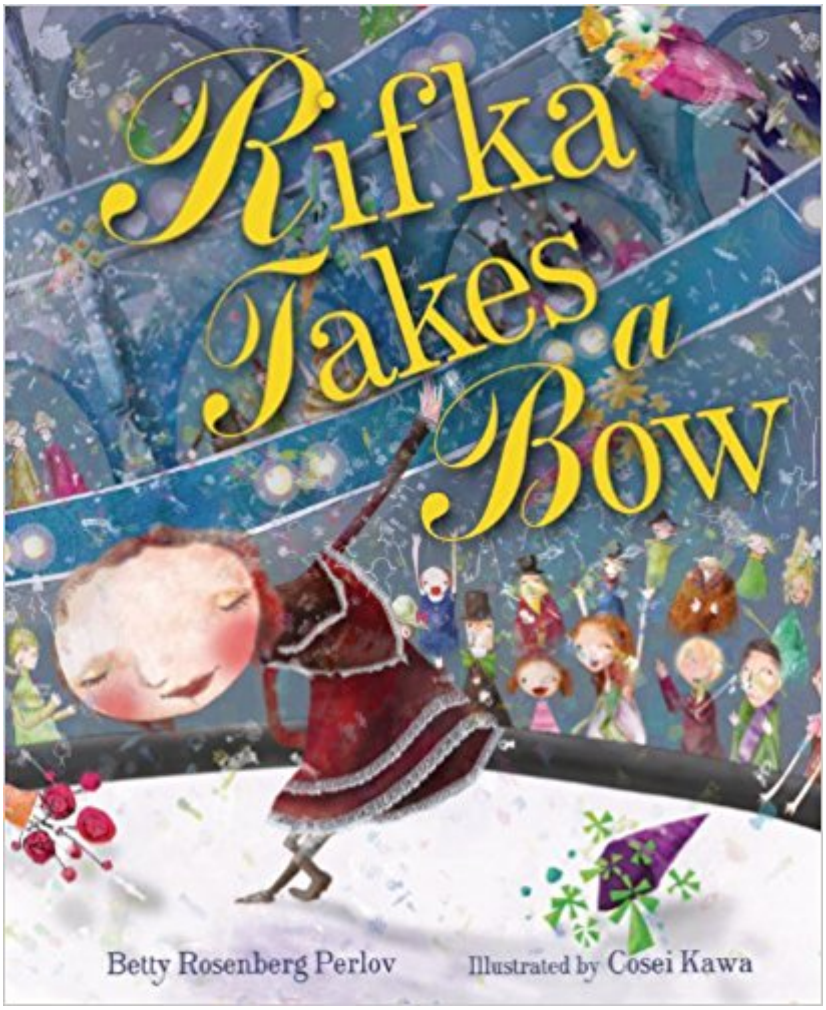
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Rifka Takes A Bow (Kar-Ben Favorites)



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Synopsis

Rifka’s parents are actors in the Yiddish Theater in New York, but one day Rifka finds herself center stage in a special role! A slice of immigrant life on New York’s Second Avenue, this is a unique book about a vanished time and a place - the Yiddish theater in the early 20th century made real through the telling of the true life story of the 96-year-old author as a little girl.

Book Information

Series: Kar-Ben Favorites

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Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #629,314 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #173 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #682 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #1505 inÃ Â Books > Children’s Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

PreS-Gr 2Ã¢â ¬â œThis picture book gives a glimpse into the world of the Second Avenue Yiddish theaters of 1920s New York. Young Rifka’s parents are both actors, and the child loves everything about their work, from the dark backstage area, to the stored props under the stage, to the glamorous chorus girls in the dressing room, who laugh and joke and sometimes let her wear their makeup. The stylized illustrations give an air of memory and fantasy with elongated figures and confettilike shapes floating throughout the pictures. Details such as a trip to the Automat and Rifka’s mother’s bobbed hair add more historical context. The child’s moment to shine comes when she accidentally walks onstage through a balcony door. In the family spirit of the Yiddish theater, she is welcomed by her parents and the audience alike and invited center stage for her bow in the spotlight. Perlov, herself a child actor in the days of Yiddish radio, paints an affectionate and

