



Home at Last: Sofia's Immigrant Diary

Kathryn Lasky

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Kathryn Lasky brings readers the second installment of Sofia's Ellis Island Diary, depicting Sofia's move to the North End of Boston and her first steps as a new American.

After her dramatic release from quarantine and reunion with her family, Sofia moves to the North End of Boston, where the Monaris start their new lives in their new country. While her parents struggle to make ends meet, Sofia must adjust to her American school, friends and job.

Home at Last: Sofia's Immigrant Diary Details

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Author : Kathryn Lasky

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Rebecca says

Nine-year-old Sofia has finally been reunited with her family after a month in quarantine on Ellis Island, and now they have traveled to Boston to build their new life in America. Sofia's father finds a job in a grocery store, and Sofia begins attending school. She enjoys learning English and making new friends, although she misses her best friend from quarantine, Maureen, whose family has settled in New York City. Sofia describes in her diary her life over seven months as her family adjusts to their new lives in America and sees their dreams begin to come true. I recommend this book to readers who enjoy the My America series and have read Hope in My Heart, Sofia's first diary.

Melissa Wells says

This was a very interesting read but a little too childish for my tastes. I did find the history aspect really interesting though.

Sarah Crawford says

This second book in the series tells about how Sofia and her family are adjusting to life in the United States. Sofia has been attending school and is doing very well. Her mother is making pasta dishes and someone else who has a store is selling them, bringing Sofia's family some much-needed money.

Sofia's friend Maureen is having a very difficult time, though, and might be returning to Ireland. Then Sofia becomes ill with something that could affect her for the rest of her life. Even with all of things going wrong, though, Sofia and her family remain strong and things work out for everyone in the end.

Molly says

Well, after being in quarantine Sofia finally gets to see her family who have moved to Boston. Her friend who she meet in quarantine comes to live with her.

Christy says

I didn't read the first book but from what I can tell Sofia gets reunited with her family after her awful experience on Ellis Island. She misses the friend she made, Maureen O'Malley. Sofia is italian and Maureen is Irish, which means they could barely talk to each other when they first met but they formed a special bond during their time there. Sofia is now in the North end of Boston and Maureen is in Brooklyn, New York. Soon after, Sofia begins school and she knows quite a bit of English thanks to her time on Ellis Island.

Unfortunately, her sister, Gabriella's English is poor, and is in the same class as Sofia even though she is five years older than her. Gabriella feels humiliated to be in the same classroom with such young children. Unlike all the other girls, Sofia and Gabriella don't have jobs because their parents are determined that they stay in school.

Sofia decides to try to find out about her friend, Maureen. Sadly, Maureen's mother is quite ill and her father is considering moving them back to Ireland. Sofia can't lose her friend forever... she wishes there was something she could do to help her friend.

Sofia realizes in this book that her and her family are able to make choices that they weren't able to make before, like, what will she do with her life? Never has she ever had to think about that before. Being in America has opened up so many doors for her and her family and she can't wait to see where this new life takes them!

Molly says

This entire series is a wonderful way to learn history or teach it to adolescents. I find today's generations seem to recall more when they learn through other people (pop songs, celebrity gossip, etc.), so what better way to teach history than through someone else's perspective? Yes, "authentic" diaries would be "better", but would the language really hold the modern student's attention? Did the diary writer know what WOULD be important in the context of history? Probably not.

Mas5thgrade2014 says

I feel so bad for Sofia and her freind.
KittyKatLove1313

Mellanie C says

I registered a book at BookCrossing.com!
<http://www.BookCrossing.com/journal/13118816>

Melissa Wells says

I loved the message the author was trying to convey and the book is great for young people but it's not for adult readers...Obviously....

Melanie says

The second part in this Dear America series on Sofia finds Sofia at home in Boston with her family as they began to establish themselves.

Laurie says

Written for elementary readers (girls especially since the protagonist is a young girl), Katherine Lasky has created a historical fiction story which will grab a young girl's heart. It is written in the format of diary entries about a young immigrant who could speak no English when she arrived. Her diary entries kept my attention to the end of this short novel. This is a series book, and not the first one. It is the second in this "My America series. Even though I have not read the first book in this series, I never felt lost as I gobbled up this book. I really enjoyed it. Then again, I recently discovered Kathryn Lasky.

As I said, it is a vibrant story for a child about a life in the early 20th century. I love books for older children and young adults, so I decided to try this one. It's a quick read for an adult, so you may wish to try it. I liked it!
