



Bravemole

By Lynne Jonell

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Bravemole By Lynne Jonell

Mole was an ordinary mole. His burrow wasn't anything special, and his job was the usual for a mole: digging, tunneling, moving a little earth from here to there. But he had a loving molewife and a little babymole at home and he was very happy.

Then one day the unthinkable happened. Dragons attacked the tallest molehills in the forest. Hundreds of moles ran in terror as the molehills collapsed. Mole ran, too, but then he stopped. He looked at his paws and down at his feet, with claws meant for digging. There was a job that needed to be done, and he could help.

Inspired by the events of September 11, 2001, Bravemole is a moving story of courage. Perfect for prompting conversations about the tragedy or remembering the brave efforts of all who came forward to help, the tale celebrates the extraordinary capacity of the most humble to make a difference.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Jonell (Mommy, Go Away!) here reenacts the events of September 11 through the eyes of an animal who perhaps can help young readers to shoulder their fears. Mole wears a hard-hat, carries a lunch pail and lives in a burrow with his molewife and babymole. Softly shaded pastels portray their warm haven filled with comfy chairs and braided rugs. When Mole tells Babymole a bedtime story about dragons, Babymole asks, "Will a dragon come to get me, Daddy?" "No, Son." Mole says. "Dragons are far away from my little babymole." But the very next day, two terrifying dragons destroy the tallest molehills in the city. From a sheltered spot amidst the wreckage, Mole feels called to return and help others. Jonell plants a spiritual undercurrent with references to Mole's prayers to an Overmole. She draws a contrast between Mole (as an "ordinary mole") and the "Bigmoles" and "Smartmoles" that emphasizes the importance of everyday heroes, yet youngsters may not understand the social distinction or the idea of working-class firefighters, police officers and others rescuing elite stockbrokers. The stronger theme underscores the tenuous reassurance between father and son: upon Mole's return home that night, Babymole asks, "Will I get to go fight the dragons, Daddy?" "No," replies Mole. "We grown-ups will fight them for you." Images of the moles fleeing the fire and the dragons' attack may make this best suited for reading with an adult, as well as for children who already know about the events of that day. Ages 5-up.

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 3-Jonell's modern-day fable features a community of moles whose molehills, "had been built so tall, they were called the Mountains," are attacked by two cruel dragons. The story follows an ordinary fellow who once dreamed of being exceptional. When the dragons strike, he and his peers become "Moles Afraid," but he conquers his fear and helps in the rescue and recovery efforts. The last page shows the hero standing tall with his fellow moles: "There was a city of them. A country of them. A whole world of them. Bravemoles." Although the concept may be a noble one, the book doesn't quite find its audience. The illustrations, rendered in water-soluble crayons, will appeal to young audiences, but the picture of the two dragons may be too frightening for them. The text is too lengthy for preschoolers or even kindergartners, while elementary-aged children may find the art puerile. The author works hard to transpose the events of September 11 into an explicable universe for children, but the book does not ultimately provide the kind of comfort that youngsters need-perhaps, given the subject, an unachievable goal.

Shelley B. Sutherland, Niles Public Library District, IL

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About the Author

Lynne Jonell is author of the popular *Christopher, Robbie and Mommy* books and *Let's Play Rough!*,

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Daniel Ellis:

Here thing why this particular Bravemole are different and reliable to be yours. First of all reading a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. Bravemole giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is

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Wendy Poston:

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Jesse Harrison:

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