Julie Golds Grammy-winning song From a Distance carries a message of hope in a troubled world that touches a universal chord. It has been performed and recorded by many top artists, including Nanci Griffith, Bette Midler, and the Byrds, and has been translated into several different languages. Now acclaimed illustrator Jane Ray interprets this inspirational folk hymn with dazzling brilliance and keen sensitivity.

Through intricate watercolors, the illustrator constructs a story in which discord and disunity are counterbalanced by a promise of peace and harmony. Her lush, distinctive folk-art style is ideally suited to the spare poetic text that explores the space between the world as it should be--the untarnished creation--and the world as it is--a place where war and injustice often prevail. The lavish illustrations paint an ultimately joyous and life-affirming vision. The result is a book as moving and uplifting as the song itself.

With subject matter both timely and timeless--the expression of hope in a troubled world--and illustrations universal and yet evocative of the recent ethnic wars in Eastern Europe, this beautiful book will be cherished by people everywhere, young and old.

My Personal Review:
This lovely book inspired by Julie Golds song written to honor her feelings about the Vietnam war is especially poignant now as our soldiers and the soldiers of other countries fight and die. Acts of terrorism have made the world a small and scary place where many feel there is no hope. How does anyone explain to a child why this is happening? It is impossible without hope. We cannot raise our children on an ideology of prejudice, hate and retribution. The hatred that has been passed from generation to generation to many of the people of the middle east is no
different then the gang violence in our own streets being a consequence of failure to deal with social issues. This beautiful book deals with horrifying subject matter in a way that a child can understand without being terrified. Jane Rays beautiful folk art illustrations perfectly bring life to the haunting lyrics of Golds ballad. Children ARE aware of what is happening. Mommies and Daddies are going off to war and many are not coming back. Yet just a day ago at my grandsons kindergarten class, I saw little Americans of every race and creed playing together like angels. It is grownups who mess this up!

Not everyone will agree with this review. But I believe this book should be in every home and every classroom, as well as a recording by one of the artists who sang this lovely song. The bottom line is from a distance ...God is watching us.

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From a Distance by Jane Ray - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!