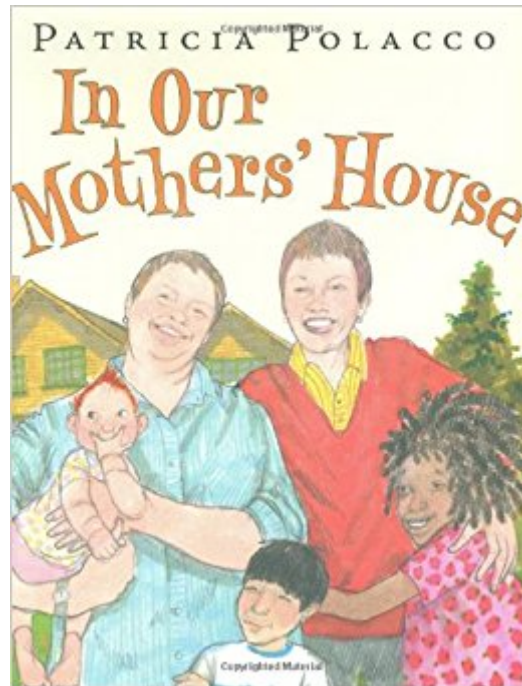




The book was found

In Our Mothers' House



Synopsis

Marmee, Meema, and the kids are just like any other family on the block. In their beautiful house, they cook dinner together, they laugh together, and they dance together. But some of the other families don't accept them. They say they are different. How can a family have two moms and no dad? But Marmee and Meema's house is full of love. And they teach their children that different doesn't mean wrong. And no matter how many moms or dads they have, they are everything a family is meant to be. Here is a true Polacco story of a family, living by their own rules, and the strength they gain by the love they feel.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD750L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books; First Edition first Printing edition (April 30, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 039925076X

ISBN-13: 978-0399250767

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #133,095 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #76 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Adoption

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

Customer Reviews

Grade 1-3 • This gem of a book illustrates how love makes a family, even if it's not a traditional one. The narrator, a black girl, describes how her two Caucasian mothers, Marmee and Meema, adopted her, her Asian brother, and her red-headed sister. She tells about the wonderful times they have growing up in Berkeley, CA. With their large extended family and friends, they celebrate Halloween with homemade costumes, build a tree house, organize a neighborhood block party, and host a mother-daughter tea party. The narrator continually reinforces the affectionate feelings among her mothers and siblings, and the illustrations depict numerous scenes of smiling people having a grand time. Most of the neighbors are supportive, except for one woman who tells Marmee and Meema, "I don't appreciate what you two are." Eventually, the children grow up, marry

heterosexual spouses, and return home to visit their aged parents with their own children. Is this an idealized vision of how a gay couple can be accepted by their family and community? Absolutely. But the story serves as a model of inclusiveness for children who have same-sex parents, as well as for children who may have questions about a "different" family in their neighborhood. A lovely book that can help youngsters better understand their world.

—Martha Simpson, Stratford Library Association, CT Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

The oldest of three adopted children recalls her childhood with mothers Marmee and Meema, as they raised their African American daughter, Asian American son, and Caucasian daughter in a lively, supportive neighborhood. Filled with recollections of family holidays, rituals, and special moments, each memory reveals loving insight. At a school mother-daughter tea, for instance, the mothers make their first ever appearance in dresses. The narrator recalls, "My heart still skips a beat when I think of the two of them trying so hard to please us." Only a crabby neighbor keeps her children away from their family. Meema explains, "She's afraid of what she cannot understand: she doesn't understand us." The energetic illustrations in pencil and marker, though perhaps not as well-rendered as in some previous works, teem with family activities and neighborhood festivity. Quieter moments radiate the love the mothers feel for their children and for each other. Similar in spirit to the author's *Chicken Sunday*, this portrait of a loving family celebrates differences, too. Pair this with Arnold Adoff's *Black Is Brown Is Tan* (2002), Toyomi Igusa's *Two Mrs. Gibsons* (1996), or Natasha Wing's *Jalapeno Bagels* (1996) for portraits of family diversity. Grades 1-4. --Linda Perkins

Patricia is my favorite children's author. This book is special for children of two mothers or two fathers. It is becoming more common in our culture and reading this book to a class would be helpful to the understanding of the situation. Children can be cruel to their classmates if they have heard their parents make hateful comments. Children have to be taught to hate, it does not come naturally.

Well written, very good story line. Not many children's books you get to see the family grow together. This book is very diverse yet doesn't emphasize that, it normalizes it.

We love this book. Not only is it culturally diverse and inclusive, but it has a real story to it. In our

home, we like the whole story of going into the neighborhood festival, hearing how the children grew up and how life turned out.

Love this book! It really looks like my daughter's family. Thank You Patricia!

Another must-have book by Patricia Polacco!

What a wonderful addition to my 10 year old daughter's library... it's wonderful to find these treasures that show my daughter the many different "faces" happy families can come in :)

A beautiful story and written so well!

This is an excellent story that focuses on the warmth and love of family. The art is fun and exuberant and the story is excellent. The family is composed of two moms, Meema and Marmee, and their three adopted children. One of the best things about this book is that it is a story about love and family not struggle and intolerance. The message to take away from this book is happy families come in all shapes and sizes and these two moms love their kids and their kids love them. The presence of books like these in children's libraries everywhere would help to increase acceptance and understanding and reduce intolerance and homophobia. Well done Patricia Polacco!

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