

*Booklist Review:*

**Looking for Me.**

Rosenthal, Betsy R. (Author)

Apr 2012. 176 p. Houghton, hardcover, \$15.99. (9780547610849).

Twelve-year-old Edith Paul feels somewhat lost in her enormous Depression-era family. As the fourth of 12 children, she accepts caring for her younger siblings, working until two in the morning in her father's diner, and sleeping three to a bed. But she also wishes for things she lacks: new school clothes, alone time with her mother, and a sense of her place in the family. Spanning the 1936–37 school year, Rosenthal's verse novel is based on anecdotes from her mother's childhood. The poetry reads smoothly, although not all of it is lyrical. Contemporary readers may be surprised by the child-rearing practices described—spankings with a belt, receiving coal for Christmas, a boy being forced to stand outside wearing a dress—but the overall tone is one of solidarity in spite of difficulties. Luckily, Edith eventually finds her place, attending university: "I'm on my way / to being so much more / than just plain Edith / who's number four." Give this to fans of Natalie Kinsey-Warnock's *If Wishes Were Horses* (2000).—*Kay Weisman*