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*Lisa Whitney Mitchell*

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Some might say he's courageous, while others would say he's daring, maybe even a little crazy. But when Joe Dearborne risked his life and ran into a burning building to save a puppy, the local newspaper referred to him as "fearless"—and that's a pretty big title for a sixth-grader to live up to.

Plus, Joe already has plenty else to worry about. After other daring feats in the past, Joe promised his father he wouldn't do anything dangerous again, and, alas, he's just broken that promise.

But whatever trouble he expects to get into with his father, and despite the dangers he's triumphed over in the past, nothing could prepare Joe for what he's about to encounter when a cold, bitterness creeps into his home.

A mysterious and peculiar woman named Mrs. Chill has just been hired to care for Joe while his father is away on business. In no time, however, Joe discovers that she's up to more than cooking and cleaning, and she has plans to destroy his family. Joe's effort to save them results in perilous, sometimes humorous, encounters, and leads him on a journey through the threatening wilderness where he faces his greatest challenge yet.

## **Fearless Joe Dearborne Details**

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Author : Lisa Whitney Mitchell

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## From Reader Review Fearless Joe Dearborne for online ebook

### Jamie says

Good book for middle graders (or ages 9-14). Joe Dearborne has earned a reputation for being fearless. Fearless...but not necessarily brave. Can you guess what he needs to do in this book? When a reckless boy needs to learn about boundaries, safety and bravery there is a lot to cover here.

Of course, Joe needed something to challenge him so after a nasty bite from a coral snake, Joe is suddenly able to experience fear. He is even afraid to go into the basement. Naturally this is not the type of thing he wants to admit to others. Add to that a new mysterious and creepy housekeeper, Joe finds himself in a situation unlike one he has ever faced.

Something is not right about Mrs. Chill (the housekeeper). She is sweet when his father is around but the longer she is a member of the house, the more menacing and wicked she seems. Yet when so many things now terrify Joe, what is a boy to do on his own?

Part mystery, part adventure, and full of fun. This book is filled with quirky characters, amusing situations and challenges that many kids go through in life (to varying degrees). Several great lessons to be learned can also be found within these pages.

Joe's character is easy to relate to. He has a severe weakness for speaking up for himself many times and still has a long way to go but every youth can be found in his shoes at least a some point. I wish he had stronger friendships. That was one thing that saddened me. No friends.

Mrs. Chill was a well set mystery. Outside of her being a "bad guy" they author does a decent job keeping her character strange and lightly veiled in mystery until the end. It really keeps you going and the one thing I can say is that I don't like her (\*petulantly sticks out tongue at mental image of Mrs. Chill\*).

Overall a pleasure to read.

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### Rebecca Douglass says

Note: I was given a free electronic review copy in return for my honest review.

This was a quick read that kept me turning the pages. It wasn't quite what I expected from the summary--I think I expected more slapstick humor. But despite the over-played Mrs. Chill, the story really is the tale of a boy who's suffered a lot of loss and is trying to figure out who he is. Joe has been dealing with it--or not--by being recklessly brave, until he goes too far and loses his fearlessness. Now he has to learn that courage is going on even when you are scared.

My biggest criticism of this book lies in the contrast between the stock characters (Mrs. Chill and dotty Aunt P) and the very human boy at the center of the story. Mrs. Chill is like every other evil boarding-school mistress of literature--from Mrs. Minchen (A Little Princess) and Mrs. Monday (Nancy and Plum) to Count Olaf (A Series of Unfortunate Events): her perfidy is obvious to both Joe and the reader, but the adults in the case seem oblivious. I think this is intentional: the comedic aspects tone down what could otherwise be a

pretty intense story. But I'm not sure it's necessary. I'd like to see how Joe copes with his real-world problems in the real world.

**Recommendation:**

This is a fun and easy read for kids from about 8 and up. Kids are apt to really enjoy the goofy aspects, though older children (used to books with more intense issues) may share some of my complaints. 3.5 stars; I'm marking four because really it was an enjoyable read!

