

EPISODE **88**

Don't Miss This Book: The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street

Guest: Karina Yan Glaser

- 2 Meet Karina
- 2 In this Episode
- 3 Listenng Guide
- 4 Quotes & Questions
- 5-6 Show Notes

Meet Karina Yan Glaser



Karina Yan Glaser says her proudest accomplishment as a mother is that her kids can't go anywhere without a book.

She's the award-winning author of *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street*, and lives in Harlem with her husband, two daughters, and an assortment of rescued animals.

In This Episode

Karina and Sarah talk about her book, and what she's working on now. Plus they discuss her writing process and her favorite books, including the ones that have inspired her work.

The Listening Guide

Use this guide to skip to parts that most interest you, or listen to the entire podcast.

- 4:59 Brownstones as characters
- 7:01 First book!
- 13:50 Writing class lessons
- 15:03 Karina's writing process
- 17:21 The Read-Aloud Family
- 19:03 Middle grade book love
- 23:16 Karina's favorite books as a child
- 25:53 'Mom' as a writer
- 27:47 A character like Karina
- 28:50 Advice for Writers
- 32:09 Karina's favorite recent books
- 33:33 What's next for Karina

“**M**iddle grade books taught me about the kind of person I wanted to be and even now, the kind of mother I want to be, the kind of wife I want to be, and how to shape my kids and how to build character, so (it) was never a question in my mind that I would write middle grade. - Karina Yan Glaser

Quotes and Questions

* **When setting becomes more.**

“You paint such a vivid picture of Harlem in *The Vanderbeekers*, ... I think there’s that reader experience that we all share of experiencing the brownstone house that the Vanderbeeker family lives in, and the neighborhood that they live in in Harlem as characters of the story, and I just love that so much.”

What other books turn the setting into characters? Share those books and discuss this idea with your kids.

* **Just write.**

“I liked the way that NaNoWriMo has a philosophy of just write, don’t erase anything, don’t delete anything, just write. And, I think that’s a really great way for people who get stuck in writing.”

Do your kids get stuck? Maybe encourage this practice, even if it isn’t for long - 5 minutes? 10?

* **Advice for writers.**

“I always tell people that the best way to learn how to write is to read really widely ... I would suggest that people who want to write more and want to develop their craft that you would read a lot, that you would read across genres, and also to read a lot of things that are published recently, sort of, to see what writing is like, how people are writing now versus maybe books that you enjoyed when you were younger,”

* **Turn on creativity.**

“A thing that I try to do frequently is purposely turn on creativity, because I think sometimes all of us are very busy and we have a lot of things to do and I think, kids too, they’re busy, they’re doing their work, and they have sports, and music, and sometimes I think that we lose that time to really just focus on being creative and not worrying about what comes out of that.”

How can you encourage this practice with your kids? Can you set out art supplies without any set plan? Can you play classical music during the day? Can you practice “free-writing” once a week?

Show Notes

Books from today's episode:

- [The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street](#)
- [Five Children and It](#)
- [Anne of Green Gables](#)
- [All-of-a-Kind Family](#)
- [Half Magic](#)
- [The Penderwicks](#)
- [The Moffats](#)
- [Ginger Pye](#)
- [Little House in the Big Woods](#)
- [The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate](#)
- [The Read-Aloud Family](#)
- [A Tree Grows in Brooklyn](#)
- [The Saturdays](#)
- [The Birchbark House](#)
- [See You in the Cosmos](#)
- [Calpurnia Tate: Girl Vet](#)
- [The Vanderbeekers and the Hidden Garden](#)

Other links from today's show:

- Karina's [site](#)
- Sign up for [The Kids are All Right at Book Riot](#)
- [NaNoWriMo](#)
- [Gotham Writing Workshop classes](#)
- [Order The Read-Aloud Family](#)

READ-ALoud REVIVAL

Cheat Sheet Episode **88**

- Get the RAR Booklist [here](#) or text the word "books" to 345345

To find more resources to help you build your family culture around books, visit ReadAloudRevival.com.