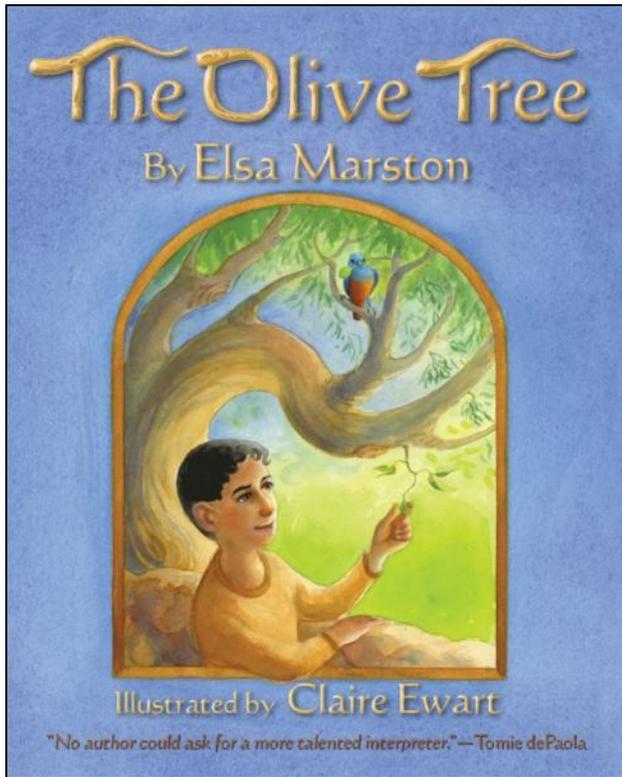


The Olive Tree

By Elsa Marston

Illustrated by Claire Ewart



When Muna and her family returned after the war, Sameer thought that he would finally have someone to play with. Together they could climb and eat from the big olive tree that overlooked both their gardens. But Muna didn't want to play or share the olives. And then, one night lightning struck and everything changed! In this poignant story, can these two children learn to put their differences aside in order to share and work together?

This Book Contains

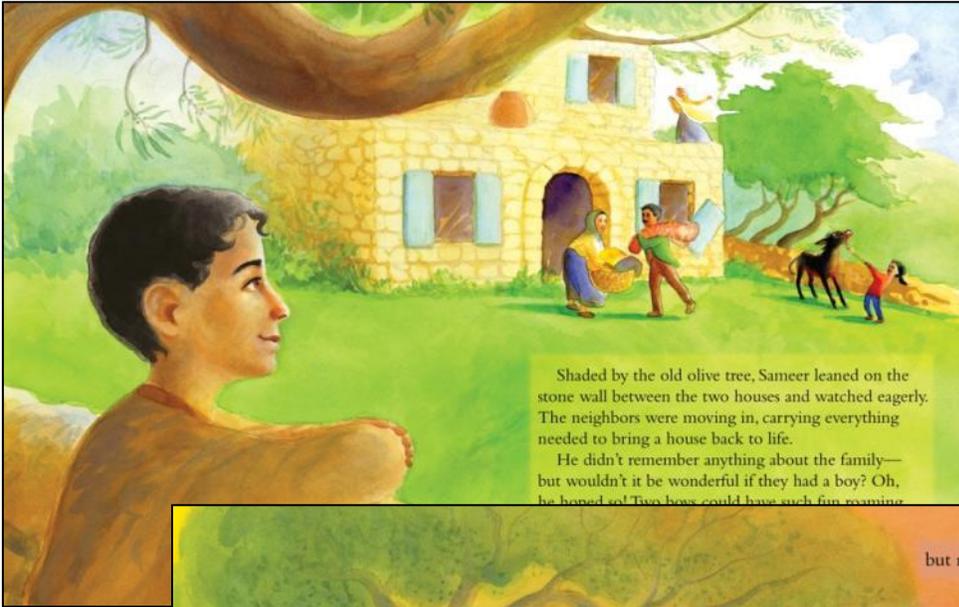
- ❖ Beautiful paintings from award-winning illustrator Claire Ewart
 - ❖ An example of two children learning to share and work together by looking past their differences.
- ❖ A lesson about how compassion and understanding lie at the heart of all friendships.

