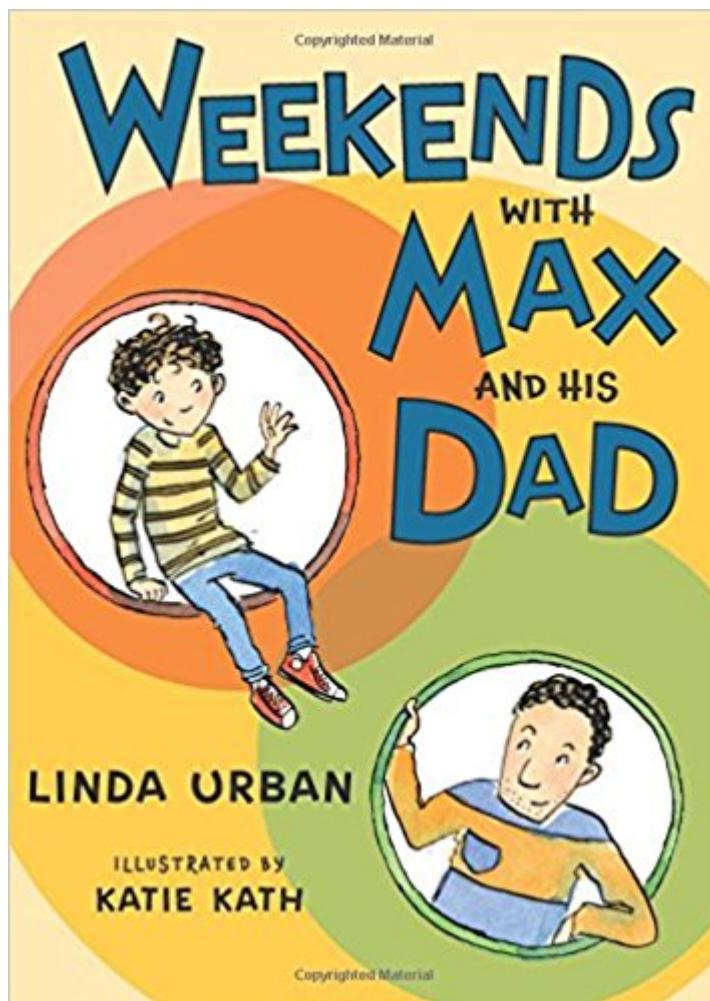


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# Weekends With Max And His Dad



## **Synopsis**

Max and his dad love their weekends together. Weekends mean pancakes, pizza, spy games, dog-walking, school projects, and surprising neighbors! Every weekend presents a small adventure as Max gets to know his dadâ™s new neighborhoodâ and learns some new ways of thinking about home. Acclaimed author Linda Urban deftly portrays a third-graderâ™s inner world during a time of transition in this sweet and funny illustrated story that bridges the early reader and middle grade novel.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 630 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #197,120 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #99 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Marriage & Divorce #215 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > City Life #501 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

A Conversation with Linda Urban Acclaimed author Linda Urban discusses her new book for younger readers and what home means to her.

This book is aimed at a slightly younger audience. What inspired you to write for readers ages 6-9? I started thinking about Max and his dad when my son was a second-grader. There were a handful of kids who were in the same situation as Max and who were just beginning to sort out the logistics of having two homes, two places to misplace their homework, two different ways of doing all the day-to-day things that families do. When I started to write, it seemed natural to write for the very kids

I was observing. The book is full of illustrations. Was it fun seeing the characters come to life? Isn't Katie Kath amazing? I love her characterizations. She has the perfect blend of heart and whimsy. What should readers know about third-grader Max as they start the first of three books? I think we get to know Max pretty well in the first book. He's energetic and imaginative and playful. He loves action movies and pineapple pancakes. He loves his dad. And his dad loves him.

Max helps his dad get settled in a new apartment. What does home mean to you? Home is where the people you love are. Who were your favorite authors when you were in elementary school? Beverly Cleary was probably my favorite, just barely beating out Laura Ingalls Wilder. The Judy Blume books about Fudge were pretty great too. What do you hope readers take away from Weekends with Max and His Dad? Mostly, I want readers to enjoy spending time with Max. If kids who are working out new family situations find comfort or recognition in Max's story, that would be pretty swell too.

What's next for you? Right now I'm working on the follow-up to Weekends with Max and His Dad. This time, we get to go on a road trip with Max and Mom. I can't tell you much more than that. ..except that there will be roller coasters!

Bulletin Blue Ribbon 2016 Raleigh News & Observer Best of 2016"Fans of Clementine and Ramona have a reason to rejoice: there's a new kid on the block (at least for the weekend). Bighearted, hilarious, and tender, Weekends with Max and His Dad is an absolute charmer." â "Katherine Applegate, Newbery medalist\* "Urbanâ™s subtle and perceptive take on divorce will resonate with children facing similar predicaments as she blends Maxâ™s worries and âœsomeone-sitting-on-his-chestâ• feelings with a vivid imagination and good intentions that take father and son on some very entertaining adventuresâ "with future ones planned." â "Publishers Weekly, starred review \* "Urban excels at credibly presenting this situation from Maxâ™s third-grade point of view... Urbanâ™s writing is both crisply specific (a basset hound âœsniffed as she walked through puddles, dragging her ears like flat-bottomed boatsâ•) and simple enough to be accessible." â "Bulletin, starred review "Urbanâ™s touch is light throughout, and with likable characters... and a story just right for budding chapter-book readers, sheâ™s off to a good start." â "Horn Book "The cast of characters grows throughout, but at the heart of the story is Maxâ™s warm, easygoing relationship with his father." â "Booklist

