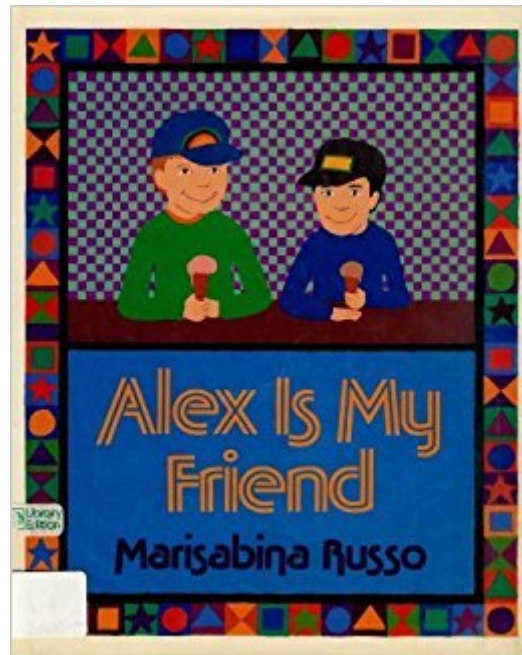




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# Alex Is My Friend



## Synopsis

Even though Alex is a dwarf and sometimes has to use a wheelchair because of the operation he had on his back, his friend does not mind because they still have good times together.

## Book Information

Age Range: 5 and up

Lexile Measure: AD430L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 1 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow; 1st edition (March 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0688104185

ISBN-13: 978-0688104184

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8.2 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,252,150 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Physical Disabilities #39198 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3-- Ben, who narrates, tells readers that he and Alex have been friends ever since they were little. But when Ben was five, he remembers, he noticed he was larger than Alex, who was six. At that time, his mother explained that although Alex would get older and continue to learn, his body would always grow slowly because that was how he was born. Ben sees Alex through a long recuperation after surgery, and helps with the wheelchair when the smaller boy returns to school. As with *Where Is Ben* (1990) and *The Line-up Book*, (1986, both Greenwillow), Russo has drawn her appealing story from an actual experience of her son. The portrayal of Alex is realistic, forthright, and sensitive--relevant to nearly any physical deviation a youngster might encounter and question. The full-color, framed gouache paintings alternate with the text, which is bordered with miniature illustrations, complementing and extending the story. A well-done presentation of dwarfism, without using the actual word. --Virginia Opocensky, formerly at Lincoln City Libraries, NECopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From the time Ben is coming in a stroller to the park where they first meet, Alex and Ben are close

friends. At five, Ben notices that he's getting much taller than Alex, and Mama explains that Alex will always be unusually small: "It is how he was born." Later, after his special back operation, Alex sometimes needs a wheelchair; at the story's end, Ben is a head taller and "can run faster than Alex, but [Alex] still tells funnier jokes." Russo's attractive illustrative style-- expressive, simply delineated faces and flat, generalized forms in intense, subtly modulated colors--reflect the text's cheerfully sensible approach to its serious theme. (Picture book. 3-7) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Alex is my friend and always will be. I've known Alex and his family forever. This is a great book in it shows that despite what is different doesn't mean you can't be friends. Alex and I shared the same type of dwarfism as well as had the same doctor! What a wonderful book for kids of all ages! Though Alex passed away 5 years ago, he was truly as he was in the book - my friend.

I really enjoyed this story. It was about how two boys met around toddler stage and became the best of friends. One boy noticed that although he was younger than his friend by a year, he was so much bigger and taller than him. Despite the physical differences and disabilities they formed, a true bond of friendship developed based on care and respect. I loved the illustrations and practically felt as if I was there when they first met. I am so glad I came across this book at the library.

The book was excellent and very thought provoking for my 4 year old i would recommend it highly as a way to teach your child to be forgiving and understanding of others who are less fortunate

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