



Going Solo

Roald Dahl , Quentin Blake (Illustrator)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online ➔](#)

Going Solo

Roald Dahl , Quentin Blake (Illustrator)

Going Solo Roald Dahl , Quentin Blake (Illustrator)

Superb Stories, Daring Deeds, Fantastic Adventures

Here is the action-packed sequel to *Boy*, a tale of Dahl's exploits as a World War II pilot. Told with the same irresistible appeal that has made Roald Dahl one the world's best-loved writers, *Going Solo* brings you directly into the action and into the mind of this fascinating man.

From book cover:

The second part of Roald Dahl's extraordinary life story. Here he is grown up: first in Africa, then learning to be a wartime fighter pilot. It is a story that is funny, frightening and full of fantasy - as you would expect.

The first part of Roald Dahl's life story: *Boy*, is also available in the New Windmill Series.

Cover illustration by Quentin Blake

Going Solo Details

Date : Published April 5th 2001 by Puffin (first published 1986)

ISBN : 9780141311425

Author : Roald Dahl , Quentin Blake (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 209 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Biography, Autobiography, Memoir, Childrens

 [Download Going Solo ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Going Solo ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Going Solo Roald Dahl , Quentin Blake (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Going Solo for online ebook

Mariah says

This is the second autobiography of Roald Dahl's life. The first book was Boy: Tales of Childhood. I suggest reading them in order, but it wouldn't be the worst thing ever if you didn't!

Here is my review on the first book: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

This book starts at the age of 18 (and the first book goes up to the age 18). I really enjoyed this book! BUT, it only focused on him fighting in the war. I was hoping it would cover more than that. The war only lasted for a couple of years... He did get badly hurt and almost die, so that was extremely interesting to read about. It was crazy to think what literature would be like if Roald had died in the war.

However, this book left me with a ton of unanswered questions. Like, what happened when he went home after the war? What did he do for work? How did he start writing, etc? I felt it was only an autobiography about a tiny bit of his life. It was probably the most tragic part of his life, but still only a little bit of it. It made me feel like there was still a lot missing or that there should have been another book after Going Solo.

I suggest this book to anyone that enjoys him as a an author or likes autobiographies.

Paul Christensen says

Roald Dahl's funny and vivid second autobiography covers the 1930s and 40s.

It deals with his time in:

Africa

Dodging deadly black mamba snakes.

Greece

Fighting against the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Athens with only seven rickety planes.

Palestine

As a witness to the prelude of the creation of the Zionist entity. This section is extremely creepy and deserves to be quoted:

‘Is this your land?’ I asked him.

‘Not yet,’ he said.

‘You mean you’re hoping to buy it?’

He looked at me in silence for a while. Then he said, ‘The land is at present owned by a Palestinian farmer but he has given us permission to live here. He has also allowed us some fields so that we can grow our own food.’

‘So where do you go from here?’ I asked him. ‘You and all your orphans?’

‘We don’t go anywhere,’ he said, smiling through his black beard. ‘We stay here.’

‘Then you will all become Palestinians.’

‘No,’ the man said, ‘I do not think we will become Palestinians.’

‘Then which country did you have in mind?’

‘If you want something badly enough,’ he said, ‘and if you need something badly enough, you can always get it...’

Sarah Grace says

3.5 stars.

First off, I am once again shocked that this is considered juvenile fiction. I could see this being for the older range of juvenile fiction (15-18), but I would NOT give this to my little siblings (ages 12-14). There was quite a bit of language, which made me uncomfortable. Yeah, I get it; it's real life, but nonetheless.

Anyway, besides that, I really enjoyed this book! It took me 5 or so chapters to really be interested in it, but after that I was hooked. Dahl's slightly humorous and fascinating accounts of a RAF pilot were so interesting. It also portrayed a side of WWII that you don't hear a lot about: the fighting in the Middle East, which was where Dahl was stationed.

Overall, a good read, but would not recommend to anyone under the age of 15 due to the aforementioned language, and somewhat mild description of violence.

Sara Jesus says

Um relato emocionante da vida do autor, desde dos seus tempos em África enfrentando cobras e leões até ao se tornar piloto da RAF combatendo contra os alemães.

Ao longo do livro aparece alguma da sua correspondência com a sua mãe e imagens que nos ajudam a nos contextualizar.

Foi uma leitura muito agradável !

Calista says

Wow, Roald was in some series air battles during World War II. I mean he could have easily died. It might not be true, but I think he came through all that mess so he could write these children's stories for the world. He should have died many times during the Battle for Athens and all the other times he went up in the air.

