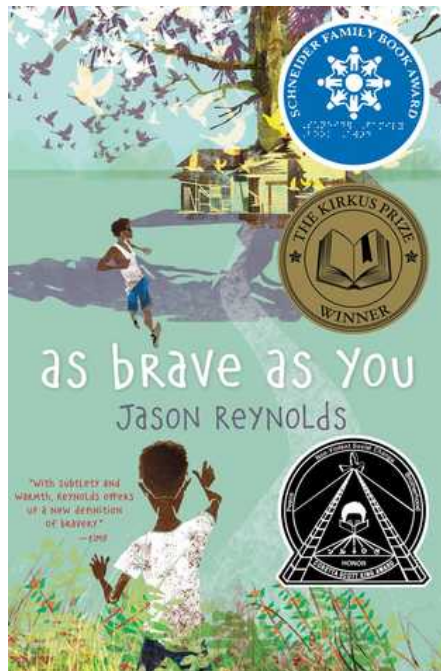




As Brave As You

Jason Reynolds

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Kirkus Award Finalist

Schneider Family Book Award Winner

Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book

When two brothers decide to prove how brave they are, everything backfires—literally—in this “pitch-perfect contemporary novel” (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review) by the winner of the Coretta Scott King – John Steptoe Award.

Genie’s summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind. Thunderstruck, Genie peppers Grandpop with questions about how he hides it so well (besides wearing way cool Ray-Bans).

How does he match his clothes? Know where to walk? Cook with a gas stove? Pour a glass of sweet tea without spilling it? Genie thinks Grandpop must be the bravest guy he’s ever known, but he starts to notice that his grandfather never leaves the house—as in NEVER. And when he finds the secret room that Grandpop is always disappearing into—a room so full of songbirds and plants that it’s almost as if it’s been pulled inside-out—he begins to wonder if his grandfather is really so brave after all.

Then Ernie lets him down in the bravery department. It’s his fourteenth birthday, and, Grandpop says to become a man, you have to learn how to shoot a gun. Genie thinks that is AWESOME until he realizes Ernie has no interest in learning how to shoot. None. Nada. Dumbfounded by Ernie’s reluctance, Genie is left to wonder—is bravery and becoming a man only about proving something, or is it just as important to own up to what you won’t do?

As Brave As You Details

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Author : Jason Reynolds

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From Reader Review As Brave As You for online ebook

Teresa says

His books just keep getting better! I am a Jason Reynolds' fan and particularly loved this book. There are so many aspects that make it truly unique. Here's a short review that hopefully will intrigue you and not give away too much of the plot.

What I loved:

That it was a middle grade book about two brothers. We need more books about boys.

That it has terrific voice! The dialog and thoughts of the younger brother are contemporary and feel very real.

Genie's journal of questions - my absolute favorite part of the book. Clever, insightful and a wonderful way to get into the mind of a young preteen. I will definitely read this book again - especially for his journal questions.

A story that highlights time with grandparents.

A plot line that will keep young people (and, this grown person!) reading.

The contrast between city and country.

The subplot involving mistakes and forgiveness.

The perfect ending.

I won't be surprised if this book is recognized with an award later this year. I have grown to expect great things from this writer and my expectations have reached new heights. Kudos, Jason! My favorite thus far!

Highly recommend. Big 5 stars.

Nat says

I have a new favorite Jason Reynolds book. <3

Carrie Gelson says

Jason Reynolds writes incredible characters. Unforgettable believable characters. In this middle grade title, he delivers characters and relationships in a rich, quietly humorous story full of questions, wisdom and love.

Patricia says

Read for Librarian Book Group

Oh, Jason Reynolds, when will you adopt a standard plot arc? Your characters are interesting, your settings are interesting, your episodes are interesting and unfortunately, there isn't anything that compels me to keep reading.

