



The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street

Karina Yan Glaser

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The Vanderbeekers have always lived in the brownstone on 141st Street. It's practically another member of the family. So when their reclusive, curmudgeonly landlord decides not to renew their lease, the five siblings have eleven days to do whatever it takes to stay in their beloved home and convince the dreaded Beiderman just how wonderful they are. And all is fair in love and war when it comes to keeping their home.

A modern classic in the making reminiscent of the Penderwicks series, The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street is about the connections we make and the unexpected turns life can take.

The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street Details

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Author : Karina Yan Glaser

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From Reader Review The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street for online ebook

Ian says

When their grouchy landlord who lives in the top floor apartment decides to not renew their lease, the Vanderbeekers face not only having to leave their beloved Harlem Brownstone they might have to leave New York.

The Vanderbeeker children set about convincing the Beiderman to let them stay.

This book is completely charming. it's written for young readers but I loved it.

Allison Tebo says

A sweet little book but not quite as amazing as I thought it would be - although I must say the cover art and interior formatting are all that one could desire.

It was a little difficult at points to keep the children straight, and I felt that the authoress would have been better off combining some of the character bits into four more rounded children, then six murkier ones. It was nice to see one of the sisters (Jessie) so interested in science. I loved her incredible creations, and it was more of a fun take on the less "girly" sister, instead of making her a sports enthusiast. Oliver was also nice to see; it was a relief that in a family of girls, the brother was still firmly holding onto his masculinity. :) He is a typical boy, reading boy books and getting up to rambunctious antics - but he's also quirky, and I loved his little side arc of learning not to be selfish.

In all honesty though, the characters and the story weren't quite as good as I thought they would be. All the ingredients are here to be a stupendous story, but instead of heartfelt, I felt that it could lean closer to saccharine and instead of natural, the story and characters could be a little stilted at times.

I liked the setting and thought it was pretty unique for this type of story. The authoress did a great job making Harlem feel like a fantasy type location. Though I have to admit, I was shaking my head at the way the parents let the twelve year old children walk the streets of Harlem to run errand without an adult accompanying them. I don't think so.

It was also interesting that unlike books such as the Penderwicks or Gone Away Lake, our character don't GO anywhere, but are committed to staying where they are.

It didn't have the perfection, heart, and sticking power of The Penderwicks or Gone Away Lake - but it's still a charming better than average story and I would definitely read the upcoming sequel.

Content: The children have some vocabulary that made me cringe. "S%/ks" - "Sc&^/ed" and the like.

Linda Williams Jackson says

Have you ever had a book come along just when you needed it most?

When I requested the ARC of Karina Yan Glaser's *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street*, I had no idea that upon approval of the request, I would be in the midst of a very rough week and that this lovely book would be my refuge. My week was harried and anxiety-ridden, but every time I opened my Kindle to this book, I felt like I was taking a mini-vacation.

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed the world of the Vanderbeekers. Karina Yan Glaser has created a charming cast of characters (even Oliver...ESPECIALLY Oliver). Though it is a contemporary novel, it has a classic feel. Walkie-Talkies? Do kids today even know what those are? They will after they meet the Vanderbeekers.

I highly recommend this book to parents who enjoy reading with their children. And I hope many teachers and librarians will make it available to their students. Thank you, Karina Yan Glaser, for introducing us to the WONDERFUL Vanderbeekers of 141st Street!

Laura Shovan says

Perfect middle grade novel to read over the holidays. I fell in love with the 5 Vanderbeeker children and the cast of friends, neighbors, and pets that make up their community. The Biederman is a Scrooge-like Christmas villain and the children's efforts to butter him up are hilarious disasters. Fans of middle grade family stories -- the Melendys, Hilary McKay's Casson family, the Penderwicks, *All of a Kind Family* -- will enjoy the Vanderbeekers, no matter what the season.

Emily says

This is a wonderful book that's positively overflowing with charm. The Vanderbeeker children are hilarious, and I fell instantly in love with each one of them and with the happy chaos of their household of 5 children, one dog, one cat and one bunny. I couldn't have loved them more! Karina Yan Glaser is an author to watch.

Hilary says

I feel mean giving this book such a low rating as everyone else loves this book and my goodreads friend who recommended this to us shares many books we both absolutely love but we really didn't enjoy this at all.

