



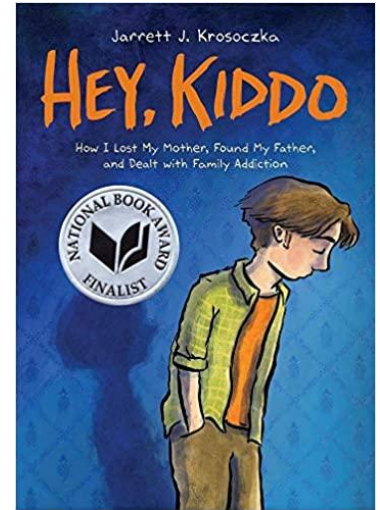
CHRISTINE RECOMMENDS... Family Stories

Click to learn about Summer Reading. Virtual raffle tickets can win real prizes!

IMAGINE YOUR STORY

Did you know that Jarrett J. Krosoczka (the author of the *Lunch Lady* series) grew up in Worcester? This graphic memoir tells the story of his difficult childhood through comic book panels, letters from his mother, and a few real photos.

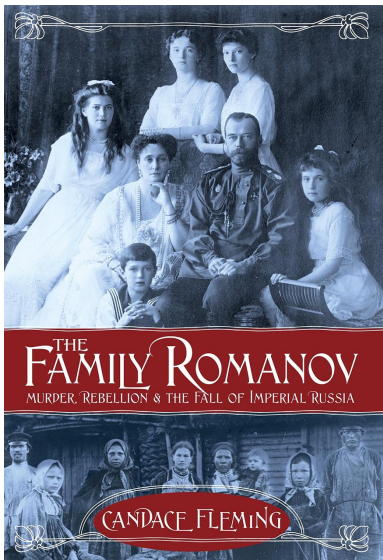
Young Jarrett lives with his loving, loud, and opinionated grandparents. His mother struggles with addiction and floats in and out of his life. He doesn't know his father-- not even his name. Like every teenager, Jarrett longs to be "normal," which to him means "just like everyone else." He wishes he had a mother and a father who were married and who were always around. He wants the bullies at school to leave him alone. And more than anything, he wants to be an artist. With the support of his grandparents, he gets better and better and eventually wins an art contest in the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*. He spends his teen/college years coming to terms with his family and pursuing art professionally.



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This is a heartbreaking but hopeful memoir about the life-saving power of art. After you read it, you will never be able to look at a *Lunch Lady* book without thinking about the road that led Jarrett to achieving his artistic dreams.



You might already know a bit about the mystery of Princess Anastasia, especially if you've seen the 1997 animated musical. But the true story is about social inequality, politics, and rebellion, not a long-lost princess.

The story, of course, ends with the brutal assassination of the entire royal family in 1918, but the author helps you understand the tensions, suffering, and desperation that led Russia to that tragic point. (For example: imagine being so starved that you had to eat a mixture of straw and clay).

This is a gripping and well-researched read for history buffs, especially those who are fascinated by the mysterious historical figures Anastasia and Rasputin. The included photos and letters help you get completely immersed in history.

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MORE FAMILY STORIES:

Far From the Tree by Robin Benway (realistic fic)

The Grief Keeper by Alexandra Villasante (realistic fic)

Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo (realistic fic)

Our Dining Table by Mita Ori (slice-of-life manga)

Last Pick series by Jason Walz (sci-fi graphic novel)

Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card by Sara Saedi

You Bring the Distant Near by Mitali Perkins (historical fic) (memoir)

Click on my picture to email me your recs!