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**Naznin Azeez says**

The book cover is really nice, particularly the big, bold font used for the title. It carries the feeling of 'fearlessness' in it. I kind of relate it to some game I used to play when I was younger – Indiana Jones!. The devilish character in the background shown on the cover, is a coyote and I love how artistically it's shown. The protagonist is a sixth grader, Joe Dearborne. He doesn't have the feeling of fear in him!. That makes him do things like saving a puppy by rushing into a burning house and more. Thus he earns the name Fearless Joe Dearborne!

However, a casual comment from a fan of his, makes him doubt himself and he does something reckless just to know if he could experience fear. Unfortunately, he does and something within him changes overnight. Joe is so modest and humble. He doesn't lap up the attention everyone gives him, instead he likes to keep to himself. He looks upto Trent Rapids, a survival expert who has traveled the world and wrote a series about his experiences. Joe happens to be in a situation whereby he takes inspiration from what he read and applies it to his situation, thus saving the day!.

There are some hilarious events in this book that are equally given importance as are the dangerous ones. The author has really thought out and written an excellent story, managing the level of danger perfectly. I didn't expect that level of danger, but it indeed is so thrilling and exciting. I couldn't put this book down and soon, I was flying through the pages, wanting to know more. The author has successfully woven an exciting story!

There are many important characters in the story but the most important one is Mrs. Chill, who as her name suggests, is a cold woman, with a heart of stone. She is a conniving lady, with ulterior motives, who happens to be appointed as Joe's housekeeper. Joe soon understands that this lady is upto no good. If he doesn't do something, there will be several deaths. Was he successful and did he emerge a hero?. You got to read the books to know more!. This book is meant for kids of age 8 and up. Joe can easily inspire young readers, make them more brave and perceptive. What an excellent read!. I cannot believe this is this author's very first novel!

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**Cyndi Flores says**

A great read!! Lot's of humor and a great moral to the story. As well as some great vocabulary at the beginning of each chapter with a meaning of the word and I found that very great for kids to learn a "real" word and the meaning that goes along with the story, they are not hard words but fit in with this story perfect. I really think kids can learn What being reckless is, and what can happen if you are, while still

laughing and enjoying a great book, as well as being a true hero. It is a action packed book with lot's of laugh's and fun, I think boy's will really like this book, however I also think it is good for girls. It is a great story, with action and adventure, laughs, and suspense. A great book.

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### **Leigh says**

Joe Dearborne is my hero! At the tender age of ten, Joe already has more courage and integrity than most people twice his age! This is a delightfully inspiring story, full of adventure, excitement and chills! Joe proves himself to be a reluctant hero, continually fighting his internal self-doubt, which leads him to test his bravery in sometimes foolish ways. As he moves through his trials, he forgets to be brave and simply does what needs doing, and ultimately redefines for himself his own idea of what it means to be fearless.

I am long-past ten years old, but I found myself glued to the storyline, unable (and unwilling) to put it down. Each chapter flowed easily into the next with little or no irrelevant or tedious content. The dialog between the characters is perfectly age-appropriate, witty and succinct.

Children from age 8-12 should love this story. It is full of suspense and excitement, but also provides well-disguised learning opportunities, which should please parents as well. There are some fairly advanced words throughout the story, but the author takes the time to define them in the context of the book, thereby making their meaning clear to the reader, while not interfering with the smooth flow of the story. I simply can't say enough good things about this wonderful debut novel. Lisa Whitney Mitchell has come out fearlessly, treating us all to what could become an iconic novel!

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### **Phaedra Seabolt says**

Fearless Joe Dearborne is a story about a young man who initially is fearless. He has done many things that gives his father fear of losing him, but Joe just throws himself into dangerous situations without a single thought to his own safety or his father's fears. He runs into a burning building to save a puppy. In the past he had pulled a girl from a hole in the ice on a pond without thinking that he too could fall in. He is fearless. It takes the wisdom of a fourth grade boy whom he calls Green Beans to point out to Joe that everything he does could not be considered brave. Bravery is action that overcomes fear while being fearless is the absence of fear. Joe does not want to be fearless. He wants to be brave. In an attempt to instill some fear in himself, he picks up a coral snake. He knows its bite could be deadly, but he still feels no fear...That is until he gets bit and almost dies. Life drastically changes for him. His dad hires a housekeeper to keep him in line and keep the house clean. She does more than that though and helps Joe to feel more fear in his life. She is also the reason for Joe's conversion to bravery.

