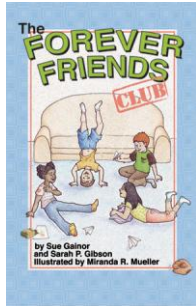


## Book Review—*The Forever Friends Club* Kay Marner



Every once in awhile, when I take my daughter Natalie to the park, I experience a secret delight. As I take an accounting of the kids who are there, I realize--there are more kids who are adopted than otherwise! How cool! Natalie (Russia) and her best friend Harry (US Foster/Adopt) are there with me. Kim (Korea) is shooting hoops with a group of boys. And then, Hannah and Sergei (both Russia), appear out of the trees. Let's see, that's one, two, three... out of....one, two...yes! I love it!

A similar scenario is at the heart of a new very early chapter book, *The Forever Friends Club*, which features themes of friendship, problem solving, diversity, and adoption. In this story, Sam has no one to play with--until three families with kids move into his neighborhood. Madison, the creative one, is adopted from Wisconsin. Nick, who never stops moving, is from Russia. (Natalie, excitedly: "He's from Russia, like me? And he rocks, like me?") And Isabel, who remembers being adopted at age four from Guatemala, is the take charge type. That leaves Sam--he's the only one who isn't adopted, and he feels left out. Find out how, in a clever twist of the "forever families" concept, the kids solve their problem and form "The Forever Friends Club".

The book is graced with the lyrical writing style that is the hallmark of the best books at this reading level; the bridge between beginning readers and chapter books. Co-author Sue Gainer is the national chairperson of Families for Russian and Ukrainian Adoption (FRUA).

Wonderful, expertly developed free extras—guidelines for forming a Forever Friends Club, puzzles, stickers and more fun stuff for kids; information and learning tools for parents, teachers, and librarians—is provided on the publisher's website, [drtpress.com](http://drtpress.com).

Read *The Forever Friends Club* with your child, adopted or otherwise. Share in the delight!

*Kay Marner, freelance writer/frequent contributor to Adoptive Families magazine/  
founding member Iowa Chapter, Gift of Adoption Fund. Review © Kay Marner, 2010*