To be sure, Biddy Malone is a singer and a dancer—though her dundering feet fall all over each other and her voice sounds like a rusty gate. Even her brothers’ teasing can’t stop her dancing. And then one day, Biddy stumbles upon a faerie village, and meets a loveling so beautiful he takes her breath away. And when he asks to hear her three deepest wishes, she tells him every one. But all too soon, she learns that something gained for nothing has no value, and that wishes can only come true if you make them so yourself. Beloved author Joy Cowley and brilliant illustrator Christopher Denise bring a spirited new heroine to life in this magical tale of light and love.

My Personal Review:
A story of achievement through hard work without bonking you on the head with it, a believable heroine, an encounter with fairies that somehow seems possible, perfectly matched illustrations. Matter of fact enough even to appeal to boys in a read-aloud (even though its about a girl who wants to sing and dance beautifully, its also a subtle tale about ignoring bullies if you want to reach your goal).

I should say at this point that I am an unabashed Joy Cowley fan. Whatever style she chooses to use (straight non-fic as in Red-Eyed Tree Frog, neo fairy tale as here) she completely immerses herself.

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