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Someone for Mr. Sussman

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Polacco, Patricia. *Someone for Mr. Sussman*. Illustrated by Patricia Polacco. Philomel, 2008. ISBN 9780399250750. \$16.99. 40 p.

Reviewer: Tessa McMillan

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Humorous stories;

Subject: Grandmothers--Juvenile fiction; Dating services--fiction; Jews--United States--fiction; Books--Reviews;

Bubbie, Jerome's grandmother, is a *shadkhen* or Jewish matchmaker. She has found matches for difficult people. Mr. Sussman is the only customer she has not been able to find a match for. Jerome notices that every time Mr. Sussman comes over, Bubbie tries to impress him with the characteristics he wants in a woman. This goes on for quite some time until Bubbie gets frustrated that Mr. Sussman does not see her as his ideal match. After she tells him to never come back, he returns and finally begins to see that she is his ideal match.

Polacco creates another story where she introduces interesting Jewish traditions to readers. This story is enjoyable, but at times, a bit tedious. Readers realize that Bubbie is trying to be the perfect match for Mr. Sussman, but he does not realize it for quite some time. Elementary readers might not be able to handle length of the story, but middle grade readers might think the content is too juvenile.

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