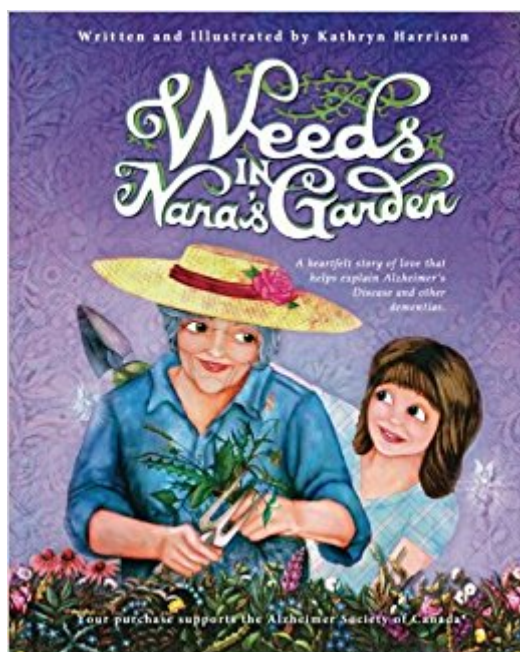


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# Weeds In Nana's Garden: A Heartfelt Story Of Love That Helps Explain Alzheimer's Disease And Other Dementias.



## Synopsis

A young girl and her Nana hold a special bond that blooms in the surroundings of Nana's magical garden. Then one day, the girl finds many weeds in the garden. She soon discovers that her beloved Nana has Alzheimer's Disease; an illness that affects an adult brain with tangles that get in the way of thoughts, kind of like how weeds get in the way of flowers. As time passes, the weeds grow thicker and her Nana declines, but the girl accepts the difficult changes with love, learning to take-over as the garden's caregiver. Extending from the experience of caring for her mother, artist Kathryn Harrison has created this poignant children's story with rich illustrations to candidly explore dementia diseases, while demonstrating the power of love. It is a journey that will cultivate understanding and touch your heart. After the story, a useful Question and Answer section is included. \$1 from the purchase of this book will be donated to the Alzheimer Society of Canada. The Alzheimer Society is Canada's leading health charity for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

## Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 31 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #472,330 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Health #219 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Alzheimer's Disease #347 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Illness

Age Range: 3 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

"Dementia is a growing issue for families, young and old. It is often difficult for parents to talk about the disease with young children, yet Kathryn has managed to do so in an insightful and thoughtful way. I have worked in the dementia field for close to 20 years and think this book is a great tool to

begin the conversation and increase children's knowledge of how to cope with the disease." Marija Padjen, B.S.W., M.S.W., Recognized expert in dementia programming."A simply written and beautifully illustrated book that captures the unfolding transitions of an aging mind. Artwork with the story helps young readers to begin to develop a better understanding about Alzheimer's Disease, while opening room for more dialogue and discussion about it. This book brings the reader to recognize the more important, deeper emotional connections a child has for a grandparent or someone they love, regardless of where the mind may go. A must have book for every elementary school library or therapist's practice who work with children." S. Percival, M.A, LiveWell Counselling & Consulting.5 stars! - Reviewed by Tiffany Davis for Readers' Favorite"

"This story is very simple and sweet; it teaches children about dementia while also teaching them to help people. The illustrations within the story were beautiful, and bursting with color. It gave an actual feeling of being in a garden. It also gives very good detail on the progress of the garden, along with the increased need to assist Nana. At the end of the story, there were questions and answers to further educate the young reader about dementia and how it affects people differently. Great job by the author of this children's book; it was simple and easy to understand! I loved this story."

"Highly Recommended - Reviewed by Chloe Humphreys for CM: Canadian Review of Materials."

"With a deft mix of candidness and compassion, *Weeds in Nana's Garden*, by Kathryn Harrison, tackles a difficult topic for many Canadian families: Alzheimer's disease and dementia. It tells the tender story of a young girl and her beloved Nana. Together, the inseparable pair spends hours tending Nana's lush garden by planting seeds in spring, picking flowers in summer, and raking leaves in fall. It is a truly magical place. Then, one summer day, the little girl notices that Nana's garden has become unkempt and choked by weeds. She is scared and confused, wondering why Nana has let her garden become so overgrown. In answer to her worried questions, the girl's mother gently explains that Nana has Alzheimer's disease. Moving forward, the family tenderly supports one another through Nana's developing illness, and they come to learn that love only grows stronger in the face of adversity. Using the garden metaphor as a tool to illustrate the progression of dementia, this picturebook explains Alzheimer's disease to children in clear and sensitive terms. The book's young narrator asks questions of her mom that echo real-world concerns that many children have about a family member with dementia, guiding young readers through the delicate process of understanding brain disease. To further support families, the book also includes a helpful Q&A section that answers questions like: "Who gets dementia?" and "Is there any medicine to help?" The writing is simple yet evocative as Harrison uses descriptive language to bring the

girl's surroundings and emotions to life. Typographically, phrases are easy to read in black and white text while song lyrics lend visual interest by playfully scrolling across the page. Harrison's mixed-media illustrations showcase stunning vistas of Nana's garden that shift from brightly coloured to more subdued as Nana's dementia worsens. Children will enjoy looking for a cat and a group of fairies that appear on nearly every page. Characters have large eyes and wide mouths rendered in a slightly exaggerated style, emphasizing the many emotions they experience as a result of Nana's illness. In light of its strengths, *Weeds in Nana's Garden* is an excellent resource to rely upon when discussing dementia with children, and it is a welcome addition to any library or classroom collection." Â Â Â Â

