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Review of The Loud Librarian by Jenna Beatrice

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The Loud Librarian
Beatrice, Jenna
Illustrated by Erika Lynne Jones
Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2023
9781665910545

The Loud Librarian follows young Penelope as she vies for the role of student-librarian. She was so excited for the role that she had been "preparing all year" for the moment when she finally got the role: alphabetizing stuff in her home, practicing pushing carts, and even placing due date stickers everywhere. However, though Penelope is friendly, helpful, and loves books, she struggles with one crucial component of being a librarian: staying quiet! Penelope's voice is so loud even the folks up in the ISS can hear her chants about ice cream. Penelope initially struggles to find where she fits in the library— she often finds herself messing things up due to her unintentionally loud voice. However, despite the mess she causes, Penelope eventually finds a use for her loud voice when she creates a fun, outdoor storytime. This book artfully depicts a diverse school setting through its bright and fun illustrations. Penelope's story shows how kids can stay true to themselves while also balancing traditional social boundaries. This book could be used by librarians to show when kids should use their loud voices and when they need to remember to be quiet. This book is highly recommended for teachers and librarians alike as it depicts a diverse school setting that communicates the importance of social expectations while also staying true to oneself.

Highly Recommended Maddie Faulkner, Centennial Library Intern, Cedarville University