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Little Flower

AnnMarie Hamar

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Rand, Gloria. *Little Flower*. Illustrated by R.W. Alley. Henry Holt & Co., LLC, 2002. ISBN 080506480X. \$15.95.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar

Reading level: Preschool; Primary

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Humorous Fiction; Picture book

Subject: Swine--Juvenile fiction; Pets--Juvenile fiction; Book--reviews

Little Flower, a pot-bellied pig, knows how to get attention--she plays dead. Her owner, Miss Pearl, is proud of the only trick her pet can do. Her neighbors are impressed too, except for the haughty Highchews who live next door. When Miss Pearl falls and cannot get up, Little Flower plays dead in the street until a driver stops and comes to Miss Pearl's rescue. The neighbors, including the Highchews, call Little Flower a hero, and offer to look after her until Miss Pearl recovers.

Little Flower is an endearing and sympathetic character. The ink and watercolor illustrations are expressive and often humorous (imagine a pot-bellied pig trying to squeeze through a doggie door). It did seem a bit odd, however, to end the story before Miss Pearl comes home and is reunited with her beloved pet.