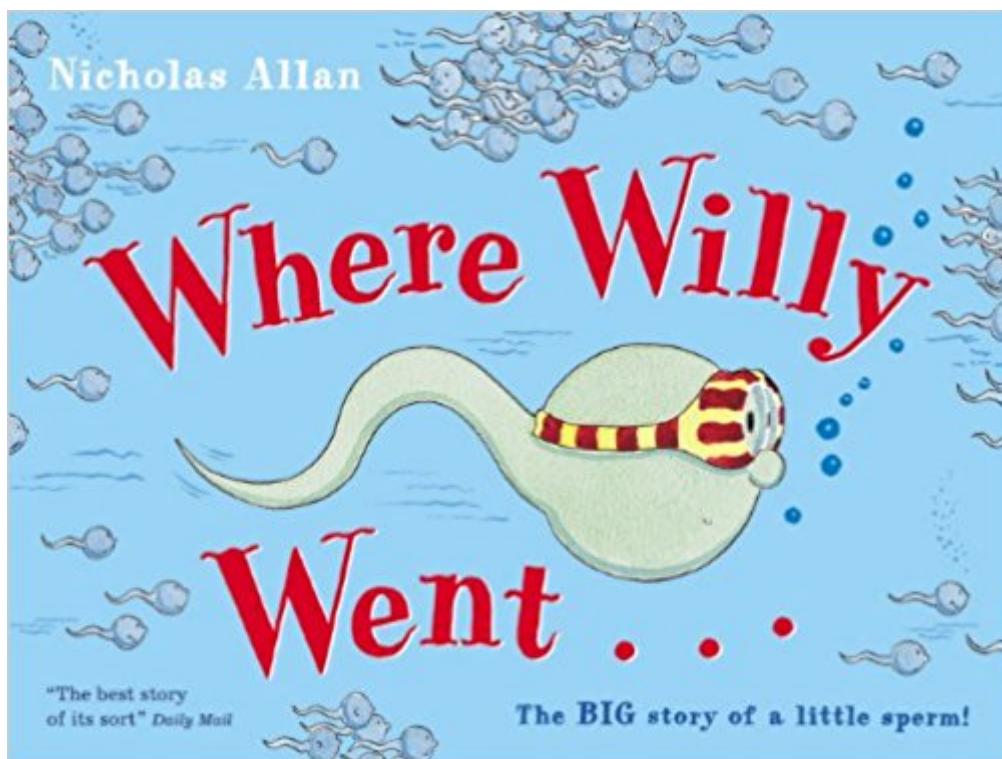


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# Where Willy Went...: The Big Story Of A Little Sperm!



## **Synopsis**

Hilariously funny, warm, endearing and totally non-threatening - this small masterpiece from Nicholas Allan presents the facts of life to young children in a unique but totally accessible way. A godsend for any parent faced with awkward questions.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

PreSchool-Grade 2  
Willy is not good at math but excels at swimming. He and his nemesis, Butch, practice every day for the Great Swimming Race. Finally, armed with goggles, a number, and two maps, he and 300 million other competitors swim madly for the prize—the egg inside Mrs. Browne. Willy is a sperm. All his practicing pays off and he victoriously burrows into the "lovely and soft" egg, which grows and grows in Mrs. Browne's tummy until it becomes a baby girl. But "Where had little Willy gone? Who knows?" However, when little Edna is old enough to start school, she isn't very good at math but she IS very good at swimming. This breezy and amusing romp may not resolve those pesky questions about reproduction but it certainly lends personality to the process of fertilization. The double-entendre title is indicative of the cheeky and humorous text, which is lively, well paced, and essentially accurate. The line and watercolor illustrations perfectly suit the irreverent tone and include a lift-the-flap expanded page and a "find Waldo"-style spread. Both sperm and humans are endearingly expressive. As to the science, an unclothed Mr. and Mrs. Browne are anatomically correct but the racing map of Mrs. Browne's reproductive system is confusingly vague. Nonetheless, adult readers will be thoroughly entertained and children will be

charmed if not completely informed. While a relatively innocuous and engaging piece of sex ed, this title could be a potentially provocative addition to picture-book collections. —Carol Ann Wilson, formerly at Westfield Memorial Library, NJ --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

PreS-Gr. 1. Having already published provocative works such as *The Queen's Knickers* (1993) and *Cinderella's Bum* (2002) in England, Allan delivers some facts of life (and a lot of smirking silliness) in this picture book about an anthropomorphic sperm cell. Rosy-cheeked Willy is determined to be the first to reach the "lovely and soft" interior of an egg, located in the murkily mapped recesses of Mrs. Browne's abdomen. Where Willy went is clear; how he got there is less so, as Mr and Mrs. Browne's physical union occurs discretely beneath the bedclothes. Children not long from the womb themselves won't glean many biological truths from the whimsical cartoon artwork (Allan's swimmers wear goggles and numbers), and Willy's permanent disappearance is disturbing in the context of a story that presents spermatazoa as characters, not gametes. Worldly older siblings and adults are likely to be Allan's most responsive audience, but many under-five readers may still enjoy the sojourn to a world of endearing, exotic tadpole creatures. Jennifer MattsonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I got this book to start introducing the idea of sex to my six- and seven-year-old children. They love this book. They've both re-read it several times and talk about the concepts within. Some of the diagrams are simplified for the intended audience (not expecting Gray's Anatomy), but it was adequate enough to satisfy my daughter's piquing curiosity about how bodies are different and my son's curiosity about exactly how a man's penis contributes to making a baby. But this book isn't the first and last conversation you should have with your kids about the topic, either. We're using it as a launching point, to put the seed into their minds (bad pun) that this happens and this is where they came from. And they love discussing whether they were Willy, if they are better at swimming or at sums, etc. They'll ask more detailed questions as time passes (and they already have). But I can't stress enough how enjoyable this book was for both my kids and me and I can't imagine a better or easier way to start this conversation.

I work as a counselor, and often times meet with young teens/tweens and/or cognitively impaired young folks. This book is very colorful, not raunchy at all, and still puts a smile on your face, all while educating the reader about the basic functions of reproduction. Helping a young person understand

why they get physically aroused can sometimes be awkward, but having this book around as a tool sure helps in those difficult cases. The story line itself is actually rather funny as well, so everyone can laugh, and not feel tense when reading the book. My 9 year old daughter found the book on the table when I got it home and went through it. She gave me a funny look, and asked me what it was, after she had read it. I snickered, but explained it to her, and now she is much more comfortable with the entire topic. I didn't intent for my 9 year old to see it, but I believe she handled it rather well. Maybe that can help you decide whether or not your child is at the appropriate age for sexual education. If nothing else, it's a fun story!

Very cute and not clinical

I absolutely LOVE this book! It's hilarious and informative. The perfect combination! I happily read it to my 1 1/2 year old, we both wanted to read it again!

A friend introduced me to this book and we absolutely love it. It's a cute, honest and truthful story without being graphic about the origins of a baby. My 6yo loves telling her friends about how awesome Willy is. She really likes that there are two treasure maps provided before he races, one for Mr. Brown and one for Mrs. Brown. We recommend this book all the time.

Great book! Funny educational and heartwarming :)

Great for kids!

this is simply written with humour and give good brief perspective of the actual well done well done

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