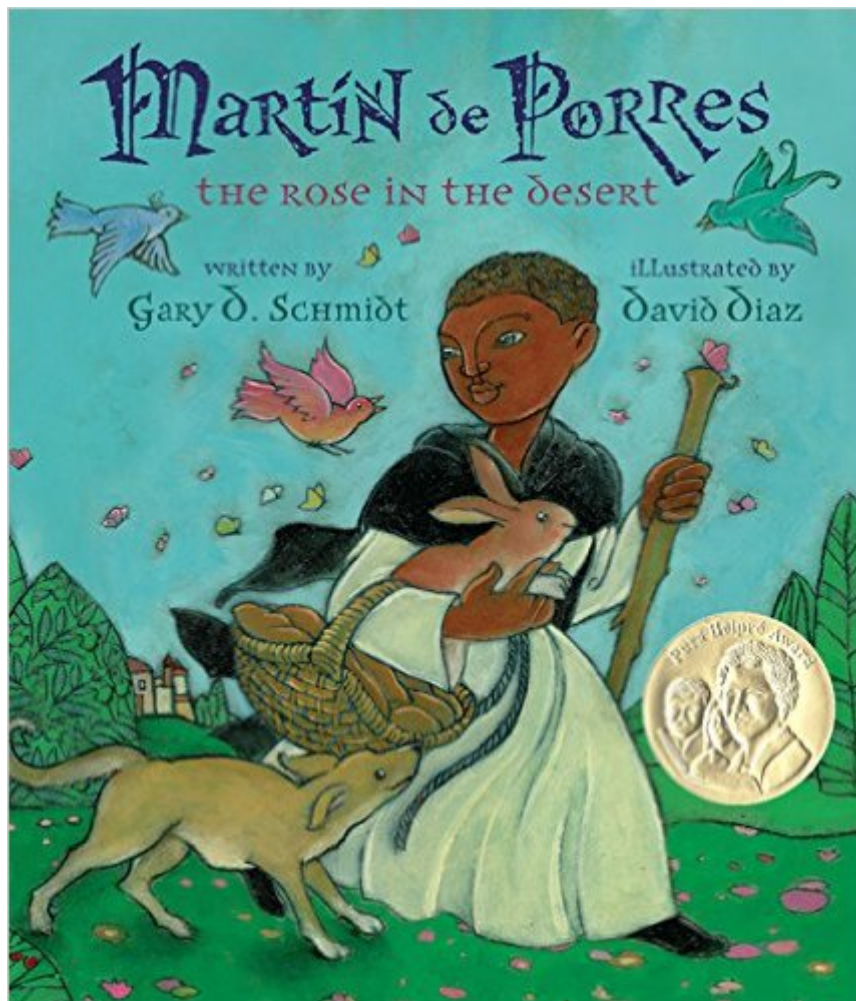


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# Martin De Porres: The Rose In The Desert (Americas Award For Children's And Young Adult Literature. Honorable Mention)



## Synopsis

2013 Pura Belpre Award for Illustration As the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a former slave, Martin de Porres was born into extreme poverty. Even so, his mother begged the church fathers to allow him into the priesthood. Instead, Martin was accepted as a servant boy. But soon, the young man was performing miracles. Rumors began to fly around the city of a strange mulatto boy with healing hands, who gave first to the people of the barrios. Martin continued to serve in the church, until he was finally received by the Dominican Order, no longer called the worthless son of a slave, but rather a saint and the rose in the desert.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)

Series: Americas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature. Honorable Mention

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books; First Edition edition (June 26, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547612184

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 9.5 x 10.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #451,452 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Central & South America #68 in Books > Children's Books > Religions > Christianity > Biographies #163 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Religious

