

THE US Review of Books



[James' Courageous Act](#)

by Angelina Charles

PageTurner Press and Media

book review by Joyce Jacobo

"I say hello because she seems so lonely sitting on her porch with only her cat to talk to."

James is a nine-year-old boy, adopted by an American family, who is proud of his Mexican heritage. He leads a peaceful life, and every day on his way to school, he passes the home of Ms. Davis, an elderly woman who likes to spend her mornings in the rocking chair on her front porch, accompanied by her cat. She reminds James of his abuela (grandmother) in Mexico, and it becomes his routine to wave to her every day and help her with errands twice a week. When Ms. Davis abruptly stops appearing on her front porch, James goes to check on her and discovers she has fallen inside her house and needs help. Thanks to his quick actions, Ms. Davis soon receives the medical attention she desperately needs. James gets rewarded for his bravery with a medal and decides to become a doctor in the future.

At first glance, the tale of a young boy who strikes up a friendship with an elderly woman in his hometown can sound sweet but simplistic. The full-colored illustrations are sure to draw in young readers instantly, and the fact the main character leads a happy life in America with ties to Mexico is something to which a lot of children in similar situations can relate. However, the sweetness of the friendship between James and Ms. Davis has a far more serious twist as the story continues. James' heroism comes from the fact that he is the one who is consistently checking up on Ms. Davis, even when told it is none of his

business. It stresses the importance of watching out for others, especially the elderly members of the community who might live on their own. As such, this story provides an important and valuable lesson for its readers, young and much older, to internalize.