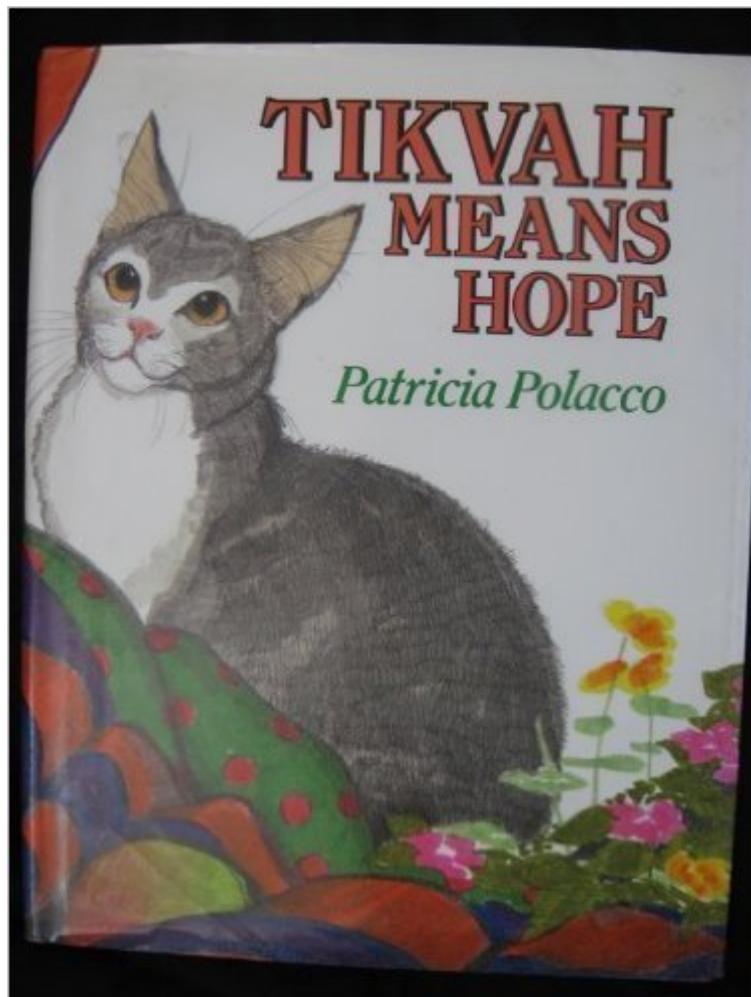


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Tikvah Means Hope



Synopsis

Justine and Duane and their neighbors are happily getting ready for Sukkoth, the Jewish harvest holiday. Suddenly, catastrophe strikes as a fire sweeps through their town. Luckily for everyone, there are still miracles in this world--sometimes in the shape of a little cat. This heartfelt story is a stirring celebration of life, friendship, and--most of all--hope!From the Trade Paperback edition.

Book Information

Age Range: 3 and up

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8.8 x 11.2 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #454,361 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #162 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Jewish #3518 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Religions

Customer Reviews

A sukkah is not a permanent structure but a temporary dwelling. A wind can easily blow a sukkah down, a rain can wash it away. Patricia Polacco tells an ironic tale in *Tikvah Means Hope* about how a natural disaster destroyed material possessions that people felt were permanent while a sukkah, something built only for a short time, persevered. It is the story of Mr. and Mrs. Roth of Oakland, who build a sukkah in the backyard of their house. While they put up their ritual hut, two neighborhood children, Justine and Duane decide to help them in their task. In the process, Justine and Duane learn the meaning of the Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot, a precursor to the American holiday of Thanksgiving. "You see, we Jews have always had to move a lot," says Mr. Roth to the children. "We wandered in the desert for many years. Then at long last we found the promised Land and settled into real homes. Now we build these little huts to remind us of all the days we had no place to live, and also to give thanks for our new homes and rich harvest that our new land gave us." For their efforts, the Roths invite Justine and Duane to sleep in their sukah and celebrate a festive meal in it. Before the children can take advantage of the hospitality, they are evacuated from their homes. A fire ravages their neighborhood burning their houses to the ground. The Roths are devastated by

the event. After the fire is put out, they search frantically among the ashes to find something that would prove they had a life here. Just when the older man is about to lose all hope, Justine and Duane shout for him to come to the backyard. When Mr. Roth arrives, he sees one object still standing among the ashes: the sukkah. Mr. Roth can not believe his eyes. How could the sukkah not be damaged?

Years ago, I tried to obtain a used copy of *Tikvah Means Hope* from only to find that it was outrageously priced. At that time, there was only one copy with a price tag well over \$100. I decided to wait. My patience paid off. Recently, I was able to find several copies in good condition for less than \$5.00. Many books about holidays try too hard to capture every aspect of the holiday at the expense of telling a memorable story. As a result, these books lack the vitality that keeps children engaged. Moreover, when a story primarily focuses on the holiday, the picture book may lose its appeal to a general audience. *Tikvah Means Hope* skillfully ties together multiple threads to create a charming story that is not easily forgotten. Patricia combines the disastrous Oakland, California fire with key aspects of the Festival of Sukkot and notable Jewish traditions. An additional level of interest is interjected by including a cat named Tikvah. Lovable animals will undoubtedly draw children into a story. In this case, Tikvah captured the readers'™ attention on the very first page even though the story is focusing on the Roth family building a sukkah. Without being too heavy handed with details, the reader gains a basic understanding of Sukkot. As the intensity of the crippling fire becomes apparent, the focus shifts to the devastating effects of an uncontrollable fire. This book has a dual agenda. In addition to showcasing the joy of Sukkot, it brings attention to the risks associated with fires.

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