

The Secret Diary of Owl by Izaak Beck

My name is Owl and I am the wisest animal around! I live in The Wood next to Alexandra Park and I do quite like it there. I like every bit of The Wood, you see; from the tallest trees where I sleep, down to the smallest twigs I use for nesting.

Some of my favourite places in The Wood include; The Tree House, a large dome constructed out of branches and leaves that sits upon the oldest tree, The Lonely Log, a giant fallen tree in the middle of The Swamp, and my most special place to visit, The Magic Pool. The Magic Pool is a small pond of water that sits snugly in the bowl of a large rock. Through the water I can see small purple and white crystals. It is the perfect spot for contemplation.

Occasionally, me and my friends, Badger, Squirrel and Robin meet up to discuss the importance of love, life and happiness. Badger thinks it's all to do with food and Squirrel is simply obsessed with the thrill. Robin and I agree with the simple things in life; food, shelter and freedom.

But I do worry for all the good things in The Wood as I've heard whispers that The People are going to be taking over. I fear The People will strip The Wood of its' beauty and replace it with ugly blocks of rock. But not the sort of rock like at The Magic Pool where I bathe. No! It's the rock The People use to create giant monstrosities they call Buildings. The People are the reason our homes we live in are destroyed. I do hope the same thing does not happen to my new home. I am beginning to really like this place. I worry for The Wood and for all of us who depend on its existence.

During the day I sleep atop the tallest tree. Nights pass by after days filled with much activity in The Wood. The Woods are changing. I spend my evenings visiting The Tree House and The Lonely Log. I meet up with my friends Badger, Squirrel and Robin at The Magic Pool and we reassure one another that sometimes change is good.

It is even better than imagined! The Wood is still here and new trees have been planted. The marshes and swamps remain and a new stretch of water to explore has appeared. And most importantly, the Magic Pool is still here and the water is cleaner than ever! It is purely amazing and honestly heavenly; this is Northern Roots.