



Sidewalk Flowers

By JonArno Lawson

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Sidewalk Flowers By JonArno Lawson

In this wordless picture book, a little girl collects wildflowers while her distracted father pays her little attention. Each flower becomes a gift, and whether the gift is noticed or ignored, both giver and recipient are transformed by their encounter. "Written" by award-winning poet JonArno Lawson and brought to life by illustrator Sydney Smith, *Sidewalk Flowers* is an ode to the importance of small things, small people, and small gestures.

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Sidewalk Flowers By JonArno Lawson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #36087 in Books
- Brand: Groundwood Books
- Published on: 2015-03-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.80" h x .50" w x 9.00" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 32 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

K-Gr 3—An emotionally moving, visually delightful ode to the simple powers of observation and empathy. A young girl and her father walk home from the grocery store through busy city streets in this wordless picture book. Along the way, Dad is preoccupied—talking on his cell phone, moving with purpose, eyes forward—while his daughter, a bright spot of red in a mostly black-and-white world, gazes with curiosity at the sights around her. In graphic novel-style panels, readers see what she sees: colorful weeds and wildflowers springing up from cracks in the pavement. She begins to collect these "sidewalk flowers" as they make their way past shops, across bustling avenues, and through a city park. Halfway through their journey, the little girl surreptitiously begins giving pieces of her bouquet away: a dandelion and some daffodils to a dead bird on a pathway; a sprig of lilac to an older man sleeping on a bench; daisies in the hair of her mother and siblings. With each not-so-random act of kindness, the scenes fill with more and more color, until the pen-and-ink drawings are awash in watercolor, her world now fully alive and vibrant. With pitch-perfect visual pacing, the narrative unfolds slowly, matched by the protagonist's own leisurely appreciation of her environment. Smith expertly varies perspective, switching from bird's-eye view to tightly focused close-ups. The panel format is used exquisitely; the individual choices are purposeful, and the spaces between panels effectively move the story. **VERDICT** This is a book to savor slowly and then revisit again and again.—Kiera Parrott, School Library Journal

Review

Winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Illustrated Books

Winner of the Amelia Frances Howard-Gibbon Illustrator's Award

Winner of the Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award

Winner of the Booksource Scout Award, Favorite Picture Book

Winner of the National Cartoonists Society Reuben Award for Book Illustration

A New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book of the Year

A Horn Book Fanfare Selection

A Kirkus Reviews Best Picture Book of the Year

A School Library Journal Best Picture Book of the Year

An ALA Notable Children's Book

A New York Public Library Best 100 Books for Reading and Sharing

A Cybils Award winner, Fiction Picture Book

A USBBY Outstanding International Book

A National Post Best Book of the Year

A NCTE Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children Recommended Book

A 49th Shelf Favourite Picture Book of the Year

Finalist for the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Picture Book

A Bank Street College of Education Best Children's Book of the Year, 2016

"I'd give this book to anyone with a coffee table." — *New York Times*

"A poignant, wordless storyline . . . this ode to everyday beauty sings sweetly." — *Kirkus*, starred review

"A reminder that what looks like play can sometimes be a sacrament." — *Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"An emotionally moving, visually delightful ode to the simple powers of observation and empathy. . . . A book to savor slowly and then revisit again and again." — *School Library Journal*, starred review

"A quiet, graceful book about the perspective-changing wonder of humble, everyday pleasures." — *Booklist*, starred review

"*Sidewalk Flowers* is picture-book perfection." — *Shelf Awareness*, starred review

"This incredibly special wordless picture book explores the way in which accidental flowers, flowers some people even consider weeds, can bring color and brightness to a city world." — *Through the Looking Glass Children's Book Reviews*, Editor's Choice

"Affecting, efficient, moving, kind. Lawson's done the impossible. He wrote poetry into a book without a single word, and you wouldn't have it any other way." — *A Fuse #8 Production*

About the Author

JonArno Lawson is a three-time winner of the Lion and the Unicorn Award for Excellence in North American Children's Poetry, and the author of numerous books for children and adults, including *Enjoy It While It Hurts*, *Down in the Bottom of the Bottom of the Box*, and *Think Again*. He lives in Toronto with his wife and three children.

Sydney Smith was born in rural Nova Scotia, Canada, and has been drawing since an early age. Since graduating from NSCAD University, he has illustrated multiple children's books and he has received awards for his illustrations, including the Lillian Shepard Memorial Award for Excellence in Illustration. He now lives in Toronto and works in a shared studio space in Chinatown where he eats too many bahn mi sandwiches and goes to the library or Art Gallery of Ontario on his breaks.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ronald Castaneda:

What do you in relation to book? It is not important together with you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. They must answer that question due to the fact just their can do this. It said that about book. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on kindergarten until university need this specific *Sidewalk Flowers* to read.

Marian Buell:

This *Sidewalk Flowers* book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is definitely information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This particular *Sidewalk Flowers* without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry *Sidewalk Flowers* can bring if you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves'

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William Evans:

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Donald Vermillion:

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