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Line Up, Please! by Tomoko Ohmura

Publisher: Gecko Press

RRP \$19.99

An exciting picture book that keeps readers guessing right to the end. Animals are lining up nose to tail - but where is the queue going?

The animals are named and numbered starting from 50 and working along the line towards number one - and the final reveal. A chirpy bird guides and hurries the queue along. As they become restless and begin to grumble he encourages them, "Hold on just a bit longer."

Dialogue between the animals is comical as unlikely companions follow each other. A terrified zebra trembles as the lion behind her roars, "I'm ravenous!" while the tiger in front agrees, "I want some, too." An armadillo waiting behind a skunk complains about the smell.

The white background contrasts well with the black border at the bottom of the pages and the bold outline of the animals. There's a grand selection of creatures showing wide-eyed wonder at what they might be lining up to see.

Suspense builds as the count down to the top of the queue draws near. It's well worth the wait when the gatefold opens out to an impressive four pages wide illustration. Impressive!

A great introduction to the animal kingdom and a clever counting book.

**Reviewed by children's book author,
Jean Bennett**

Author / illustrator's website:
<http://tinyurl.com/ku5epbh>

