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Rosenthal, Betsy R.

MY HOUSE IS SINGING

Illus. by Margaret Chodos-Irvine

Harcourt (40 pp.)

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In a set of poetic observations written with a child's voice and sensibility, Rosenthal celebrates a house's nooks and crannies, furnishings, noises, decorations, and general coziness. Caldecott Honor-winner Chodos-Irvine captures the writer's ruminative tone with blocky, semi-abstract prints, done in vibrant colors and depicting a child of indeterminate race posed comfortably in pleasantly untidy domestic settings. The poems share a theme, but vary in form—and also mood, from a tongue-in-cheek inventory of “The Stuff Place” (“I’ve heard that garages/are built for cars./There’s never been room/for one in ours”) to frustration at a stuck back door, plus shaped observations of a “Tired Light Bulb,” and a trail of “Ants! in the kitchen. A confident debut for Rosenthal, and a strong follow-up for a talented award-winner. (*Picture book/poetry*. 6-9)