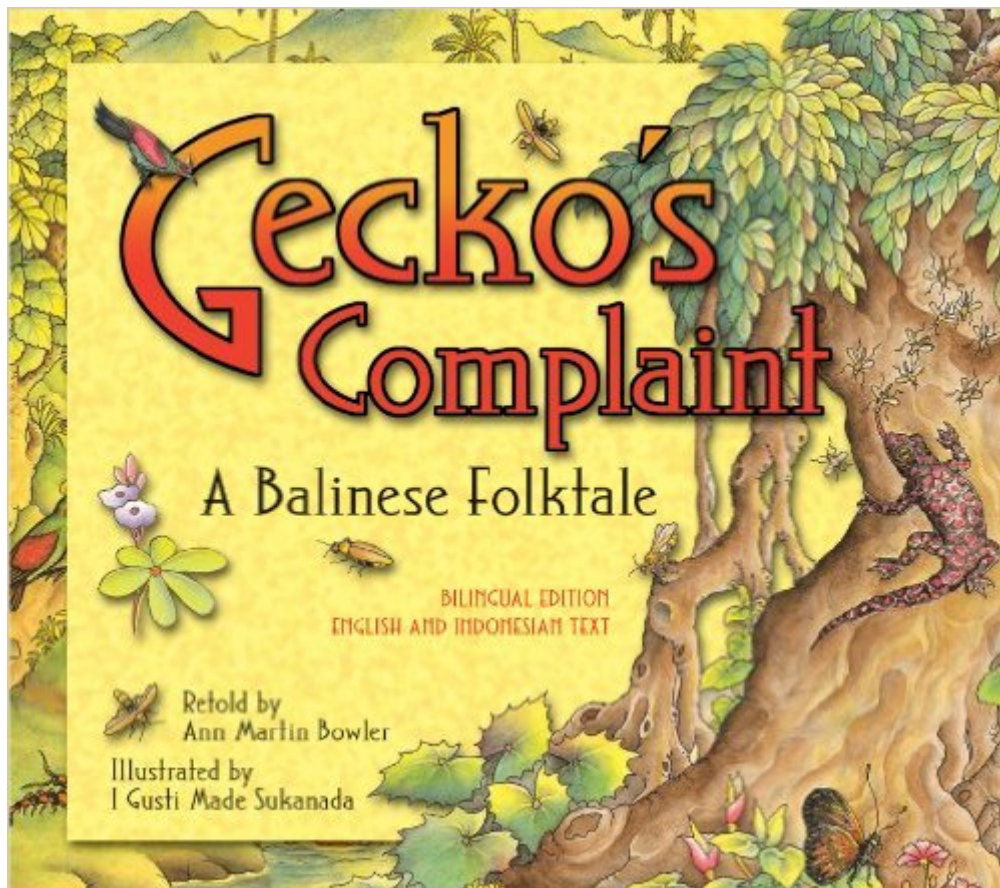


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# Gecko's Complaint, A Balinese Folktale, Bilingual Edition: English And Indonesian Text



## Synopsis

This colorfully illustrated multicultural children's book presents a classic Balinese fairy tale—providing an entertaining look into a rich oral tradition. Featured as a "Top Pick" on TravelForKids.com, Gecko's Complaint tells the story of a Gecko who once lived on the island we now call Bali, in a jungle dense with flowers and vines. After hundreds of fireflies disturb Gecko's sleep, he complains to kindly Raden, the jungle's lion leader. In his efforts to get to the bottom of Gecko's troubles, Raden discovers all too much complaining and far too many irritable animals. Can Raden help the animals with their troubles? Can peace and happiness return to the jungles of Bali? A simple yet absolutely delightful Balinese folktale for kids, this bilingual edition, which features both English and Indonesian text, is a perfect introduction to the true spirit of Bali. The Indonesian island of Bali has a strong art and storytelling tradition—folktales that have been passed down from generation to generation. As a nation with over 18,000 islands, Indonesia has hundreds of traditional languages and cultures, each with myths and legends to tell. With its backdrop of volcanoes, earthquakes, dense jungles, diverse wildlife and people, it is not surprising that Indonesia is rich with fabulous, imaginative tales.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Periplus Editions (HK) Ltd.; Bilingual edition, Hardcover with Jacket edition (September 10, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0794604846

ISBN-13: 978-0794604844

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars— See all reviews— (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,174,144 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian #669 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Reptiles & Amphibians #765 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia

Age Range: 4 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

I bought this book for my grand-daughter, a 4 year old who is fascinated with Papua, New Guinea. The folk-lore and fantasies of Indonesia have kept her entertained through these books and I highly recommend them for kids of all ages who enjoy exploring other cultures.

