

A Book Review

Title: Darwin's Dragons

Author: Lindsay Galvin

Plot

Darwin's Dragons by Lindsay Galvin is a thrilling adventure that blends real history with a dash of fantasy. It's set in 1835 on the HMS Beagle, where cabin boy Syms Covington, Darwin's trusted assistant, is washed overboard during a storm and finds himself stranded on a mysterious Galápagos island. Syms encounters giant tortoises, studies volcanic landscapes, and even befriends a curious lizard he names "Farthing." Syms makes an incredible discovery, but the problem is by sharing his discovery with the world he could be putting the very thing that is so incredible at risk.

Characters

Stranded by a storm and shipwrecked, Syms doesn't panic. He taps into survival skills, faces volcanic dangers, and remains determined. When Syms meets the reptilian creature he names Farthing, their bond evolves into a touching friendship. He loves and protects Farthing out of sheer kindness, even when others just see an animal. In the story Syms faces a real struggle between his loyalty to Darwin his master and friend and his own moral compass.

Your opinion

I really enjoyed reading *Darwin's Dragons* as I felt like I was just on the edge of my seat not knowing which turn the story was going to take next. I loved how it mixed history with fiction and it really gave you a sense of awe for how amazing and diverse the Earth is. I think it opens up a really interesting discussion point on the ethics of captivity.

Recommend

I highly recommend *Darwin's Dragons* for readers aged 8-12. It's the perfect book for children who love non-fiction, offering a brilliant bridge into the world of fiction through its mix of real history and imaginative adventure. It's also a heart-warming story about courage and powerful friendships that will stay with readers long after the final page.