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Review of *The Matchbox Diary* by Paul Fleischman

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The Matchbox Diary

Fleischman, Paul

Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline

Candlewick Press: Somerville, Mass., 2013

A granddaughter travels to Italy to meet her grandfather, and learns his story through a series of objects he collected in matchboxes in his youth. Fleischman writes this story using only the dialogue of the elderly man and his 6 year old granddaughter. This discourse, paired with a style of illustrations matching the time period described by the man, produce a highly imagistic story that captures the reader's interest and reflects both the difficulty and the inspiring optimism of Italian immigrants just after the turn of the 19th century. Children will enjoy the diverse and detailed illustrations and parents will appreciate the narrative depth constructed within the context of a conversation between a man and his young granddaughter.

Recommended

James Sandberg, Centennial Library Intern