



## An Army of Frogs

*Trevor Pryce , Sanford Greene (Illustrations)*

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While the Kulipari, the Amphibilands elite fighting group of poisonous frogs, is away, young Darel hopefully assembles a motley crew of friends to fend off an attack by the spell caster called the Spider Queen, and Lord Marmoo, leader of the scorpions.

## An Army of Frogs Details

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Author : Trevor Pryce , Sanford Greene (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review An Army of Frogs for online ebook

### Teresa cox says

I loves this book!

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### Georgia says

I was lucky enough to read an advanced copy of this book and was pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed it - not because it was written by a former professional football player, but because it was about frogs. I'm not against them, but I'm not a big frog fan (outside of Kermit).

Set in the Australian Outback, the story is about a young frog named Darel who has lost his father in a very violent war, when he was just a tadpole. For many children these days, sadly, that can be a reality and it is nice to see a story touch on it without belaboring the point. It gives them a touchstone to Darel and an aspect they can relate to. The young frog himself wishes to be a great warrior like his Father, but he doesn't just dream of it, he actually trains and works hard to do so - against the nature of his status as a Wood Frog and against the disapproving village he lives in. His mother is loving and supportive, but without being a bit of fluff. There is strength in her and how she has tried to raise her children.

Darel is also very faithful to his friend Gee and when things happen, the young frog is forced to make very adult decisions. One of which is the answer to the question of doing what is right... and how do you know when to do that - especially when there are different answers to the question and none of them are necessarily wrong?

The story is exciting enough to keep a young reader entertained and it is definitely a new flavor in the juvenile book venue, with lovely animated illustrations. Having it set in Australia is an interesting choice and may spark some desire for a child to learn more about a country that is real, but so different from their own. And certainly, Australia has a magic of its own to share.

On the downside, it can plod a bit here and there as Mr. Pryce tries to cover many aspects of the story from different angles and the timing gets a little wonky here and there. Its clear that he is a new writer, but I think with some work and continued writing, he can become an excellent new voice in the field.

Overall, this was a really fun book and will be good for kids who love to read and is a great way to get new readers (especially boys). There are a lot of interesting aspects that may help some kids think differently about doing what's right and being true to their friends and the book brings up those ideas without being preachy. Very impressive first step out Mr. Pryce and I look forward to more in the Kulipari novels!

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### Thomas says

An adventure story about frogs might sound weird but its and interesting and exciting story, Can't wait to read the second book.

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### **David Ybarra says**

So the book is called army of frogs by trevor pruce and he was a NFL player and his book is about a young frog warrior and he want to be a kulipari but he can't because he has no poison in him and then he get's into a fight with another frog and he goes out into the forest and finds that the scorpions and spiders have just ripped a veil which hides them from the scrops and spiders and that his best friend is captured gee and he goes into their camp pretending to be a sandpaper frog and tries to rescue his friend.

The book I thought was very good and I really liked it it was just the art that was pretty confusing. The art was kind of weird. But it did help see what the amphibalands looked like. I didn't really like the ending I thought it was going to end of him becoming poisonous and I think that it would have been a lot better than it was. I did like the characters and you could tell how each character thought and there point of view. I'm not really sure about why it is in australia I think that that was pretty weird. What I really didn't like about this series is that there is a religion and it kind of shows it and how it works and it's almost like they want you to like now that religion it is pretty weird.

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All in all though this book was really good. I would give it like 4 stars. And I would probably recommend this book to people who like fiction and a good fantasy. And I don't think if you like science you would like it.

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### **K. J. Joyner says**

I've been reading this book slowly over a matter of months as time allows. Each time I've chosen to pick it up for my "me" time rather than doing something else, I haven't been very disappointed.

The book was very well edited and the illustrations were very charming, almost graphic novel in appearance. I admit the character design of the spider queen bothered me - she just looked TOO human and this was ill-fitting when compared to the rest of the characters - but overall the illustrator did a fabulous job. However the word layout itself felt like someone had double-spaced everything in order to pad the book. To counter that the quality of the book printing itself is superb.

This tale was set in an anthropomorphic universe where frogs, scorpions, turtles, and spiders take the lead roles. The characters were fairly interesting although the usual "D&D-esque" character types each had their part. There was the spunky leader whose father had been super bad awesome once, and that's why the poor lad felt like he had to be the same. There was your typical female healer with no real interest in anything but saving the sick. And of course there was the ever-faithful fat companion with a love for sweets that proves to be more brave than anyone ever thought him to be. We obviously can't have a fantasy story without him.

