

Through the Rug 2: Follow That Dog

Jill Ammon Vanderwood

Reviewed by: Vivien Lee, 16

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Through the Rug 2: Follow That Dog, by Jill Ammon Vanderwood, invites the reader into the magical world of Wishville where even the most bizarre wishes are granted. Grandma Emma Martin and Alyssa continue their journey from the first book in the series. When their dog, Domino fall through a rug and enter Wishville, Alyssa and her grandmother follow suit for another adventure of random fun. They attend Domino's wedding to a pampered poodle, have a skydiving adventure in a bubble, and invent the new species of birds. The two pairs travel from Thespian Island to central park, where they wish for a money-making tree. Alyssa and her grandmother enjoy their last stop, Pageant Island; they both contend for their own category and discover that staying true to themselves is the most attractive part of life.

Through the Rug 2 seems like a collection of nonsense events mixed in together. Vanderwood's ability to make the littlest fantasy sound like an amazing miracle is charming for young readers. However, older readers may consider its optimistic tone as unrealistic and tedious. This book is simply a turning wheel for a young child's imagination; many activities could be done while reading this book, like a brainstorming of what they would do if they lived in Wishville. It makes an excellent transition book, because it challenges a young mind to create images in their own mind, and yet there are always occasional pictures which can assist their thinking process. The recommended reading group is ages 5 to 10, with content and difficulty in mind.