



The Adventurous Four

Enid Blyton

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When a trip at Little Island for the weekend ends in them being shipwrecked, it is at first exciting for the Adventurous Four. But imagine their surprise when they discover the hidden harbour is full of enemy submarines! They investigate more closely so as to get back to the mainland and expose this terrible enemy. But a forgotten camera leads to their capture. How can they outsmart the enemy and escape? And is there any way of getting off the island...?

The Adventurous Four Details

Date : Published December 31st 1989 (first published 1941)

ISBN : 9781858480442

Author : Enid Blyton

Format : Paperback

Genre : Childrens, Adventure, Fiction, Young Adult, Mystery, Juvenile, Asian Literature, Indonesian Literature, European Literature, British Literature, Action

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From Reader Review The Adventurous Four for online ebook

Ana says

Gostei, mais uma história digna de Enid Blyton

Tim Gray says

It's not complicated, or especially clever - but it has a lovely air of innocence, and is just a fun read that took me back to my childhood.

Robin Rowles says

The Adventurous Four – Tom, the twins Pippa and Zoe, and their special friend Andy who has a sailing boat on which the four love to go exploring.

Tom, Pippa and Zoe are excited at spending the night camping on an uninhabited island with their friend Andy. But before they can get there, a violent storm blows their boat off course and on to some rocks.

When the children explore their surroundings, they stumble on some very strange goings-on, indeed. With no boat, they have no chance of getting away, but before long they realise that somehow or other, they'll have to escape before they become prisoners for good!

The children encounter some frightening moments and difficult challenges.

This is an excellent book for children who like reading an island adventure.

Recommended Age: 8+

This book was first published in 1947.

My paperback edition was published in 2003 and was Illustrated by Gavin Rowe.

Sana says

I was a voracious reader as a child having entire series of "The Baby Sitter's Club", "Sweet Valley Kids", and "Sweet Valley High School", but nothing sparked my imagination like Enid Blyton. There were a few books of hers in circulation in the 1980's Pakistan, and I was probably the only girl (or maybe there was another) who knew about her. I would recommend her to anyone and everyone who liked reading and asked what I was reading. The way her short stories sparked my imagination impacted me more than I let on. They were parables like Disney animated movies in printed words and I would get lost in them for hours until my mother would call me for dinner. I would put Enid Blyton to the level of Roald Dahl and Dr. Suess. Check her out!!

A.R. Collins says

As an example of Blyton's earlier adventure stories, this book has some advantages over many of its successors, particularly the pacing; in many of her later works, you have to wait for about half the book for the adventure to get started. The plot is very interesting, especially with the explicit wartime setting and the not-spelled-out yet crystal clear use of Nazis as the enemy. There are also disadvantages to this earlier work, most notably that the characterisation is somewhat lacking. Where groups such as the Five and the children of the Adventure series will feel much more rounded and distinct, of the Adventurous Four Andy has almost all of the personality, and even he is more an amalgamation of qualities Enid admires than a fully developed character.

An Odd1 says

"Shipwrecked! (The Adventurous Four, #1) by Enid Blyton has sequels Stranded! and Trapped!, but suffers from re-titling over the century. 8+ age conversations have realistic long run-on sentences with clever words: astonishment, fuel, crocodiles, piers, jetties. Black and white brisk-lined quick-moving sketches bring the wind, waves, cliffs, and struggling sailors to life. I fell in love with Blyton's magical "Three Children and It"; this too is a fun, fast-paced appealing escapade.

Andy 14 "dark-haired and blue-eyed" "knew everything about the sea, boats, and fishing", "could mimic any seabird" p8 for secret signals to his visiting pals. Tom 12 is "small, wiry" "red hair" "green eyes" always hungry. Cheerful twin sisters 10 Zoe and Pippa have "thick golden plaits and deep blue eyes" p7. Andy teaches them to swim, row, and climb, so one forgotten anchor is forgiveable, especially when a handy spare sail is stowed below. WW2 NE Scotland laws did not require emergency bailers and lifejackets, so a sudden storm brings unexpected adventure.

The children do not think to save empty cans for tools, like digging a getaway tunnel, but resourceful Andy's pockets hold matches and candles in oilcloth, a can-opener, and his brain immediately sends them to rescue supplies, find food, and build shelter. If they miss salt in their potatoes, why not use sea water? Deserted islands have surprises. No mucking about, whining, they are brave, foolish, supportive, role models.

