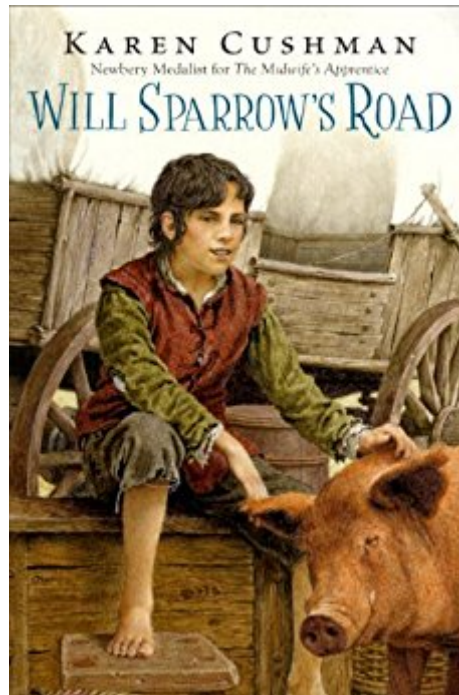




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Will Sparrow's Road



Synopsis

In his thirteenth year, Will Sparrow, liar and thief, becomes a runaway. On the road, he encounters a series of con artists—a pickpocket, a tooth puller, a pig trainer, a conjurer—and learns that others are more adept than he at lying and thieving. Then he reluctantly joins a traveling troupe of "oddities," including a dwarf and a cat-faced girl, holding himself apart from the "monsters" and resolving to be on guard against further deceptions. At last Will is forced to understand that appearances are misleading and that he has been his own worst deceiver. The rowdy world of market fairs in Elizabethan England is the colorful backdrop for Newbery medalist Cushman's new comic masterpiece. This ebook includes a sample chapter of THE MIDWIFE'S APPRENTICE.

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Customer Reviews

There are no breaks in life for Will Sparrow. But, when his father sells him to an innkeeper who plans to send him to the city to be a chimney sweep, he runs away and begins a journey that helps

him find himself. All of the quirky characters he meets along the way help him grow into a boy who is nothing like the thief and liar that plagues his initial identity.

I enjoyed this coming of age story. I loved how Will came to see the worth of others, but his own as well.

Delightful story about a band of misfits in Elizabethan England who create their own unconventional family. I enjoyed learning about this period of history and even bought the book for my 14-year-old nephew when I finished.

Very good, very engaging, realistic and educational book for young readers that their parents can enjoy too. I read this with my eight-year-old and we both loved it. Good, solid story-telling combined with meticulous period detail. Highly recommended.

Once again, Karen Cushman is the #1 at her craft. Made me feel like I lived in midieval times with Will. The author is the master of characterization and brings the hopes and dreams of her characters to life.

Great book, really enjoyable, a quick read good for all ages. I would recommend this for anyone that enjoys reading

Circus stories seem to be big now. Whether they take place in space, the great depression, or in this case are just side shows at street fairs in Elizabethan England. Before we get to that street fair however we obviously need a runaway. Will Sparrow has every reason to run away and join the circus. His mother has left him, his father has sold him for drink, the innkeeper he's been sold to is about to re-sell him into a more dangerous job. On the road young Will learns that perhaps stealing food and clothing and lying about it hasn't truly prepared him for the people who have been out in the big cruel world even longer than he has. As people teach him hard life lessons, he tells himself that he will actually learn from them and truly start caring only about himself and his empty belly from then on. No more mister nice guy. Enter the circus. A steady job. Food in his belly every night. Perhaps he'll even get to know some people. Like the angry dwarf who seems to be drinking away his wages. The girl who is -- well what is she? Half cat? The boss who makes sure he always has food. Right when Will is sure he finally has everything figured out, maybe he doesn't...It is not the

most unique story, but still a very well written one. I debated between 4 and 5 stars, in the end it is missing some character development and goes way too far to try to convince us what a liar and a thief Will is by just using those two words, never mind that he is always doing it for the most desperate of reasons. Should be a safe book for kids of all ages. There is the talk of selling kids, the tough times on the street, a slap or two, but honestly nothing truly graphic.

I picked this one so my boys would have something new to read and something for the three of us to talk about. It is an interesting tale and while it has been awhile since I have read a book geared towards the younger set, it is well-written and thought-provoking. It has a moral plot to it and it does give kids a taste of Elizabethan history. Overall, it is a book for everyone to enjoy. Will Sparrow is a young boy, down on his luck. Abandoned by his mother, sold to the innkeeper by his father for a couple of cups of ale, Will is down in the world. Feeling unloved and unwanted, he decided that he is to only trust himself. He runs away from the innkeeper after an infraction, where the innkeeper is threatening to sell him to become a chimney sweep, which means an early death for Will. He encounters people on the way, hungry and starved for company, only to be lied to and cheated. He then joins a traveling troupe of oddities. He discovers what the world really is like ... and whether or not they are what they seem to be. It is a good story and I am interested in seeing what my twins will say about this book. I hope it is not too juvenile for their reading tastes, and it will whet their appetite for more historical tidbits. This is definitely a children's story, not quite up in the level of YA books. I still think that kids will enjoy this, especially readers graduating from the easy-to-read novels to this level of reading, which is the next step up, not quite the advanced reader's level. 10/5/12

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