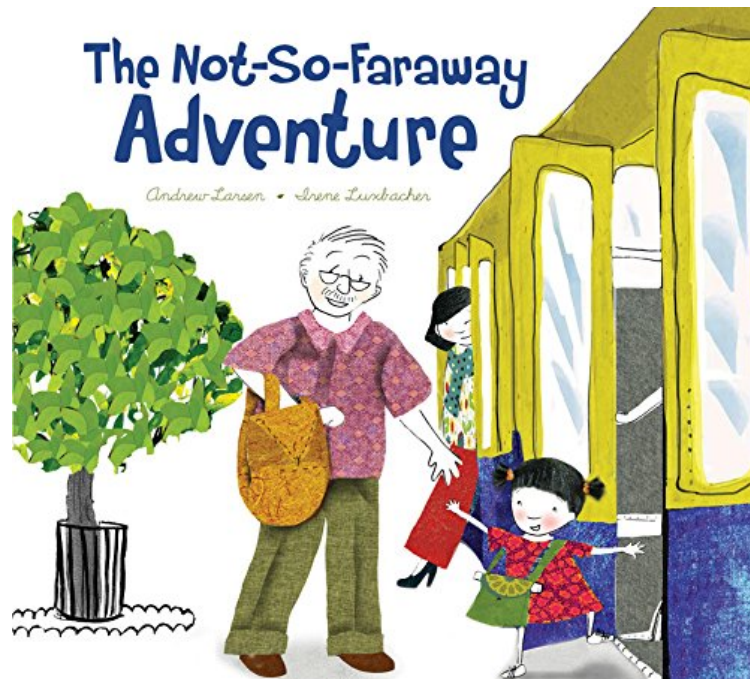


The Not-So-Faraway Adventure

Andrew Larsen

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Andrew Larsen : The Not-So-Faraway Adventure before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Not-So-Faraway Adventure:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Personal Intergenerational Adventure By Tasha Saecker Theo's grandfather, Poppa, had traveled all over the world. He has a big trunk packed with items from his travels. Now it is Poppa's birthday and Theo wants to give him the perfect gift. She realizes that it would be wonderful to go on an adventure together. When he speaks of traveling to the ocean once, Theo decides that they will head to the beach and eat at a restaurant. They create a map of their plans together and the next day they board a bus. Soon they reach the beach and the water which they pretend is the ocean. It's a beach where Poppa came as a little boy. The two spend time on the beach, eat gazpacho and then head home on the bus. Now Theo has items to add to the trunk that are from their adventure together. A dynamic picture book, this book demonstrates that adventures can be right in our own cities and need not take much time, money or effort. It is also a beautiful look at a granddaughter spending time with her Poppa and a grandfather who has more than enough energy to keep up with her. The urban setting is captured with people of various ethnicity on the page. It's a bustling and busy place but also welcoming. Luxbacher's illustrations are done in Photoshop and have the feel of collage. Textures and patterns are used throughout, creating a setting that is rich and layered. The city is done with just enough pops of color to keep it dynamic and not so many to make it entirely overwhelming. The page on the beach where they imagine the water is the ocean is captivating with the water entirely swallowing the page and filled with glimpses of their imagination. A lovely look at a grandchild and grandfather going on their own personal adventure together. Appropriate for ages 4-6. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Touching, age-appropriate story. By It's Me, Sven! What a wonderful book! Theo is a kid who does what nosy kids do; she digs around the house seeing what she can find. If this was a horror movie, it might be a pendant that opens the

