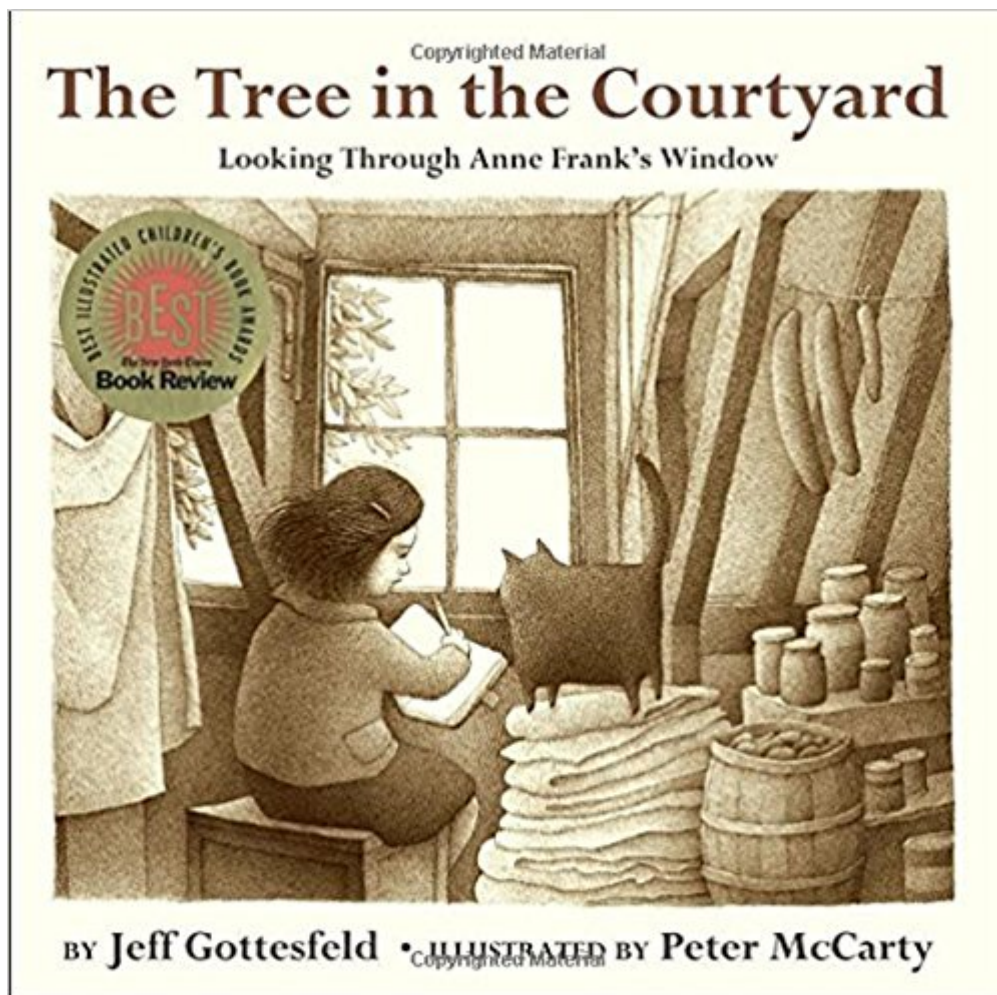




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# The Tree In The Courtyard: Looking Through Anne Frank's Window



## Synopsis

A New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Book  
A New York Public Library Best Book for Kids, 2016  
Told from the perspective of the tree outside Anne Frank's window—and illustrated by a Caldecott Honor artist—this book introduces her story in a gentle and incredibly powerful way to a young audience. The tree in the courtyard was a horse chestnut. Her leaves were green stars; her flowers foaming cones of white and pink. Seagulls flocked to her shade. She spread roots and reached skyward in peace. The tree watched a little girl, who played and laughed and wrote in a diary. When strangers invaded the city and warplanes roared overhead, the tree watched the girl peek out of the curtained window of the annex. It watched as she and her family were taken away—and when her father returned after the war, alone. The tree died the summer Anne Frank would have turned eighty-one, but its seeds and saplings have been planted around the world as a symbol of peace. Its story, and Anne's story, are beautifully told and illustrated in this powerful picture book.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers; 1st Edition edition (March 8, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385753977

