



2007

Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad

Marsha D. Broadway

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr>

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Broadway, Marsha D. (2007) "Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 28 : Iss. 4 , Article 6.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol28/iss4/6>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

Rumford, James. *Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad*. Illustrated by James Rumford. Roaring Brook Press, 2008. ISBN 9781596432765. \$17.95. 32 p.

Reviewer: Marsha D. Broadway

Reading level: Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Picture books

Subject: Calligraphy, Arabic--Juvenile fiction; Iraq War, 2003--Juvenile fiction; Baghdad (Iraq)--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

A young Iraqi boy, Ali, lives with his family, plays soccer, and studies in Baghdad. His passion is learning to write beautiful Arabic letters. Their gliding, sweeping, leaping movements allow him to hear the silent music in his head and remind him of watching a soccer game in slow motion. He leaves messages for his father on the bathroom mirror, and his mother compares his to the famous calligrapher Yakut. During the 2003 night bombings of Baghdad, Ali writes all night to soothe himself and continues to write to bring peace to his mind.

Rumford's use of Ali's point of view allows readers insights into the often unseen lives children who must learn to cope with war as they are growing up. The focus is on daily life and not on the politics of war. Photographs posted on the Internet inspired the computer-enhanced pencil and charcoal illustrations. Rumford also penned much of the calligraphy.

Volume 28, no. 4 (Mar/Apr 2008)