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The Vanderbeekers to the Rescue

Jazmin Gomez

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Book Review

The Vanderbeekers to the Rescue

Author

Karina Yan Glaser

Illustrator

Karina Yan Glaser

Reviewer

Jazmin Gomez

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Rating

Outstanding

Level

Primary, Intermediate

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Pages

368

Year

2019

ISBN

9781328577573

Publisher

Houghton Mifflin
Harcourt

It is spring break for the Vanderbeeker family, and it is off to a promising start. Isa is practicing for a big violin audition. Oliver is building an epic treehouse with his uncle. Jessie, Hyacinth, and Laney are helping their mom prepare for a photo shoot that will feature her small baking business in a big lifestyle magazine. When the kids unintentionally ruin an inspection for their mother's baking license, they set about to make things right before their parents find out. When they aren't able to fix things, the photo shoot is cancelled and things seem bleak. Not giving up so easily, the Vanderbeekers use their resourcefulness to surprise their mom with a storefront for her business and a new path to get that magazine spotlight.

The Vanderbeekers to the Rescue is the third installment in the series, featuring the lovable biracial family, a domestic menagerie of pets, and their charming Harlem brownstone. With a story that is full of heart, humor, and amusing capers, it is written wonderfully for a middle-grade audience, as well as lovers of books set in New York. With a cast of characters ranging in personalities and characteristics, there is a good chance that readers will find someone they can relate to. A map of the neighborhood serves as the endpapers, and black-and-white illustrations are scattered throughout the chapters. Fans of the previous two Vanderbeeker books will not be disappointed with this Junior Library Guild selection.