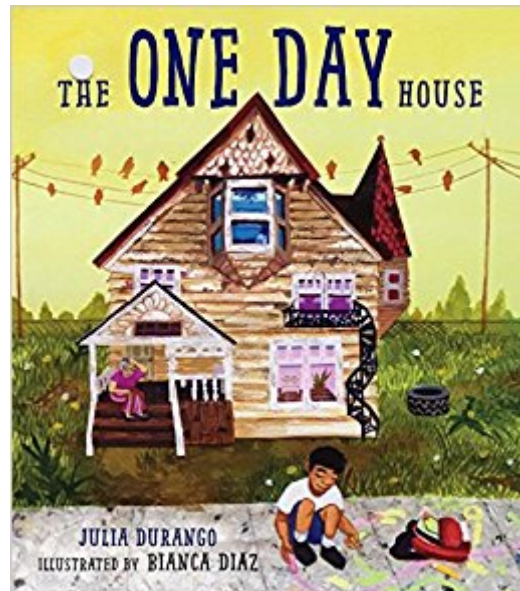




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The One Day House



Synopsis

Wilson dreams of all the ways he can help improve his friend Gigi's house so that she'll be warm, comfortable, and happy. One day, friends and neighbors from all over come to help make Wilson's plans come true. Everyone volunteers to pitch in to make Gigi's house safe, clean, and pretty. Inspired by a friend's volunteerism, author Julia Durango tells a story of community and togetherness, showing that by helping others we help ourselves. Further information about Labor of Love, United Way, and Habitat for Humanity is included at the end of the book.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #98,837 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #1911 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship #3140 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

Young, bronze-skinned Wilson shares with his community and with his elder friend, Gigi, all the ways he wants to improve Gigi's home one day—until "one day" arrives. Before the formal title page, Wilson is seen gazing at a bright pink flier on the window of La Luna Cafe. Opposite this illustration is the flyer's enlargement—"Build Up Neighbors"—entreating readers to "Fix a neighbor's home together!" Wilson has apparently torn off one of the phone-numbered strips at the bottom. The text begins in earnest with Wilson telling Gigi that one day he will paint her house "orange and yellow like the sun." As in each successive conversation between the two, Gigi likes his

idea but also reminds Wilson that his presence in her life is more important than any home repair. In between these sweet litanies, Wilson tells such people as the ice cream man, a passing neighbor, and the local librarian of envisioned improvements. All conversations begin with Wilson's "One day."

The vibrant, mixed-media artwork depicts an established neighborhood of mixed ethnicities. Scenes of neighborhood conversations are interspersed with Wilson's own childlike, colored drawings, embellished by such details as his calculations of how many nails would be needed in a new fence. Art and text together radiate a warm message of community and caring. A labor of love honoring labors of love.

•Kirkus ReviewsParents want to develop kindness and generosity of spirit in their children.

• The One Day House by Julia Durango, illustrated by Bianca Diaz, is a wonderful launching pad to start children on a trajectory of altruism.

• Young Wilson has an elderly friend, Gigi. Wilson notices some things around Gigi's house aren't quite right: The house paint is dull; there isn't a fence for a pet; animals snuggle cozily in the chimney; and the piano is out of tune. Wilson tells Gigi that one day he would like to fix these things for her. Gigi warmly replies that Wilson is what brightens her days, and that he is all the company and warmth she needs. He is what creates the music in her heart. However, Wilson tells everyone what he plans to do "one day. Wonderfully, "one day" arrives with Wilson and the diverse community working together to fulfill Wilson's entire wish list, giving Gigi a fully repaired, bright golden house.

• Vividly illustrated collages (using watercolors, gouache, bright acrylic colored paints, ink, pencils, crayons, markers, cut-out pictures and photo transfers) create the illusion that Wilson created the plans for Gigi's house. The end papers look like homemade paper, with bits of newsprint showing through. All the artwork evokes a homey, happy vibe, like the spirit of helpfulness in Wilson and Gigi's community.

• The final pages offer suggestions of ways young people can get involved in their own neighborhoods, to create "one days" in their own communities.

• BookPageWilson and Gigi are friends and neighbors who take joy in spending time together. However, Wilson has higher aspirations. He wants to fix the parts of Gigi's house that are broken down or worn out. And with the help of a few friends, his dreams come true. The inspiration for this story is an annual event in Eastern LaSalle County, Illinois known as the Labor of Love in which hundreds of volunteers come together to aid the elderly, the disabled, and the needy. And events like this are becoming more common in communities throughout America. With repetitive text and images that juxtapose the actual with Wilson's dreams, this simple story explains why we would want to and inspires us to take action on being a good friend and neighbor. This book pairs well with Last Stop on Market Street, Ordinary

Mary's Extraordinary Deed (with updated illustrations to showcase more diversity), and The House on Dirty-Third Street. Recommended for ages 4 to 7. --Ingram News and Reviews for the Youth Librarian

Julia Durango writes books for kids of all ages, including Under the Mambo Moon, The Second Guard fantasy series (Disney Hyperion) and co-authored with Tracie Zimmer under the name J. D. Vaughn and her debut YA novel, The Leveller (HarperTeen). Julia lives in Ottawa, Illinois. Bianca Diaz is a Mexican American artist and educator living and working in Chicago.

Wilson wishes that one day he will be able to help Gigi in many ways. He says that one day he will paint her house yellow like the sun, but Gigi assures him that he is all the sunshine she needs. Wilson wants to build a fence for her yard, fix her stairs so she can climb them again, fix her piano so it can be played once more. He wants to create a garden for her and fix her roof. There are so many things to fix and Wilson can't do them by himself. Luckily though, Wilson asks for help and the community turns out to help Gigi and have Wilson's wishes for her come true. Inspired by an action day in the community the author lives in, this book shows the power of community to help the elderly and those with disabilities live in safe and functional homes. Details on this sort of community involvement is offered in the Author's Note at the end of the book. The young character in the book discovers the program at the beginning and has to wait several months and seasons for the help to come. There is no quick fix here, it's people coming together to make a difference. The illustrations are rich and bright, showing Wilson's own art as well as depicting the friendship between young and old vividly. Done in watercolor, gouache and acrylic, the art is filled with the bright colors of an urban setting, lit by a sunlit sky. A call to communities to come together, this picture book is inspiring. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

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