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Review of *The Strange Birds of Flannery O'Connor: A Life* by Amy Alznauer

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The Strange Birds of Flannery O'Connor: A Life

Alznauer, Amy

Illustrated Ping Zhu

New York, Enchanted Lion, 2020

9781592702954

This vividly illustrated story describes the life of revered writer Flannery O'Connor. From a young age, Flannery was fascinated by birds, especially strange ones. Her fascination with oddities and strangeness led her to writing where she could let her imagination run wild. The story tells of Flannery's life from birth to death, with a supplementary biographical note at the end. While the author could have chosen any aspect of Flannery's life to focus on, the choice of birds makes for a delightful children's book. Each bird in the books is painted in bright and bold colors, almost like the bright and bold imagination of Flannery herself. Young and old readers alike will enjoy the bright pictures and the fascinating story of a girl who does not quite fit in with the rest of the world. Children will be inspired by Flannery's bold imagination and her feelings of being an outsider. Teachers could use this book as part of a unit on a variety of topics including writing, art, and literature. **Highly Recommended** *Elly McGillivray Watkins, Centennial Library Intern, Cedarville University*