If you are looking for a nice meander through rural Virginia with two boys from Brooklyn staying with their grandparents for a few weeks in the summer this is your book. Stuff happens. And then some other stuff happens. And then the book is over.

Heather Taake says

This book made me laugh out loud and it made me cry. I loved every page of this heartwarming story of family, brotherhood, growing up, and what it means to be brave. Highly recommend. Jason Reynolds is quickly becoming one of my favorites.

Franki Sibberson says

I loved this book. I loved the characters but mostly I loved the relationships. So very real.

Sandy says

They were sent to their grandparents as their parents were having problems and they had planned a trip without Ernie and Genie. As they settled in for the month, these two brothers were finding that they enjoyed county living and that Virginia wasn't so bad. Genie was worried that without internet service he would not be able to find answers for all the questions that seemed to pop up in his mind, questions that needed answers that he would find on Google. Ernie was more social and he liked girls. What would the two of them do all month in North Hill, Virginia?

Enter Tess, from down the hill, who Ernie falls in love with. She is different than the girls Ernie usually likes, she's a country girl and Ernie is a city boy. Tess' house has internet service which Genie is able to take advantage of. He can look up all the answers to his questions and boy, does this child have the questions. Grandma sets the boys up with chores, first cleaning up the dog poop in the yard. They start flinging the poop into the forest and soon it becomes a game. Grandma gives them other daily chores and they take hold of these responsibilities. Ernie spends most of his time with Tess as he is in loooovvveee. Genie spends time with his grandpop, his inquiring mind takes in his surrounding and he wants to know everything. I love how Genie questions his grandpop about his blindness. His grandpop's honesty and the rapid-fire question and answer session between the two of them was priceless. Grandpop sure was adamant about grandma not taking care of him, he wanted to make sure that everyone knew that he is able to care for himself. The inside-outside room was interesting and I liked how Genie kept things to himself. Ernie's birthday and his rite-of-passage was another highlight of this novel. I enjoyed how Ernie and Genie had different personalities and how they conversed with one another. This was a great novel to read as the pace was quick and I think both girls and boys would enjoy this novel.

Hannah Greendale says

[Click here](#) to watch a video review of this book on my book channel, *From Beginning to Bookend*.

#489: Why is the world more interesting through the eyes of Genie Harris, questionnaire extraordinaire?

#490: How does Jason Reynolds manage to squeeze so many important messages into one little book? Bravery, forgiveness, honesty and much, much more.

#491: Why is poopity such a funny word? *Poopity*.

Nic Stone says

Jason Reynolds has done it again.

Departing from the often gritty, urban-set YA contemporary he's known for, *AS BRAVE AS YOU* takes us south to Virginia where Brooklynites 11-year-old Genie and his big brother Ernie are set to spend a month at their grandparent's house in "the country". Despite it being as different from home as night is from day, the boys soon acclimate to their new surroundings, and in the process, learn things about their family members that alter their perceptions of themselves.

This book doesn't shy away from heavier topics--mental illness, long-term grief, and broken relationships to name a few--but it's never ****too much**** because Genie approaches all of these issues in the same way: by writing down thought-provoking questions in his notebook. Not only are the questions cleverly worded and the character's 11-year-old voice pitch perfect, they also provoked a sense of wonder in me as a (grownup) reader.

Really, I think that's what this story is all about: learning to look around you and ask questions about the things you don't understand. There won't always be answers, and sometimes when there ARE, they're not the answers you were hoping for, but bottom line, things that are broken can be fixed... just not always in the ways we expect.

It's brilliant.

Lata says

Eleven-year old Genie Harris is such a charming person. His constant logging of questions, in his notebook, prompted by events around him are often funny (e.g., does asking lots of questions make Genie a questionnaire?) but are also, at times, profound. Genie is a worrier, and the questions pour out of him when his parents leave him and his older brother, Ernie, at their grandparents' place in Virginia for a month in the summer. Ernie and Genie experience a variety of things over the month, including a new crush for Ernie, and an interesting relationship with his grandfather for Genie.

