



The Legend of Old Abe: A Civil War Eagle (Myths, Legends, Fairy and Folktales)

Kathy-jo Wargin

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During the Civil War, it was not uncommon for Army units to have mascots to lift spirits and build loyalty among the soldiers. One of the most famous mascots was Old Abe, a remarkable eagle from Wisconsin. Named in honor of President Lincoln, the eagle became the mascot of the Eighth Regiment of the Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Old Abe was beloved by foot soldiers and officers alike. He made them laugh with his antics -- stealing chickens, shaking hands, and creating warmth amidst the harsh conditions of war. Soaring over the battlefields, he rallied his comrades through numerous skirmishes and engagements. When his exploits became larger than life and extolled throughout the country, even the Confederates knew he was a force to be reckoned with and made the bird a target! Great Lakes author Kathy-jo Wargin has earned national acclaim with several bestselling children's books, including *The Edmund Fitzgerald: The Song of the Bell*, *The Legend of Sleeping Bear* and *The Legend of the Lady's Slipper* (Upper Midwest Bookseller's Favorite). She is also the author of *B is for Badger: A Wisconsin Alphabet*. She is a frequent lecturer and guest speaker throughout the country. Kathy-jo currently lives with her family in Petoskey, Michigan. Illustrator Laurie Caple has created artwork for many books and periodicals, including the American Girl series and *Cricket*. *The Legend of Old Abe* is Laurie's first book with Sleeping Bear Press. Laurie lives with her family in northern Wisconsin.

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