



2005

Martha

Marilyn Lee

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Spirin, Gennady. *Martha*. Philomel Books, 2005. ISBN 0399239804. \$14.99. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Marilyn Lee

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary, Intermediate

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Picture books;

Subject: Birds--Juvenile fiction; Family--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Award winning Gennady Spirin tells a gentle and engaging story of his family's experience with a wounded crow found by his son, Ilya, and named Martha. The text is simple and unobtrusive. It describes the enchanting illustrations which show every small and distinctly Russian detail of the environment. The story is driven by the question "What will Martha do?" but is also a background revealing the loving, nurturing and patient kindness of Ilya. The lovely watercolors create a beautiful vignette for this tender experience. This book will charm and delight the reader.