nostalgic picture of the era with her words. A nice addition to collections wishing to highlight the American Jewish experience.Ã¢â ¬â œMartha Link Yesowitch, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, NCÃ Â (c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Children wonÃ¢â ¬â„¢t know what the Yiddish theater was (until they read this titleÃ¢â ¬â„¢s informative afterword), but that doesnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t matter much. Here, the focus is on the magic of performing and the wonder a little girl feels when she isÃ¢â ¬â •accidentallyÃ¢â ¬â •on stage. In a direct first-person voice, Rifka begins by telling readers how Papa pastes on a mustache, and Mama puts on a white wig; suddenly they are old. Life can be fun for the child of thespiansÃ¢â ¬â •stopping at the Automat for snacks and wearing makeup for fun. But when Rifka hits the boards, she is the one who gets the applause. Author Perlov, now in her late 90s, is the daughter of Yiddish theater thespians, so much of what she writes is from her own memories. KawaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s imaginative mixed-media artwork, reminiscent of Pamela ZagarenskiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s stylistic pictures, captures the fantasy world of the theater. A few photos at the end give a better idea of New YorkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Lower East Side. As the old rye bread ad used to say, you donÃ¢â ¬â„¢t have to be Jewish to enjoy this. Preschool-Grade 1. --Ilene Cooper --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This picture book of a little girl growing up with parents who are apart of New York City’s theater life at the turn of the century, is a pleasing generational tale of fond memories and glimpse into Yiddish life in the 1920’s. What many readers will notice, however, are the illustrations! Bits of confetti, tiny object doodles, fall around the scenes of the pages - giving it a festive nostalgia. Cosei Kawa’s Japanese style drawings may seem an unlikely match for the subject matter, but it really adds a wonderful element to the story. Children will love this as a read aloud.

This is a really sweet story by a child (now in her 90’s) whose family was a part of the Yiddish theater. It’s a nice story and it gives a glimpse of what the Yiddish theater was like. It’s both funny and heart warming and it definitely has the ring of truth. A lovely story to share with a child.

This is a very lovely looking book. There is one drawback however. It is very short for the age group that it is intended to appeal to. Kids of this age are ready for a longer story. It is an especially good story for kids who might be interested in acting, but may appeal mostly to younger children.

it was a wonderful piece of Jewish history as well as a fine children’s story I wasn’t crazy about the illustrator

Beautiful illustrations, simple story that offers the opportunity to talk about a slice of Jewish life in early 20th century America.

A marvelous story, fascinating illustrations, an honest work of historical importance and a scene in an Automat - what’s not to like?I am a big fan of Sydney Taylor’s "All-of-a-Kind Family", but of course in an extended prose work you have a lot of room to set scenes and develop your characters. How do you do that in a picture book with only so many pages of drawings and room for only a sprinkling of a few words? Well, I guess you start here with the remarkable illustrations. They have a vaguely old world European feel to them. They are sketches and caricatures, with odd perspectives, unusual angles, simultaneously simplified and exaggerated. This distortion adds to the feeling that this is a memory piece, reduced to its essentials, and intended to create a general sense of Rifka’s life in the Yiddish Theater.The same is true for the writing. There are snapshots of prose that highlight bits of memory. So you have mother and father putting on costumes, actresses in their dressing rooms, the backstage, the prop basement, the smell of old costumes, the magic of weird abandoned and forgotten props. And the sum is a complete memory piece that captures and preserves a special lost time and place.So, if you want to go to Second Avenue, if you want a reminder of the love between parents and child, or if you just want to explore someplace neat with a nice girl, it seems to me that this book is well worth your consideration. Please note that I received a free advance ecopy of this book in exchange for a candid review. Apart from that I have no connection at all to either the author or the publisher of this book.

Mama and Papa looked so very different when they put on their makeup. Rifka smiled in amazement as they turned into old people. They really werenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t old, but rather they were ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“actors in the Yiddish Theater.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• When they took her to work, they rode the subway to Union Square where they would begin their walk to the theater. They would ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“stop at the Automat for a snackÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• on their way. Mama and Papa smiled as they watched Rifka stand on a bench to reach that big piece of cherry pie. Yum! Walking to the theater was interesting, but when they reached The Grand, a theater on Second Avenue, the fun began.RifkaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s eyes grew wide as Mama became different characters. Papa

too. Who was that man with the little glasses and the big, long beard? Now thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s what Rifka wanted to know. Ã‚Ã ƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Piff-Paff! Not to worry. I am really your papa. How else would I know your name is Rifkeleh?Ã‚Ã ƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• She whirled through the dressing rooms (no swearing!) and peeked out onto the stage as she waited for the plays to begin. Underneath that stage it was a bit scary though with all those props. Papa told her all about how actors did special things during plays, but what was he going to say when she accidentally stepped out on that stage during a performance?This is a fun and fascinating look at Rifka and her surprise performance in a Yiddish theater. Of course RifkaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s experiences are fictional, but we are treated to a rare glimpse back in time through the eyes of Betty Rosenberg Perlov, who grew up in the theater. Her Ã‚Ã ƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“realÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• story, along with photographs, is in the back of the book. The artwork is bold, bright, and delightfully whimsical as it captures the aura surrounding Yiddish theater. One of the interesting things children will marvel at are the tricks that Papa showed Rifka. Do you know why an actor isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t hurt when an Ã‚Ã ƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“actor hits another actor with a loud slap? If not, you will after you read this book!This book courtesy of the publisher.

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