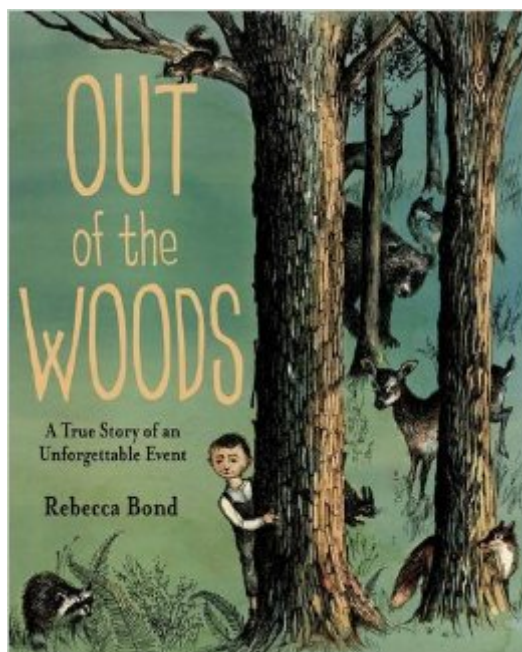


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# Out Of The Woods: A True Story Of An Unforgettable Event



## Synopsis

Antonio Willie Giroux lived in a hotel his mother ran on the edge of a lake. He loved to explore the woods and look for animals, but they always remained hidden away. One hot, dry summer, when Antonio was almost five, disaster struck: a fire rushed through the forest. Everyone ran to the lake-the only safe place in town-and stood knee-deep in water as they watched the fire. Then, slowly, animals emerged from their forest home and joined the people in the water. Miraculously, the hotel did not burn down, and the animals rebuilt their homes in the forest-but Antonio never forgot the time when he watched the distance between people and animals disappear.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 5 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

## Customer Reviews

We LOVED this book!!!! The story is fascinating and the illustrations are gorgeous. It makes it even more special that it is a true story. HIGHLY recommend this book! My son is 5 and we are very outdoorsy....

Little Antonio lived in the Gowganda Hotel that his mother ran in Ontario, Canada. He liked to play in the nearby woods by the lake and was always on the lookout for animals, but they were hard to find. But one day, something happened that changed everything --- the woods caught on fire. The flames quickly spread to the hotel, and all of the patrons and staff members ran towards the lake to

escape. All of the animals ran into the lake too, and together, everyone stood in the water, watching the flames. When the fire burned out, the people went back to the hotel and the animals crept back to what was left of the forest. *OUT OF THE WOODS: A True Story of an Unforgettable Event*, shares this tale, which happened to author/illustrator Rebecca Bond's grandfather, Antonio Willie Giroux. I enjoyed the story, and think it's great that Bond was able to preserve the past by publishing it for a greater audience. Perhaps we'll see more of his adventures in print? Bond also created the illustrations, which are detailed and done in muted colors. They work well with the text. My father told me many stories, and I wish I had written them down or recorded them in some manner; it would have been wonderful to share them with the world! Reviewed by Christine M. Irvin

This was a great story of an event that happened to the author's grandfather. The sepia-toned illustrations pull a person back in time to the era when the event happened. It is a gentle book with descriptive language that further describes the illustrations. If you have a child who loves the outdoors and enjoys a little history, they will find this book very interesting. It is interesting for the adults too. Be sure to read the author's notes in the back of the book too.

Imagine seeing wolves, bears, bobcats and townsfolk all standing in a lake, watching as a fire consumes the forest around them. Imagine all the forest animals converging on a lake, while the individuals who resided in a nearby town stand, some up to their knees, in that same lake as a fire crackles all around them. They stood close enough to touch each other as the steam rises off the animal's fur yet no one stirs. The air black and thick, it was hard to tell day from night. The attendees stand watching and waiting, the noise of the beast is fierce. The sky began to lighten and the creatures began to slowly make their way back into what is left of their homes. What a devastating, yet wonderful scene has just been played out. This is a true event; this story has been passed down throughout the generations. What a wonderful bedtime story, this whole book of Antonio and his life in 1914, when he was only five years old. *Out of the Woods* by Rebecca Bond was a wonderful read. As his mother ran the hotel in Gowganda, Antonio became a part of the hotel. The workers became his friends, the lives that the guests lived intrigued him and the world outside his door held lots of adventures. The illustrations were done wonderfully, casting a gloomy picture as things started to deteriorate around the lake. I loved the colors and the details of the characters and the animals. Definitely a book to check out.

Little Antonio lived in the Gowganda Hotel that his mother ran in Ontario, Canada. He liked to play in

the nearby woods by the lake and was always on the lookout for animals, but they were hard to find. But one day, something happened that changed everything --- the woods caught on fire. The flames quickly spread to the hotel, and all of the patrons and staff members ran towards the lake to escape. All of the animals ran into the lake too, and together, everyone stood in the water, watching the flames. When the fire burned out, the people went back to the hotel and the animals crept back to what was left of the forest. **OUT OF THE WOODS: A True Story of an Unforgettable Event**, shares this tale, which happened to author/illustrator Rebecca Bond's grandfather, Antonio Willie Giroux. I enjoyed the story, and think it's great that Bond was able to preserve the past by publishing it for a greater audience. Perhaps we'll see more of his adventures in print? Bond also created the illustrations, which are detailed and done in muted colors. They work well with the text. My father told me many stories, and I wish I had written them down or recorded them in some manner; it would have been wonderful to share them with the world! Reviewed by Christine M. Irvin

**Summary:** Young Antonio lives in the hotel his mother runs in 1914 Canada. He loves helping the different workers there and exploring the rooms on the second and third floors. One day, when Antonio is almost five, a man on the third floor spots smoke in the woods. Before long, the hotel is surrounded by fire, and all the inhabitants have to wade into the lake. As the fire closes in, wolves, moose, porcupine, bears, and other forest inhabitants join the humans in the lake. People and animals stand together until the fire passes by. The animals return to the forest, and the people go back to the hotel, which miraculously survived the blaze. An author's note shows a picture of the real Antonio, the author's grandfather, and tells how the story of the forest fire was passed down in her family. Grades 1-4. **Pros:** A good mentor text for memoir writing. Kids will be fascinated by the forest fire and the gathering of all the animals. The beautiful illustrations look like old-time photographs. **Cons:** The old-fashioned cover is not particularly eye-catching. Kids might have to be led to this book.

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