There was a time he was talking about flying 300 miles and hour so low to the ground to escape being shot down that he had to lift up to not hit cows and walls on the ground. He did have a plane crash. He spent 3 years in Africa and Greece.

I love the first part of this story when he is on a steamer heading to Africa and he tells of all the exotic passengers on the trip. Expats love doing dotty things and they did some dotty things. It was a great character study. The book starts out with the colonel and his wife running on the deck of the ship totally naked. No wonder he is so great with characters. He lived a really interesting life.

I don't feel like I have done enough after listening to him, but my life is my life. Like he says, we don't travel the same way we used to. Flying somewhere is not the same as a boat trip that stops at many ports. He did some crazy things in Africa as well. He was 6'6". He was huge.

I had fun reading this and I was totally into his adventures. I also appreciate that he never took pleasure in killing people. He was always relieved to see people's parachutes open if he shot them down. I appreciate him and his works even more now. He is a hero of mine.

Jessica says

My WORD. This was an eye-opening combination of humorous "Englishman abroad" and hair-raising WWII memoir! Starting out with his time, just out of school, as a Shell Oil employee in Dar es Salaam, the story moves right into the outbreak of WWII and Dahl's becoming an RAF pilot, because that is exactly what happened. He was never able to go home, and for three years his only contact with his beloved mother and sisters were the letters that they managed to send each other. Dahl's trademark humor and complete lack of respect for authority make for an interesting look at war in northern Africa, to say the least!

But seriously, though: I don't think God intended Roald Dahl to have a nose. First there's the car accident in Boy. Then there's the plane crash in this one. I'm amazed he looked as good as he did as an older man!

Nasser_C1 says

Great book. I still can't believe that Roald Dahl experienced so many thrilling adventures before he became an author. This book had crash landings to green mamba attacks. If I were him I would have never left his thrilling life. I really loved the middle of the book because that's when the book started to become interesting. 10/10 great book. I recommend it to anyone who likes a thrilling and adventurous book.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Going Solo (Roald Dahl's Autobiography #2), Roald Dahl

?????: ??? ?? ???? ? ???? ????: ??? ??????? ?????? ??? ????? 1379? ?? 200 ?? ?????? ?????? ????:
9643054780? ??? ?? 1380? ??? 1382? ??? 1386? ??? 1388? ????: 9789643054786? ?????: ??????????
????????? ?????? - ??? ????? ??? - ??? 20 ?
??? ??? ?????? ?? ?????? ????? ?? ?? ??????? ????? ??? ?????. ????? ?????? ?????? ?? ?????? ?? ?? ?? ??????
??? ??? ?????? ????? ???
?. ??????

Miranda Reads says

Whew! This man did more within a year than I have in my life.

And the giraffes would incline their heads very slightly and stare down at me with languorous demure expressions, but they never ran away. I found it exhilarating to be able to walk freely among such huge graceful wild creatures and talk to them as I wished.

This is the second half of Dahl's autobiography. **What a wild life!** Right after high school, Roald packed up his belongings, got a job for the Shell company and set off for Africa. **For three years.** No visits home, no calling his mom, just up and leaves his beloved family for a **life of adventure.** And during his time in Africa, a lion carries away a woman, a black mamba attacks his servant and a green mamba invades a house to kill a family dog.

It's quite interesting to hear **an unfiltered account** of that time. For example, all the men at the Shell company had a "boy." Now, this "boy" was actually **a full grown man.** He had a wife (sometimes wives) to support and essentially acted as a butler. He spoke Swahili and so did Roald (it was not considered right to force the "boys" to learn English). Roald taught his boy how to read and write, and his boy tended Roald's every need. It was strange to read about.

Only, before Roald could finish his time with the Shell company...**the Great War broke out.** And *that* was quite a story in itself. Roald joined the airforce and was trained as a pilot. As in, he was given **7 and a half hours** of in-flight training before being declared fit for service along with fifteen other new pilots. Then, they were given fighter planes and told to get up in the air. Unsurprisingly, this happened:

It is a fact, and I verified it carefully later, that out of those sixteen, no less than thirteen were killed in the air within the next two years

All this before he turned twenty-five. The things he had to live through churned my stomach - especially the account of how he crashed his first plane. Dahl spares no details and, as always, **his stories were absolutely fascinating.**

The PopSugar 2018 Reading Challenge - A childhood classic you never read

[Blog](#) | [Instagram](#)

Nina says

Roald Dahl is not just a great writer - he's a wonderful human being, and that's what makes him so damn good at writing too.

He's observant and self-aware, matter-of-fact but wondering, curious and amazed at life, brave and charming in the way he writes and the things he's done, concise and generous and really fucking tall.
I'm pretty much in love with his soul.