(Spoilers:

Heroes are human, not perfect. Tom returns to the Round Cave filled with cases of tins, sugar, and food supplies to retrieve his camera with photos of the small submarines in a cove, and foreign marked seaplane, but the enemies, one speaking English, capture and imprison him. Andy cleverly uses the old sail for protection, disguise, escape on a raft ... wish my summers were spent with such a gang. My dad was in the Air Force too, but theirs swoops in, deus ex machina, just in time - the problem was adult-sized. After Andy's fisherman father's only income source wrecks, the new red sailboat *Andy* enabling sequels satisfies perfectly.)

Saravanan says

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Eva Inzu says

wowwww..woww.. buku inilah yang saya cari-cari. saya pernah membaca buku ini tapi kemudian berpikir buku yg saya baca itu enid blyton seri petualangan. but no..no.. this is the right one.. Saya harap bisa mendapatkan buku ke 2, Gua Rahasia, dalam waktu dekat ini. Setting waktu untuk seri Empat Petualang ini berkisar tahun 1944-45, saat PD II.

Saya tidak memikirkan PD nya tapi saya menyimpulkan seperti apa orang Inggris itu. Jadi sungguh aneh, saat saya membaca Asterix di Inggris, semua tentang "tea time" itu semacam guyongan (saya pikir) kenyataannya mungkin benar, war stop when tea time and continue when it's ended. Yah kalau membaca novel seperti ini ada kesan santai saat perang tapi kalau menonton film kamp konsentrasi yahudi, there's no time even to breath..

Jacqueline says

My first and favourite Enid Blyton book. I also read the entire Secret Seven series and the Famous Five series but I'm too lazy to post them all. Oh, I liked the Secret Seven better than the Famous Five...I read them in that order too...

Natalie says

A genuinely wholesome and enjoyable novel by Enid Blyton set during WWII.

I really loved reading this novel, and especially loved that unlike some of Enid Blyton's other novels there was no recognisable mention of "acceptable" gender roles, and nor were people judged for their looks. I was also quite interested to see that the "enemy" was never mentioned by name, they were only known by a "crooked cross" and as the "enemy", leaving it to the reader to put a face to the nameless enemy based on their own knowledge of WWII and the enemies that Britain held throughout that conflict.

Would make for an enjoyable read for both young and old. Well written story, great resolution, and wonderful characters. Highly recommend.

Hilary says

[a

Jen Pritchard says

This one is rather thrilling and a bit tense!

Zaara says

Fifteen years later...this one is still good!
Re-read with my little cousin.

David Sarkies says

Enid Blyton's Only World War II Novel

(21 August 2013)

This is an interesting story of Blyton's because it was written during the opening stages of World War II, set during World War II and involved the antagonists of World War II. Actually, I believe that it is the only book of Enid Blyton's that actually makes reference to the war. It is interesting how Blyton portrayed the Germans, that is as 'the enemy' and the 'crooked cross' but she never actually mentions them by name. Maybe it is because, from the eyes of a child, it was something that was still far off, though to many in England at the time, especially during the blitz, the reality of war had struck home.

In this story four children go out on a sailing trip to an island but end up getting caught in a storm and sent off course. At first they are simply trying to find out how to survive on a deserted island in the middle of the North Sea however during their exploration they come across a cave full of food. They then see a sea plane (adorned with the crooked cross) land and then take off, and after a little more exploration, and a hazardous swim, they stumble upon a submarine base.

This story is a little different than many of Blyton's other books as it jumps straight into the action, and while it is not as violent, or as bleak, as the sequel, it does seem to come off a little different than her later adventure stories such as the Famous Five. In a way, in her later books, the children all seem to be somewhat protected, despite coming up against some rather unsavoury characters, but maybe it is because they are never really cut off from the rest of the world as they seem to be in these stories.

Unlike the Famous Five, where there always seems to be a farm house, or at least a friendly adult, nearby, or the Secret Seven, which occurs in the children's home town, the Adventurous Four, in both stories that I have read, are completely cut off from the rest of the world, and in many cases everything seems to be touch and go. Also, the risk of serious injury, or even death, seems to be much higher. In fact, at one point, there is a threat that the children would be taken back to Germany and placed in a POW camp (or even a concentration camp).

I thought this one was better than the sequel (surprise, surprise) but it still does not seem to have the child like quality that some of her other books have. However, I do feel that maybe the target audience is somewhat older than the Famous Five, though maybe not as old as, say, a full blown teenager (which didn't exist at the writing of this book, by the way).

Janet Camilleri says

Loved reading this childhood favourite through adult eyes. Didn't realise it was set in WW2 before!