Linda Urban's debut novel, *A Crooked Kind of Perfect*, was selected for many best books lists and was nominated for twenty state awards. She is also the author of *Hound Dog True*, *The Center of Everything*, *Milo Speck, Accidental Agent*, and the chapter book *Weekends with Max and His Dad*, which received two starred reviews. A former bookseller, she lives in Vermont. Visit Linda online at [lindaurbanbooks.com](http://lindaurbanbooks.com) and on Twitter at @lindaurbanbooks. Katie Kath is the illustrator of many middle-grade novels and several picture books. She lives in North Carolina. Visit her online at [ktkath.com](http://ktkath.com).

A fun story for students with divorced parents. The main character Max is a 3rd grader who spends weekends at his dad's apartment. Although they do fun things together it doesn't quite feel like home...yet! Can Max learn to call Dad's apartment home? I hope to use this book for my character unit with my ELL and striving readers in 5th grade. Great characterization & fun adventures will have students cracking up at scenes like "the sore butt blues." The book is told in several parts which make it seem much shorter. Another bonus for younger or striving readers! A kid friendly book that kids will love & connect with!

Perfect book for kids with Dad's moving into a new place. My son and grandson are reading it together. It made my son realize that they could bond over finding a new "man cave" and filling it with stuff they like. It will hopefully help my grandson realize he has two homes now rather than 'home' and 'Dad's place'. Very well done!

"Weekends with Max" by Linda Urban takes readers through the first three weekends of Max visiting his dad in his first apartment since his parents separated. Max is an imaginative, empathetic, and dedicated nine-year-old boy and his dad truly enjoys spending time with Max and participating in his adventures. During the course of the story, with help from his friend Warren and an analogy from a school project, Max discovers that "home" is truly where the heart is. The reader meets neighbors, a restaurateur, and even a group of Italian tourists while reading about Max's fun days with his dad. We even get to go to everyone's favorite furniture store, IKEA, or INEEDA in this book. This book, aimed for 6-9 year-olds, tends to read as though it's trying to cater to each age group. Some sentences sound like something out of a kindergarten primer, while others add to the reader's vocabulary (complete with definitions). A former English professor takes Max and Warren on a quest which furthers imagination and literacy skills. I think all children would enjoy reading about Max's adventures, but those going through a divorce themselves would especially find comfort in a

character who understands their own feelings. Recommended.

This book details the adventures of an imaginative little boy on three weekend visits to his father's apartment. Max is a likable child who is coming to terms with his parent's separation and the concept of two homes. Happily the book does not focus on the discord or events that lead to the father's departure. Both the father and Max must acclimate to the new situation and in doing so learn more about each other and the power of love. This is a delightful, humorous read. Illustrated with black and white ink illustrations, the book includes some memorable characters including a elderly woman and her two basset hounds, singing diner owner and a mischievous little girl. . The father is portrayed warmly. He is loving and believable. My one quibble is that they really do eat an awful lot of pizza. This is a truly enjoyable book that gently demonstrates that home is where the heart is.

The good thing about this book is the chapters are somewhat contained. If you're reading it aloud in class, or reading it with your child before bedtime, you don't have to remember every little detail of previous chapters to enjoy the current chapter. That said, my son who is almost 8 has no interest in the book. I tried to get him to read it on his own - no luck. I tried reading it together before bed - no luck. It might be because we got an advanced copy and the illustrations were incomplete, but more than likely the story line wasn't compelling to him. It's just Max and his dad hanging out. There isn't really any conflict or anything exciting. I tried to read it and as an adult, I found it difficult to get into as well.

Max's father has an apartment of his own now where Max spends weekends. On his first visit to the apartment, Max is amazed at how white and clean everything is. Everything except his bedroom which is filled with football things, even though Max doesn't particularly care about football any more. He is much more into being a spy. So Max and his father spend their weekend getting to know his new neighborhood by dressing as spies, taking covert photographs, eating pancakes, and following a mysterious man. Following visits to his father's apartment involve meeting the neighbors, walking dogs, doing some homework, having a friend over and buying a couch. As Max settles into his new weekend routines with his dad, he learns a lot about what makes a place a home. Urban writes with a gentleness about this new circumstance in Max's life. Max is refreshingly unburdened by guilt in his parent's divorce. The focus instead is on the new place to live, figuring out the different relationship, and realizing that a person can happily have

two homes. Throughout the book, real love and devotion is shown by both Max and his father. There is a beautiful flexibility from both of them in each story and also a willingness to listen and learn from one another. Each also takes care of the other emotionally, not wanting to hurt one another. Which is also a very nice change from children lashing out in books about divorce. The illustrations by Kath make this book very approachable for young readers. They nicely break up the text, plus add to the humor. Readers can see Max's father in his full spy disguise as well as enjoying the finished school project and the furry fun of two basset hounds. The pictures add to the warmth and love that exude from this book. A loving book about father and son relationships after a divorce, this novel for young readers demonstrates that life and love continues. Appropriate for ages 7-9.

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