed with charm and off-beat humor, this tale of friendship and diversity embraces all who feel at odds with their environment—with or without the recognition of why. Its sweet and insightful ending emphasizes the idea that finding your niche does not always mean finding your true self and that having the courage to strike out on your own path leads to beautiful relationships and happiness." —Celebrate Picture Books "In an effort to be as inclusive as possible to any and all readers, this book purposely omits the use of gender pronouns and features a diverse mix of characters in its vibrant spreads." —Travel Kids Club "It is the character of the cockroach that makes this book really work. The addition of a friend to model self-esteem even if you are unique is crucial here and then for the tables to turn at the end of the story. The text is simple and straightforward, making it a great book to share aloud with a strong story arc." —Waking Brain Cells "...a unique, savory twist. Warmly tucked into those mouthwatering dumpling wrappers and soft buns is the meat of the matter: the importance of loyalty, friendship, embracing differences, developing self-esteem, standing up to peer pressure and bullying, and practicing tolerance."—Jama's Alphabet Soup "What's on the menu tonight at your local dim sum restaurant? Author Stephanie Campisi has served up a helping of fun with this clever retelling of the well-known childhood tale 'The Ugly Duckling'..."—Diapers Daydreams "The overall message of this picture book might be a little hard to grasp at first, but children will love the story and its emphasis on the beauty of individuality regardless, while parents will appreciate occasional bits of humor that will go right over the heads of children. Kobers's pictures are so cute that it's almost hard to take; who could imagine that readers would so quickly fall in love with a normally hateable insect and a piece of food? This is a clever book that will fall easily into the rotation, enjoyable by readers of many ages."—San Francisco Book "In this story, *The Ugly Dumpling* thinks it's found happiness among its own

kind but...maybe looking like everyone else doesn't necessarily mean yours;re like everyone else, on the inside, where it really counts. Sometimes our fillings are different and that's okay. Friendship can come in the most unexpected ways and that is pretty beautiful."—Read It Real Good"Parents, caregivers, and teachers, the teaching opportunities are endless: bullying, self esteem, cooking, peer pressure, friendship, travel ... There is so much to love about this book! ... Its BEAUTIFULLY diverse."—An Unconventional Librarian" It's a new twist on the age old tale that will have readers cheering for the unusual duo as they take on the world.The Ugly Dumpling reminds us that we are ALL special, ALL unique, and yet there is a place in the world where we belong despite what others may say or circumstances may lead us to believe."—Satisfaction for Insatiable Readers"The Ugly Dumpling teaches kids not only that its okay not to fit in, but encourages them to accept one another's differences – celebrate them! – and reach out to anyone who may feel ostracized and alone. I can't think of a kinder, more valuable message to teach our kids these days."—Mom Read It"A whimsical story about being different, and the power of love."—Wendy Orr, author of Nim's Island and The Princess and Her Panther"I love this concept and the art is beautiful!"—Jennifer Gray Olson, author and illustrator of Ninja Bunny"Campisi's prose ensnared me and Kober's illustrations wrapped me up in a blanket of whimsy and vibrant delight. ... What also makes this book fantastic is the message that so beautifully comes across through the pages. It's hard being different. The ugly dumpling shows you that everyone is beautiful in their own right and diversity should be embraced."—Laticia Overton, Examiner.com"The Ugly Dumpling tells a tale of isolation, loneliness, friendship, and finally self-awareness—and self-esteem—when the ugly dumpling learns being different can be a good thing to be."—Kid Lit s"A unique twist to a classic story, plus the art is fantastic! Serve me up a double helping of The Ugly Dumpling."—Paul Czajak, author of the Monster Metrade; series and Seaver the Weaver"I loved this funny, witty, and sensitive story of an unlikely friendship. The Ugly Dumpling is a real delight, with a gentle message of acceptance and self-knowledge."—Leanne Hall, author of This is Shyness, Queen of the Night, and Growing Up Asian in Australia"A favorite old fable is immensely improved in the telling with food - The Ugly Dumpling is a yeasty feast of a story!"—Danielle Binks, contributor for Kill Your Darlings Magazine and blogger at Alpha Reader"A quirky and adorable tale of self-acceptance and living deliciously."—Van Badham, author of Burnt Snow, playwright, activist, and weekly columnist for The Guardian (Australia)"Adorable, unique, with a deliciously quirky and dry humor."—Tania McCartney, Kids' Book "...a novel take on The Ugly Duckling using dim sum to retell this classic tale as a case of mistaken identity between a dumpling and a steamed bun. A whimsical and delightful multicultural picture book about food to get your mouth watering!"—Mia Wenjen, Pragmatic Mom"A quirky and heartwarming tale celebrating difference through an unlikely friendship."—Elizabeth Lhuede, author of Snowy River Man and founder of the Australian Women Writers Challenge"... a gorgeous story that combines two wonderful things—true acceptance of a friend, and dumplings! A sweet tale about recognizing that real worth is more than skin-deep (or shell-deep), more than what others say. A lovely story by Australian Stephanie Campisi, I look forward to seeing it in stores."—Jessica Broadbent, reviewer for Books+Publishing (formerly Australian Bookseller and Publisher)"A fable for the smartphone generation!"—Josh Anon, former Pixar Creative and owner of Visoneer.tvWhat are the Foodies Saying?"The story of self-acceptance (and the acceptance of others who are different) is powerful, and this version and its illustrations are cute and engaging."—Nashville Scene "Bites" food blog

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