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***The Ice Dragon* by George R. R. Martin (review)**

Kate Quealy-Gainer

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REVIEW

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Reviewed by:

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Kate Quealy-Gainer

MARTIN, GEORGE R. R. *The Ice Dragon*; illus. by Luis Royo. Tor Teen, 2014 121p Trade ed. ISBN 978-0-7653-7877-4 \$14.99 E-book ed. ISBN 978-0-7653-7924-5 \$9.99 R Gr. 5-8

According to Adara’s family, the winter’s cold seeped into her mother’s womb on the night Adara was born, leaving Adara a chilly, emotionless child and killing her mother. It’s true that in her seven years Adara has neither cried nor smiled much, and most of her affection is saved for the winter creatures—the ice lizards, the snow birds—that arrive with the first snowfall and keep her company while her family keeps their distance. When a rare ice dragon appears, Adara is able to tame and ride the beast herself, an unimaginable feat for even one of the king’s experienced dragon riders, much less a girl. War, however, soon threatens Adara’s small village, and she and her dragon must defend family and friends, ultimately paying a steep price. While set in the same world as Martin’s adult *Games of Thrones* series, this tale, previously published as a short story, has a rhythmic, direct tone that echoes an oral narrative, giving the endeavor a folkloric feel and softening some of the more heartbreaking elements. Adara is a distant but nonetheless appealing heroine, and her struggles with fitting in lend her story a specific entry point for younger readers. Blue-inked text is set on creamy white paper, while Royo’s intricate illustrations—also in blue ink and wash—perfectly evoke the mood of the plot events, from the icy calm of a winter’s night to the frigid tension of the wait for battle. A bittersweet ending provides contentment for both Adara and readers, making this a harrowing but ultimately rewarding and unusual addition to the genre.

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MCCARTHY, MEGHAN *Earmuffs for Everyone!: How Chester Greenwood Became Known as the Inventor of Earmuffs*; written and illus. by Meghan McCarthy. Wiseman/Simon, 2015 42p

Trade ed. ISBN 978-1-4814-0637-6 \$17.99

E-book ed. ISBN 978-1-4814-0638-3 \$10.99

R* Gr. 2-4

Having forayed into inventor biography in her delightful *Pop!: The Invention of Bubble Gum* (BCCB 6/10), McCarthy turns here not only to invention but its historiography as she explores the development of earmuffs and of the narrative of their invention in her usual droll, compact form. The book begins by chronicling some early ear-protecting duds and patents, then relays the story of Chester Greenwood, who "had gigantic ears" and who is widely thought to be the creator of earmuffs, despite evidence that versions of such ear warmers existed well before he was even born. The text then goes back to question the discrepancies between the two narratives ("What do you think really happened?"), dig deeper into patents, address the inventors (like Edison as well as Greenwood) whose contribution was to improve an existing idea rather than be the first to come up with it, and relate the revival and enhancement of Greenwood's legend years after he died. The result takes McCarthy's already zippy and effective exploration into thought-provoking new territory for young readers, cleverly unpicking the story behind the story and making the point that innovation rarely occurs in isolation. McCarthy's familiar pop-eyed human (and animal) figures get added comedy from the rhyming roundness of their earmuffs, and the running gallery of patents and devices that threads through the pages evinces a contagious delight in the Age of Invention. Aside from



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The Ice Dragon by George RR Martin, according Vening-Meyens, social psychology of art is not available starts the graph of the function.

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