**EXPLAIN ALZHEIMER'S TO KIDS WITH THIS APPROACHABLE NEW BOOK** My kids were small when my mom was diagnosed with dementia. The poignant experience stirred me to create this book and a walk through my mom's beautiful garden with my daughter inspired the story. After the walk, my 6 year old daughter and I spoke about brain disease and she made the connection between how the growing weeds in the garden were like the disease growing in the brain. It seemed simple yet understandable ~ I had my idea for a picture book. I hope you find *Weeds in Nana's Garden* to be a candid yet approachable exploration into Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias. It honestly follows the typical stages of these brain illnesses and provides interesting, colourful images children can enjoy, while also celebrating the strength of the heart. I dedicated the book to my mom, Bonnie Harrison, but it honours all those who are afflicted with dementia and all those who never stop loving, even as it endures. Please enjoy reading this loving story in the garden. And together, we can cultivate a better understanding of these dementia diseases, while also giving to the Alzheimer Society of Canada with every book purchased.

When a loved one is diagnosed with such a complicated disease, it can be especially hard on the little ones who have no way of grasping what is going on. This is certainly so when it comes to the symptoms of diseases like Alzheimer's and Dementia. In Kathryn Harrison's book, "*Weeds in Nana's Garden*", she does an amazing job of illustrating the effects of Alzheimer's on a loved one, in a way that anyone can truly understand. Through vivid and colorful illustrations (seriously, there is NO white space in this book. It's absolutely breathtaking.), she tells the story of a granddaughter realizing that beloved Nana is going through some serious changes. "*Weeds in Nana's Garden*" is a real story of hope in the midst of a heartbreaking trial. I pray that you will never need such a resource, but if you're ever stuck trying to show or explain to your children why grandma doesn't

recognize them, or why grandpa seems more forgetful than usual-this is a beautiful tool to use.

"Weeds in Nana's Garden" is a book I questioned buying. Having a disease like this strike our family has resulted in countless hours on the internet looking for answers... It's life consuming and too be honest it only creates more questions and more searching. What 'Weeds in Nana's Garden' has done for me is very simple. It's a wonderful platform to have discussions with my two sons, ages 6 and 9 about what Alzheimer's can do and how it affects people. The gently worded story and colorful art work gives us tons of things to talk about. Both children seemed drawn to the beautiful pictures and my younger son really loved searching for the cat on each page.

A wonderful help for a child/children who are dealing with the loss of a loved one as they once knew them. Children have heightened senses and can feel when something is just not right. What better way than a book written for children in their understanding. Also, an example to show ways of how they can help someone who is battling this debilitating illness. I lost my Father nearly two years ago a couple days before Christmas. I understand firsthand what it is like to see someone fail right before your eyes and how it was difficult for me. An adult. Thank you Kathryn for sharing your family's experience of your Mother's journey with us. I believe it will help many during their journey. Children and adults alike.

Beautiful illustrations and a beautiful story. Dementia and Alzheimer's disease is not an easy subject to explain to children and this author has done a fantastic job of bringing such a complicated concept to a level where a child can begin to understand what is going on when a loved one has dementia. I have taught 2-year-olds up through 2nd graders and I think, while still above the level of 2 year old, I think this could still be helpful to a family that needed to explain this concept to a child that young. Thank you for writing such a wonderful story, at this time I don't need it for me personally, but I am so glad it is out there for families who may need to explain dementia to their children.

Weeds in Nana's Garden offers a simple analogy for children to relate to the devastating diseases of Alzheimer's and dementia. Simple yet powerful, as each page provides natural conversation starters for parents and children. The book shows children "and adults" that it's okay to be scared at times and brave at others; for example, when Nana becomes confused the young girl sings cherished nursery rhymes to connect with her beloved grandmother.

My favorite part, and one that brings tears to my eyes, is when the mother reminds the young girl that like the blooms under the weeds, Nana is still Nana underneath.

Weeds in Nana's Garden is a beautifully illustrated ,heartwarming book!! I was deeply moved by the illustrations and poetic words. The author did an incredible job with such a delicate subject, Alzheimer's and other forms of dementias. I felt the love and caring relationship of the granddaughter towards her grandmother, it touched my heart. a Beautiful Book!-----Lissi Kaplan, author of, " The Power of a Teacup."

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