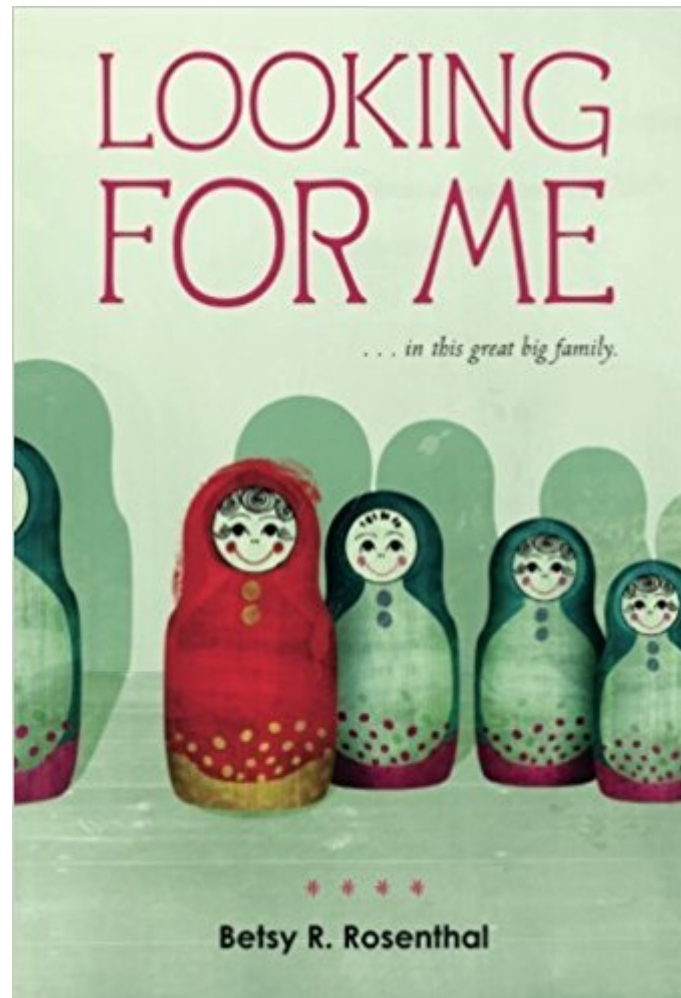




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# Looking For Me: ...in This Great Big Family



## Synopsis

One of twelve siblings growing up in Depression-era Baltimore, Edith isn't quite sure of who she is. Between working at her father's diner, taking care of her younger siblings, and living in the shadow of her more mature sisters, she feels lost in a sea of siblings. When a kind teacher encourages Edith to be a teacher herself one day, Edith sees prospects for a future all her own. Full of joy, pain, humor, and sadness, this novel in verse is an enduring portrait of one family's pursuit of the American dream.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1130 (What's this?)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 10, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0544022718

ISBN-13: 978-0544022713

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.5 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #246,367 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #238 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #259 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > New Baby

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

"Rosenthal's spare writing superbly captures the emotional growth of a girl on the cusp of adolescence, despite its specific historical context."--School Library Journal "The overall tone is one of solidarity in spite of difficulties."--Booklist

Before she began writing children's books, Betsy Rosenthal was a lawyer for a national civil rights agency. She left that career behind to raise her three children and concentrate on her writing. She is the author of three picture books: *My House Is Singing*, *It's Not Worth Making a Tzimmes Over!*, and *Which Shoes Would You Choose?* *Looking for Me* is her first novel. Ms.

Rosenthal has also had many essays published in national and local newspapers and magazines.Â To learn more about Ms. Rosenthal, you can visit her at [www.BetsyRosenthal.com](http://www.BetsyRosenthal.com).

A very touching book. Great reading for adults also. Brings back my own memories. Very well done.

Such a great portrayal of life in a large family. Even though I grew up in a very different environment, I could readily identify.

Anyone who has experienced the responsibility of taking care of younger siblings should read this book.

Fantastic read. My students were able to connect and extract the deeper meanings of the text.

This book is so enjoyable. I don't want it to be over. I love her descriptions of her place in her family!

This was a great book. I wish it was longer though. I loved it. I think the author really wrought an amazing book

I absolutely love the honesty of the characters. I also enjoyed the family dynamic aspect. In large families, it is sometimes hard to know where each member fits.

I have read so much about WWII and how bad things were for the Jewish people. This is a rare look at a child living in Baltimore whose family fled from Russia many years prior. At the opening of the book Edith is 11 years old. She is number 4 in the line of 12 children. The cover of the book is so creative as the Russian nesting dolls can have so many in size and her roots are Russian. Edith is given an assignment at school to find herself who she is. The book is kind of like a diary or journal. Each page has a title like what happened that day but it is not dated as such. The book is actually written by Edith's Daughter. There are a few places where she tells about being Jewish and being called names or treated differently but the book doesn't dwell on that so much. It is more like daily life in the family of twelve. They have fun times and tragic times. You learn about the different foods and customs that the Jewish family have. I am familiar with all of them but a young person may not be so they have included a glossary in the back of the words that most non-Jewish people will not know. I think this is a good book for both Jewish children and especially non-Jewish children. It give

a true look at how it IS different being Jewish. With the current rise in anti-semitism around the world everyone needs to take a look at how alike we are and not how different. You will see Edith is just like any other 11-12 yr old girl, same hopes and dreams. Being in such a large family is difficult in 1936 and she has to go to work in her fathers diner at age 12. I cannot imagine closing a diner taking the money home at 2 am alone. It was a hard life. You will learn along with Edith who she really is and enjoy reading how her life played out. There are pictures of her and her family which always help bring a story to life. I highly recommend this book to children 9 or so to adults.

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