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The Spindlers by Lauren Oliver

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Author: Oliver, Lauren

Title: *The Spindlers*

Illustrator: Bruno, Iacopo

Year of Publication: 2012

Publisher: HarperCollins

ISBN: 9780061978081

Number of Pages: 256

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate; Young Adult

Keywords: Fantasy; Adventure; Brothers and Sisters; Creatures; Loyalty; Courage; Love; Good and Evil

Review:

Things are not going well at home: Liza's mother is worried about bills, her dad has lost his glasses, and Liza fears that the spindlers—fearsome, spider-like creatures—have taken her brother's soul. Knowing she is the only person who can help, Liza arms herself with a broom to sweep away spindler webs and enters Below, a very different and dangerous world underground. There she encounters rats, troglods, moles, nids, and other creatures, some helpful and some treacherous, as she struggles to save her brother with only her love to keep her going in spite of the hazards around her.

Lauren Oliver has written a fantasy story that would interest children in grade school and could easily be read by a third or fourth grader. To encourage young readers and keep their interest, the chapters are seldom more than ten pages long. Each chapter begins with an illustration, and the story moves quickly from one adventure to another. It is a tale of sibling loyalty, courage, and the power of appreciation and kindness.

Reviewer: Cynthia Frazier

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