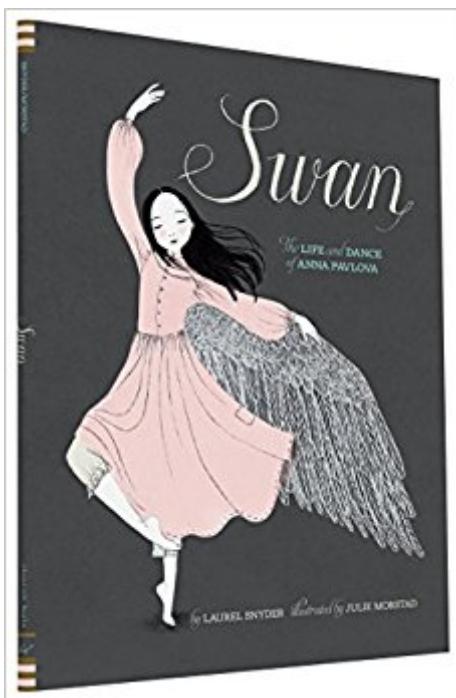


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# Swan: The Life And Dance Of Anna Pavlova



## Synopsis

"Spare, poetic words sit as lightly as snowflakes."--Wall Street Journal"An enchanting glimpse of a dancer whose name has come to be synonymous with her most famous role."--School Library Journal, starred reviewOne night, young Anna's mother takes her to the ballet, and everything is changed. So begins the journey of a girl who will one day grow up to be the most famous prima ballerina of all time, inspiring legions of dancers after her: the brave, the generous, the transcendently gifted Anna Pavlova. *Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova* is a heartbreakingly beautiful picture book biography perfect for aspiring ballerinas of all ages.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD380L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 52 pages

Publisher: Chronicle Books (August 18, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1452118906

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Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.5 x 12.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #132,843 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Performing Arts #107 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance #170 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Women

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Gr 1-4 •This tall, graceful picture book captures the artistic spirit, if not the entire biography, of one of the world's prima ballerinas. Pavlova's humble beginnings and early life in 19th-century tsarist Russia are merely hinted at, though spelled out more fully in an appended author's note. The spare, lyrical text instead offers imagery that is more poetic than concrete. For example, when the curtain rises on Pavlova: "She steps onto the stage alone/and sprouts white wings, a swan./She weaves the notes, the very air/into a story/Anna is a bird in flight,/a whim of wind and water./Quiet feathers in a big loud world./Anna is the swan." Morstad's

artwork—done in ink, gouache, graphite, pencil, and crayon—is stylized and understated, with backdrops that suggest stage sets more than landscapes or domestic scenes. On nearly every page, the lithe and lovely figure of Pavlova appears, usually in motion, always the embodiment of beauty and grace. Even her illness and death are presented in a dramatic, theatrical manner—fitting somehow for someone who lived and breathed the stage. VERDICT An enchanting glimpse of a dancer whose name has come to be synonymous with her most famous role. —Luann Toth, School Library Journal

"In her day, Pavlova traveled the world to bring ballet to new audiences, and today this inspiring entry point brings her to new, even aspiring fans." -San Francisco Chronicle" With beautiful, graceful illustrations and poetic text, this book captures the spirit and charm of one of history's prima ballerinas."--Parents PressCool Mom Picks' 10 Most Empowering Books for Girls"Young ballet lovers will be smitten with the story."--Kirkus Reviews"The words feel like a poem, and the artwork is outstanding. It is a seriously beautiful book."--Design Mom"Exquisite."-The Horn Book Magazine"Elgantly captures the meaning of Anna Pavlova's extraordinary life...inspiring."--The San Francisco Chronicle"Captures Pavlova's essence beautifully."-Booklist"As graceful in both visual and written line as the dancer it portrays, it is unrelenting in its depiction of work, inspiration and generosity."--Esme Codell, The Planet Esme Plan"An enchanting glimpse of a dancer whose name has come to be synonymous with her most famous role."--School Library Journal, starred review"A tender, delicate recounting."-Publishers Weekly"A masterpiece."--How Does She?

This was a delightful book about Anna Pavlova, and her contribution to ballet reaching all kinds of people around the world. The illustrations were gorgeous, and the storyline was appropriate for its audience.

In this age of information overload, I think it's extremely difficult to write a piece that's deeply moving, but Laurel Snyder achieves exactly that in this hauntingly beautiful book. Snyder takes a rather sophisticated approach to Pavlova's life story, but thanks to the spectacular illustrations, I still think the book will resonate with little children. I'd also highly recommend it for women like me, who secretly long to don a pair of toe shoes and twirl onto a stage. Any balletomane would be delighted to receive it for the holidays!

A beautiful book that every girly little girl must own. My baby girl can't read yet but I decided to add it

to her book collection. I do not regret it. Not only does it look beautiful on the shelf but it is a nice story as well.

This is picture book is stunning. The ending brought tears to my eyes. I am looking forward to sharing it with my children and students.

Outstanding story of passion. Extremely well written and easy to read for all ages.

My grand daughter loved it

adults and children love this story. A story of life to the full. Very nicely done.

Stunning. From artwork to the writing. A must buy.

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