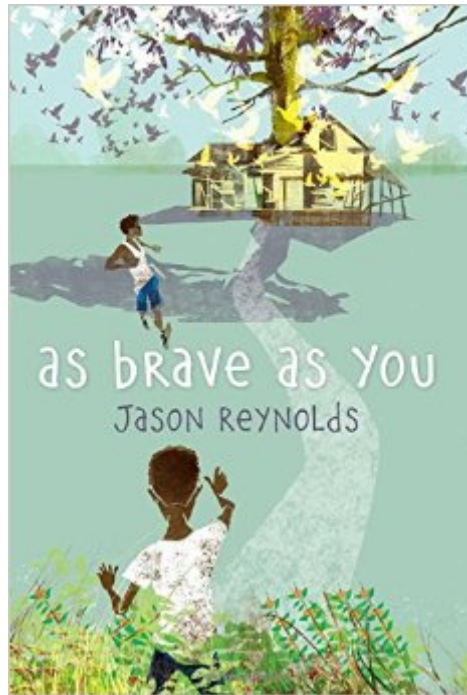


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# As Brave As You



## Synopsis

When two brothers decide to prove how brave they are, everything backfiresâliterallyâin this piercing middle grade novel by the winner of the Coretta Scott King â Johnson Steptoe Award. Genieâ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 Virginiaâin the COUNTRY! The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind. Thunderstruck andâbeing a curious kidâGenie peppers Grandpop with questions about how he covers 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 heâs ever known, but he starts to notice that his grandfather never leaves the houseâas in NEVER. And when he finds the secret room that Grandpop is always disappearing intoâa room so full of songbirds and plants that itâs almost as if itâs been pulled inside-outâhe begins to wonder if his grandfather is really so brave after all. Then Ernie lets him down in the bravery department. Itâ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 Ernieâs reluctance, Genie is left to wonderâis bravery and becoming a man only about proving something, or is it just as important to own up to what you wonât do?

## Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #34,164 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 inÂ Books > Children's Books >

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inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

#117 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

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.

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