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## Book Review: I am not a number. By Jenny Kay Dupuis & Kathy Kacer.

Stephanie Joe - Editor in Chief

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**I AM NOT A NUMBER. By Jenny Kay Dupuis and Kathy Kacer. Illustrated by Gillian Newland. 32 pp. Toronto: Second Story Press. \$18.95.**

The following ISBNs are associated with this title:

ISBN - 10: 1927583942

ISBN - 13: 9781927583944

By Stephanie Joe

**A true story about the Canadian residential school system.**

This true story is based on Irene Couchie —Jenny Kay Dupuis' grandmother— experience at residential school in 1928.

Eight-year-old Irene is taken from her family, along with her two brothers, from the Nipissing First Nation reserve to live at Spanish Indian Residential School. Like so many Aboriginal children at



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conversation that I'm sure he hasn't learned in school just yet.

The authors capture the essence of the history of that time through the world of Irene. She's young and she doesn't understand what is happening to her. Seeing the world through the eyes of an innocent child gives the traumatic history of First Nations children an honest perspective.

“

*The illustrations are simple and neutral—which adds to the theme of the story.*

There are photographs of the real Irene Couchie, along with a brief history of residential schools, which gives background and context to the story.

It's not an easy story to live through, let alone tell. The thought of having to give your children up for months, and not knowing what happens to them or if they're being cared for, is disturbing enough. Finding out what actually happens to them at these schools is heartbreaking.

Residential schools are a part of Canadian history, and the sooner children learn about them the sooner we can reach reconciliation. I believe this story is working towards that. It's important that we honour Irene's story, along with other children of residential schools, by reading and discussing this story with our children.

**Books can be pre-ordered from your favourite bookstore and here from Amazon.ca – Amazon.com and Indigo and will be available September 6.**



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### RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLMAGAZINE

Residential School Magazine. Dealing with all aspects of the residential school experience. Featuring stories from survivors, interviews with prominent First Nations and Native American people, and inspirational essays and narratives. Its general tone is to uplift, aid, and inform readers who have been affected by the residential school system.



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