I thought this was a fantastic book. Each chapter starts with a word being defined and then the word is used within the chapter. I absolutely love this aspect. It not only is an entertaining story, but it helps kids to learn new words and how to use them. The character development really showed Joe's transformation. I loved it.

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### **Amanda says**

I read this entire book in one sitting. I just couldn't bear to put it down because there was never a dull

moment!! I liked most of the characters and found myself wanting to know their entire back story, especially 'Green Beans'. I'd recommend this to anyone who wants an insanely quick read which offers a little bit of everything.

\*I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.\*

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### **MrsK Books says**

"It had been ninety-nine days since Joe Dearborne last risked his life.  
As his school bus slowed to a stop on a Friday afternoon in November, Joe thought,  
If I can just get home without anything happening, I'll make it to one hundred tomorrow.  
That should make Dad happy."

This story is a delightful surprise, you know when you begin reading you realize that you are totally engaged and enjoying the story... well that's what happened with this fun read. The story line completely took me by surprise. Fearless Joe begins his story completely fearless...

"The red and yellow thing moved, and Joe realized it was a coral snake.  
He remembered the saying his mother taught him so he would recognize one and never touch it:  
if it has a black nose and red touches yellow, it's a deadly fellow...  
Just past the living room, he stumbled.  
It was hard to breathe. He reached for the wall, but it kept moving.  
He collapsed to the floor. Thud was the last sound Joe made."

Joe is the person that runs towards danger. The students, teachers, neighbors, and just about everyone considers him a hero. His father considers him as a boy heading towards a disaster that must be stopped. So, once Joe was bitten by the snake his father decides to hire a live in housekeeper to watch over Joe. And... from that point on, Joe is plagued with doubts and fears.

Mrs. Chill is definitely not his new best friend. Not only is his favorite shirt missing the day of a test, so many weird things begin happening. Is it still the left over venom in his system? Is there really something not right about Mrs. Chill? Why did his father have to go away to save the family business? Who can he trust? Should he tell his Aunt P? Or could he trust Meg?

There are so many twists and turns, so many quick adventures that will leave you "rooting" for Joe to become fearless again. The settings are well defined. The characters take on life as you are pushing Joe forward out of his funk. The story line will surprise even the best predictor.

A must read and share for classrooms, libraries, and your independent readers,  
MrsK <http://mrskbookstogo.blogspot.com/>

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### **Kim Propp says**

HoaP would like to thank Lisa Mitchell for gifting us a copy of Fearless Joe Dearborne in exchange for an

honest review.

This review was first posted on Heart of a Philanthropist Blog.

Joe believes he is brave. He does things that most moms wouldn't want to know about like saving a puppy from a burning building. His friend tells him he is not brave- just fearless. Joe intends to prove him wrong and picks up a coral snake he sees outside. (Coral snakes' bites can be deadly). Joe is bit by the coral snake and wakes up a few days later in the hospital. He learns that he is not as brave as he thought.

Joe's dad decides to hire a 'nanny' for Joe because he has to go away on a business trip. Her name is creepy. (You'll find the pun if you read the book). The nanny is admired by Joe's father and aunt. They don't see anything wrong with her, but Joe knows differently. His favorite shirt comes up missing as well as his goldfish. But... when his goldfish returns it is in a larger aquarium with decor. Is the nanny as creepy as she seems, or is it all a misunderstanding? (read to find out)

Joe's eccentric aunt gets Joe a lamdoodle for his birthday. It is a cross between a lamb and a poodle. She explains to Joe that they are all the rage in Europe. She'll be able to sheer his pet dog and make him wool sweaters from its fur. There is even a party to introduce everyone to Joe's birthday gift.

Joe is afraid of the creepy nanny and decides to take his new pet somewhere that the nanny can't hurt her. He decides to trek through the forest to her new home because it will shave off several miles. Joe's new friend tags along. Deep in the forest Joe's friend sprains her ankle so Joe leaves her with the lamdoodle to go for help. He has to get back quickly because there are wolves in the forest.

This reader was impressed with how many subplots are in Fearless Joe Dearborne. It is a short easy read. The book can easily be finished in just a few reading sessions. If you are looking for a good mystery embedded with humor, this book is for you! Recommended for 9-13 year old readers.