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Before I even read Martin de Porres: The Rose in Desert, as a catholic I had knew a bit about who he was and what people prayed for him to bring or protect. I enjoyed getting to read this book in that it was Culturally Authentic to the spanish words used and the context they were used in. The illustrator did a great job incorporating colors. Red was used to describe importance of a person status and hot weather. While Blue was used in a more peaceful parts of the story it described serenity and a time of change. Yellow, another great watercolor was used to describe growth with

his lemon tree and growth within himself. Martin de Porres was the son of Spaniard Royal born into the hands of an African Peruvian slave. Through out his life he was consistently frowned upon for his mixed blood. He grew up in the poorest Barrios (urban streets) with his sister where much of land stunk and flooded with rats when the heavens poured down. His father Don Juan de Porres sought out to help his son and daughter from their poor living conditions and brought them to Ecuador to change their future. Martin was apprenticed by his father to become Limas Cirujano (towns surgeon). With his background as a Cirujano, many people began to seek for Martin and his healing hands. He was given lemon seeds that would feed and give him shade all year around by his first patient. Martin sought out to be the best healer that he could and help those in need to regain custody of his rightful name as the Rose of the Desert. The artwork is very artistic and detailed. Color was used effectively to show the mood at the time of the scene. Artwork was very humble. The color green mixed in with yellow was used well to show the growth in Martin as he went town to town helping those who lived in Barrios (urban streets)

I got this book for the obvious reasons. It's about a marvelous Saint and geared toward young kids. I was very disappointed with it. I really wanted to love it, the illustrations are beautiful! However, this book portrays the clergy in a very negative light and not just a little bit. On about 60% of the pages in the book a negative message is put forth about the clergy by the way it is written. It is true that St. Martin faced much adversity and resistance, even from the Church but I don't want to be reading my kids a book that makes Priests out to be bad guys. Sure, they might have (and we don't know all of the details) been in error but this book is over the top and inappropriate. Surely there was a more respectful and helpful way of writing the story. Cultivating respect for clergy is important to our family and so I give this book 1 star. In fact, I think that St. Martin would have much more respect for clergy than this author does! After all, books about the saints should foster love of The Church that the saints themselves loved. And one more little thing, why is St. Martin the only Dominican in a Dominican habit? The rest are always wearing red...

Newbery-honor winning novelist Gary D. Schmidt and Caldecott-winning illustrator David Diaz together have created a beautiful and moving portrait of Martin de Porres, a 17th century Peruvian saint. I was completely unfamiliar with this remarkable individual, an illegitimate child both to a former African slave and a Spanish conqueror. He grew up in poverty until the age of eight, when his noble father came from Ecuador and took Martin and his sister Juana back with him to raise. Later apprenticed to a doctor-barber, Martin showed a talent for healing and a religious calling. But

the local prior, prejudiced against Martin's dark skin, would not let him to train to be a priest. Instead, he became a servant at the monastery. Martin's talent for healing dogs and befriending animals of all kinds began to be known, and the local people as well as the monks soon began to ask Martin to doctor them. Eventually he was allowed to take vows as a priest, and he continued to work miracles as the "rose in the desert." Schmidt's lyrical text and Diaz' beautifully realized illustrations combine to make this a stellar offering for those looking for inspirational stories about saints or other religious figures to share with their children. Diaz illustrations are rendered with a flat, stylized method and are colored with rich, jewel-like tones. Many of the illustrations have a dream-like quality suited to rendering the miracles described in the text. Like Saint Francis of Assisi, Martin was known for his work with animals and with the poor. Unlike Saint Francis, however, Martin came from an underprivileged background himself. A brief Author's Note tells the reader that Martin was made a saint in 1962, the first black saint in the Americas. He is now known as the patron saint of interracial relations, social justice, those of mixed race, and animal shelters.

It is so important to brilliantly depict the need, and the reason, for hope, in this world filled with children in trying circumstances! I absolutely love this book, as it does exactly that. Thank you, Mr. Schmidt, for this poignant, love-filled story, and Mr. Diaz, for the perfect illustrations to it!

I read aloud a longer book about this saint to my 11 year old daughter last year— Saint Martin de Porres, and it became her favorite saint. His humble origins, service oriented life and love for animals won her heart! We were pleased to find this beautiful picture book about the well-known and beloved Peruvian saint. Not all of the major facts of his life are in the book but there is enough in the story for the young reader to have an introduction to his life. Books on lives of the saints are very inspirational and greatly needed today!

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