



The Wainscott Weasel

Tor Seidler , Fred Marcellino (Illustrator)

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While other young weasels dance under the pines, Bagley thinks about Bridget, the mesmerizing fish who lives in a pond down the brook from his den. Only a true hero can save Bridget from the gruesome death that awaits her'and this is exactly what Bagley, much to his own surprise, proves himself to be.

Notable Children's Books of 1994 (ALA)

100 Books for Reading and Sharing 1993 (NY Public Library)

1993 "Pick of the Lists" (ABA)

The Wainscott Weasel Details

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ISBN : 9780062059116

Author : Tor Seidler , Fred Marcellino (Illustrator)

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Max says

This book deserves its comparisons to CHARLOTTE'S WEB as it manages to elegantly graft a slyly written social satire onto a daring rescue story worth of John Ford. Wainscott, Long Island is the 21st century, musteline version of Jane Austen's Bath, England, and Seidler deftly delivers a complete universe filled with animals that are driven as much by their natural instincts as they are by their familial responsibilities, hidden desires and social ambitions. Even though this works as a comedic piece, the story presents a great opportunity to talk about heavy issue like death and grieving, class and racial politics, pollution, over-development, and global warming without being heavy handed. As with the best children's literature, this book presents a jumping off point for many deeper conversations.

Jan Polep says

Oh for the love of weasels...this book is right up there with "Wind in the Willows" and "Charlotte's Web". Set in the Wainscott Woods on Long Island, this story for the 7-12 year old crowd tells of Bagley Brown, Jr, Zeke, and Wendy... weasels living, loving, rescuing, & dancing it up in silly, scary, witty words and illustrations. Frogs, fish, turtles, and birds (both good and bad), plot twists you won't see coming, and did I mention...WEASELS...a great read alone or aloud.

Megan Tucker says

Entertaining book, but I kept waiting for it to go somewhere, and it never really did. And a weasel falls in love with a fish. Crazy.

Nicki says

This is a beautiful story.

I read this book for the first time as an adult, days after my boyfriend (now husband) broke up with me. At the time I had a hard time expressing how I was feeling about the breakup and this book was incredibly significant in helping me process the feelings of deeply loving someone I couldn't be with, feeling alone even though I had support from those around me, and altogether getting over feeling sorry for myself.

Downward says

this is a children's book that my girlfriend made me read and it is good as hell. it's funny and melancholic and has a lot of heroics in it. plus talking animals and interspecies love and some brutal violence. all good stuff. if I had kids id read them this shit every night.

Jackie says

Oh my, my...what a weasel will do for impossible love. *The Wainscott Weasel* is a lonely, yet revered weasel who falls hopelessly, madly in love with Bridget, the fish! When Bridget's pond is threatened by non-existent rain and a lurking osprey, Bagley Brown Jr. will go to even more impossible lengths to save her from the talons of the osprey. Bagley's dad, a fine up-standing weasel was a legend of the highest rank after he organized the moles and dug a tunnel from the Wainscott Woods to the farmer's chicken coop and their tasty eggs. When he died, Bagley Jr. was given just as much respect as his dad, but thought he didn't deserve it...that is until he found a way to move an osprey nest with the help of a throaty bullfrog and a persevering turtle. Now the whole weasel community and the pond denizens admire Bagley just as much as they did his dad.

A fun animal tale about brave weasel, his loyalty to his friends, and determination to help loved ones even though his dreams will not be realized.

Nicole says

Lovely children's nature-y animal tale.

Jeff says

Read Aloud. While at times Bagley Brown, the main character, was likable, those moments could not overcome the weirdness of some details and the scattered action of the overall story. It took half of the book for the plot to develop sufficiently to draw us into the story; and, even then, the author had to abandon one plot line for awhile then later artificially tie the two stories together again.

What really kept me from liking the book, however, was the unsettling attraction that Bagley had for Bridget, a fish. This was no opposite sex, innocent friendship like that so famously and skillfully developed by E.B. White between Wilbur and Charlotte. Bagley had romantic feelings for this fish! It was too weird for me, and prevented me from ever truly embracing his character or the book.

jessica says

read in 2002 - read in school with friends - better review to come

5 stars

Lauren says

One of my favorites from childhood. Sweet story and gorgeous illustrations! Will be reading this one to my own kids one day!

Brenna Monsen says

This was the first book I ever read. I believe I was in elementary school and have loved it ever since. This book made me fall in love with reading.

elissa says

This was one of my family's favorite read-alouds. My younger son was 6 when we read it, and my older son was 8. All 4 of us really enjoyed the unusual and clever story, and it's also beautifully illustrated. We've been occasionally calling one of our cats a "white-bellied weasel" ever since.

Anna says

A good story, just more bittersweet than I was expecting from a children's book. The premise of the story sounded funny so I wasn't expecting it to leave me kind of sad. I could see it being an interesting book to read with a kid and talk about some complicated life questions with. The story provided a lot of fodder for that without being over-the-top.

Chloe Millward says

My boyfriend grew up reading this book and every now and then he would talk about it and how wonderful it was, so of course I eventually had to pick it up and try it out.

There were a lot of more mature ideas in this so-called children's book. The story is simple. A weasel falls in love with a fish, but he realizes that that's a very odd thing to do, since they can never be together. He learns that the pond she lives in is threatened by an osprey and a lack of rain, causing the pond to quickly dry up and force the fish into a smaller living area so that the osprey can eat more of them.

He is driven to help her (and another friend he makes along the way) by moving the nest to a different pond. There is no grand evil scheme on the part of the osprey; he is simply a bird, feeding on his natural prey. There is no plot for revenge on the bird by knocking his nest to the ground to shatter it. The weasel is simply trying to make everyone happy without hurting anyone in the process.

I'm impressed. 8/10

Leigh says

I got into Tor Seidler in elementary school because of A Rat's Tale--I had pet rats at the time, and once wrote him a letter about them that he very graciously and personally responded to. But it was this book that won my heart.
