



The Borrowers Afield

Mary Norton , Beth Krush (Illustrator) , Joe Krush (Illustrator)

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Driven out of their cozy house by the rat catcher, the Borrowers find themselves homeless. Worse, they are lost and alone in a frightening new world: the outdoors. Nearly everything outside -- cows, moths, field mice, cold weather -- is a life-threatening danger for the Borrowers. But as they bravely journey across country in search of a new home and learn how to survive in the wild, Pod, Homily, and their daughter, Arrietty, discover that the world beyond their old home has more joy, drama, and people than they'd ever imagined.

The Borrowers Afield Details

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Author : Mary Norton , Beth Krush (Illustrator) , Joe Krush (Illustrator)

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Download and Read Free Online The Borrowers Afield Mary Norton , Beth Krush (Illustrator) , Joe Krush (Illustrator)

From Reader Review The Borrowers Afield for online ebook

Nicki Hinkle says

Another great story from the "littles" that may or may not be around us! ;-)

I can't believe I missed this story series when I was a kid. Especially since I watched "The Littles" on TV when I was young!

If you are young or just young at heart, these books are super!!! What a fun summer evening read!

An Odd1 says

Sweet humor makes fun of lovable imperfect humans - playful, down-to-earth, needs-must, and all tiny. Danger looms large - night owl, grass snake, lightning storm flood, snow hibernation. The 6" small Clock family reside in a lost boot while searching for relatives, until fierce gypsy Mild Eye takes the footwear back. I like spending hours with them, amazed at their inventiveness re-using lost "junk". Delightful line drawings full of life and delicacy bring back times of tin teakettles on wood fires, pinafores and homburgs, buttoned shoes and gloves, when home-made meant best foods and finest workmanship.

Gathering fresh wild strawberries, "going on for fourteen" p 126 Arriety happily larks about, climbing swiftly, adept with "longer in proportion than the hands and feet of human beings" p 63. Finally loose from dusty enclosed dimness of inside Great Aunt Sophy's house, she glories in freedom. Her tiny diary provides some silly, most ignorable, proverbs to precede each chapter. She dresses in light leafs and flower petals, a bluebell hat, imagines fairies thus attired more gracefully. She sports with frogs, touches them in tig (tag), whereas serious orphan Spiller targets them dead as game.

Ignorant of the word "vegetarians .. just a word .. one of the noises people made with their mouths .. have a leg" p 107 taciturn archer Dreadful Spiller (his mother's appellation is his only memory of her) brings them meat (fresh-shot mouse, don't ask) and "almost anything they asked for" p150. Dirty, dressed in skins, without "ethics", yet deus ex machina, he saves them and before, sheltered and scavenged for the Hendreary family of Homily's brother.

Practical father Pod sees "plenty of jobs about the house" p102 and sets to work saving supplies, putting by for winter, a word that shocks martyr mother Homily. She frets "no one won't hear a word of grumble past my lips, but you mark my words, Arriety, we won't none of us see another spring" p103. Snow "meant the end .. she had made her grave and was determined to lie in it p 162. "Me leg's gone numb .. Can't feel nothing in it", because she mistakenly pinches Spiller p191.

In front of long-lost relatives, Homily "adopted her woman-tried-beyond-endurance role backed up by one called yes-I've-suffered-but-don't-let's-speak-of-it-now; she had invented a new smile, wan but brave .. 'Poor dear Lupy .. what a lot of furniture! Whoever helps you with the dusting?' " p205. Overwhelmed by the noise, heat, press of strangeness, Arriety flees outside, so the book ends with her and Tom exchanging "Hallo" p 215.

Evidence both proves and contradicts authenticity, maybe to make us believe more. (Arriety printed e's in

half moons like Mrs Mary's brother in previous book). Four chapters of long preamble. After old Joe Goodenough dies, Kate records story for her four children. When Mrs May inherited cottage on her Great Aunt Sophy's estate, Kate listened to tale of Young Joe, boy with a ferret.

Definition:

p 204 upholstered in "rep" is ribbed fabric

Carol says

Favorite from childhood.

Iryna Khomchuk says

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Judy says

In the second book of The Borrowers series, Pod, Homily and Arrietty are on the run after escaping from the terrible Mrs Driver and the ferret. No longer able to live snugly beneath the kitchen in the big house, they are forced to run, hide from field mice and insects, and sleep in ditches.

Finally they take up residence in an abandoned boot and adopt a vegetarian diet. Homily tries to be brave but is miserably out of her element. Pod is his usual resourceful self. Arriety however is thrilled to be in the great outdoors. She ventures far and wide and when she meets Spiller, a mysterious and feral Borrower youth, she sets in motion the family's salvation.

I read this one as a child but didn't remember it as well. It is just as delightful and imaginative as the first book. I did not read the other two in the series because by the time *The Borrowers Afloat* was published in 1959, I was twelve years old and had moved on as a reader. I will be reading *Afloat* and *Aloft* soon though

thanks to my Big Fat Reading Project*.

*See entry in "Writing" by going to my profile.

Claire says

I'm really so impressed with these books.

Joann says

I liked the first book better but this was also very good. Living outside poses many problems but also many wonders. The Borrowers face dangers and difficulties. How to stay alive without humans to borrow from? What will happen as winter approaches?

