

Miracle Times Two

Mazzy Moore

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Miracle Times Two is a lovely picture book in which a mother reassures her children that every adventure is guided by fate.

In Mazzy Moore's picture book *Miracle Times Two*, a mother gives up her exciting life of travel and adventure to embrace the challenge of mothering twins.

The story opens with the woman living her best life with her dog at her side. She scales mountains, explores foreign climates, and courts new experiences. She sees Egyptian and Mayan pyramids, buildings reminiscent of the Taj Mahal, Petra, and the Coliseum. There's excitement at every turn. Still, the woman feels that something is missing. She dreams of two small souls waiting for her.

Soon after, the illustrations reveal a man in her life and two small children. Where the man and the babies came from is not explained; indeed, the man is not mentioned in the text at all. Details are waved away; magic is credited as what "made two little souls appear."

Though the prose employs rhymes, its rhyme schemes are inconsistent, and its rhythm is jolting. The word emphases are also off beat. This is not a picture book suited to story time read alouds. Still, its illustrations are charming, formed to suggest movement on the part of the woman and her dog. They are soft and warm in their makeup, and they convey feelings of family togetherness. The message that everything happens for a reason comes through with clarity.

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CAMILLE-YVETTE WELSCH (September 1, 2022)

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