

## The Greedy Sparrow: An Armenian Tale

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The story begins with a sparrow entreating a kindly baker to remove a thorn from his foot. The cunningly selfish bird then tricks his rescuer into giving him some bread. From there, he establishes a pattern of duplicity whereby his spoils escalate in value, with a sheep and bride ultimately among the casualties. This classic Armenian fable (Crime never pays! is the lesson at the end) is retold to the accompaniment of richly chromatic, folkloric scenes by a Moscow native that bring to mind Ukrainian Easter eggs. Ages four to eight.

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