There is a lot more description and the action is saved for the very frightening end. Now I have to read the next book but I may take a detour into Mary Norton's other books. Bed-Knob and Broomstick is next!

Jessica says

So much fun, and so much more tense, as they venture out of their safe home!

Rosemary says

It's too bad that this series of books about little people is in such danger of being dismissed as a cute or trite children's fairy story. They certainly shouldn't be described in that way. Once you can suspend your disbelief in the existence of small people living in and amongst normal humans, the books becomes adventure stories in the best sense--kind of a Robinson Crusoe story but with much more likable and more subtly depicted characters.

Hannah Steinbrunner says

The fantasy novel, *The Borrowers Afield*, by Mary Norton, is about an adventure taken by Pod, Homily, and their daughter Arrietty, to find a new home with their loving relatives in a badger set. Their adventure begins when they are driven out of their cozy home by a rat catcher because they were "seen" by the little boy who lived there. Now they are homeless, lost, and alone in a new world: the outdoors. Pod, Homily, and Arrietty need to find their relatives and quick. They fear the worst and that is the animals and cold weather that will threaten their lives. Because of these dangers, Pod takes charge and begins to look for a place where they can stay until they find their relatives, Lupy and Hendreary. They find an old boot to use as their home, and settle in for the long adventure ahead. They search for days, and instead of finding their relatives, they meet a new friend who will help them with their journey. His name is Spiller and he will help them find Lupy and Hendreary. He is very familiar with the fields, and will help them in face of danger. This is a good thing

because soon after they meet, their temporary home, the boot, is found by its owner, and Pod, Homily, and Arriety are taken with it. Now it is up to Spiller to save them from the caravan where they were taken within the boot. He finds a way though, and helps them to an abandoned campsite where they can keep safe. This was the last time they saw Spillar for awhile, but that doesn't mean their adventure was over. They would find each other again in the home of a loving friend.

The Borrowers Afield is a 215 page book filled with adventure, anticipation, determination, and bravery. The author does an amazing job showing bravery throughout the book when she expresses it through Pod. An example is when Pod stands up to a hungry crow on page 48, "Get back to where you was...we don't want no nonsense from you...shoo!" It is also interesting and exciting to watch as Pod, Homily, and Arriety make new friends as they search for their relatives. One friend they make is a boy named Spillar. "Hi, I'm Spiller...would you like some meat, you can have a leg." This quote shows that Spiller is kind and won't put Pod, Homily, and Arriety in danger. The author also does a great job on explaining the setting of the book and how it affects the characters. On page 155, the author says, "The sun was up and the landscape shimmered, dusted over with what, to Arriety, looked like powdered sugar." All these adventures lead to an amazing ending filled with reconnection, love, and welcoming feelings. The end of The Borrowers Afield shows that after great determination and bravery, you will be rewarded with the love of a close friend. I would recommend this book to middle school students who like fantasy books filled with adventure because they will enjoy reading about Pod, Homily, and Arriety's adventures to find a new home in the outdoors.

Natalie [genreneutralreader] says

Difficult to read aloud to my first grader, but she loves this series.

Nikki says

I love the way these books have such an awareness of unreliable narrators, and of oral stories, for all that they're written down. First of all The Boy through Mrs May through Kate, and then Arriety through Tom Goodenough through Kate... There's so much uncertainty about whether it is or isn't a story. I imagine that frustrates some people, but I do like it.

I remember, all of a sudden, as a child, carefully leaving things on the lower shelves, for Borrowers. They never did take it, but maybe I was overestimating them. Or maybe they knew what I was doing, and never wanted to let on to a giant girl like me that they really were there. Who knows?

Anyway, I remembered The Borrowers Afield very fondly. It suffered more than the first book, I think, from my nostalgia for it: it just wasn't as good as I remembered, as the image the years of thinking about the Borrowers had made. Not enough really happens until the very end of the book.

Still, it's still wonderful to revisit this world, and there's also something satisfying about the way normal human feelings still play out in the books, as large as life -- Homily's insistence that she's teetotal until it's a matter of life and death, for example, and her bristling up at the Hendrearies having some of *her* furniture, etc.

Really, really happy I bought these again.

Smitha Murthy says

I am enthralled by this series! Fans of Arriety will find themselves drawn into another delightful adventure. I am now in danger of abandoning all other books I am currently reading and delve solely into the world of Pod and Homily and all the other characters who stay in my mind long after the swiping of the last page.

Heather says

I have been reading this to Seth in our morning time. It took a while to get into, but we did really enjoy the last half of the book.

Robin says

Every bit as charming as the first installment. I found on rereading this one decades later that I hadn't remembered the story at all, nor the fantastically described new character, Spiller. I suspect this is due to my imagination being more engaged at the idea of borrowers living indoors without humans suspecting their presence. I was never very outdoorsy, so Arriety's fearless embrace of her new circumstances and her precocious willingness to wander off exploring is drenched, for me, in a feeling of impending disaster. The book justifies this anxiety by delivering plenty of peril, so for an impressionable young child already prone to view the unpredictability of the outside world with some skepticism, this book tends to confirm such views.

Some other nice touches in this installment: Four chapters of frame story at the beginning that build anticipation for the continuation of the Arriety-focused narrative, and very cheeky use of epigraphs for all the chapters, hinting obliquely at events to come and also potentially piquing the interest of the child reading them about the historical events or figures mentioned.
