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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

There are so many good ones but Paul Fleischman and Bagram Ibatoulline have teamed up to give us something special in *The Matchbox*. They are the heart and soul of who we are as a nation and each one brings a new version of the experience. There are so many good ones but Paul Fleischman and Bagram Ibatoulline have teamed up to give us something special in *The Matchbox Diary* (Candlewick 2013). In the opening 2-page spread an older man and a young girl stand in a sun-drenched inviting room filled with books and fascinating objects. "Pick whatever you like the most. Then I'll tell you its story." There is a life-time of choices in that room but the little girl snuggles in on her great-grandfather's lap with a cigar box spillin