

The Wild Robot

Peter Brown

Reviewed by: Rina Guo, 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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One night, amid a powerful storm at sea, several boxes of inoperative robots tumble off a ship and get swept up on the shores of a small wild island. All of these robots turn up destroyed from the storm, except for one, named *ROZZUM unit 7134*, or Roz for short. Without a single memory or knowledge of her past, Roz devotes her time to learning how to adapt to the wilderness as well as grow to learn the ways and lifestyles of the animals that live on the island. At first, the others distrust her, but soon they find that Roz is a very helpful and compassionate friend, despite being a metallic creature they've never encountered on the island before. But just as Roz is starting to feel at home, several fateful robots arrive on the island, calling for Roz to return back to the factory where she was made. Although conflicted, Roz is determined to do whatever it takes to keep her island friends with her, and to fight back against the urge to give into the forces that were responsible for her past.

This book is a wonderful book for elementary school students or middle grade students of about 9-12 years old.

I really enjoyed this book. Despite being a robot, Roz's personal voice was undeniably charming. She attempted to learn to act friendly and concerned, as her other breathing animal peers did, in order for the others to feel more comfortable around her. Despite being somewhat naïve to surviving in the wilderness, she learned quickly to observe and take after the other animals and their behaviors, even though she didn't quite fit in. I loved the idea that she was growing and nurturing all on her own in her new surroundings as soon she became activated on the island. As the story developed, so did her complexity as a character. Her mysterious origins that circled back to her in the end, was also a very playful twist in the plot. Additionally, another thing I admired was the illustrations. Peter Brown is an author and an illustrator, and I really loved the style of his artwork. The illustrations really made the storytelling experience a lot more compelling and complete. I feel that the climax and the ending could have been more stronger and dramatic though. But overall, the writing and storytelling style was simple and yet endearing.

This was a nice light read. I think it would be a lovely pick to read to young children, especially. Roz is a such a wholesome character that people can relate to and understand. Although she's treated as an outcast at first, in the end, she wins everyone's hearts through her funny interactions and kind words.

Recommended Titles:

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

Pax by Sara Pennypacker

The Wild Robot Escapes by Peter Brown