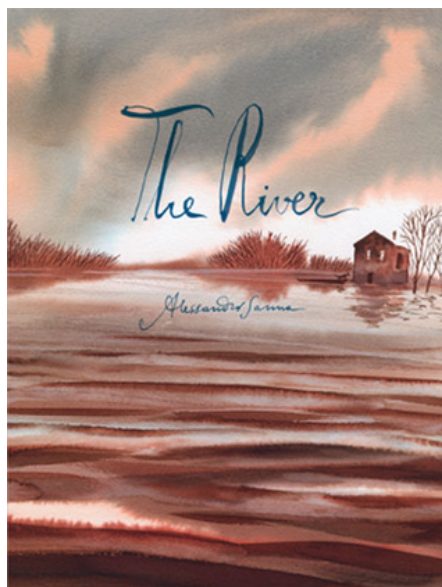




The River

Alessandro Sanna , Michael Reynolds (Translator)

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Surprising, original, and gorgeous, *The River* is a book about the seasons and the different kinds of experiences and stories that each season brings. Consisting almost entirely of images, *The River* presents each of the four seasons as its own chapter and story. A few sentences at the start of each chapter set the stage and provide clues for following each story. Beginning in autumn and ending in summer, *The River* is about our connection to place, as well as about the connections between geography, setting, and the stories we tell. *The River* is also about the flow of time, which flows like the river, and carries us.

Alessandro Sanna and his work are renowned throughout Italy and this book, which will fascinate young and old alike, demonstrates why.

The River Details

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ISBN : 9781592701490

Author : Alessandro Sanna , Michael Reynolds (Translator)

Format : Hardcover 110 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Graphic Novels, Art, Childrens, Picture Books, Fiction, Comics

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From Reader Review The River for online ebook

Theresa says

Beautiful!!!

V. says

Beautiful and poetic. I love it. (Landscapes! Watercolours! Skies! What could possibly be better?)

Sam says

This is a beautiful book based on the changes along a river over the course of a year starting in autumn and ending in the summer. The author doesn't use any words or monologue and simply allows the reader (viewer?) to formulate the story from the artwork itself. Speaking of which, the artwork is stunning and captures the feel of the river and the inhabitants who live on and beside the river, making the need for words mute.

Jillian Heise says

This book is made of stunningly gorgeous illustrations, but I just didn't quite get the story. It follows the Po River (in Italy) through the four seasons and different things that happen, but I was thrown off by some of the elements that were happening. I was entranced by the beauty and peacefulness evoked by the artwork, and turned the pages just to soak up more of it. There were several frames that I would love to blow up on canvas to decorate my home, but as a whole story it isn't something I would add to my classroom library.

Jim Shaner says

This graphic novel was a nice collection of art, a series of watercolor paintings that, in sequence, tell many stories along the river. The book takes the reader through a range of emotions in the countryside of northern Italy; all the while fostering appreciation for the author's eye, as Sanna uses brilliant color to enlighten. An enjoyable trek, guided by a talented illustrator.

Nelliamoci says

Viaggiare, spesso, è anche tornare e vedere lo stesso luogo a intervalli regolari, studiando ogni minimo cambiamento, mese dopo mese, un po' come Alessandro Sanna in Fiume Lento – Un Viaggio lungo il Po, un albo grande e immersivo, senza parole, dove gli acquarelli giocano a dipingere cieli e paesaggi nuovi che si alternano sotto le stelle di stagioni che non possono che continuare a tornare.

<https://justanotherpoint.wordpress.co...>

Kate says

Absolutely gorgeous. I want to cover my walls with his artwork. I think this will probably find more of an audience with adults than children.

Rachel says

A vibrant portrait of life, both in the individual experience, and in our connection to the larger world! The river is the source, the beginning of every journey. Those that inhabit its banks live according to its whims, for its mood swings from violent to benevolent depending on the season. Each section is dedicated to a part of the year, with a story that is centralized around it.