Joey Woolfardis says

A wonderful, harrowing and yet somehow light-hearted account of Dahl's time during the Second World War as a RAF pilot. Most fascinating, which one finds with the war poets, is, though it is obviously horrid and despicable, they all seem to bloody love war. Not nice when you nearly die, but jolly good fun otherwise. Camaraderie has a lot to do with it, but I think it's also just what you need to do when faced with such senseless, mindless stupidity.

[Blog](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Pinterest](#) | [Shop](#) | [Etsy](#)

Bettie? says

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07hwwjv>

Description: *To celebrate the centenary year of his birth, a full dramatization of Roald Dahl's gripping autobiographical overseas adventure.*

Beginning aboard the SS Mantola, Dahl sets sail for Africa at the tender age of 22. He experiences the remnants of colonial British life, filled with eccentric characters, and is thrown into a world as bizarre and surprising as any you will find in his fiction.

"Life is made up of a great number of small incidents and a small number of great ones."

Stationed in Tanzania, Dahl is faced with the excitement of the wild; lions carrying off women in their mouths; fatal green mambas captured by snake men. But his savannah-sun-drenched life is interrupted when World War II erupts. Dahl is ordered to round up the German inhabitants of Dar es Salaam and experiences first-hand the horror of war.

Patrick Malahide provides the voice of Dahl in a colourful adaptation by Lucy Catherine.

Because Egypt was "too dusty"

Matt says

"A life is made up of a great number of small incidents and a small number of great ones." So opens the second and 'adult-based' portion of Roald Dahl's autobiography. He makes perfectly clear that this is not such a book, for autobiographies are full of useless and boring information. Dahl seeks to offer the reader some of the key memories he had during his early adult life, particularly serving in the Second World War. Accepting a job with the Shell Company, Dahl is soon shipped to the African continent, working particularly in Dar es Salaam, part of what is currently Tanzania. During his travel aboard a ship to reach the far shores, Dahl learns why the upper class held use of hands when eating in such low regard and the 'daytime entertainment' they found acceptable on deck. Arriving in Africa, Dahl uses all his patience and understanding as he undertook a complete culture shock, a world where wildlife ran the show and humans knew their place.

While the scenery was spectacular and the people highly entertaining, the rumblings of war could be heard on the horizon. Dahl finds himself evacuated from the region, only to join the RAF to help Britain in the forthcoming Second World War. Lanky, yet determined, Dahl is an unlikely pilot-in-training before he became a key member of the effort in North Africa. While serving, Dahl is involved in a significant aerial accident, captured in a story he penned, eventually bastardised and published in the Saturday Evening Post. Dahl seeks to correct the narrative for the reader in this piece of writing, as if one might worry he was seeking to make himself seem overly heroic. The crash leaves Dahl with significant injury, his nose caved into his fractured skull (interesting for those who remember his childhood injury to the same nose), and he is required to remain in hospital for upwards of two months. While he convalesces, Dahl continues penning his weekly letters to his mother, though remains careful to censor his news, so as not to have the letters destroyed. Once healthy enough to fly again, Dahl heads out to serve in Greece, where he comes face to face with the Nazis, trying to hold the onslaught back and keep the Allies in control of the area. As the fighting intensified, Dahl dodges many a proverbial bullet and heads to the Middle East, where he sobers up to much of what was going on in the region and the European Theatre, learning of the extreme anti-Semitism or ignored undertone of the Nazi atrocities. As the reader is pulled deeper into the life of this wonderful author, Dahl uses his wonderful prose to breathe life into his life story. A must read for anyone who loves a story of humour and utter despair, all in short order.

Having recently completed the first volume in this first-person narrative, I wanted to take some time to explore the adult life of this man whose stories tantalised me throughout my childhood. As Dahl continues the story, boarding schools are replaced with African-style boardrooms (open air villages) and a collection of characters that only Dahl could dream up. Those Dahl mentions turned from being men recollected into individuals with complex backstories or who shaped Dahl in his intense battles in Africa and the war zones he discovered. Using a collection of his letters penned to his mother, Dahl is able to recall some of the minutiae, which helps substantiate his many adventures. Dahl outwardly admits the need to use these letters, both because of his age when writing the tale and the number of events that can mesh together in wartime. Crisp and humorous, Dahl is able to tell his story while keeping the reader spellbound, injecting passion for his situations on every page while not getting too wordy in his descriptions. A contrast to stories about chocolate-makers, giants, and fresh produce, this story (and its first volume) is not one to be passed over. It is yet another gem in the Roald Dahl collection.