We liked the cover artwork although there is a floor missing on the Vanderbeeker's house and the house to the left appears to be on a different level as the top of the door disappears into the pavement? The line drawings inside reminded me of Nick Sharratt whose illustrations I strongly dislike and I think the style lends itself to a much younger audience although I do love maps and diagrams in a book. After 90 pages my

daughter wanted to stop reading, I carried on until page 200 and gave up. I read the epilogue and couldn't understand why this was about a date and not about the main plot of the book. Perhaps my expectations were too high, opening with a quote from Elizabeth Enright's *Spiderweb for Two* led me to make comparisons with these wonderful books and when I read parts such as the girls looking for a recipe to cook on their mums phone I couldn't help but think of the wonderful preserving scenes of *Mona and Randy*. The style of this book reminded me of Jacqueline Wilson an author who's books are really popular but personally I really do not like. Reading reviews for this I can see that everyone else really enjoyed this so I would recommend giving it a go!

Kate Willis says

My mom just finished reading this aloud to us all at my recommendation. Everyone from my dad to my youngest sister enjoyed our journey through the book. And I loved it just as much the second time around. <3

I loved all of the characters in this book. I never got confused about which kid was which (except for the first few chapters when I thought the dog, Franz, was one of the kids :P). They were all unique with their own goals no matter how small but similar enough to all be from the same family. Their sibling dynamics, fun traditions (like the Roof of Epic Proportions and the Christmas tree lot), and personalities reminded me very much of my own family, down to Oliver, the only brother who sleeps in a walk-in closet turned bedroom. ;) Hyacinth, the self-proclaimed middle child, was my favorite character since she was a lot like me. I also need to be brave. ;) Papa and Mama were darling, good parents, and all their neighbors were something special.

I know what it's like to move at Christmastime from a home I love, so you can bet I was invested in Operation Biederman! Their attempts were hilarious and heartwarming. Some did include sneaking around their parents, but I was thrilled when this was dealt with really well. Two thumbs up and a fifth star! I loved how the story turned out, and the ending scene reminded me a lot of *It's a Wonderful Life*. ;)

Just a note, there are some fake swear words. Also, a friend wants to take the 12-year-old daughter as his date to the school dance, but this was handled with much family involvement and was all-around appropriate.

Best quote: She smiled at her siblings. "It's good to be a Vanderbeeker, wherever we live."

Altogether, this book had good values, a sweet story, and hilarious, true-to-life characters--a special treat for me and my family. We are eagerly awaiting the sequel. :D

Jen Petro-Roy says

Deliciously Penderwickian.

Jennifer says

Read and reviewed for the NYT: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/27/bo...>

Jessica Woodbury says

It is quietly amazing how this book manages to be charming and light on its feet but also present problems that will hit kids with real weight. A fabulous balance that was really lovely to read.

This is in some ways an old school book, one relying heavily on the power of one family just loving each other a lot. It's also diverse without being showy about it, the Vanderbeekers are a biracial family, their friends and neighbors are of different races and genders and abilities.

I will admit, as an introvert the Vanderbeeker family was a lot. So many people! Around all the time! So little space! But this is adult Jess talking, and adult Jess also found the whole thing ridiculously charming. And my kids, who only have one sibling each, are happy to imagine a world where having four siblings is a delight, while their mother who had three siblings is thankful for the quiet while recognizing that it's books like this that initially made me want to have four kids when I grew up. (Glad I figured it out before it was too late.)

Disclosure: I have met Karina before and liked her very much.

Lisa Vegan says

A new book for my favorites shelf! Also I wrote it in and voted for it for Best Children's Book and for Best Goodreads Debut Author book for the opening round of the 2017 Goodreads Choice Awards. I don't know that it will move on to further rounds, given that so far not too many readers have read it, yet, but I hope that it does. I also hope and assume that it will eventually be widely read.

To all the usual suspects, my friends that enjoy children's novels, I'm highly recommending this one!!!

This book is a true gem and I believe it's destined to become a classic. It reads like a classic.

I had a feeling that I'd thoroughly enjoy it when I read the author's bio section on the inside back cover and it included the line "one of her proudest achievements is raising two kids who can't go anywhere without a book." Love it! Also, the two quotes that act as a frontispiece before the start of the book are from the Melendy book *Spiderweb for Two* and from *Anne of Green Gables*; that was another promising sign that this book would be a winner.

The story is memorable, charming, heartwarming, humorous, entertaining, absorbing, and sweet, but not too sweet. I loved the kids, the parents, and almost all the characters. Even the minor characters were given depth. The various relationships are believable and interesting.

For me it was an ideal comfort read.

I've always loved books about large families so this story was my cup of tea. (As an only child I've gotten a lot of vicarious pleasure while reading books about families with many children.) This family has 2 parents, 5 children, including a set of twins (another of my interests) and a dog, a cat, and a house bunny. It's a great

sibling story. I loved all the characters. They're all distinct individuals, and the 5 kids are all a joy. I loved all of them. I felt as though I got to know everybody well within the first several pages. This is also a marvelous neighborhood story. Harlem is a character too, and an interesting one; at times the story felt like a love letter to Harlem.

