Miss Spiders Tea Party

Spot Of Tea, Anyone?

Wary insects do not dare stop by Miss Spiders for tea, but when a wayward moth falls into one of Miss Spiders cups, she graciously rescues it and soon finds herself surrounded by new friends.

My Personal Review:
One lonely spider sipped her tea while gazing at the sky
She watched the insects on the leaves and many flying by...

So begins the tale of Miss Spider, a charming arachnid whose only wish is to have many an insect delight in her hospitality by attending her elegant tea party. Outwardly, Miss Spider is quite beautiful - a cheery goldenrod body accented by large black dots, hypnotizing peridot eyes fringed by heavy lashes, a striking red coif and coquettish smile all look very innocent, indeed. Despite her attractive appearance and friendly demeanor, not one insect in Miss Spiders neighborhood will accept her invitation for fear they will be caught in a literal web of deceit and become the main course amongst the gleaming china and sweet cakes.

As Miss Spider tries time and again to coax different insects (bumblebees, beetles, etc.), for a sit-down, she is continually met with resistance and/or rejection and retreats to her place settings, shedding a tear for the loss of company. Its not until a hapless moth soaked by the downpour of a thunderstorm stumbles upon her council that Miss Spider offers a tablecloth and tea to warm him. As the grateful moth flies off with a piece of chocolate cake, the good news spreads quickly of her generosity and good nature. Before she knows it, Miss Spider is flanked by dozens of insects and becomes the guest of honor at her own party and is graciously welcomed into the fold of many an insect family.

David Kirk has crafted a charming story that tells young children that people cannot be judged by their outward appearance, only by the content of their character and it does so magnificently with all the colorful and resplendent original paintings contained within. Your child will be enraptured by Kirks bright and beautiful art work (its one of the main reasons why I picked up this book for my daughter) and as an added bonus will get a nice refresher course on counting from 1-12 (two beetles, three fireflies, four bumblebees, etc.). The entire book is written in the form of a poem with spontaneous rhyme schemes - the language as well as the story flows beautifully as a result.
Bottom line: Undeniably enjoyable for the reader and the spectator, the artwork and word form of Miss Spiders Tea Party makes for a visual and auditory rapture.

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