



2007

Silverboy

Eliza Nevin

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Browne, N.M. *Silverboy*. Bloomsbury U.S.A., ISBN 9781582347806. 2007. \$16.95. 298 p.

Reviewer: Eliza Nevin

Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fantasy fiction; Fiction; Adventure stories;

Subject: Magic--Juvenile fiction; Birds--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

In a world where a power-hungry Protector rules his province under an iron fist, people who naturally have magic have been hunted down and killed. Any other magic is created by the Protector's dictations through the use of ground Spellstones. Fifteen-year-old Tommo refuses to die the miserable death of a spellstone grinder's apprentice. To escape his fate of the killing "quivers," Tommo runs away from his cellar but doesn't get very far due to his glowing skin—a gift of the many years living amongst the dust of the spellstones. After he is turned in to the sheriff he is granted eight days of sanctuary in which he must exit the Protectorate. After he falls ill with the quivers though he can't get very far without the help of the fearless Akenna, an abused fisherman's daughter he meets along the way. The two runaways struggle to make their way without being caught by Akenna's violent da, but a villain much worse—and a task much greater—is in store for them.

Browne's writing is the fruit of the imagination at its best. The world she creates in *Silverboy* is clever and intriguing. Her characters are believable and readers will be anxiously waiting to read to the end of their adventure that grows into a journey much larger than escaping the Protectorate. Exciting, engrossing, and thought-provoking.