The story is a fine story about family, and also about friendships and neighbors/community and it has an extraordinarily good sense of place. It's a story about home, about belonging and about what makes a home a home.

I appreciate that the kids have advanced vocabularies and so the book does too, but it's not at all too challenging for middle grade readers. The story has just the proper number of times some kids might have to look up a word. Kids won't mind at all, and because all the words are in context most readers will be able to figure out the meanings of unfamiliar words.

For me the storytelling was perfect and the story nearly so. I'm not sure that I loved the epilogue, at least not exactly as it was, but I still enjoyed it.

I'm perplexed about why some Goodreads members have shelved this book on their "fantasy" bookshelves. This book is realistic fiction.

For readers who enjoy seasonal books, this book would be a fine choice to read just prior to or during the Christmas holidays. Most of the book's events take place during the few days leading up to Christmas and then on Christmas Day.

This would have definitely been a favorite book of mine when I was 9 and 10, and 11 and maybe 8, and I have no doubt that I would have reread it many times. Even reading it as an adult I adore it and consider it a special book. I inhaled it and never wanted to put it down; that would have been even more true when I was in elementary school.

The story is greatly enhanced by the delightful illustrations and the map of the family's neighborhood. I am fond of maps in books and this one was excellent. There is also a floor plan of the family's apartment/apartment building. I love floor plans and used to read books containing nothing but floor plans. So this illustration was great fun for me. The illustrations throughout the book were lovely and pleasing and informative and contribute a lot to the story. The cover illustration is drawn incorrectly though. Floor 2 seems to be missing. Also, the text on page 216 doesn't seem to match the map. These are incredibly minor quibbles though. I noticed the discrepancies only because I paid great attention to all the illustrations, really savoring them.

I might buy this book, even though unfortunately I'm not buying books these days. (I notice that it's possible to get a signed edition at a wonderful NYC independent children's bookstore I know of because I have a friend who works there. Very tempting!)

Highly recommended for readers ages 9 (maybe 8) and all the way up, anyone who enjoys children's novels, family stories, NYC stories, stories with biracial characters, humorous stories, reading about characters who are musicians and/or artists and/or writers, reading about companion animals, reading about food in books, or just about everyone who enjoys children's novels.

It's so hard to write reviews for books I love the most. I cannot do this book justice via my review.

There is going to be a companion book coming out in 2018 and I'm looking forward to reading it.

Kate Olson says

The Vanderbeekers are guaranteed to steal the heart of every single reader who picks up this book, children and adults alike. This is THE feel-good and huggable middle grade novel of 2017.

Thank you to the author for providing Kid Lit Exchange with a review copy of this title.

Okay, so this is one of those emotional reviews for me - one where I really don't tell you much about the book but just rave and rave and tell you how much I loved it. The Vanderbeekers instantly brought me back to reading the Melendy Quartet series as a child, books about a quirky and loving family that I read over and over and over and over, and have just recently returned to as an adult. The Vanderbeekers are just as timeless, and just as loveable. I was absolutely, 100% utterly enchanted by this book.

This story is set in Harlem with an incredibly diverse cast of characters about a family who lives in an amazing home in an amazing neighborhood with a fabulous sense of community. She describes the children and their features in beautiful ways that make it clear that they all look very different from one another, and connects them to their parents' features through those descriptions. The relationships between the children and their family are realistic but also written in such a playful way - the language in this book is perfection. I love the storyline, I love the characters, I love the problems they have to solve - I just love it all.

Verdict: Required purchase for all middle grade classrooms and libraries. I just pre-ordered copies for both of my libraries as well as for my own family. Stay tuned for the next story about the Vanderbeekers coming in 2018 - I can not WAIT for this!

Laura (bbliophile) says

Do you ever cry tears of happiness because of how lovely a book is? Because that's what happened to me with this book

Joanne O'Sullivan says

The sweetest, cutest story! I kept imagining this is what a Wes Anderson movie made specifically for kids would be like! The Vanderbeekers are a quintessentially New York eccentric family, with bright kids, each with their own unique character. When they face losing their home in a beloved Harlem brownstone, they spring into action. I loved how Glaser emphasized the power of community and the power of music in this story- this world felt so real and the reader is 100 percent behind the kids as they fight to protect their wonderful home. I got teary at the end! Would recommend for kids of all ages and it would be a great classroom read!

Rebecca McNutt says

Remember those classic middle-grade novels that hit the world in that late 50's to early 70's period? Harriet the Spy, Beezus and Ramona, books like that? This quirky and interesting story reminded me a lot of those in a nostalgic sort of way, and it's nice to know that authors are still putting out writing for kids that doesn't focus on cell phones and iPads.
