

An Ordinary Day

Elana K. Arnold, illus. Elizabet Vukovic

Beach Lane Books, 2020

Reviews

- [Publishers Weekly](#) (Dec. 12, 2019): “With enormous sensitivity, the creators weave together beginnings, endings, joy and sadness, and a metaphysical sense of the universe’s continuity.” (Starred review).
- [Booklist Online](#) (Dec. 15, 2019): “Profound in the way it underscores how ‘life-changing’ events are happening all the time, even as regular life continues, this book is especially effective at communicating big, difficult concepts to children in terms they will understand, despite—or, perhaps, because of—being quiet and understated. Many will be moved by the artful book design and a thoughtfully simple text that delineate an extraordinary ordinary day.” (Starred review).
- [Kirkus](#) (Dec. 8, 2019): “Commonalities abound between the two households despite their different compositions and experiences. In both, love and family are fully present as one life expires and a new one is born. Skilled, muted drawings, in charcoal, pencil, and watercolor and digitally rendered, depict a diverse neighborhood with mixed-race and nontraditional families. Emotions are clearly conveyed by the appealing characters, who are rendered in a simplified graphic style. The intimate interior events are juxtaposed with the unaware community members outside, who continue the rhythm of their ordinary day, until in one silent dark beat of the crow’s wings, the world shifts. [...] Powerfully demonstrates how small but monumental events can connect and change the world.”
- [School Library Journal](#) (Feb. 1, 2020): “Arnold’s gentle, poetic text highlights the remarkably similar rhythms that grief and happiness bring, while Vukovic’s illustrations reinforce this with delicate and often symmetrical mixed-media illustrations. [...] Emotionally affecting and beautifully told, this book deserves a place on most library shelves.”

Awards

- None found

Lists

- [Kansas National Education Association Reading Circle Recommended Titles](#), 2021
- [Cooperative Children’s Book Center Choices](#), 2021

Response to Challenges

- Author Elana K. Arnold, in response to a Central York school district “freezing” every book on the Equity Book Resource List: “What cruel adults, to want to take these beautiful books from their young readers. Shame on them.” ([@ElanaKArnold](#))
- While Arnold’s books are frequently banned and challenged, I have not found any specific reference to *An Ordinary Day*. However, since the book features a same-sex couple, several blanket bans of children’s books with LGBTQ+ content would include it.

References

“An Ordinary Day.” (2019, December 12). Publishers Weekly. Retrieved November 4, 2022, from <https://www.publishersweekly.com/9781481472623>

“An Ordinary Day.” (2019, December 8). Kirkus. Retrieved November 4, 2022, from <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/elana-k-arnold/an-ordinary-day/>

“CCBC Choices.” Teaching Books. Retrieved November 4, 2022, from <https://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?wid=101>

“Kansas NEA Reading Circle Recommended Titles.” Kansas National Education Association. Retrieved November 4, 2022, from <https://www.kneaweb.org/knea-reading-circle/>

Arnold, E.K. [[@ElanaKArnold](#)]. *A BOY CALLED BAT (and sequels) is included on this list of books being banned by the Central York school* [Tweet]. (2021, September 16). Twitter. Retrieved November 4, 2022 from <https://twitter.com/elanakarnold/status/1438520680266407939>

Hottle, Laken. “An Ordinary Day.” (2020, February 1). School Library Journal. Retrieved November 4, 2022, from <https://www.slj.com/review/an-ordinary-day>

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