



Marco's Millions

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When Marco's shy and fragile little sister, Lilly, tells him about the strange lights in the basement, he thinks she's imagining things. But Marco is curious, and before long he investigates. He finds a passage into a strange world, where he meets insect-like creatures who seem to know all about Lilly. They believe she is special and beg Marco to bring her to them so that she can embark on a dangerous quest to save their world from ruin. Can Marco help the creatures while protecting Lilly from harm?

Marco's Millions Details

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Author : William Sleator

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From Reader Review Marco's Millions for online ebook

techno says

This book was very good all the action of the tunnel and the bright lights. It is a little sad about the cost of the doctor bill. The disappearance of the mother's sister. That is really shocking about the incident that took place when the mother's sister came up missing.

The Ultimate Book Guy says

I think this book is amazing! The character makes smart decisions in the story and this story has a lot of action! It is very cool how time alters in this book, including going in and out of dimensions. Very good read for kids that love science fiction and want to get out of this world in reading! Very addicting and fun book! Perfect!

Rachel says

Okay, so it wasn't that good. I don't like the ending, and practically the plot. I don't really think it's that good. I don't recommend you read it.

Adam says

When I was in 6th grade I read "The Green Futures of Tycho" by Sleator and the recently re-read it. I read this title to explore more of W. Sleator as an author.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and I have "The Boxes" on its way here through Inter-Library Loan.

Kelsey Williams says

I started this book with the expectation of hating it once I was done. I was pleasantly surprised. I bought this book at a used bookstore as part of a bundle of science fiction books. I misread the label on the bundle, and somehow managed to think that "young readers" meant "young adult". I desperately needed something to read at the gym while biking for forty five agonizing minutes, and I was a little disappointing when I realized that the book wasn't quite on my reading level.

I ended up loving it. I sorely wish that it was longer, and that I had read it when I was younger. This is an awesome book for kids who enjoy science fiction, and especially portals to other worlds. Portals to other worlds are awesome. I loved the characters, although I thought Ruth was painfully flat. The book had clear and simple language; it built up to and worked through the scientific explanations masterfully. Again, I wish I'd read it when I was younger.

To summarize: this is a great science fiction book for kids. If I had kids, I'd have them read it. :-)

Deb says

This is another book from off my classroom library shelf. I chose it because we'd read a fascinating short story by the author in our reading anthology, and I was hoping for an equally interesting read. Marco's younger sister Lilly claims she can see a strange tunnel in the basement of their home. Marco and she are very close, so he decides to investigate. He discovers a passage into another world, where a Singularity appears to have control. The inhabitants of this mysterious world need a human "medium" to save their world, so Marco volunteers for the task. The task is much more difficult than either he or his sister imagine, and it takes both of them to figure out how to accomplish it. But the cost is high. I really didn't care much for the book. It's dark, it's scary, and I thought it was super depressing. I'm not surprised that it hasn't been checked out much!

Zachary Elson says

Marcos's Millions is a great book about a brother and sister who have a inter-dimensional portal in their basement which leads to a world filled with bug like creatures who have been expecting him. And the only way he was able to pass through the tunnel was with a touch or hair strand of his sister Lilly who is able to see this world in her dreams and talk to the creatures to bypass a wall blocking the portal to the other world. In the other world time is normal but on earth it is really speed up. So Marcos is faced with many challenges on this world from trying to fix and repair a singularity that too is going to destroy the creatures and his world to try and be back at home and not go missing for a long time which ends up not going soo well when he goes missing in the other world of over 20 years where his parents and sister Lilly die in a car crash. Overall I would rate this book a 4/5 because it has a great plot with a good objective for Marcos to complete and overcome. Part of the reason I also said it was a 4 is because it was ended on a great cliffhanger. And I would recommend this book to readers of science fiction.

Benn Allen says

One of my favorite novels is William Sleator's "House of Stairs". I've read it like three times over the years. But it never occurred to me to look up any other books by Sleator. Mostly because I thought "Stairs" was a fluke, that is, Sleator rarely wrote science fiction and HoS was the only one he ever worked in that genre. While at a local thrift store, I happened to see a copy of this book, "Marco's Millions" and after reading the blurb on the back of the book, seeing it was yet another sf novel (apparently, Sleator was a science fiction writer. Something I never knew.), I decided to try it out.

I gotta say it's not as good as "House of Stairs". The first half of it, anyway. In the second half, it picks up and improves greatly.

In "Marco's Millions", Marco and his sister, Ruth, discovers a doorway to another world in the basement of their house. Marco travels in it to discover a race of insect-like beings who worship a naked singularity and perform various rituals to appease the singularity, known also as "the Lord" and "the Unknowable". The Unknowable is threatening to erupt and destroys life not only life on the insects' universe, but possibly Marco's as well. They require Marco's psychic sister, Lilly, to act as a medium, or go-between, to set things

right. Because she is shy and timid, Lilly is afraid to go to the insect's universe to help. Instead, it is Marco who makes the journey to fulfill the quest.

