



## A Billion for Boris

*Mary Rodgers*

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Things are back to normal for Annabel Andrews since that freaky Friday when she switched bodies with her mother. She is still in love with Boris, her cute friend from upstairs, and she is still annoyed by her pesky little brother, Ape Face. But normal doesn't last long in the Andrews household!

When Ape Face fixes a broken-down television set Boris sold to him, something unusual happens. Instead of regularly scheduled programs, this TV shows the future -- one day in advance! They get tomorrow's shows, tomorrow's movies, and tomorrow's news. Annabel thinks they should use their new TV with ESP to help people, but Boris has plans of his own ...

## A Billion for Boris Details

Date : Published January 21st 2003 by HarperCollins (first published 1974)

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Author : Mary Rodgers

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## From Reader Review A Billion for Boris for online ebook

### Sean Duggan says

The book was entertaining, and it did a decent job of exploring the perils of seeing the future in a young adult format. Early on, the characters decide that they can't do anything to actually disrupt the events that they see on the TV, and they stick with that, but they do try to use their knowledge in other ways, Boris (actually Morris) to make money and Annabelle to try to help people (Ape Face just enjoys being able to occasionally time-shift his favorite shows).

I was a little surprised at some of the mature themes in the book. Because much of what they're monitoring on the TV is the news, and they're in New York City, there are a number of shootings, stabbings, and muggings that they learn about in advance, including one case where Annabelle puts herself on-scene for an attempted robbery with two deaths, and has to grapple with the decision of whether to tell someone on the scene that (view spoiler). Also, the 14-year-old Annabelle claims to her friend Virginia that her relationship with the 24-year-old reporter, Bartholomew Bacon, is about love rather than a scoop, and it's convincing enough that (view spoiler), a plotline that doubtless would not fly in today's children's books.

Overall, I enjoyed myself reading the book, but it doesn't really warrant a reread from me, although I may try some of the other Freaky Friday books to see what sorts of spins the author adds to them.

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### Leah says

The sequel to Freaky Friday. I loved this book almost as much as the first one.

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### HeavyReader says

I liked this book a whole lot during my youth too. I can't remember what much about it, but I remember liking it.

What I do remember: The protagonist, Boris, had a head cold. At the end of the book, folks figure out his name is really Morris. And there's money involved, but I don't remember how.

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### Katherine says

Cute read from childhood. It was fairly fetching and I liked it well enough as a grown up.

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### Michael Ladd says

As a kid, this was probably the first book I ever heard about, saved my own money, and bought on my own.

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### **Logan L says**

I like this book because it was one of those freaky friday books. Its about a brother and sister and the brother likes fixing things. Their neighbor gives them a TV to fix because he doesn't want it anymore. The brother fixes it up and when the sister watches on it she looks at the tv guide and figures that the show that was on should be on tomorrow. You'll have to read the rest to find out about this really good book!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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### **Patricia says**

This was a cute book about some kids who found a TV that would broadcast a day ahead. Boris and Annabel each have their reasons for wanting to know the next day's events. The book chronicles their successes and mishaps as they try to use the next day's events to their advantage. It also has a sweet storyline about Boris and his mother.

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### **Sab says**

I reread this the other day; I have a first-ed copy with the Edward Gorey cover art which I LOVE, and, anyway, this remains a really truly excellent book about New Yorkers in the 70s, awkward, gawky and clever, who want to save the world and also redecorate. Mary Rodgers is of course the wit behind both "Once Upon a Mattress" and "Freaky Friday," and having been in the former musical TWICE, and having read (1) and watched (2) versions of the second I can still say, I think "A Billion for Boris" is best.

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### **Amanda Wige says**

No switching just a TV that shwos things a day early.

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### **Lafcadio says**

Upon re-reading: Still pretty good. The two major future events I remembered ended up being the only two major future events that were that surprising.

It was a little weird how a couple of 14-year-old girls were dating or fake-dating a 24-year-old. That detail seems like it would have been written by a 14-year-old, but not by an adult.

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### **Jennifer says**

I first read this sequel to Freaky Friday when I was in third grade and I fell in love with Annabel, Boris, and

Ape Face. I was fascinated by their life in NYC (They take the subway! They ride in cabs!) and I was totally enthralled by the idea of a television set that played tomorrow's shows. I'm happy to say that I've re-read this book many times and even in my 40's I still love it as much as I did then. I'm sure that is based somewhat on nostalgia but there are many other books that I loved in third grade that are best left as a memory. It's saying a lot that I still want to keep this book on the shelf. (Although the cover art on the goodreads picture is somewhat disturbing - this is NOT what I picture Boris and Annabel to look like!)

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### **Stephanie says**

OK, I know people get freaked out by the prospect of kids watching 60+ hours of television a week, but let me just say that I was one of those kids and so far I've only killed 5 people. As complete degenerates go, that's a pretty low body count.

Onward to **A Billion for Boris**. I love this sequel to **Freaky Friday** because it depicts growing up in NYC during the '70s, when networks relied on old reruns of **Abbott and Costello** and **Torture Garden** to fill its rosters. I also enjoy books about psychic phenomenon, and the idea of a television that broadcasts shows a day ahead of schedule is just brilliant. Written by Mary Rodgers, who also contributed songs to **Free to Be You and Me** and **Once Upon a Mattress**, this book has plenty of snappy dialogue and makes you realize that kids aren't nearly as moronic as Barney, The Teletubbies, and Elmo would have you believe.

Cranky old geezer comment: Why was Edward Gorey's awesome cover illustration replaced with this current piece of trash? If it ain't broke, don't fix it!!!

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### **Lafcadio says**

Loved this book as a kid, and I have been searching for it for years. I knew some plot points, but not the title or author. I can't wait to read it again.

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### **Leta says**

Time travel back to 1974!

I read this book years ago and stumbled across it recently. The best part for me wasn't the plot (or the characters, really) but the references to so many things I remember from childhood. Worth reading just for the passing references to The Partridge Family and Motorola tvs.

And if you want to know why New Yorkers don't have the same reputation as Minnesotans, well, Annabel and Boris will walk you through it.

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### **Shawn Thrasher says**

A childhood favorite, dug out of storage and re-visited - did not disappoint. So what if it's not a perfect book

(the plot meanders a bit). I'm not sure if modern kids would understand or care about the book, but *A Billion for Boris* (along with Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing and From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler) introduced me to New York City (from a teenager of the 1970s viewpoint, at least); gave me the beginning of an appreciation for the gay voice (Annabel, on several occasions, sounds more like a gay man than a 13 year old girl, and knowing Mary Rodgers background, that should come as no surprise), and literary introduction to the concept of meta (an adult understanding of the name dropping in the last pages sealed that 30 years later). Those teens of the early 1970s were Mature too, weren't they? Annabel and Boris drink champagne and gamble. Boris calls his mother by her first name (so 70s - didn't Phyllis's daughter on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show* do the same thing?). Fourteen year old Annabel claims to be dating a newspaper reporter in his twenties; he eventually (and let's face, humorously) ends up with her so called best friend Virginia. It's like they are starring in *A Billion for Boris* on day, and tomorrow it's Company: A Musical Comedy. Katniss from The Hunger Games may end up in a violent bloodbath, but I'm not sure the literary teens of YA-dom today would last long in the super hip world of Mary Rodger's 1970s New York City, where wit is the ultimate weapon. I'm not suggesting any child today should read this book. But 40somethings wanting a walk down memory lane might have a fun hour.

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