Meet Gossie, a small yellow gosling who loves to wear bright red boots—every day. One morning Gossie can't find her beloved boots. She looks everywhere for them: under the bed, over the wall, even in the barn. Preschoolers will enjoy helping Gossie find her red boots and delight in where Gossie finally finds them.

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My Personal Review:
As board books go, this is a looong one, yet, Gossie holds ones interest even as it introduces a barnyard full of prepositions and situations. Oliver Dunreans idyllic little watercolor and ink drawings are a beguiling mix of innocence and sheer pluck and energy. Gossie occupies the center of the page, generally waddling across safe, cozy little settings. Theres lots of white space, with Gossie invariably pictured in profile. (Funny... although shes a gosling, she looks more like a duck to me.)

We quickly learn that Gossie is just gaga over her red boots. She wears them everywhere, and is very nimble in them, walking both backwards and forwards! Shes small and simple enough for young toddlers to identify with, and hence adore. The bright primary colors will attract the eyes of even the youngest audience.

Gossies joyful romp is interrupted when she loses her beloved red boots. She looks everywhere for them, and that search introduces all those prepositions and nouns and other good little vocabulary words. Another writer might have placed some false clues, a red little something that is NOT the red boots, but Dunrea keeps the story simple, there are no red herrings here.

To her utter delight, Gossie finally finds her boots on the feet of her pal Gertie (featured more prominently in other books). One would expect such thievery among small fry to result in cries, fists, or outrages accusations--maybe even fisticuffs or floods of tears. Instead we have an exquisite example of uncomplicated friendship: Gertie hands over the boots, and compliments Gossie on her sartorial tastes! Gossie, ever the sweetie,
returns this generosity by sharing her single pair of boots with Gertie. We're left with one gentle and funny picture of each bird wearing ONE boot, walking (in profile, of course), together across the page.

This is a somewhat unusual board book because of its comparative length. It's appropriate for the older toddler as well as the younger. In fact, the reader may choose to read this in sections--like a chapter book without chapters--for littler ones with short attention spans.

To sum, the book has a lovable main character (Gossie), a favorite object (the red boots), a simple plot that's neither too bland nor dramatic (oh, my where are the boots!), latent educational value (all those directional prepositions), light, pleasant, nursery-worthy illustrations, and a positive, slyly humorous conclusion. In short, another winner in the board book category!

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