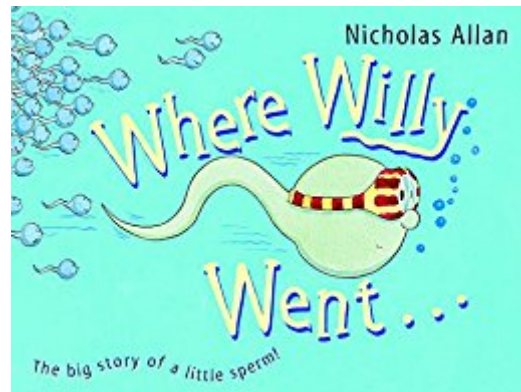


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# Where Willy Went



## Synopsis

Never before have the facts of life been presented in such an accessible "or novel" way. Our hero is Willy, a little sperm who lives inside Mr. Browne with 300 million friends. Every day Willy practices for the Great Swimming Race. And when the day arrives, he swims faster than his 300 million friends to win the prize "a marvelous egg. Then something wonderful happens, and eventually Mr. and Mrs. Browne have a baby girl who has the same winning smile as Willy and who grows up to be a great swimmer. Hilariously funny, warm, and endearing, this is a picture book that appeals on different levels to both children and grown-ups. "Fresh, original, and imaginative. . . . Allan's achievement is in couching fascinating facts within the construct of a gentle, direct narrative. A little knowledge is a wonderful thing, and as the rest of the facts of life fall into place, Allan's readers will look back on this book with a mixture of fondness and wry amusement." "The Guardian (UK)

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Under normal circumstances I am an extraordinarily poised and respectable person. I do not chew with my mouth open. I do not pick my nose in public. And if someone says "bless you" when I sneeze I offer the obligatory "thank you" in response. All that went out the window the minute I saw

the cover for "Where Willy Went". I stared. Then I screwed up my eyes and tried as hard as I possibly could to make sense of the image. A pollywog in goggles? A flagellum in some kind of a race? My eyes trailed downwards to the byline, "The big story of a little sperm" and I let out a truly unladylike guffaw right there in the middle of the bookstore. Oh, that is rich, I thought. That is an example of a book that just does not care if ban-crazy parents like it or hate it. It's doing its own thing and devil take the hindmost. You have to respect its plucky can-do attitude. Whether you appreciate its writing is another story. "Willy was a little sperm". If you can get past that sentence then you're doing well. Living contentedly in Mr. Browne, Willy was an excellent swimmer. Alongside every other sperm he longed to win The Great Swimming Race. He practiced constantly in the hope of beating the 300 million competitors. When the Race begins (off-screen and tastefully) Willy wins hands-down and burrows into the egg. The egg becomes a babe, the babe is born and named Edna (it's anyone's guess as to why), and, like Willy, Edna has no head for numbers, "but she was VERY good at swimming". One prays that kids will not then immediately believe that she too will be practicing for a similar Great Swimming Race anytime soon. What it all boils down to is what you want out of your "how are babies born" picture books.

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