As I said, the first part of the book drags a bit . It is only when Marco finally goes to the other universe to actively begin the quest, that the novel takes off. The second half of the book more than makes up for the dullness of the first half for me.

"Marco's Millions" does reference "House of Stairs". One of the alternate universes Marco sees when he is near the Unknowable, is a world of nothing but stairs. Also like "Stairs", rituals must be enacted in order to appease an authority figure and the world the teenagers in "Stairs" come from is an impoverished dystopia, while Marco's family is extremely poor.

Incidentally, the concept of a hidden doorway leading to an alternate world reminded me a little of the Harry Potter series (how you get to Hogwarts), but mostly it felt like Neil Gaiman's trope. How many of Gaiman's novels are based on the idea of a secret passage to another world? ("Neverwhere", "Coraline".)

But while "Marco's Millions" won't replace "House of Stairs" as a favorite, it does make me curious to read more of William Sleator's novels, particularly "Boxes", the book "Marco's Millions" is the prequel to.

Douglas Larson says

Another one of Sleator's interesting and somewhat compelling story lines.

Its the story of Marco, a 12-year old boy and his two sisters, one older and one younger. Marco and his older sister discover that in the basement of their house, is a portal to another dimension and world where time travels much slower and is filled with strange and intersting creatures.

What I didn't like about this book, is the twist ending. While the main character triumphs in his task in the other dimension, that victory comes at an extremely high price and the ending is very, very sad. Not every book, but many of Sleator's books have a twist ending to them, and the ending to this book, is perhaps the saddest of all of Sleator's books.

Ruby Converse says

I read this book for the first time when I was ten, and it was so amazing - I handed it to a friend seven years later, and one of the first things we say to each other now is, " Have you eaten yet?"

I love the relationship between Marco and Lily, especially/ As a child who liked to curl up in blanket forts and pretend I was hiding in The Wardrobe, waiting to go to Narnia, I loved the passageway to the other dimension or world, whatever it was.

Some people don't seem to understand that this is a prequel, not the first in a series. The Boxes was written and released first. Although, I read it when I didn't even know that The Boxes existed and loved it; when I finally discovered The Boxes and read it, I was unimpressed. Compared to Marco's Million's, it was lacking.

Payton Bellings says

This was an okay book. It was interesting in the beginning, but then it got boring. I would not recommend it to anybody.

Kate Brown says

I always enjoy William Sleator books for the simple fact that his ideas are so original for the sci-fi and horror genres. "Marco's Millions" is not my favorite Sleator book, but I was also reading it while passing a kidney stone so my opinion and mood was painfully impacted. The premise is a boy named Marco loves to explore and is constantly traveling on subways and busses to see different parts of his city. When his younger sister, Lilly shows him a mysterious portal in their cellar, he is eager to try it out. Unfortunately, their aunt explored this same portal and never returned. Will the same fate await Marco? The first half of the book was extremely interesting, but the second half dragged a little. "The Boxes" is the sequel to this book.

Joseph says

I've read this book ages ago, and all I can think is the mark that it has left on me. I loved the adventure Marco embarked upon, and how he finally got his lifetime wish of being able to travel multiple universes. The most amazing, but troubling thing is the way that as Marco gets deeper into his adventure, the horrible price of separation and alienation becomes ever more clear. What's so beautiful is the way their love for each other spans across the void. The ending had me in tears, and still does to this day.

Sarah N says

The reading level of this book is not appropriate for the thematic elements it includes, in my opinion. The writing itself is very simplistic but the content is an intense mixture of science, religion and fantasy with themes such as death, loss, and some complex time traveling concepts. It would be better if it were better written to be aimed at middle school or high school students instead of at an elementary grade level.

Kenny says

I read this book when I was... Eight, Nine...? Ten? I can't remember for the life of me. I've read it at least a million times during those years. It still stays in my memory as one of the best books I've read in my childhood. Even after those five years since I've last read it, I'm still extremely fond of Marco's Millions.

I was absolutely depressed when I lost it. I spent WEEKS, burrowing through boxes, looking through shelves, looking under beds... but with no luck. It stuck in my mind all through my years in Middle School and High School, before I finally got myself to check it out of the library, just for old time's sake. It was as

amazing as the first time I read it, and it really brought me back.

It's a shame that not a lot of people know about this book, though. Maybe it's the semi-bizarre title, or the fact that it's for 'young readers'. I don't know... I myself, got it as a second-hand, from a cousin of mine. It was thin, and in rather poor condition when I got it, and it stuck out like a sore thumb in my stack of new and shiny books.

I suggest you giving this book a shot, even IF it's for 'younger' readers, it's quite a brilliant book. I'm quite sure an adult can still thoroughly enjoy this great Science Fiction book as much as I did, years and years ago.