On the other side there was the usual big bad guy who plans on doing harm to all around him and the "Cruella Deville" of the spider world... money hungry mercenaries.... and tasty skinks. I was pleased to note that there didn't seem to be any "gender-based" role giving in most of the social structures. Males and females both were warriors, or cocky jerks, or meek submissive types. That's actually refreshing in a story

read, although when choosing a book that's my last concern and is only mentioned here to show the wide variety of character types the author created in this interesting world. So although the main characters are cliche, the rest of the world balances that out a bit.

The language was great, considering this is not a book meant for folks my age. Some of the words are ones that are now sometimes discouraged in books meant for young people, but I approve of them being there. Gotta expand those minds and increase those vocabularies somehow! This is how it was done for me. Thumbs up.

The tale itself was your basic coming of age because of outside peril tale. We love stories like these, as readers, generally speaking.... and I did enjoy watching our plucky hero go from being told to behave to, well, being a plucky hero. The only thing that marred the experience was the book's pacing. The book was going forward at a very steady pace and suddenly - boom. We're in the middle of the climax and a heap of storytelling opportunity has been missed getting there from one chapter to the next. When a book does that, or a movie, it always throws me out of it as I sit there blinking and feeling rushed. So one star off for that.

I'd recommend this book. I'm looking forward to starting the next.

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### **Ms. Yingling says**

I think that Mr. Pryce should think about writing a football book. We need more of those, but at least in my library we don't need more books about talking animals! This could be popular with boys due to the illustrations and fighting frogs.

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### **Rebecca says**

In the wilds of Australia are the Amphibilands; forest, swamp, and seashore habitats and villages inhabited by all species of frog and turtle. Protected by the magic of the Turtle King Segu, who raised the Veil to hide the Amphibilands from the rapacious scorpions and spiders, the frogs have prospered, interbred, and no longer feel any threat from the outside. The only dissenter is wood frog Darel, whose long-gone father was a Kulipari poison frog warrior, one of the many who helped defeat the scorpions the last time and allow Segu to raise the veil. Although he can never be Kulipari since he has no poison, Darel has trained himself as a warrior, along with his friend Gee. His other friend Coorah, a healer, is the only other frog who thinks there's any more need for battlefield healing skills. Of course, Darel and Coorah are correct. The scorpions have joined with the deadly Spider Queen Jarrah to break the veil, invade the Amphibilands, eat all the occupants and inhabit the lush lands themselves. When Darel discovers the scorpion army waiting to attack, he knows the fate of the Amphibilands rests on his shoulders.

This is clearly a Disney movie in the making, with a Disney artist providing the beautiful illustrations, and a Disney-worthy and entirely predictable plot. Darel is a typical Disney hero and succeeds in typical Disney fashion. None of the characters has any particular depth or interest, and while the question of determining what's 'right' is always a good one, the answers here are pretty obvious. Still, the world is wonderfully built and clearly the creators have spent enormous amounts of time thinking it through—they must have had lots of fun with it, and kids will have fun reading it. There's lots of action, adventure, and heroism, and Coorah (who's female) is right in the thick of it, which is a plus (there are also female Kulipari warriors as well). My

one big complaint is that the chronology makes no sense. Darel's father died in the last war, but we don't know when that occurred. Darel has toddler-age siblings, but apparently the other Kulipari, who survived the war, bred a new generation that is now fully grown and ready to fight. That makes no sense. There's also no sense of how long frogs in this world live; real tadpoles don't take that long to grow, so if this is realistic, Darel's father can't have died all that long ago—not long enough for all the frogs to feel so secure from their success in the last war to abandon all discussion of it or nervousness about the scorpions. Just didn't make sense to me. And Darel's not even grown yet, but both he and his tadpole siblings must necessarily be older than the new Kulipari warriors bred after the last war, who are full adults. Huh? Okay, I'll stop harping on it!

Oh, and one more thing. Most of the frogs and scorpions are drawn reasonably realistically, so why the heck is the spider queen drawn like Cruella DeVille as a dominatrix in a strapless leather bathing suit? Tasteless and unnecessary, and not in keeping with the rest of the illustrations.

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### **Tami says**

I had seen *An Army of Frogs* at the library. I had checked it out twice. It *looked* interesting. It *looked* fun. But I couldn't get into it. I groaned when I saw it come up on the Lovelace nominee list for 2016-17. I was not looking forward to forcing myself to read it all the way through when I hadn't previously been able to get past the second chapter.

Now that I have done so I can absolutely say that I am glad I did. *An Army of Frogs* tells the story of Darel, a wood frog in Australia whose father was one of a great warrior frog species called the Kulipari. Kulipari frogs are brightly colored and actually possess poison with which to defeat their enemies. Because Darel is only HALF Kulipari he has neither of those distinctive traits. But ever since he can remember, Darel has wanted to BE a Kulipari. To make up for his lack of inherent Kulipari qualities Darel trains...and trains...and trains. He practices sparring and stealth, dragging his best friend Gee into the adventures with him--usually in the role of his mock opponent.

