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# The Lemon Sisters

Lara M. Ackerman

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Cheng, Andrea. *The Lemon Sisters*. Illustrated by Tatjana Mai-Wyss. Putnam's, 2006. ISBN 0399240233. \$16.99. 32 p.

Reviewer: Lara M. Ackerman

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Picture Books;

Subject: Sisters--Juvenile fiction; Birthdays--Juvenile fiction; Old age--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

On her 80th birthday an elderly woman wakes up knowing "even without looking" that snow has fallen. From her window, she watches three little girls out playing in the snow. Their obvious enjoyment reminds her of time spent with Rita and May, her two younger sisters, when the three of them would go out and make "lemon ice" by sprinkling the snow with lemon and sugar. But Rita and May live far away now, and haven't come to visit in years. Lonely and disheartened, the woman brings out slices of lemon and a bag of sugar to the children, little knowing that shortly this day will become her best birthday yet.

With soft watercolor and collage illustrations, Mai-Wyss brings to life both young and old in this touching story of friendship and sisterhood. Although the topic may seem heavy for a children's book, *The Lemon Sisters* offers a poignant and heartwarming tale of friendships, both those newly made and those kept alive through a lifetime.