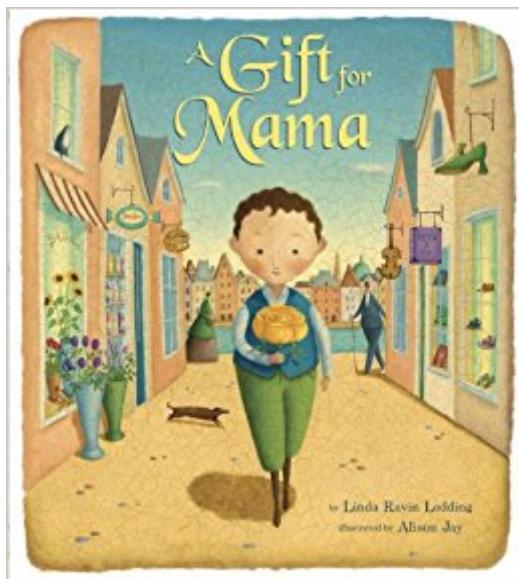


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# A Gift For Mama



## Synopsis

A perfect gift to share any day of the year is this beautiful picture book about a boy searching for a present for his mom! Oskar sets out with a single coin to find the perfect gift for his mother. And he spots it at once: a beautiful yellow rose. But when he meets an artist, Oskar trades the rose for a paintbrush. And when he meets a conductor, he trades the paintbrush for a sheet of music. . . . The bustling streets are full of interesting people and delightful possible presents, and Oskar trades one gift for another, and another, and another! But what he finds by the end of the day is even more precious. Simple kindness is at the heart of this enchanting, gloriously-illustrated tale.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (March 25, 2014)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10.1 x 0.4 x 11.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #527,906 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #346 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe #1200 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values #1304 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

K-Gr 2 In this lovely, circular story set in 19th-century Vienna, Oskar searches for the perfect gift for his mother, armed with a single coin. Each time he acquires a gift, starting with a perfect yellow rose, he meets someone who convinces him to trade it for something else. Finally, the day is over, and he is back where he started. In the concluding paragraph, Lodding states that most of the people Oskar meets are important figures from Viennese history-Gustav Klimt, Felix Salten, Johann Strauss II, and Empress Sisi-and that this is Vienna's story as well as Oskar's. The narrative is well written and satisfying to read aloud. Jay's crackle-glazed paintings are as dreamily

beautiful as ever, masterfully composed, and full of interesting details. Unfortunately, in this case, the soft surrealism of her landscapes works against her revelation that the story is meant to be firmly rooted in the city's history. While the text and illustrations are wonderful in their own right, it is a shame that the historical connections really only exist in the author's note. Whether or not an opportunity was lost, this is a lovely and successful book about optimism, giving, and love.

Purchase without hesitation. •Anna Haase Krueger, Ramsey County Library, MN

The search for the perfect present is a tried-and-true storybook conceit, and it is given an enchanting twist in Lodding's tale, as readers journey through old Vienna along with Oskar, meeting the artists, musicians, writers, and royalty who made the fin de siècle era unique. It all starts with the perfect present for Mama's birthday: a yellow rose that young Oskar is persuaded to trade for a paintbrush. More trades follow, each seemingly more interesting until finally Oskar seems to wind up empty-handed after handing a forlorn girl his final treasure, a box of candied violets given to him by the empress herself. But wait! •truly what goes around comes around when the little girl hands him the rose she was wearing in her hair. Jay's illustrations feature the warmly aged, crackled surface of an ancient painting and the kindly ovoid bodies that have become her trademark. As an introduction to a special time and place, Lodding's unique offering will prove a treat for sensitive, imaginative readers. Grades K-2.

--Karen Cruze

A wonderful book, which totally engrossed my four-year-old grandson, his mother, and me as well! Probably not as well understood for most children under the age of four and some of the language which my daughter and I found to be so euphonious had to be explained to my four-year old grandson. But, the pictures are lovely, the text is touching, and the message makes a listener of any age smile. I highly recommend this book to everyone. If your child is under four....buy the book and save it for later. This one's a complete keeper.

This book IS a gift. A treasure, really. It's one of those rare picture books that perfectly captures the innocence, sweetness, and longings of a child... and, at the same time, is packaged in a tightly-written and wonderful story that is also beautifully illustrated. I loved this book! My 10-year old son, who still loves picture books (much like HIS mama) also loved it. And, trust me, he is picky! He reads 10-20 picture books a week and rarely likes more than one or two of them. I'd highly recommend A Gift for Mama AS a gift-- Mother's Day is coming up and even though this is a picture

book, I think any mama would treasure it!

A sweet story about trying to find the perfect present and gaining good fortune by giving it in return. Perfect story for moms.

I've received around 40 kg of books last month and this one I was waiting for the most! It exceeded my expectations. The style of Alison Jay drawing is unique, the story is so beatiful. Its a perfect book for a mother!

Fun, sweet book. I donated it to a shelter for women and children. Will order a few more to pass out to more shelters

What a charming, delightful book! Love it!

This book was such a disappointment! I did love the pictures as they were beautifully done, but the story leaves much to be desired. Tries way, way too hard to incorporate old Vienna "culture" into a story about a little boy searching for a gift for his mama. I mean the idea is nice, but it was just overdone. I asked for a refund for this item.

This richly-illustrated picture book, written by Linda Ravin Lodding, and featuring the beautiful, crackle-glazed artwork of Alison Jay is a joy to read and behold. The story is perfect for celebrating mothers: a young boy named Oskar wanders around the streets of old Vienna looking for the perfect birthday gift for his beloved Mama. Oskar only has one coin and he finds the most beautiful single rose in full bloom. He is happy, thinking his mother will definitely love his gift, until he encounters a painter who cajoles Oskar into trading his lovely rose for a beautiful horsehair paintbrush. Oskar is at first reluctant but relents when he thinks he can use the brush to paint his mother a beautiful painting. Needless to say, things don't go quite as planned. Oskar keeps meeting people who persuade him to trade his object with another, until finally he has nothing left. What is the poor boy to do? The moral of this sweetly told tale is of course that the best gifts in the world are gifts from the heart. This would make a wonderful story to share on Mother's Day, birthdays, and just about any day!

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