

Martin, Emily Winfield      Dream Animals: A Bedtime Journey      R\*      Ages 4-6

Children glide through the starry night sky on the backs of rabbits, swans, kittens, and other “dream animals” in this cozy bedtime story. The gentle rhyming rhythm of Marin’s poem carries dreamers to fantastical places: a sweet dinner with nursery rhyme characters, an enchanting forest filled with fairies, an expansive sky with no end in sight, and an underwater tea party where mermaids delight.

Martin’s rich scenery compliments the whimsy of her tale: each dream panel comes alive with such apparent light and texture that it begs to be touched and the first pages lay out a map of starlit animals promising adventure. Her juxtaposition of sleeping scenes in monotone hues and dreaming scenes in full, lush color is enchanting as the environment around the slumbering children is whisked into their dreams (a bird mobile above a bed becomes children riding birds; a girl clutching her narwhal stuffed animal goes on underwater adventures). The overall fairytale feel of Martin’s sketches and paintings lends well to the dreamscape worlds she creates. The dreams start out full of excitement and come to a soft, comfy resting place afloat a cloud and the glowing moon: a perfect, sleepy end.

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Rebecca Strang, July 2018

R\*      Starred, Recommended  
R      Recommended  
Ad      Acceptable  
M      Marginal (in content or style), consider carefully

This review was completed for MSLIS coursework.  
More information [here](#).