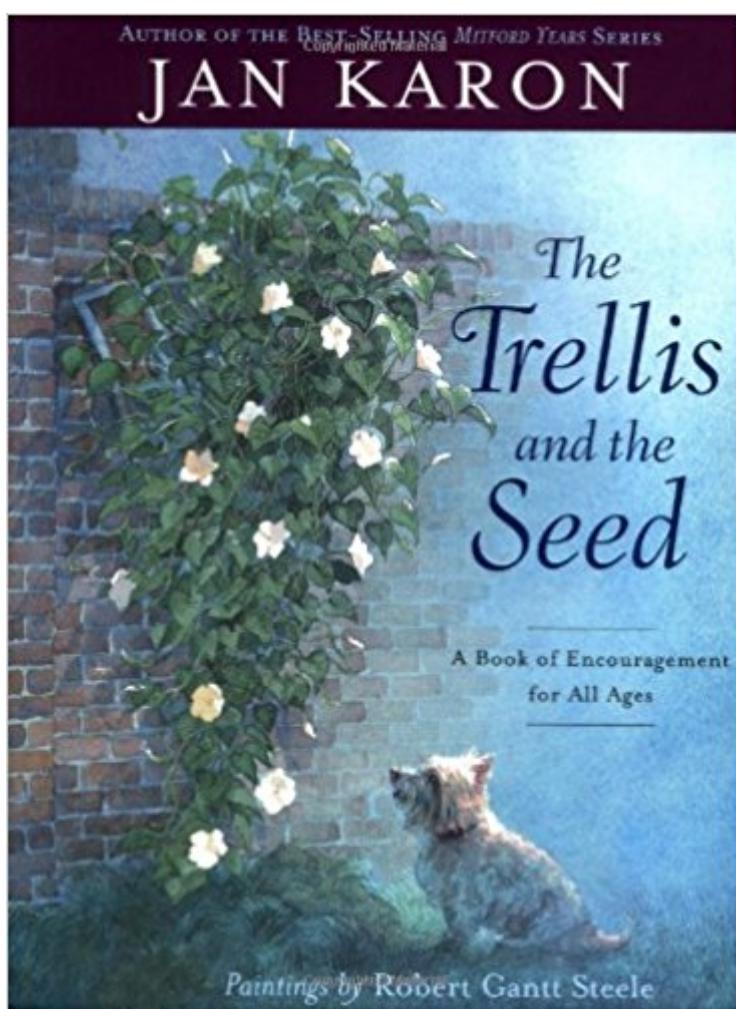


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# The Trellis And The Seed: A Book Of Encouragement For All Ages



## **Synopsis**

In this gently told parable, Jan Karon tells a story of patience, of the special rewards that come from being a little bit different from everyone else, and of the courage to believe in oneself. In a picturesque and secluded garden, a tiny seed sits in thrilled anticipation of its destiny as a powerful vine, twisting and flowering through the white latticework trellis. But how could such a small seed ever thrive and grow into a strong, healthy, grown-up plant? "Don't worry," Mother Earth says. "God has planned something beautiful for you." But time passes, and the little seed doesn't believe it. Beautifully illustrated and filled with faith and love, *The Trellis and the Seed* is Jan Karon at her very best—an inspiration for all ages and an important lesson on God's love for all creatures great and small.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Grade Level: Preschool and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Subtitled a "Story of Encouragement for All Ages," the *Trellis and the Seed* tells the story of how "God has planned something beautiful" for even the tiniest, most unassuming little seed. The tiny seed begins its mysterious journey in the hands of the seemingly omnipotent "Nice Lady," who predicts--much to the seed's disbelief--that it will make a "beautiful vine with sweet-smelling blossoms." Even as the Nice Lady plants the seed, erects an ambitious trellis, waits for rain, adds fertilizer, and performs all her other nurseries' obligations, the seed continues to be baffled by its caretaker's faith. ("It was only a seed, and very, very small. How could it ever be a beautiful vine

with blossoms?" How indeed? Suffice it to say, God doesn't send a crafty bird to eat the seed in a harrowing third-act changeup. Jan Karon's story of patience and faith shows the same folksy charm that infuses her Mitford Years series, and her gentle words find a soothing complement in the skilled, muted watercolors of Robert Gantt Steele (of the Her Story series). (Ages 4 to 8) --Paul Hughes

Grade 1-3-In this heavy-handed story, a tiny seed faces what seem like insurmountable odds, but slowly grows and eventually reaches its full potential. Although the Nice Lady talks to it of what it will become, it does not believe it will ever be anything but small. Planted in front of a huge trellis that seemed "a million trillion feet high," it can't imagine ever climbing that high. Still, with the help of the rain and a little time, the plant makes it most of the way up before it wearies. Then the Nice Lady comes out, hums a little tune, and applies "something smelly around the roots," and the vine finally makes it to the top of the trellis and produces white flowers that bloom in the moonlight. This sentimental tale will appeal to those who like their allegories neat and straight up. Featuring colorful, flower-decked depictions of a country cottage, Steele's static watercolors monotonously reflect the story's action. Watty Piper's straightforward *The Little Engine That Could* (Platt & Munk, 1930) conveys the same message without the precious language and has a lot more child appeal. Susan Hepler, Burgundy Farm Country Day School, Alexandria, VA  
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I got my first book via a donation where I work. When I read it, I knew I had to give it to my 9 year old granddaughter. But, I couldn't give her the book and not have one for myself, so I went on and bought another one for me! This book is a lifetime treasure to teach humanity of all ages of the wonders that are put inside each of us, that if nurtured correctly, will bring to maturity the most amazing God given gifts! I would give it one million stars if I could!

Good children's book!

I love this story and have given it as gifts with a personal note and seeds. I would highly recommend this book as a gift to someone who may be struggling in some area of their life. I have given it to two young women who are very special to me. Heart-warming

I've read the *The Trellis and the Seed* many times over the past few years and it never fails to lift my

spirit. I share it with friends, of all ages, who are going through times of discouragement. It's a lovely story of truth illustrated with charming pictures.

this is a Christmas gift that I have not given yet. However I did read it and think its a very sweet story. I got it for a friend that is a huge Karon fan, I think she will enjoy it and then probably pass it on to her grandchildren.

The Trellis and the Seed is a book with both depth and beauty and a little bit of anticipation as the story unfolds. The first thing that caught my eye is the name of the author. I have read her Mitford books and admire them greatly. I happen to be an avid gardener and the act of planting the unknown seed and watching it develop into the vine was so satisfying. The illustrations are the best. Mitford has written other children's books that are equally enchanting. I am a part time elementary school librarian.

A little disappointed but I did pass it on to others who may love it !!!

Beautiful book with a lovely message for kids and adults. It has colorful illustrations to make the reading more interesting. I am a fan of Jan Karon and she did not disappoint with this short story.

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