



Wabi: A Hero's Tale

By Joseph Bruchac

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Wabi was born an owl—a great horned owl who grew to become such a strong, confident creature that he was afraid of nothing. But now he *is* afraid. He fears that he might never win the heart of the girl he loves. Somehow, despite his own intentions, he has fallen in love with a girl—a beautiful, headstrong human girl. And so he begins the adventure of his life. He shape-shifts into human form in order to be with her. But before he can win her love, he must face an even greater challenge in a land he comes to think of as the Valley of Monsters.

A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year

* "Wabi's inquisitive and endearing personality will charm readers."
—*School Library Journal*, starred review

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8-Wabi is an odd owl. For starters, he grows bigger than most horned owls do. Then he realizes he can talk to and understand other creatures. He adopts a wolf pup that becomes a loyal friend and he falls in love with a girl from the nearby Abenaki village that he protects from evil creatures. When his great-grandmother tells him that he has ancestors who were humans who shape-changed to owls, Wabi decides to become human so he can win Dojihla's heart. When his owl-tufted ears give him away, he leaves the village. On his quest to discover his true self, he encounters several nonhuman monsters; rescues a wolf pack from Oldold Woman, who is keeping them captive; and discovers his own true self. Wabi's inquisitive and endearing personality will charm readers. Even when in human form, he thinks and acts like an owl and finds joy and pleasure when his human body can do something he didn't expect, such as kick very hard. His grandmother embodies the adage of wise old owls, dispensing advice and assistance in equal measures but never too much of either at any one time, and readers can see why Wabi falls in love with Dojihla, even if the other young men find her abrasive and compare her to a bobcat. They just haven't watched her as much or as carefully as Wabi has. Give this novel to readers who aren't quite ready for David Clement-Davies's *Fire Bringer* (2000) or *The Sight* (2002, both Dutton) or to anyone who enjoys reading about journeys of self-discovery.—Lisa Prolman, Greenfield Public Library, MA

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From Booklist

Gr. 7-10. *Wabi* means white. Wabi's great-grandmother Owl gives him the name because of his pale feathers, and the two owls share a great bond: both understand and speak the language of humans. Wabi grows strong, and like male adolescents of many species, he is proud and not a little cocky. But he falls in love with a human Abenaki girl, Dojihla, as headstrong and confident as himself. Bruchac does a grand job of capturing the sweet swagger of Wabi as an owl and, later, after he is transformed into a boy, tucking in bits from a number of animal and monster tales. Wabi finds a wolf companion, learns to work his human body, and discovers ways to protect his environment and, eventually, Dojihla's people. Wolf, girl, and boy save each other in the end, and great-grandmother has a key role, too. Readers may be reminded of Nawat, the crow boy in Tamora Pierce's *Trickster's Queen*; this shape-shifter tale is very different, but it may appeal to the same audience. GraceAnne DeCandido

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Review

"Bruchac, in top form here, crafts an exhilarating journey tale . . . readers won't be able to turn the pages fast enough." —Kirkus Reviews

"Bruchac's storytelling skills are on full display in this tale introducing an owl narrator...His tale agilely balances suspense, humor, and romance." —Publishers Weekly

"It is a welcome addition to the growing genre of Native American fiction for teens." —VOYA

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Williamson:

Many people spending their period by playing outside together with friends, fun activity using family or just watching TV all day every day. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, do you think reading a book will surely hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, delivering everywhere you want in your Smartphone. Like Wabi: A Hero's Tale which is finding the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's observe.

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On this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability in doing something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you are related is just spending your time not much but quite enough to have a look at some books. Among the books in the top collection in your reading list is usually Wabi: A Hero's Tale. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

Lettie Perez:

As we know that book is significant thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a publication we can know everything we wish. A book is a set of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year seemed to be exactly added. This book Wabi: A Hero's Tale was filled about science. Spend your time to add your knowledge about your scientific research competence. Some people has diverse feel when they reading the book. If you know how big advantage of a book, you can experience enjoy to read a guide. In the modern era like today, many ways to get book that you just wanted.

Pamela Wilson:

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