



There's an Owl in the Shower

By Jean Craighead George

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There's an Owl in the Shower By Jean Craighead George

Borden's father, Leon, was a logger in the old-growth forests of California. That is, until the spotted-owl lovers interfered. One day, frustrated by his father's unemployment, Borden sets out on a mission of revenge against the spotted owl but returns home with a half-starved owlet instead.

The family soon discovers that the owlet, whom Borden names Bardy, loves to take showers and watch late-night TV. Only after the whole family has fallen in love with Bardy do they realize that the conflict between nature and human industry is not so easily resolved.

Award-winning nature writer Jean Craighead George tells a heartwarming story about a family and their love affair with a special little owl.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 3-5-Set in a small logging town in northern California, George's book focuses on the conflict between loggers and environmentalists over the northern spotted owl. Young Borden Watson plunges into the woods, planning to kill one of the creatures, believing they are directly responsible for his father losing his job as a logger. He returns, however, with an owlet that has fallen from its nest. Caring for it is no easy task; other family members are drawn into the situation, especially the out-of-work father, who has lots of free time. (Because young spotted owls have no spots, the family thinks their pet is a barred owl.) Though she is clearly on the side of the endangered birds, George's writing skill and knowledge of animal behavior turn what could have been nothing but message into an absorbing story that shows both sides of the controversy, leaving readers with a clear understanding of the issues involved. Perhaps the conflict is too neatly resolved, but the story ends on a somber note. The owlet is returned to its nest, but when the male owl calls for his mate, there is no answer. Merrill's drawings perfectly capture the engaging bird and the family's affection for it.

Ruth S. Vose, San Francisco Public Library

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 3⁺-5. Because his father has lost his job logging in the old-growth forests of northern California, Borden vows to destroy any spotted owl he sees. When he discovers an owlet lying on the ground, he decides to rescue it, assuming it is a barred owl and, therefore, not his sworn enemy. The whole family takes a liking to Borden, especially Dad, who plans to use him in court to demonstrate what a kindhearted soul he is when he must fight charges of assaulting a conservationist. As the owlet matures, it becomes clear that it is really a spotted owl, but by this time, Dad and Borden have both come to realize how important the creature is to a healthy ecosystem. Although the plot is predictable and George's environmental views are well known, Borden's antics are engaging and informative. A good choice as a read-aloud for classes studying owls or endangered species. *Kay Weisman*

Review

Merrill's drawings perfectly capture the engaging bird and the family's affection for it.'--" School Library Journal"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Doris Moreno:

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