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The Wolf's Boy



Synopsis

An outcast boy and a young wolf against an Ice Age winter . . . Kai burns to become a hunter and to earn a rightful place among his people. But that can never be. He was born with a clubfoot. It is forbidden for him to use or even touch a hunter's sacred weapons. Shunned by the other boys, Kai turns to his true friends, the yellow wolves, for companionship. They have not forgotten the young human they nurtured as an abandoned infant. When Kai discovers a motherless cub in the pack, he risks everything to save her, bringing her back to live with him. But as winter draws near, Kai's wolf grows ever more threatening in the eyes of the People. When the worst happens, Kai knows that they must leave for good. Together, they embark on a journey into the north—a place of unimaginable danger—that tests the power of friendship and the will to survive. Award-winning author Susan Williams Beckhorn delivers a powerful tale set in Paleolithic times. Inspired by modern discoveries, Susan's careful research creates a vivid picture of a time when the first wolves came to live with humans and forged a bond that lives on to this day.

Book Information

Hardcover: 240 pages

Publisher: Disney-Hyperion (June 7, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1484725530

ISBN-13: 978-1484725535

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 8.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Kai was born with a club foot and has been labeled Tabat, a disgrace to his family and tribe. He wants nothing more than to become a hunter like his brother and the other men of their clan. However, that is difficult since he is forbidden to use or touch a weapon. On the day he was born,

his father left him to die with the wolves. Fate had other plans. The wolves kept him alive and his mother came for him. Ever since he has had a bond with the wolves that has become stronger than he has felt with anyone else. One day he finds a motherless cub about to die. He risks becoming an even bigger outcast with his tribe to care for the cub. As the seasons change, the wolf cub grows bigger and becomes a threat to the clan. It is only a matter of time before something happens and Kai knows his people won't hesitate to kill his wolf. He can't let that happen. Together they leave and head in the only direction he knows no one will look for him, north. There is danger that will test the bond he has with his wolf and his will to survive. There is more to this story than it first seems. The tribe's willingness to shun Kai because of his deformity and lack of support for anything he tries to do leads him to find comfort in the only ones ever willing to help him, the wolves. At times it seemed as if the family dynamic was going to come around but never did. The best thing about Kai was his determination. Everyone else might have given up on him but he wasn't going to give up on himself. Kai and his wolf become a pair that rely on each other. That bond is what drives the story. It is hard for a story to be driven without the human to human bond and connection but here it played out well. This was a very fun read that I think kids will enjoy.

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