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Bowman's " I love you to the stars: When grandma forgets, love remembers" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Bowman, C., Douglas G. (2020). *I love you to the stars: When grandma forgets, love remembers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications. 32 pp. \$16.99. ISBN 0825446473

Written through the eyes of a child, *I Love You to the Stars* is a touching story of a young boy and his relationship with his grandma. When Grandma and her loyal dog, Sunny, move into the spare bedroom of his home, the boy develops a special relationship with her. They put jigsaw puzzles together, read books, and play outdoors. When Grandma tucks him in bed, she shares a little rhyme:

*I love you to Mars
I love you to the stars
I love you always,
wherever you are.*

As the days pass, Grandma begins to change. She gets lost while walking in the neighborhood, puts laundry in the wrong rooms, and cannot remember how to read familiar words. Grandma is taken to the doctor, and the boy learns that she is sick. She has something called dementia, a disease which makes her forget things. When Grandma is moved to a memory care home, he is deeply saddened and asks God to take care of her. While visiting Grandma at her new home, the boy learns to express his love for her in a way that she can understand, such as reading a book or singing her favorite song.

Vividly and warmly illustrated by award-winning artist Robert Sauber, *I Love You to the Stars* is an engaging picture book that demonstrates what a family experiences when a loved one has been diagnosed with dementia. As the authors describe the bond between Grandma and the boy, the readers are tenderly reminded that just as God shows his love for us, we can show love to others. A section called “Talk About It” contains questions for further discussion about dementia and God’s care for us. Highly recommended for all juvenile fiction collections, this resource is essential for any family with a loved one suffering from dementia.

Reviewer

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