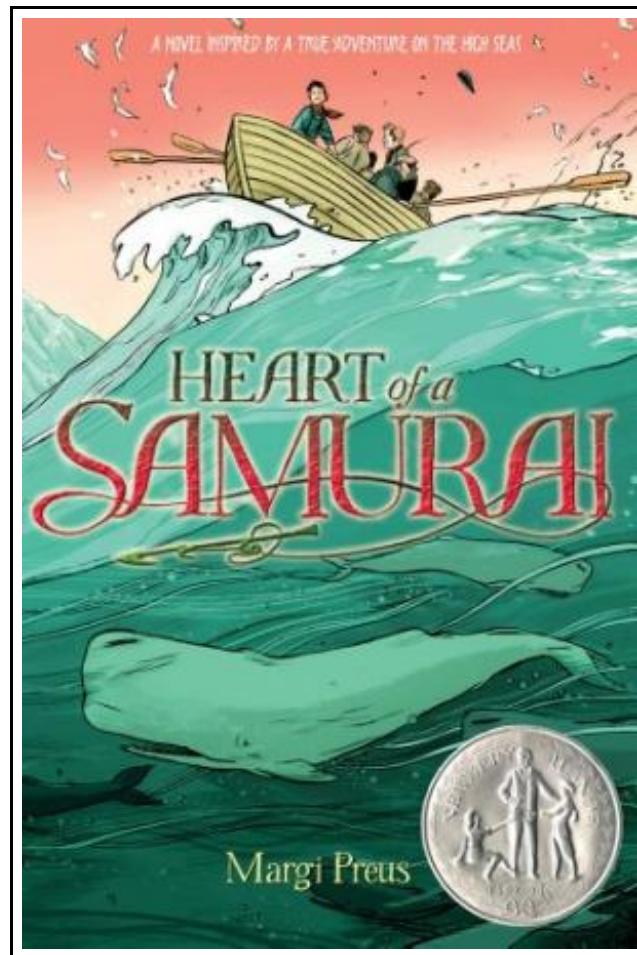


Heart of a Samurai



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Reviews

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HEART OF A SAMURAI

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Amulet Paperbacks. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 336 pages. Dimensions: 8.2in. x 5.4in. x 0.9in. In 1841 a Japanese fishing vessel sinks. Its crew is forced to swim to a small, unknown island, where they are rescued by a passing American ship. Japan's borders remain closed to all Western nations, so the crew sets off to America, learning English on the way. Manjiro, a 14-year-old boy, is curious and eager to learn everything he can about this new culture. Eventually the captain adopts Manjiro and takes him to his home in New England. The boy lives there for some time and then heads to San Francisco to pan for gold. After many years, he makes it back to Japan, only to be imprisoned as an outsider. With his hard-won knowledge of the West, Manjiro is in a unique position to persuade the emperor to ease open the boundaries around Japan; he may even achieve his unlikely dream of becoming a samurai. Heart of a Samurai is a 2011 Newbery Honor Book. Accolades and Praise for Heart of a Samurai 2011 Newbery Honor Book New York Times Bestseller NPR Backseat Book Club pick A terrific biographical novel by Margi Preus. -Wall Street Journal STARRED REVIEW It's a classic fish-out-of-water story (although this fish goes into the water repeatedly), and it's precisely this classic structure that gives the novel the sturdy bones of a timeless tale. Backed by gritty seafaring episodes, salty and bloody enough to assure us that Preus has done her research, the book's heart is its middle section, in which Manjiro, allegedly the first Japanese to set foot in America, deals with the prejudice and promise of a new world. By Japanese tradition, Manjiro was destined to be no more than a humble fisherman, but when his 10-year saga ends, he has become so much more. --Booklist, starred...

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