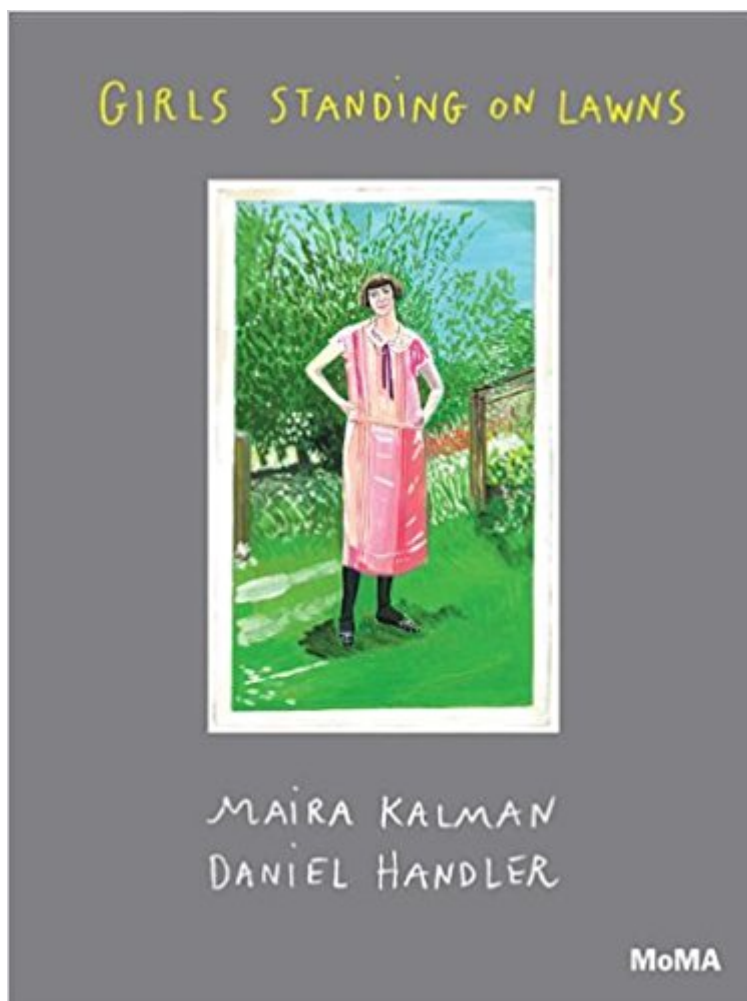


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Girls Standing On Lawns



Synopsis

Girls Standing on Lawns is a unique collaboration between renowned artist and bestselling children's book author Maira Kalman and New York Times bestselling writer Daniel Handler, better known as Lemony Snicket. This clever book contains 40 vintage photographs from the collection of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, more than a dozen original paintings by Kalman inspired by the photographs, and brief, lyrical texts by Handler. Poetic and thought-provoking, Girls Standing on Lawns is a meditation on memories, childhood, nostalgia, home, family, and the act of seeing. The gorgeous visual material sets the stage for what Handler succinctly describes as "a photograph, a painting, a sentence, a pose." Girls, women, families, and even pets from days gone by grace the pages, looking out at us, enticing readers to imagine these people, their lives and where they have gone. Praise for Girls Standing on Lawns "Kalman supplements the mostly black-and-white, anonymous, amateur snapshots with colorful paintings inspired by the photographs. Handler adds alternately wry, pithy, poignant and always succinct commentary to most spreads, inviting readers to ponder the people and scenes as well as their own family photos." --Booklist "Handler provides free verse that is both spare and sparse throughout the collection, contextualizing the thematic groupings and offering imaginative insight into what might have motivated the preservation of such frozen moments. The project is interesting and the images thought provoking." --The Bulletin of The Center for Children's Books

Book Information

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up — Vernacular photography is, as this book describes, photographs taken without artistic ambition. That is what a traditional snapshot is, or in this age of Instagram and digital photography, what it was. Who snapped the photos is unknown. The people and places are long gone, but these photographs of girls standing on lawns remain. Found, anonymous, and removed from their original context, these snapshots have now been given a new life. With text by Handler and paintings by Kalman based on snapshots from collection of the Museum of Modern Art, this is a short, beautiful, and nostalgic book. The spare text ponders the matter-of-factness depicted in the snapshots and the occasional colorful paintings are as playful as the original black-and-white source material. A girl with her arms awkwardly crossed is accompanied by the statement "My whole life I have not known where to put my hands." Another photo of a girl standing on a sidewalk instead of the nearby lawn is accompanied by the answer to the obvious but unasked question, "Because I didn't want to ruin my shoes, is why." The minimal text has the rhythm and simplicity of a children's book, but there is a thought-provoking complexity present that will appeal to teens and adults. This title can also help to inspire creativity, as the idea of using found photographs as the basis for a narrative provides endless possibilities for young adults, teachers, and programming librarians. — Billy Parrott, Mid-Manhattan Library, NYPL

This first in a series will delight some fans of Handler and Kalman's *Prinz Honor Book Why We Broke Up* (2011), but it may leave others scratching their heads. Serious and humorous historical photographs of girls and women, drawn from the vernacular collection of the Museum of Modern Art, are presented with enough white space to evoke an exhibit. Kalman supplements the mostly black-and-white, anonymous, amateur snapshots with colorful paintings inspired by the photographs. Handler adds alternately wry, pithy, poignant — and always succinct — commentary to most spreads, inviting readers to ponder the people and scenes as well as their own family photos. Is this book a curiosity? An invitation to creative writing or art? Maybe even a call to action? — "Stand for something, stand for something!" — writes Handler. — "Otherwise what do you stand for, why are you even standing?" — Ultimately the best audience may be MoMA visitors hoping to extend the existential feeling of a museum visit, and who might want to gift it along with their own vintage family photo of people on lawns. So,

where do you stand? Grades 6-12. --Cindy Dobrez

I'm from the generation that always went outside, on the lawn, to have a picture taken. This is a book of those photographs, young women in their best outfits, standing awkwardly on the lawn as a doting family member snapped history. Great photos and just enough text - I was transported!

Maira Kalman helps us see the world as though we were children again : through her wide-eyed, curious, often humorous and very truthful lens. There is a freshness about her work not found elsewhere, a creativity that is truly her own.

I wish the price tag was not stickered to the back, the sticker took the cloth off the book, which makes it hard for display , better price sticker, or no price sticker would be best.

My girls loved looking at old photos and hearing the stories behind them! As they have been to MOMO in New York many times I thought they would enjoy a remembrance of their visits as well as the photos. The book is high quality for a reasonable price!

Awesome - humorous, poetic, beautiful. A collection of historic, now-anonymous photos, plus a few paintings of the same by Maira Kalman and just the loveliest, sweetest, commentary.

Such a beautiful book with such lovely and charming photos and prose. A wonderful keepsake to peruse.

Only so-so. I really enjoy Kalman's illustrations and commentary, but this book left me unsatisfied- it just seemed lightweight and insubstantial compared to her other works.

This simple little book with drawings of girls in a garden setting is relaxing to see and takes one back to another peaceful time. The classical illustrations are inspiring.

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