



2020

The Scarecrow

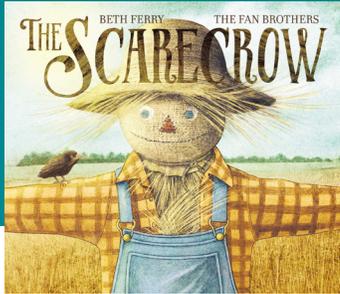
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Book Review

The Scarecrow

Author

Beth Ferry

Illustrator

Terry Fan and Eric Fan

Reviewer

Jazmin Gomez

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Rating

Excellent

Level

Preschool, Primary

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Pages

40

Year

2019

ISBN

9780062475763

Publisher

Harper

It is autumn in the golden fields, and lonely Scarecrow stands guard. As winter gives way to spring, a baby crow suddenly falls from a tree. Scarecrow breaks his pole to bend down and save the scared bird. He tucks him into his chest of hay and they instantly become friends. The crow grows and learns to fly, and when summer comes, he makes his way into the world. Scarecrow is left alone again to face the autumn chill and winter winds. But as spring approaches once more, the large crow returns and Scarecrow welcomes him with open arms. This time the black bird is here to stay, and he has brought his mate along. They grow their family alongside Scarecrow, and the love between these unlikely friends endures throughout the seasons.

Written in verse, Beth Ferry's book provides a new perspective on scarecrows. While many stories about scarecrows take place in the fall and Halloween time, the important events in this book occur in the springtime. It also takes characters who are usually seen at odds with each other and pairs them as friends. It inspires readers to look past initial prejudices and approach others with an open heart. The illustrations done by the Fan Brothers are rendered using pencil, ballpoint and Photoshop. The colors used change in synchrony with the seasons as time progresses through the narrative. The pages and dust jacket are made of durable paper, and a different illustration under the dust jacket adds an extra layer of fun.