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Helping The Polonskys (Muslim All-Stars)





Synopsis

In this exciting new series, a group of Muslim kids come together to clean up an old Jewish man's house before his wife returns home from a major operation. But with time running out and a bigger mess than they had imagined . . . can they succeed? Khaleel Muhammad is a well-known singer of nasheeds (Islamic songs). He has also written and produced his own successful audio adventure, The Adventures of Hakim. This is his first children's book. Khaleel lives in London, England.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

On the surface, Muslim All-Stars: Helping the Polonskys by Khaleel Muhammad, is a sweet chapter book (2nd-3rd grade level) featuring a diverse crew of Muslim kids who set out to help Mr. and Mrs. Polonsky, an old, crotchety Jewish couple, to clean their filthy house. Below the surface, the Muslim all-stars in this book do significant and tedious workâ Â"they break down the stereotypes placed upon them by non-Muslims. In this sense, Muslim All-Stars: Helping the Polonskys is an important book and an attempt to begin to fill a dangerous gap in kidlit: There are very few books featuring

strong Muslim characters. This gap is dangerous because non-Muslim children are increasingly taught, implicitly and explicitly (through Trump's "Muslim Ban") to fear Muslims. Not only does Muslim All-Stars: Helping the Polonskys showcase five funny, diverse Muslim kids, but it is an ¢Â œown voicesĀ¢Â Â• book AND the protagonist is female. Muhammad touches upon important themes: discrimination, bias, the Holocaust, and diversity. One of the children in the book has AspergerĀ¢Â Â™s. One is a convert. The children all eat Halal food and pray. Khaleel Muhammad takes on the politically charged relationship between Muslims and Jews and shows how, on the personal and human level, we are all more alike than we are different. I find it beautiful and random that I stumbled upon a book entitled Muslim All-Stars: Helping the Polonskys. Reading the book helped THIS Polonsky by reminding me that we are all connected by our humanityâ Â"whether we are an old, Jewish couple in a dirty house and five Muslim kids, or a Jewish author in Chicago and a Muslim author in England.

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