HoaP received a Fearless Joe Dearborne in exchange for an honest review. If you would like HoaP to review a book or product for you, please contact us at [philanthropicHR@yahoo.com](mailto:philanthropicHR@yahoo.com). Thank you for your support and God Bless!

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## **Oh My Bookness says**

Just starting off, it would be hard to pass Fearless Joe Dearborne by Whitney Mitchell in a bookstore on a shelf if you saw it. The cover immediately grabs your attention with its dark neutral colors and the vibrancy of the cover. Not that you would even notice it first, the title commands attention to be seen, to be read and looked at in large, bold, white letters. It easily stands out against the books background, commanding attention.

Chapter one starts off with a word and by the definition you will know how it starts off, "adrenaline a substance produced in the body that increases energy" . Once you read further you will see why this is important to the story! Can't wait.....keep reading you might just want to pick up a copy yourself. Now the first line of the first chapter starts off with this:

"It had been ninety-nine days since Joe Dearborne risked his life."

For me this opening line set the story, and gave you a basic idea of what is to come. It set the story of what we would be soon to be seen from Joe, and gave us an idea of what type of kid Joe is. Energetic, a complete

adrenaline junky, or just Fearless?

Joe really does not know fear so he seeks out dangerous tasks hoping to get a rush, be AFRAID! But for Joe, not even running into a burning building to save a puppy gives him the feeling he is looking for. So he starts off on a more reckless endeavors. I mean who would go into a dark cave for a friends, dad autographed baseball? I mean your being one great friend for doing it but for Joe, it's more about the mere challenge and the thrill .

Things change for Joe after he gets a dare he could not refuse.....to pick up a poisonous snake...well as you could guess things didn't turn to well. Now Joe, "fearless Joe", is no longer fearless and of course at the worse possible time. His dad is going away on business trip while stuck at home with some strange nanny. Ugh, nanny, who does want to be watched by one, none the less a strange one.

This for Joe, maybe over reacting, maybe just a scared kid, but he finds the nanny to be a 'little off' and 'creepy'. Though what kid does not find any form of sitter to be a little off and sinister. Joe notices things around his room has changed and or has gone missing. Is it the nanny? Is it just the nanny doing her job cleaning and picking up? And Joe being paranoid. Or is the Nanny really up to no good? That's a mystery all in its self you'll have to find out by reading the story for yourself.

With crazy things Joe gets into, it's funny with keeping the underlying tone of the overall message.....you don't conquer fear, a little fear is good for you. With the ultimate comparison, where is the line between fearless and brave, and do you always have to be "brave"?

I think readers will thoroughly enjoy Joes over the top eccentric aunt. Have you ever heard of a lamdoodle? Well Joes aunt manages to find one for Joes birthday. Why? You ask, well because whatever the rage is in Paris, it just has to be so here . Even though it's joes birthday party, his aunt manages, not intentionally steel the thunder from Joe by having a mini party to introduce Joes new "pet friend."

The book is witty and funny, adventurous, with a kid pushing the boundaries where and when he can. For the length of the book so much takes place. From Joe making sure his lamdoodle is safe from the crazy nanny? Fearless Joe Dearborne is like a young Indiana Jones for kids. While spreading the message, we cannot conquer fear but learn to control and advise us. As well there is a very fine line between being brave and recklessness, and bravery and fear.

Ultimately a fun tale for Tweens and any adult who just likes a nice, fun, casual read every now and again. It is also a perfect length book where kids won't get overwhelmed by volume, but where kids get to enjoy the story from start to finish and in the process have a good laugh or chuckle with all the welcome gasp of surprise.

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### **Sylvia says**

I loved this book and wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to middle aged children as well as adults. It was fun and suspenseful while bringing a few life lessons to light. I enjoyed the lesson of learning the difference between being courageous or being fearless. The characters were delightful, quirky and fun. I loved his aunt to pieces and want my own Lambdoodle! ;)

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### **Kirstin Pulioff says**

This is a story of a boy who struggles to stay out of trouble... and when he can't, finds himself in more than he ever expected.

