

The Life and Death of Martin Luther King, Jr., by James Haskins (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, \$6.95). Another book from the astonishingly prolific Haskins is a straightforward nuts and bolts account of the King story that would inform readers of any age. The rather militant tone of the section on King's Atlanta childhood is muted as events become too horrifying for rhetoric. Haskins does not ignore the chinks in the leader's armor although he does not dwell on them unduly. The going gets pretty heavy for 10-year-olds when the conspiracy theory and the legal battles of James Earl Ray are described in detail, but the book is a valuable source, written lucidly but without any talking down. (Ages 10-up)