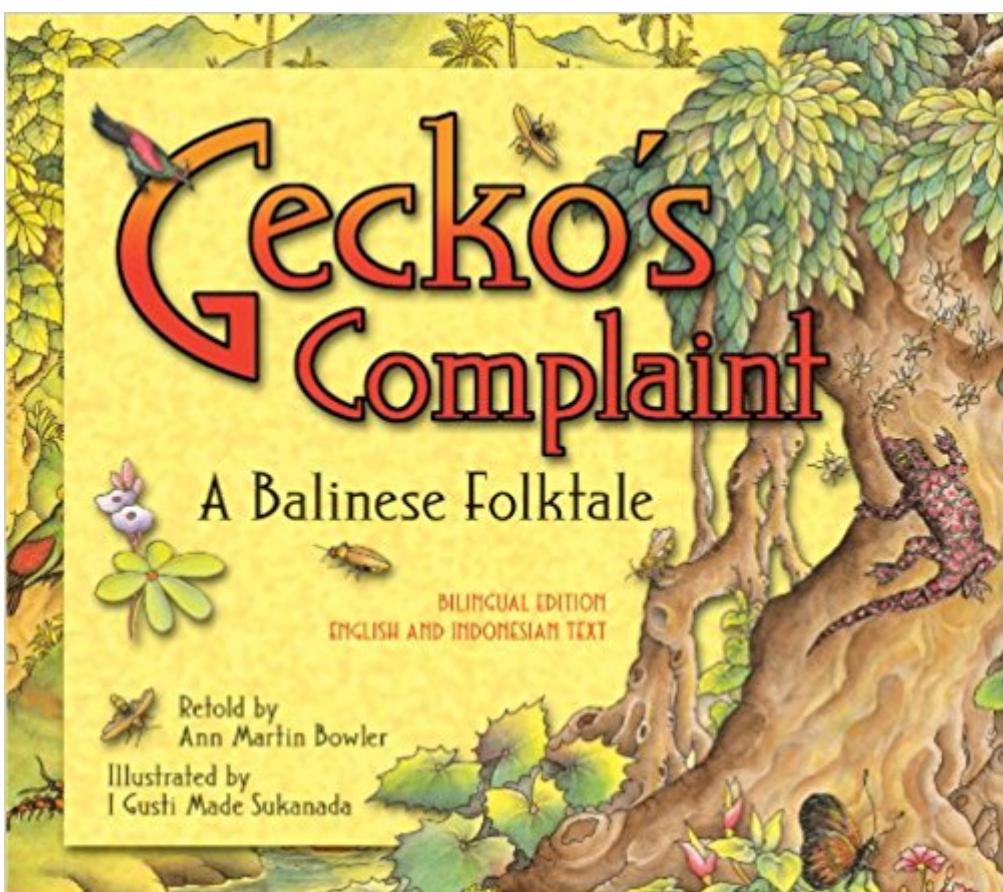


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# Gecko's Complaint, A Balinese Folktale, Bilingual Edition: English And Indonesian Text



## Synopsis

This colorfully illustrated multicultural children's book presents a classic Balinese fairy taleâ "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 traditionâ "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: 4.2 out of 5 stars 14 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #923,077 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Asian #524 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Animals > Reptiles & Amphibians #627 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia

Age Range: 4 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 2-Kept awake one night by flashing fireflies, Gecko complains to the jungle's lion chief. Raden questions the fireflies in an effort to resolve Gecko's troubles, but the fireflies blame Woodpecker's incessant tapping for their misbehavior, and the cycle continues until Raden finds himself atop the highest peak, questioning the Rain itself. From his mountaintop vantage point, Raden sees the importance of Rain to every jungle creature and recognizes his folly. He returns home to chastise the whiny animals—"Quit your complaining! Go home and live in peace with one another!" Bowler retells this folktale in simple, yet skillful prose. Sukanada's acrylic paint, pen, and ink illustrations show leafy landscapes saturated with color, and have depth and beauty. Unfortunately, this lovely art seems hemmed in by the book's smallish format, and the absence of any notes indicating sources or cultural context limits the book's usefulness for cross-cultural comparison. Although Gecko's Complaint is not an essential purchase, its Balinese roots and accessible story line may sufficiently recommend it to libraries collecting multicultural folktales. Eve Ortega, Cypress Library, CA  
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"Bowler retells this folktale in simple, yet skillful prose. Sukanada's acrylic paint, pen, and ink illustrations show leafy landscapes saturated with color, and have depth and beauty." *School Library Journal* "An enjoyable read enhanced by soft, full-color artwork." *Midwest Book Review* "Gecko's Complaint is a sparkling retelling of a classic Balinese folktale." *Bali Advisor* "Lovingly illustrated by I Gusti Made Sukanada, this book shows a side of Bali that is not often seen." *Singapore Straits Times*

Beautiful illustrations. The legend was easy to follow and you can easily make up your own story just using the pictures. My 4 year old and 18 month were interested and engaged.

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.

Great to get the message across about complaining! Great for those who are: Elementary/Kinder teachers, school psychologists, special education teachers, Resource teachers, therapists, psychologists, community mental health agencies, those who work with Autistic/Aspergers and other social awkward disabilities.

Read this book in Bali and our group used it as the story for a little "play". I found it charming and sensible and something that can be delightfully shared with my grandchildren

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.

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.

Fun book for age 5-10 about a gecko who complains and starts a circle of whines. Beautiful Balinese illustrations and simple but interesting story.

good story for toddler

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