Publication Details

- ❖ ISBN: 978-1-937786-29-8
- ❖ Pub Date: November 2014
- ❖ Price: \$16.95
- ❖ Trim Size: 8x10
- ❖ Page Count: 32 casebound
- ❖ Ages: 5 and up



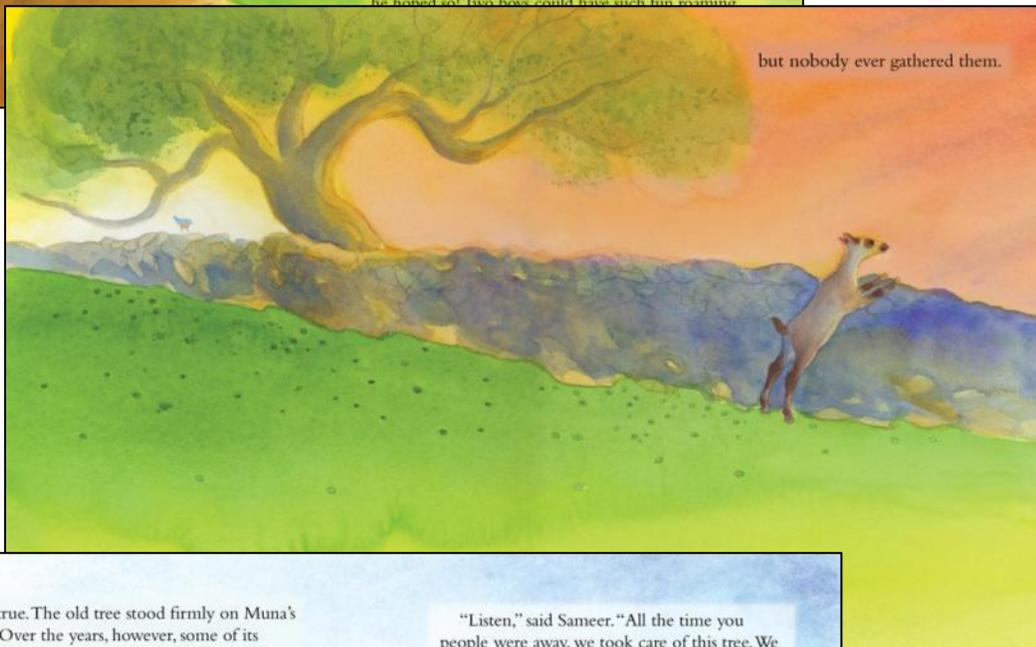
Sample Pages of *The Olive Tree*



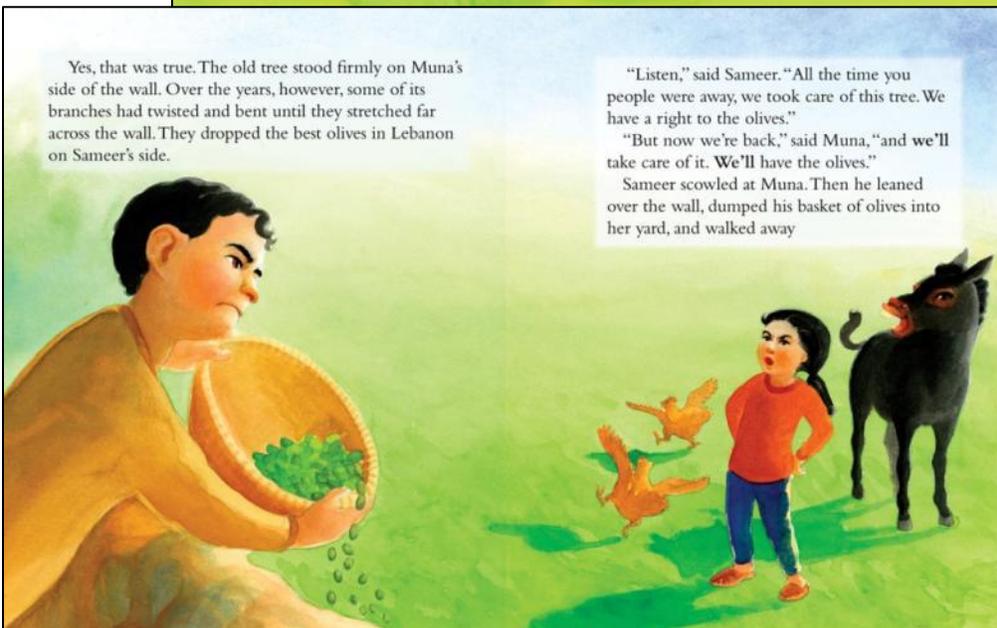
Shaded by the old olive tree, Sameer leaned on the stone wall between the two houses and watched eagerly. The neighbors were moving in, carrying everything needed to bring a house back to life.

He didn't remember anything about the family—but wouldn't it be wonderful if they had a boy? Oh, he hoped so! Two boys could have such fun roaming

but nobody ever gathered them.



Sample Pages



Yes, that was true. The old tree stood firmly on Muna's side of the wall. Over the years, however, some of its branches had twisted and bent until they stretched far across the wall. They dropped the best olives in Lebanon on Sameer's side.

"Listen," said Sameer. "All the time you people were away, we took care of this tree. We have a right to the olives."

"But now we're back," said Muna, "and we'll take care of it. We'll have the olives."

Sameer scowled at Muna. Then he leaned over the wall, dumped his basket of olives into her yard, and walked away.

Praise for the Illustrator

“No author could ask for a more talented interpreter.”

—Tomie dePaola

About the Author



Elsa Marston is the author of almost two dozen books of fiction and non-fiction for children and young adults, plus numerous stories and articles in children’s magazines and in YA collections. Her most recent book, *The Compassionate Warrior: Abd el-Kader of Algeria*, had been the winner of several awards including the 2013 Middle East Book Award. She grew up in Boston, and from a young age was fascinated with the stories of ancient Egypt and the Middle East. Elsa