Set on the beautiful island of Bali, Gecko's Complaint: A Balinese Folktale is an engaging picture book retold by Ann Martin Bowler about a gecko whose sleep is disturbed by hundreds of fireflies. He complains to the kindly lion who rules the jungle, and the lion's efforts to unravel the situation brings to light a host of complaints - can peace ever be restored to the jungle? An enjoyable read enhanced by soft, full-color artwork by I. Gusti Made Sukanada.

My 7 and 10 year old loved this book. We thought the jungles of Bali were beautifully illustrated. My sons thought the best picture was of the Rain's face. They also enjoyed the ending when Gecko no longer complained. This folktale is well written and it reinforces the importance of learning to live in peace with one another, to stop complaining, and to be content with what you have. Both children and adults will benefit from this important message.

Our family loves Ann Martin Bowler's delightful Indonesian tale of animals quick to blame others for their behavior. The gorgeous illustrations by I Gusti Made Sukanada make this retelling a sumptuous glimpse of Bali and its enchanting folklore. You'll wish you could scamper up the banyon tree with Gecko and explore the lush jungle by the light of the fireflies.

I purchased this because the entire family LOVED "Go to Sleep, Gecko!" so much. We were expecting a similar style, but different story. This is basically the EXACT SAME story, only not done quite as well as Go to Sleep was done. I still love the moral of this story, but you only need one or the other and Go to Sleep, Gecko is definitely the better choice.

The original art in Gecko's Complaint is delightful and the retold folktale is perfect for preschool through third graders. Every youngster I know could benefit from the lesson in the story. Ann Martin Bowler has created a children's book all primary teachers should add to their library.

The illustrations are lovely and lively, as is the text. Unlike other writers who have happened on this charming fable, this version appears to be highly authentic. That impression is further enhanced by its being bilingual, which makes it especially effective for use in multicultural classrooms or in any

context where both languages are of interest.

The exquisite illustrations in Gecko's Complaint bring colorful life to the retelling of a Balinese folktale. Its bilingual presentation in both English and Indonesian is a wonderful bonus. In her introduction, author Ann Martin Bowler also introduces the reader to some facts about Indonesia and, particularly, Bali. I guess everyone knows that over 18,000 islands comprise Indonesia. Everyone but me (but now I know! Isn't reading terrific?). Gecko's Complaint is about a lovely, fat gecko that lives in a jungle so lush with life that he need barely move to get more than enough to eat. Gecko was not the most considerate neighbor, and often disturbed others with his late evening ramblings. Gecko wasn't totally thrilled with his neighbors, either, for sometimes they did things that would disturb him. One night he'd taken more than he could stand from the fireflies and woke Raden the lion, complaining he couldn't sleep. The lion answered, "Well, we seem to have the same problem. The fireflies disturb you, and you disturb me." Having promised Gecko that he would look into it, the next day Raden questioned the fireflies about their nocturnal activities. They responded by blaming another animal, who blamed another, who blamed another...well, you get the picture...until the water buffalo blamed the rain. Raden climbed a mountain intent on questioning the rain. However, he saw the beauty that surrounded him and, enjoying the rain and the wind, he realized both that the rain was not at fault and everyone should appreciate the rain. Raden returned to the jungle and proceeded to let all the animals know that he was tired of their complaining, they should be grateful for what they have. What a wonderful story to share with a child! Books that offer opportunities to discuss issues and values can enrich our relationships, especially with our children. Gecko's Complaint suggests topics such as complaining, gratitude, blaming, and cooperation. Gecko's Complaint is recommended for pre-school to second grade and is at a nine- to twelve-year-old reading level. It is especially appropriate for adult readers to share with younger children who will enjoy the bright illustrations of various animals living in the jungle. Bottom Line: Would I buy Gecko's Complaint? Yes, it's a handsome volume for children.

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