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Review of *The Boy in the Black Suit* by Jason Reynolds

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The Boy in the Black Suit

Reynolds, Jason

New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015

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After his mom dies, Matt just wants to move on and go back to normal. Shortly after her funeral, he attempts to get a job at a local fast food place, but instead, he gets a job at a local funeral home. Surprisingly, seeing the grieving family members at the funerals helps Matt process his feelings. He begins to heal, but his father does not, and after an accident sends his dad to the hospital, Matt is forced to fend for himself. At one of the funerals, he meets a teenaged girl named Lovey, and she helps Matt change his perspective on grief and life and love. This story is full of hope, and the characters are fully-fleshed out, seeming like real people one might encounter on the street. The situations both encounter are realistic and relatable, and the conversations that the teens have could encourage teenagers to have similar conversations and to think deeply about grief and love.

Recommended

Erin Kloosterman