

STILLWATER AND KOO SAVE THE WORLD [STARRED REVIEW!]

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To save the world, first start small.

Koo the panda tells Uncle Stillwater they want to save the world. "That's a very big idea," the adult panda muses, not discouraging Koo but quietly suggesting the two of them attempt more manageable goals first. They do, beginning by tidying Koo's messy bedroom, which Koo enjoys because putting things where they belong makes them feel "not so jumbled up." The pair proceed with other small tasks: attending to their cat's needs; baking a cake to welcome new, brown-skinned neighbors; riding bikes; and halting an oncoming truck to allow a duck family to safely cross a road. They also discuss big questions throughout the day (do fish understand the vastness of the ocean? How do we deal with worries about the fate of the world?). Afterward, Stillwater rejoices in what Koo has accomplished, telling the little one, "Each time you do something good, you save the world a little bit." Powerful words indeed, and mission accomplished! This beautifully told story makes clear that, with patient guidance, praise, and role modeling from loving grown-ups, children can learn to be kind and caring and to "save the world" in small, doable ways. The delicate watercolor-and-pencil illustrations suit the lovely message and perfectly capture the bond between adult and child. *(This book was reviewed digitally.)*

A stunning, tender testament to the idea that small acts of kindness, one by one, make a huge impact. (author's note) *(Picture book. 4-7)*