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**Clarion Review**

Picture Books

**Littlebit Goes a Long Way**
Sahron Fiege
978-1-4343-0116-1
Four Stars (out of Five)

Littlebit is a brown and tan, sharp-eyed bit of fluff. Her descriptive title is Pomeranian, but that gives little information as to the true character of this dog. Littlebit was rescued from a veterinary hospital in San Francisco and taken home to become part of a family. Her new family consists of humans, dogs, rodents and cats. Littlebit weighed four pounds when she left the hospital and her first home was a small wicker basket. The delightful photos throughout the book show the reader how Littlebit plays with her friends, prepares for a walk on a rainy day, and dresses up for a party.

Author Fiege has given the reader a look at what it is like to care for a new puppy in this, her first approach to writing books. Littlebit's story relays in words and pictures the trials of potty training, taking walks, traveling in a car, and recovering from surgery. Readers will learn the correct way to care for pets and what it is like to have the responsibility for another creature.

This is a very good teaching tool for young children. The photographs of Littlebit, her human family, her doctors, and her animal friends are of excellent quality and add to the didactic element. The closing page makes a plea for readers to consider adoption from shelters nationwide.

Young children will identify with Littlebit's human companion, even though there is no direct reference to the owner. Readers might want to consider a companion book, "Before You Were Mine" by Maribeth Boelts, that tells the story of pet adoption from the viewpoint of a pet's life before arriving at a shelter.

*Joyce Rice*