

# KIRKUS REVIEWS

## TITLE INFORMATION

### RIPLEY'S MISSING LOCKET

Connie Herrick

Illus. by Mark Herrick

Self (64 pp.)

\$24.63 hardcover, \$16.80 paperback

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## BOOK REVIEW

When a cat loses her prized new locket, her animal friends rush to help her in this illustrated book for elementary school readers.

In this captivating tale, set in a cozy, familial world, a vain calico cat named Ripley can't wait to show off her shiny new locket to her dog sisters, Kapo and Pele, and her online group, the Catnip Collective. Ripley gazes at herself in the mirror and proclaims: "My new locket is fabulous. I look so important and smart. It's time to show my friends so they can admire my locket, and me of course." To the feline's dismay, the locket vanishes during a visit to her outdoor friends (a squirrel, raccoons, and possums). She seeks the advice of her brother, Hariel, the "upside-down goldfish," and Pele; searches the house ("standing on her tippy toe beans" to reach high places), and asks her "garden friends"—bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds—to spread the word. Happily, the mayor (a turkey) of a nearby public garden suggests a trip to the lost and found department. Ripley, delivering Connie Herrick's thoughtful message, appreciates the efforts on her behalf and realizes that friendship, not material things, is what is truly meaningful. Mark Herrick's lovely watercolor renderings of Ripley and her well-imagined world, some full page, others smaller vignettes surrounded by white space, are a deft mix of realistic animals and their humanlike interactions. The images also include a glimpse of Ripley's White "two-legged Mama." This is the second book in a series by the author and her illustrator husband—inspired by their own pet menagerie—which began with *Ripley's World* (2021).

A gentle message about the value of friendship delivered with considerable, animal-centric charm.

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