gates of hell. Being a book for kids, she doesn't find the pendant but instead finds a chest filled with trinkets, papers, and other things that Poppa (her grandfather) has collected over the years. Poppa is a widower after the whole shoot out with Nana and the 4th Street Gang (the book doesn't actually say how she died), and he likes to reminisce about his and Nana's time together. When Theo, a truly thoughtful protagonist who is not a brat (unlike that kid who is a serial killer in the making in *Mrs. Ravenbach's Way: A Novel (The Amazing Escapades of Toby Wilcox)*), wants to give Poppa a birthday present she thinks back to his chest. Theo and Poppa sit together and look at pictures and talk about Nana. They make a map and decide to go on the streetcar and retrace a day that Poppa spent with Nana--playing by the water, eating lunch, and just having a fun time. The book ends with Theo's family giving Poppa a birthday surprise. This is such a sweet book and definitely one that grandparents would appreciate. Andrew Larsen demonstrates how one can write a truly engaging book for children without rhymes, anthropomorphic animals, or some kind of interactive element. This is just good storytelling. Irene Luxbacher's illustrations are nothing special in the whole scheme of things, but they fit the scheme of the book and work quite well with the story. My daughter and I both liked looking at the cityscape as Theo and Poppa are riding the streetcar. The multicultural city is refreshing (and not forced), and it is cool seeing similar images on the duo's way to and from their adventure. The price tag is a bit steep for my liking, but I understand that is relative. In the interest of full disclosure, I received a complimentary, advanced electronic review copy of *THE NOT-SO-FARAWAY ADVENTURE* from the author. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Multigenerational Adventure By Annette Lamb *THE NOT-SO-FARAWAY ADVENTURE* by Andrew Larson is a heartwarming picture book telling the story of a child and her grandfather who plan a trip to the beach together. Theo enjoys exploring her grandfather's trunk full of photographs, maps, postcards, and other items from his many adventures. For her grandfather's birthday, she plans a trip to the beach where they have an adventure together. The simple, colorful illustrations effectively capture the day-to-day activities of Theo and her Poppa drawing readers into the story. From the memory trunk and map making activity to the family beach adventure, librarians will find this multi-generational book appeals to young readers. The engaging story provides endless opportunities for classroom discussions and activities. To learn more about the author, go to [...] To learn more about the illustrator, go to [...] Published by Kids Can Press on April 1, 2016. ARC courtesy of the publisher.

?Theo's Poppa was an explorer. He had been everywhere. He kept an old trunk packed with the pictures, postcards, maps and menus that he had collected on his adventures.? Someday, Theo wants to be an explorer, too. For now, it's Poppa's birthday, and Theo has planned a special trip to the beach with him to celebrate. They plot out their course on a map they've drawn and then take the streetcar to the local beach, where they stroll in the sand, hunt for stones and slurp gazpacho at the beachside restaurant. It's a perfect day, and Theo is so happy to have given Poppa just the right gift. But best of all, Theo has also had her first lesson in being an explorer: you don't have to travel far from home to have an adventure! In this heartwarming picture book, popular author Andrew Larsen has created a rich story that captures the magic of turning an ordinary day into an adventure. The closeness between Theo and Poppa is touching, and offers a terrific opportunity for classroom discussions about family relationships. The emphasis on discovering the world right outside your door is a wonderful springboard for projects in which children can do the same in their own communities. With subtle and imaginative details in the cityscape, the beach and Poppa's home, Irene Luxbacher's fresh and expressive illustrations add depth to the story. The endearing Poppa and Theo also star in *The Imaginary Garden*, written and illustrated by the same creators.

From School Library Journal PreS-Gr 2 Theo and Poppa, introduced in *The Imaginary Garden* (Kids Can, 2009), return for a new adventure, this time celebrating Poppa's birthday. Theo has always been amazed by Poppa's magical trunk. Inside he keeps all the treasures and maps from the places he has traveled. Theo decides she will take Poppa on a new adventure, to the beach and out to lunch, just like Nana always did for his birthday. They have a great day, saying hello to strangers as they pass, eating gazpacho soup, and putting their feet in the water. Luxbacher's mixed-media collagelike artwork is vibrant, engaging, and creative. Children will love looking at the multifaceted spreads as well as at the colorful characters. VERDICT This is a sweet and visually appealing story about a girl and her love for her grandfather. Megan McGinnis, Sachem Public Library, Holbrook, NY ... a heartwarming tale of the bonding of two generations through shared memories. CM Magazine This quiet, sweet story is a gift for all ... Kirkus s - Starred This is a sweet and visually appealing story about a girl and her love for her grandfather. School Library Journal Andrew Larsen has written an endearing intergenerational story filled with loving interactions, nostalgic echoes and simple pleasures. Canadian Children's Book News... this will be a much loved book. Resource Links About the Author Andrew Larsen is the author of *The Imaginary Garden* and *Bella and the Bunny*. He is a stay-at-home father who finds time to write between laundry and lunch. He lives in Toronto, Canada. Irene Luxbacher is an artist and the author-illustrator of *The Jumbo Book of Art*, *The Jumbo Book of Outdoor Art*, the *Starting Art* series and *Mattoo, Let's Play!* She also illustrated *The Imaginary Garden* for Kids Can Press. She lives in Toronto.