After an unfortunate encounter with a coral snake, Joe changes. He is no longer "fearless." And to make matters worse, when he falls ill and needs extra care, his fearlessness is replaced with dread. Will he find bravery when all sorts of humorous, unbelievable, and quirky challenges are thrown at him.

One of the strongest points of this book is how it shows the difference between being brave and being fearless. Often books portray recklessness as a positive trait... as a mother, I love that this paints it in a more realistic light. That there are consequences to actions.

This is a good book, strong in terms of relating to characters and exemplifying the problems of kids today. Solid 4 Stars.

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### **Elise Abram says**

In *Fearless Joe Dearborne* by Lisa Whitney Mitchell, Joe finds it hard to live his life without risking it. He thinks nothing of running into a burning house to save a puppy, or entering a dark cave to rescue his friend's dad's autographed baseball. All of that changes when he gets it into his head to pick up a poisonous snake and gets bit. He survives, but something's changed; Joe is no longer fearless. When Joe's dad goes out of town and he must stay with his aunt's housekeeper's cousin, Mrs. Chill, Joe is afraid to stand up to her. Will Joe ever find his fearlessness? Is there a difference between being brave and being fearless? Joe spends the remainder of the novel in search of these very answers.

I liked *Fearless Joe Dearborne*. It was a quick and easy read, suitable for middle-grade readers. The characters were quirky and interesting--especially Mrs. Chill and Joe's Aunt P,--and the situations were humourous, which kept me interested. Though Joe is no longer fearless in his mind, he still gets himself into situations where the reader wonders if this is where he regains his fearless status, something we are kept guessing until the end: what will happen that will help Joe to regain his fearless mojo, which is enough suspense to keep the reader reading.

Though it's been a while since I've read a middle-grade novel (not since my own high-school age children were middle-grade), I think they would have enjoyed *Fearless Joe's* adventure. pre-teens are sure to get the message within--that you don't have to be fearless to be brave.

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### **Stacie says**

*Fearless Joe Dearborne* is the adventuresome tale of a daring young man, who, despite his fearlessness, begins to question his bravery.

Joe is somewhat of a town hero. He has saved the day, and lives of children and animals alike, on several occasions without regard for his own safety. After Joe's mother passed away, his father became extremely worried about Joe's apparent lack of fear. He tells Joe to leave the heroics to the professionals. So, when Joe rescues a kitten from a burning house, his dad grounds him.

The town reporter, however, won't let the story rest and is eager to write an article highlighting Joe's rescue. He even dubs him "Fearless Joe." He tells Joe that he is so brave, but a neighborhood boy replies that bravery is acting despite your fear and since Joe isn't afraid of anything he can't be brave. Now, Joe begins to question himself. Can he be both fearless and brave?

This is such a fantastic story. There is so much going on to keep children entertained throughout the book. Joe's heroics at the beginning of the story and then the recollection of all his selfless acts are exciting. But, the odd housekeeper his dad hires gives the story a twist. She's creepy and mysterious and Joe seems to be scared to death of her. This alone will have young readers pleading for Joe to discover the bravery that lies within him. The story teaches children about character and believing in yourself.

I recommend picking up a copy of this highly enjoyable read.

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### **Karen says**

I have a sixth grader, and I thought he'd enjoy this book. I happened to get it on a day that it was FREE on Amazon Kindle, so there was no cost to me. My kids have access to a Kindle E-reader app to read books, so I had it sent directly to their device.

The book began by asking them if they'd rather be fearless or courageous. I asked each child to write down their answer, read the book, and then write down their answer again. We'd then see if their answer changed after reading the book, why or why not, and what they thought of the book. Having three kids, we had a variety of answers both to begin and end; some opinions changed and others did not. As a parent, that's interesting to see and a great conversation starter to get some insight as to how your children process thoughts, ideas, and suggestions. Ultimately, I was pleased to see that my kids saw that Joe was making some poor choices, and that fear can be a good thing in certain instances. They also really grasped that courage is an honorable character trait, and that overcoming your fears to help someone, and choosing to do the "right" thing is the best choice.

We enjoyed the way the story was told, the humor, and it captivated the interest of my 9, 11, and 12 year old boys who were trapped indoors during a Nor'easter.

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