*An Army of Frogs* was a surprise to me in that, based on the first couple chapters, I thought it would be one battle description after another--but it is not. Readers watch Darel grow a great deal from the first to the final pages of his story. He learns the value of friendship, how easy it is to take a good friend for granted and that being a good friend often involves hard choices. He and his friends learn about the reality of courage and integrity, replacing their imagined fantasies about the glories of battle and war.

In addition to these valuable insights--absolutely relevant in the lives of young readers--*An Army of Frogs* ends up being a really good story about magic, good and evil and young heroes in the making. The villains--the scorpion commander Lord Maramoo and the evil Spider Queen Jarrah are magnificently evil and easy to root against. A classic underdog story, the first in a trilogy, Trevor Pryce has created a fantastic new fantasy realm for upper elementary readers. The illustrations by Sanford Greene--a fantastic Marvel Comics artist--are stunning and in the tradition of the best comics and graphic novels.

Young readers who enjoy works like Star Wars, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, the Marvel & DC Universe, etc. will LOVE *An Army of Frogs*! I certainly did!

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**Liz says**

10th MHL book of 2016-2017.

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**Leslie says**

Students who enjoy battles will like this book.

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**Rebecca says**

This was super cute! I love the frog world and the main characters. The illustrations are great as well. Looking forward to reading the next book.

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**Kenderick says**

Fun read to go with Netflix cartoon.

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**Wayne Walker says**

What can a group of frogs do when their home is attacked by an army of scorpions, spiders, and lizards? Darel is a young frog who lives with his mother and siblings, along with his friends Gurnugan or Gee, Coorah, Arabanoo, their families, and all the other frogs under the leadership of Chief Olba in the Amphibilands of Australia. For years, they have been protected by an elite group of poisonous frogs known as the Kulipari and by the dreamcasting spell of the Turtle King Sergu. However, the scorpions want the Amphibilands, and in the previous battle of the Hidingwar, when King Sergu set up his protecting veil, the Kulipari were nearly destroyed and those left went away to regroup. One of them was Darel's father. Most believe that Darel's father was killed, but Darel still thinks that he may be alive.

Now the scorpions under Lord Marmoo and Commander Pigo have joined forces with the spiders under Queen Jarrah who had learned dreamcasting from Sergu but then turned it into nightcasting for evil purposes. She believes that she can destroy the veil, thus allowing the scorpions and spiders to conquer the Amphibilands. While out on a mission to gather flowers for the healers' medicines, Darel and Gee happen to see the invaders' advance party, but when Gee runs back to warn the other frogs, he is captured. Darel first needs to rescue him from the scorpion camp, and then they hopefully can get across the Outback to notify the Turtle King and see if they can find the Kulipari. Will they make it? Will the frogs be able to defend their homes from the scorpions? And will Darel ever find his father?

An Army of Frogs is the first of an intended series of Kulipari novels. The plot by Trevor Pryce, a fourteen-year veteran of the National Football League, with Joel Naftali is certainly action-packed, and will be great for reluctant readers with its short chapters and fast pace. Also, though it is fantasy fiction, it has a bit of natural science information about frogs, scorpions, spiders, and other animals of Australia. And the cartoon-

like drawings by illustrator Sanford Greene will appeal to comic book aficionados. The authors do seem to use the word "butt," as in "kick butt" and "get your skinny green butt in here," several times. Many parents will have no problem with this, but some find that it gets a little old after a while. Otherwise, there is really nothing objectionable, just an imaginative and exciting adventure story with a classic good versus evil theme, a likeable hero, and a surprise ending.

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### **Aiden Negron says**

In this fast-paced tale, Pryce finds just the right balance between brutality and bravery, friendship and betrayal, and loss and discovery. Darel, a common wood frog, has a burning desire to emulate his late father, a mighty Kulipari warrior who died defending their homeland from invading scorpions. A new alliance between the scorpions and spiders threatens the Amphibilands. Darel and his friend Gee find themselves in the heart of the enemy camp: Gee a prisoner and Darel posing as a warrior volunteer. Darel's cunning and bravery make for a page-turner, and readers will be rooting for him as he, Gee, and their friend Coorah help lead the army of frogs to victory and secure the Amphibilands once more. Greene lends his talent with lush color illustrations that capture the tension and tenor of the text. Fans of Suzanne Collins's "Underland Chronicles" series (Scholastic) will be clamoring for this well-written first installment in a series. A must-have, winning adventure that is nearly impossible to put down.

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### **Sydney says**

Love it!!!! A good story too. Fighting spiders and scorpions may sound crazy but it's true.

-Sydney, age 8

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