This was my first Jason Reynolds' story, and I'm definitely reading more by this author. There is a lot going on in this book (e.g., the reason behind the birthday ritual at age 14, dealing with disability, etc.), but my favourite aspect was the family relationships. Jason Reynolds' characters feel real, and the interactions between the brothers was so caring and funny. Genie is a fantastic character, and it was wonderful seeing the world through his eyes.

Krista Regester says

I am a HUGE fan of Jason Reynolds. I think that he is an incredible author with so much talent. *As Brave As You* just wasn't my absolute favorite. It is a heartwarming story that is also very approachable. There are laugh aloud moments and deafening serious ones. I love that Jason Reynolds narrates his own titles because it gives the book an even more personal feel.

One of my biggest issues with this book was simply how it is catalogued. For some reason in my library system (and others) it is considered a YA book. This book is so obviously for a middle grade audience, and is regarded as such from Booklist, Publisher's Weekly, and School Library Journal. I kept waiting for something to happen that would be "young adult worthy".. but it didn't. This may have tainted the book for me a bit. I think I will have to challenge the decision to make it Juvenile.

Laurie Anderson says

Jason Reynold's middle-grade voice is every bit as strong as his YA voice! This book is about family and love and learning to make sense of the hard things that we all have to deal with as we come of age. I loved it!

Mrs. Krajewski says

Jason Reynolds knows how to create realistically beautiful characters. Once again, I loved them all! Genie and Ernie are two Brooklyn brothers that get stuck with their country grandparents for a month while their parents iron out some issues. Though Ernie is fourteen and Genie is eleven, they get along pretty well. As they get to know their grandparents, they start to learn about the importance of telling the truth. Their blind grandfather still has old skeletons in his closet he needs to rid himself of, and after a few mishaps, Genie finds that he does too. Some of my students may find bits of this Reynolds tale slow, but I didn't. I think everyone could learn a little something about the importance of being brave from this book.

Kelly Moore says

I love Jason Reynolds' writing, and the characters in this book were as real and interesting as all of his others. The only problem I had with this book was that the story seemed a bit long and slow moving for the age of the reader it seems aimed at. I think it could've been two really great books about this family, but for kids who want to sink into a good, long family drama with a strong brother relationship, this is a fine book.

Tasha says

Genie and Ernie are heading to Virginia to stay with their paternal grandparents for the very first time. Though they have met their grandmother before, this is the first time that Genie has met him. The difference between their lives in Brooklyn and their grandparents' home in rural Virginia are huge. But that's not the only thing that surprises Genie. He is shocked to find out that his grandfather is blind. Genie is a kid who is full of questions to ask all of the time and so he immediately asks his grandfather questions about his blindness. Genie knows that his older brother Ernie is braver than he is, always taking up fights for Genie and protecting him. He also knows that his grandfather is immensely brave too. When something goes wrong though, Genie will have to rethink what it means to be brave.

Reynolds is so amazingly gifted as a writer. He astounded me with this departure from his more urban writing. He captures the rural world with a beautiful clarity, using the natural world around as symbols for what is happening to the humans who live there. It is done both subtly and overtly, creating a book that is multi-layered and gorgeous to read. Throughout Reynolds speaks to real issues such as guns and disabilities.

They are dealt in their complexity with no clear point of view stated, giving young readers a chance to think things through on their own.

Reynolds has created a fabulous protagonist in Genie, a boy filled with so many questions to ask that he has to write them down to keep track of them. He is smart, verbose and caring. Yet at the same time, he agonizes over mistakes, trying to fix them on his own and thus creating a lot of the tension of the book. The depiction of the grandparents is also beautifully done, allowing them to be far more than elderly figures. They are often raw, sometimes wise, and also dealing with life.

A brilliant read for the middle grades, this book is filled with magnificent writing and great diverse characters. Appropriate for ages 9-12.
