

Wishes and Wonder

Virginia Stussy

Reviewed by: Vivien Lee, 16

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Wishes and Wonder, by Virginia Stussy, is a collection of everyday life stories commonly overlooked by people living in constant motion. “Ya-Ya’s House” talks about Little Joe’s happy visit to his grandmother’s house. “Sofia’s Rainbow” is about a little angel who is given a special assignment to paint rainbows after every rainfall. “Gracie and the Big Box” shows the unlimited imagination that can bloom with just one box. “Buffy and Sabrina’s First Halloween” emits the excitement of trick-or-treating for actual witches! “Bobby’s Butterfly Kiss” gives the reader a laugh by expressing a boy’s hate for cuddling and kissing. “Isabella and Mr. Mcfee” is a heartfelt story about a little girl’s special friendship with a neighboring farmer. “Margaret Meets Mother” Nature invites the reader to a special Christmas spent in Maine. “Dolly Did It” is a humorous story about a four-year-old girl who goes to extreme meets for attention!

Virginia Stussy’s dramatic and overdone writing makes the most average things sound amazing, and while her optimism is brightening, it can be irritating at times. However, the book is written in a picture book tone, making it an acceptable choice for young readers growing out of picture books; it also introduces many cultural concepts like angels, holidays, nature and imagination. Stussy adds details which enhance the scenery and she recognizes the awe that little children have for everyday life. The book may be confusing at first because some stories may seem unfinished and abruptly discontinued, but that is her charm; the reader may continue the story in his or her head! Borrowing the book instead of buying it is recommended: depending on the reader, she or he may fall in love with it, or hate its never-ending cheerful writing.