

MARTIN RISING

BY **Andrea Davis Pinkney**



REQUIEM
FOR A
KING

PAINTINGS BY **Brian Pinkney**



SCHOLASTIC PRESS / NEW YORK

Text copyright © 2018 by Andrea Davis Pinkney

Illustrations copyright © 2018 by Brian Pinkney

All rights reserved. Published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., *Publishers since 1920*.

SCHOLASTIC, SCHOLASTIC PRESS, and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.

The publisher does not have any control over and does not assume any responsibility for author or third-party websites or their content.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher.

For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Inc.,

Attention: Permissions Department, 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Pinkney, Andrea Davis, author. | Pinkney, J. Brian, illustrator.

Title: Martin rising : requiem for a King / by Andrea Davis Pinkney ; paintings by Brian Pinkney.

Description: New York : Scholastic Press, [2018] | Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016031408 | ISBN 9780545702539 (hardcover : acid-free paper)

Subjects: LCSH: King, Martin Luther, Jr. 1929-1968--Poetry.

Classification: LCC PS3616.I574 A6 2017 | DDC 811/.6--dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016031408>

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

18 19 20 21 22

Printed in China 38 First edition, January 2018

Excerpts from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "Mountaintop" speech were reprinted by arrangement with The Heirs to the Estate of Martin Luther King, Jr., c/o Writers House as agent for the proprietor New York, NY.

Copyright © 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. © Renewed 1996 Coretta Scott King.

Photos ©: 118 top: Donald Uhrbrock/The LIFE Images Collection/Getty Images;

119 top: Jack Thornell/AP Images; 119 center: Bettmann/Getty Images;

119 bottom: Bettmann/Getty Images; 120 top: Shelby County Register's Office/Archives;

120 center: *Washington Post*/Getty Images; 120 bottom: AFP/Getty Images;

121 top left: Bettmann/Getty Images; 121 bottom: © Bob Adelman.

SPARKLING-EYED CHILD

JANUARY 15, 1929

Baby boy born,
eyes sparkling.
Martin.

Came into this “Jim Crow” world
brought daylight to
this unfair world,
this legal-to-cheat blacks world,
with God-given gifts:

big voice,
sharp mind,
sparkling-eyed vision
that could see something special
in tomorrow’s promise.

He studied
oratory,
sociology,
theology,
and excelled.

When he became
a full-grown man,
he found a place in history
as he fulfilled his destiny to
fight for full equality:

as scholar,
preacher,
believer,
and teacher of what it means to dream.



With those sparkling eyes always looking ahead,
Martin found the path
of light, of love, and truth,
the Bible, his beacon.

He stepped right up to the teachings
that nourished the world's greatest minds:

Lincoln,
Thoreau,
Tolstoy—
and Gandhi, (whose heart was warmed
by the wisdom woven
in the Sermon on the Mount.)

These greats were Martin's North Star.
The compass
that led him to the mountaintop.
He knew, deep down, he had to climb
to reach the promised land—
along with his close companion:

Nonviolence.

And so,
Martin took that trip.

Rode
the Montgomery bus boycott.
Strode
through Selma.
Wrote
a letter from Birmingham Jail.
Marched
on Washington
where he told his eager followers:
"I have a dream!"



On that unforgettable day—
glorious,
triumphant—
on that peace-filled afternoon,
when not one drop of violence spilled,
what did the now-a-man,
who was once
the gifted child with sparkling eyes,
see into Future's face?

Did he know what Horizon's hand held?

Did he understand that to be born
with so many gifts
was a privilege that had a price?

How *could* he know?
How *could* he foretell?

To come so far,
to stand so high,
all he knew
was that he had to keep climbing
to the top
of the mountain
at all costs.

It seems that Martin
the sparkling-eyed child born
leader of his people
was put here to do
just that.

