

Book of the Week

***Wolfboy* by Andy Harkness**

Book Review by Nelle Elam

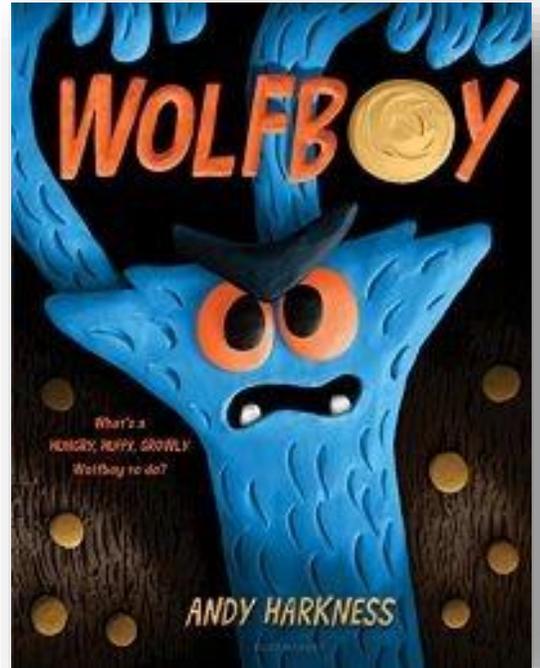
If you have a little person in your life, get ready for a treat. Nothing is more fun than reading a book to a little one and facilitating his or her discovery of new and exciting situations.

Wolfboy by Andy Harkness, which is being released February 2, is not just a new book, but a new book created by a Starkville native. Andy graduated from Starkville High School and went on to study art and to work with Disney for twenty-five years. During that time, he was the Art Director for *Moana* and worked on *Frozen* and *Zootopia* among many other movies. In 2010 he received an Emmy Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement. He now works with Sony Pictures Animation Studio. His first book, *Bug Zoo*, was published by Disney in 2016 as part of the Walt Disney Animation Studios Showcase series.

His latest children's book is about a wolfboy (the title character), who stomps through the forest looking for rabbits. Wolfboy grows hungrier and more growly by the minute. What will happen if he can't find those rabbits? And what will happen if he does? With bold illustrations and energetic storytelling, *Wolfboy* perfectly captures the urgent and frustrating feelings that come with being very hungry.

Andy provides the following note about the process of creating the book and its illustrations:

Each piece of art begins with a rough sketch projected onto a piece of glass as a guide for sculpting. The illustration is shaped in clay by hand then wooden tools are used to create the smallest details. The clay sculptures are photographed outdoors in natural light and then digitally painted.



I had the pleasure of being Andy's art teacher at Starkville High School. It was clear from the beginning that he was an exceptional artist. At that age he did a pencil drawing of his elderly grandmother that made me cry. It was sensitive and beautiful, and I looked forward to what he would achieve with his abilities. I have stayed close to many of my students and that has added a sweet note to growing old. Andy, along with others, has enjoyed a career in art, and it is gratifying to believe you have added something to their lives. Andy and I have stayed in touch over the years, and I cannot express how humbled I am that Andy chose to include me with his family in the dedication of *Wolfboy*. We all know that teachers are not paid what they deserve; however, there are rewards for teaching that are priceless.

You can purchase signed copies of *Wolfboy* at Starkville Book Mart and Café. Copies of the book can also be ordered from Amazon and other sources. In addition, you might enjoy the Youtube clips from *Wolfboy* provided by Andy Harkness.

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