attended several different universities after she left school, including Vassar College, the University of Iowa, Harvard University, and Indiana University. She also studied Middle Eastern history at the American University of Beirut where Elsa met her late husband, Iliya Harik, from Lebanon, who

later came to work as a political scientist at Indiana University. Because of Iliya’s work and his family connections, he and Elsa would often travel to the Middle East. Inspired by her travels, Elsa says the motivation for her writing is “to share with young readers my own interest in those lands and peoples, and equally important, help contribute to better understanding of the Arab/Muslim world. In that way I hope to continue Iliya’s life’s work, along with my own.” Elsa has three grown-up sons, and lives with her cat in Bloomington, Indiana.

About the Illustrator

Claire Ewart is an award-winning author and illustrator of children’s books. In addition to illustrating books by such well-known authors as Tomie dePaola and Paul Fleischman, she has also written and illustrated several of her own books, including *One Cold Night*, *The Giant*, and *Fossil*. Her work has received praise and awards from many reviewers and organizations, including the Celebrate Literacy Award from the International Reading Association. In addition, Ewart’s work as an illustrator has been included on Best Book lists from *School Library Journal* and *Parent’s Magazine*. It has also appeared on the PBS television shows *Reading Rainbow* and *Storytime*. Claire Ewart’s illustrations have been featured in museums and galleries, and were included in the Society of Illustrators show “Original Art.” Her portfolio was also featured in the 1992 edition of *Children’s Writer’s & Illustrator’s Market*. She lives in Fort Wayne, IN.