Kudos, Mr. Dahl for this two-volume collection about your life prior to becoming the popular writer for which you are best remembered. I cannot wait to tackle some of your other works, adult- and child-centric alike.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

Miund says

First I read 'Boy' and then I read 'Going Solo'. This book is perfect. Roald Dahl tells the grown-up part of his life in such a way that made me crave more for his adventures in the Royal Air Force. It's like sitting in a cafe, listening to your date who's telling you amusing stories of his life. He's a hundred years older than you are, yet you still find him attractive!

Morgan says

I liked this better than I thought I would, but I still think he was better at children's books.

Laura says

From BBC Radio 4 - Drama:

To celebrate the centenary year of his birth, a full dramatization of Roald Dahl's gripping autobiographical overseas adventure.

Beginning aboard the SS Mantola, Dahl sets sail for Africa at the tender age of 22. He experiences the remnants of colonial British life, filled with eccentric characters, and is thrown into a world as bizarre and surprising as any you will find in his fiction.

"Life is made up of a great number of small incidents and a small number of great ones."

1/2: Stationed in Tanzania, Dahl is faced with the excitement of the wild; lions carrying off women in their mouths; fatal green mambas captured by snake men. But his savannah-sun-drenched life is interrupted when World War II erupts. Dahl is ordered to round up the German inhabitants of Dar es Salaam and experiences first-hand the horror of war.

2/2: As World War II rages, Pilot Officer Dahl takes to the air in a series of daring deeds. An inspirational account of survival when things seem hopeless, in which the extraordinary is made human.

"The second part is about the time I spent flying for the RAF in the Second World War. There was no need to discard anything from this period because every moment was, to me at least, completely enthralling."

Having joined the RAF Dahl discovers a love of flying. But a crash in the Western desert almost ends his war before he's started. Eventually he rejoins his heavily depleted squadron during the hopeless last days in Greece. Dogged air fights, secret missions and many narrow misses with death ensue before he eventually returns home to his loving mother.

Patrick Malahide provides the voice of Dahl in a colourful adaptation by Lucy Catherine.

Dramatised by Lucy Catherine

*Directed by Helen Perry
A BBC Cymru/Wales Production.*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07hwwjv>

James says

'Going Solo' is the second instalment of Dahl's autobiography. Whilst interesting, informative and entertaining this may be - it isn't anything like as compelling as the first book covering Dahl's earlier years -

'Boy'. Still definitely worth reading - for all fans of Dahl and anyone with an interest in his pre-literary life.

Meli says

Qué vidas tan pobres que vivimos en estos tiempos modernos.
Amo leer sobre Dahl, podría hacerlo por siempre.

Shinichiro Sato says

The book *Going Solo* by *Roald Dahl* was a real experience of what happened to him during World War II. Before WWII he went to Africa to work for the Shell Oil Company. During WWII he became a pilot in England. Roald Dahl wrote 48 books in his life. This book is interesting and I would recommend it.

The strength of this book was its excitement. Dahl seemed crazy he talked to animals. One time he talks to the giraffes, "Hello, giraffes! Hello! Hello! Hello! How are you today?" (*Going Solo* p79). The weakness of the book was that it was difficult to understand because of the unique British spelling and vocabulary. Dahl used several themes, including beauty and danger.

Bwana, it is a beautiful sword. With one blow it cut through his neck so deeply that his whole head fell forward and dangled down on to his chest, and as he started to topple over I gave the neck one more quick chop and the head came right away from the body and fell to the ground like a coconut (*G.S* p72).

I liked this book because I learned a lot of things about WWII. I would recommend this book to young adults because Dahl used some words that were difficult to understand. Or if you want to learn about Dahl's life and WW2, it would be a good choice to read.

Malbadeen says

2). I'm giving this book 5 stars without having actually read it, but ya know what it's my review so I can do whatever I want (don't try and stop me)!

It's getting 5 stars because my 2nd grade son LOVES, LOVES, LOVES it!!! The other night he got sent to bed with no read aloud (the little bastard lied to me about brushing his teeth, I know I'm such a hard ass) but he didn't even care!!! He just said "OK", grabbed his this book and happily trotted off to bed.

Then last night I had to go into his room at 10:00 and take the book away from him so he would stop reading it and go to sleep.

He is looooooooving it!

When I started reading it aloud to him, he was laughing so loud during parts of it I had to pause. within the first 3rd of the book there was nudity on boats, a lion carrying a person, and a snake crawling into someone's house.

That's some good shit!

*and since it's my review I'm going to go ahead and give my son 15,000 stars for being so freakin adorable when he describes passages of the book to me. 10,000 for his enthusiasm, 2.5,000 for the dimple on his chin

and 2.5,000 for his messy hair = 15,000!!!