ISBN-13: 978-0385753975

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.4 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #423,093 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > European #76 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Holocaust #282 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Europe

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

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Gr 2-4 • A horse chestnut tree in the courtyard next to Anne Frank's secret annex serves as the focal point in this beautifully subtle picture book. Beginning with a quote from Anne's famous diary describing "the bare chestnut tree glistening with dew," the spare text and delicate illustrations create a moving and powerful ode to the tree that gave Anne comfort and hope during the years she and her family hid from the Nazis. Bearing witness to Anne's life in the annex, the tree serves as a fitting surrogate for readers, watching as Anne's story unfolds yet having no power to affect the outcome. Simple phrasing keeps the narrative poignant without becoming overly dramatic or sentimental. Mild anthropomorphizing gives the tree heart. Monochromatic illustrations rendered in brown ink are exquisitely detailed in fine lines and shading, conveying a solemn beauty befitting the book's subject. Additionally, the narrative choice to tell Anne's story through a series of moments deftly captures its pathos and importance, distinguishing this work from similar titles • Jane Kohuth's *Anne Frank's Chestnut Tree* and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso's *Anne Frank and the Remembering Tree*. Details of Anne's arrest and death are presented in a brief yet thorough afterword, as is a list of the American locations where saplings from the chestnut tree have been planted in her honor. VERDICT A noteworthy and highly recommended introduction to a difficult and significant topic. • Teri Markson, Los Angeles Public Library

"Haunting and deeply affecting, this take on Anne Frank's iconic story will be one readers won't easily forget." • Booklist • A starred review "The spare text and delicate illustrations create a moving and powerful ode to the tree that gave Anne comfort and hope during the years she and her family hid from the Nazis. A noteworthy and highly recommended introduction to a difficult and significant topic." • School Library Journal • A starred review

The Tree in the Courtyard *Looking Through Anne Frank's Window* is a glorious book! And I, Carolyn Dee Flores, feel very proud to have been there since the book's inception. Four years ago, early Fall, my friend Jeff Gottesfeld called and read to me almost this exact text over the phone. The tree had just died, he said, and he asked me if I would be willing to put together an illustration to go along with the picture book manuscript for presentation. I said "Of course. I love this." And I worked painstakingly on the painting, knowing how important this book would become, even then. Eventually, Caldecott honor artist Peter McCarty was chosen to illustrate the book. It had taken

almost four years to come to fruition. But nothing could have prepared me for the moment when I actually held the book in my hands. It is a treasure! You have to feel it in your hands to truly understand. The cover, with its raised gold lettering, reminiscent of gold-leaf, is only the beginning. There has never been a tree drawn with as much classic power as Peter McCarty's tree in *The Tree in the Courtyard*. Jeff's words will haunt you - about the friendship between a young girl and a tree, in the midst of one of the most horrific tragedies the world has ever known. This book is what picture books were meant to be!

This is a glorious book, perfectly done. It tells of a horrifying time in history with grace and compassion and clarity and brings to light an element of the Anne Frank story I had never heard before. The author's note alone is moving and fascinating. This book stands alone well but also would tie in to Holocaust curriculum for any age.

This book is beautiful! It is everything I love about picture books. Simple--yet so profound. It will scrape your soul! Jeff took a very challenging subject and crafted it in a remarkable way. Every child can relate to this story AND so can every adult. I believe this will be an award winning book and one that survives the ages.

Ordered it last Hanukkah and still rereading. Illustrations are splendid and the prose is captivating. Deals with touchy topic in an artful manner.

A great introduction to this great story. The writer did a fantastic job in balancing the story for the young ages. It is touching and hopeful. It is great for all ages including adults. This is definitely one of the best illustration books this year. I'm so glad that I found it and will cherish it many years to come.

excellent and beautifully illustrated

Amazing book!

What an emotional roller coaster. Within the space of a few pages, I was devastated, amazed, crushed, and uplifted. Jeff Gottesfeld has done an incredible job telling a story that would seem nearly impossible to tell, especially to a target audience of young people. Behind the tragedy we are

so familiar with lies a tale of the human spirit and miracles. The prose is deft, and nearly perfect as it weaves between tree and person. This review is a bit garbled. I just read the book, and I'm still somewhat in it's thrall. I'm sure my thoughts will be clearer in a while, but I couldn't wait to praise it.

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