The artist prepares us for his watercolour visions by explaining his mindset and inspiration in a brief poem. His mastery with colour gives such depth that the soul of every scene is laid bare. Each page brims with unimaginable hues that describe the tone better than any words. First, the time of floods, Autumn in all its variety. Next, barren Winter descends, as colour slowly bleaches out. A dramatic shift occurs as Spring arrives. The sun paints the sky in wondrous hues, as everyone celebrates the exuberance of youth. Spring's magical display becomes Summer's set of extremes. This final proclamation of life in all its glory, comes in the form of a magnificent tiger, now free, and the man who is inspired by him.

Each page contains four borderless, rectangular panels. The artist utilizes the "horizontal" to the fullest with his lines of people, plants, or animals. Not only does this display the interconnectedness between all, but it pulls the eye along with the story's movement. Like the river, life flows ever onwards. To fully enjoy this title, "read" it slowly. Its art-driven narrative will submerge you in the sensations of a breathtaking world.

Calista says

A book of art with a short paragraph setting up the pictures for each season. There are 4 parts. Each season is about the life of the River Po in Italian and what it's like to live on this river.

This isn't so much a story as it is a work of art. The artwork is gorgeous and beautiful. He captures the stunning beauty of the river in panels per page.

If you want to study something beautiful, this is a good place to come to.

Heather says

Beautiful

Kaitlin says

I picked this up today after having seen it a few times in my local graphic novel shop and I have to say it's magnificent. This is a translated story told nearly entirely through imagery which details the changes of season for one town near to the river. The story is divided into 4 sections, each one representative of a season, and they all start with one or two sentences talking about what the change in season brings. We then go entirely to pictures for the actual stories and we get to follow tiny silhouetted characters against stunning backdrops as they show us samples of their lives by the River.

This was truly so beautiful, and I have to say that the elements of watercolour and ink were blended to give an expert appeal, be able to show soft light shifts, and make the reflection of the river stand out too. The command that Alessandro Sanna clearly has over his medium is incredible, and as an artist myself I admire his genuine talent for blending and composition which comes through splendidly.

The stories themselves are fairly simple but if you look closely you'll spot small creatures and birds appearing near to the river-edge too. These animals really are part of the spirit of the river and seeing their comings and goings was also wonderful.

Finally I want to say that there are two seasons within this where the colour scheme worked particularly beautifully for my own tastes and that is Autumn and Winter. Whilst I still loved the tones of Spring and Summer I felt that the darker tones of these two were more in line with what I like. However, I think my favourite narrative was Spring as it follows a story of a carnival and two young lovers.

Overall an excellent and beautiful read, 4*s and I would highly recommend if you appreciate artwork.

KC says

This is an exception piece of art discovering the changing seasons along the Po River in Italy. Simply stunning.

David Schaafsma says

Alessandro Sanna is the award-winning painter and illustrator of more than 40 books, and this is the first one produced in English. There's only four poems one for each season, and many watercolor paintings for each season. Gorgeous paintings, lovingly reproduced. It's not really a children's book, it's really an "all ages" book, but gets put in the children's section because it's an illustrated book. Sanna's watercolors depict the area where he lives near the Po River in the lowlands of northeastern Italy. As he says in his afterword, "I paint like a blind man, not wasting time with details but rather searching for the living impulse. To paint the river I had to become the river." And: "I have devoted years to this journey, cultivating shreds of what I have seen, searching endlessly through time for buried marvels and artifacts. Four seasons and four delicate stories run slowly along the banks of the river. This is my vision of life on the Po." Gorgeous, affecting book. The threads of the stories of which he speaks may not be that obvious to younger readers, but as he says, it's about the living impulse of what we see.

Katherine Cowley says

This book was shelved as a graphic novel, but to me it was actually a ballet of paintings about a river, told through the lens of four seasons. It's organized by season, and has a bit of a story for each season, which is told in several sentences at the start of each chapter, just as you might have a short plot description in a ballet program. The art is stimulating and beautiful, and I'm so glad I stumbled across this work by an Italian artist.

Dolly says

Gorgeous watercolor scenes tell four tales of the seasons.

The poems express changing emotions as well as environmental conditions, and the small vistas depict actions of a silhouetted community along with a quiet desperation.

I liked this book, but I did not really understand what message the author was trying to convey.

Perhaps the words were lost somewhat in the poems' translations, or perhaps given more time to pore over the images, I would have comprehended more of the meaning.

But with a quick reading, I felt as if I missed something. I liked it, but could not love it.
