



Don't Forget

By Patricia Lakin

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As Sarah buys ingredients for a surprise cake for her mother, the shopkeepers tell her not to forget their baking secrets. But Mr. and Mrs. Singer have another secret that makes Sarah afraid to even enter their store -- until they teach her the life-affirming message that no matter how difficult, the past should never be forgotten.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Sarah is planning to surprise her mother by baking her first cake, and she collects ingredients and baking tips from local storekeepers, who are Holocaust survivors. In a starred review, PW said, "The portrayal of a child frightened of raising demons from the past is very real and intelligently drawn." Ages 5-8.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 1-3-Eight-year-old Sarah, preparing to bake her first cake-a surprise for her mother's birthday-shops for the ingredients. Each shopkeeper gives her a baking tip, playfully warning her not to forget the secret. Her last stop is Singer's Grocery, a store run by Holocaust survivors. Sarah cannot keep from staring at the numbers tattooed on their arms. As Mrs. Singer leads the child into the kitchen where she has invited her to bake, she tells her that the numbers are not a secret and that no one should ever forget them. She also gives the girl a little baking tip-to kiss the pan-and tells her a sweet story about her youth. At last, with her cake in hand, Sarah heads home with Mrs. Singer issuing one final reminder: "Be sure to tell your Mama you made this cake by yourself." This is a lighthearted, old-fashioned story with a repeating chorus that children will love. Rand's painterly illustrations perfectly capture the postwar neighborhood and Sarah's pleasure in making her present. However, the serious Holocaust element seems out of sync with the rest of the "don't forgets." While David Adler's *The Number on My Grandfather's Arm* (UAHC, 1987) treats this topic more appropriately, Sarah's story is still a charming one.

Marcia Posner, Federation of New York and the Jewish Book Council, New York City

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From [Booklist](#)

Holocaust survivors--Fiction||Jew--U.S.--Fiction||Cake--Fiction [CIP] 93-20341

Ages 5-8. Shopping in her Jewish neighborhood for ingredients to make a secret birthday cake for her mother, Sarah meets lots of friendly people, and each storekeeper shares a special secret for baking success. Only in the Singers' grocery store does Sarah feel uncomfortable. They are kind to her, but she knows about their ugly secret. She tries not to stare, but she knows that the Nazis had tattooed numbers on the arms of Mr. and Mrs. Singer and had put the couple in a concentration camp because they were Jews. However, the Singers insist that it isn't a secret; it must never be a secret; otherwise, it could happen again. Rand's soft-textured, realistic watercolors capture the postwar ethnic community in all its richness, including the foods in the stores and the individual characters. The story is upbeat, even sentimental: The people are all loving and gentle; everyone smiles at Sarah, not a crotchety one among them. The quiet sorrow of the survivors is here, and this could be a starting point for introducing the Holocaust to young children, though the references are so oblique that adults will have to supply much more information. What is compelling is the sense of secrets, both joyful and appalling. *Hazel Rochman*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jean Smith:

Here thing why this Don't Forget are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all studying a book is good but it really depends in the content of computer which is the content is as yummy as food or not. Don't

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Carolyn Rolon:

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