

Lost In The Woods: A Photographic Fantasy

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With the arrival of spring, the forest animals wonder if the new fawn, alone in the woods, is lost.

Carl R. Sams II and Jean Stoick are professional wildlife photographers, whose work has appeared in national and international publications including Audubon, BBC Wildlife, National Geographic and Nature's Best. Their best-selling book, *Stranger in the Woods*, was the winner of six awards including the 2002 Early Childhood News Director's Choice Award, the 2001 International Reading Association Award in the Younger Reader Category, and the 2000 Benjamin Franklin Award for Best Children's Picture Book. Kindergarten-Grade 3-The forest is abuzz over a newborn fawn. Various creatures have spotted him and all are worried that he might be lost. Despite his assurance that he's just waiting for his mother, the animals chime in with comments and offers of help. She returns, time passes, and the fawn grows stronger. He sees other young animals maturing, and at the end of the story, he is big enough to go exploring with his mother. The slight, meandering plot serves mainly as a vehicle to introduce photos of the forest animals. The images are clear and detailed, and will be sure to draw admiration-especially the adorable close-up of the fawn that even shows his eyelashes. The photo of a tree frog camouflaged against the bark of a tree is another standout. At the end, readers are asked to find specific animals that appear in the pictures. This is not a good choice for a group read-aloud, because the visual details require a close look, but it would be nice for sharing one-on-one.-Arwen Marshall, Minneapolis Public Library

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