



Happy Times in Noisy Village

Astrid Lindgren , Ilon Wikland (Illustrator) , Florence Lamborn (Translator)

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Welcome to Noisy Village! Well, it's not really quite what it sounds. Lisa, who tells the story, lives on Middle Farm with her parents and two brothers, Karl and Bill. Britta and Anna live at North Farm and Olaf and Kerstin live at South Farm. It is because the houses are right next door to each other in a clump as they liked to do these things in rural Sweden years ago, and because the children make so much racket that the farmhouses came to be so honestly and happily named. A large linden tree grows between Middle and South Farms and so the boys in the two houses visit each other by climbing through the branches even the girls do it sometimes, like the night they all waited for Olaf to go to sleep so that they could pull out his loose tooth without his knowing it! That is only one of the many escapades designed to make readers young and old wish they could step right into the pages of this little book. Join the fun in this companion volume to *The Children of Noisy Village* (published by Viking Penguin). Illustrated with delightful line drawings by Ilon Wikland; translated by Florence Lamborn."

Happy Times in Noisy Village Details

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From Reader Review Happy Times in Noisy Village for online ebook

Carrie says

I didn't enjoy this one at all. I'm not sure if it was the translation, the fact that some of the original work was cut out of this edition, or the story wasn't meant for me.

Manybooks says

Astrid Lindgren's Noisy Village series was one of my favourites when I was a little girl (well actually, the German language translation, where the village, the hamlet is known as Bullerbü). When I was a child, I just felt and knew that I absolutely adored the sweet and enchanting episodic nuggets of carefree childhood in a turn of the century Swedish village (actually, less than a village even, but three interconnected farms). Now, rereading this series for the first time in decades, I can truly appreciate and understand how simply wonderful the first-person narrative of seven year old Lisa really is. Astrid Lindgren has so perfectly captured the innocent, but also astute voice of an imaginative and observant child (the voice sounds authentic and never artificial, like how an actual child should sound and not an adult author writing as a child, or more to the point, pretending to be a child).

With such a glowing preamble, why then only two stars? It has NOTHING to do with the story itself, and EVERYTHING to do with Florence Lamborn's translation, or rather what has been changed and is missing in the translation. Not only are the episodes arranged rather haphazardly, there are episodes in the second book (in this translation) that in the German edition I read (and likely also in the Swedish original, but that is speculation on my part) appear in books one and three. But even more of an issue is the fact that there are numerous episodes, numerous chapters which do not appear at all, which have seemingly been entirely omitted (expunged) by the translator. And that, at least for me, is not only flabbergasting but also totally unacceptable, and for me, a massive insult to both Astrid Lindgren and her legacy as a children's author.

This whole (to me) fiasco does make me wonder at the reasons why certain chapters have been omitted in their entirety (actually almost nine of them, as far as I can tell) and the more I consider the possibilities, the more silly these reasons seem and the more perplexed and even livid I tend to become. It is beyond the scope of and for this review show a detailed list and analysis of the omitted chapters and why (or at least possibly why) Florence Lamborn has chosen to not include them in her translation(s), but suffice it to say that I firmly believe that the chapter where Lasse (or rather Karl in the Noisy Village translations) pretends to be a water sprite has been left out because Karl is briefly nude (oh horror). This is such a fun and in all ways innocent chapter, but I guess American prudishness considers it offensive in some way (come on, the boy is naked for something like one sentence, and all that is stated is that Karl sits on a rock in his proverbial birthday suit, playing a pipe, pretending to be a water sprite). Frankly, it is high time for an updated English language translation of this series, and one that keeps the episodes in order of appearance and does NOT omit entire chapters, entire episodes!

Shannon says

I had no idea there was a chapter book about Noisy Village, so we were really happy when our school librarian told us about it. There are the normal "oh my goodness, things were different back then" moments, but fewer than in most books I've read set then. Mostly it's just sweet, happy times, with the occasional child sized danger thrown in. My favorite part was when the entire school decided to play an April Fools joke on their teacher that involved them waking up 2 hours early.

Rosalinde says

Dit was de jeugd die ik wou, ik wou in zo'n huis wonen, met die kinderen spelen...

Raphaela says

Lisa ist einfach so ein süßes Mädchen. <3

Janet says

Super appropriate and enjoyed by 7-10 year olds. Cute stories about children who have parents, small adventures, and get along with their neighbors who are like extended family. I enjoyed reading this aloud more than Lindgren's Pippi Longstocking--it was more true to life and less silly, but maybe those were for children to read themselves.

Danielle says

A cute story and easy to read aloud and keep young ones engaged for the most part. I think some of the details of the story were lost on my 6 year old, but he certainly got the overall gist of the story. I wish I could give half stars as I would rate this at 3 1/2.

Pam says

I am enjoying the historical nature of these Noisy Village books, in that, although they are fiction, they certainly tell about what it was like to be a child in Scandinavia in the first half of the 20th century. I find I enjoy hearing about Lisa's days with her family and friends and all of the things they did together. Lindgren is good at writing in the voice of a child, and captivating the reader to continue. The children are thoughtful and smart and capable, and their parents let them take care of each other for entire days - and they did it very well. I was surprised when the kids were allowed to take care of baby Kerstin with no adults to help, but they did manage to get through it (except when the baby painted herself with shoe polish - but they cleaned her up well). If you are looking for a quiet, quick book to read and enjoy this is a great choice.

Peregrine says

just got catapulted back into my childhood

Lilly Moore says

This was a fun and lovely read. I think I was expecting more atmosphere after all the things I'd heard about this book, but it was still very enjoyable.

Madeleine says

I really liked this book because it seemed very old fashioned and talked about someone's life in a different culture and country

Ivonne Rovira says

What luck! *Happy Times in Noisy Village* arrived just in time to get me through another illness. Nothing will distract you from feeling sick like one of Astrid Lindstrom's Noisy Village books. *Happy Times in Noisy Village* is the sequel to fabulous *The Children of Noisy Village*, which I was luckily able to read on Audible. While the sequel isn't on Audible, the paperback version gave me the chance to enjoy Ilon Wikland's lovely illustrations.

The six children of Noisy Village — 9-year-old Lisa; her mischievous older brothers, Karl and Bill; and neighbors Anna, Britta, and Olaf — don't live in an actual village at all, but in a grouping of three farmhouses, as was the way in Sweden long ago. The three farmhouses got the affectionate nickname because of all of the ruckus an active pack of children can create.

The tales, set at the turn of the 20th century, are deceptively simple — helping out an ailing teacher, baby-sitting, selling cherries to passersby, outwitting the smug boys, pulling a baby tooth, and a Midsummer festival — and Lindgren, best known for *Pippi Longstocking* and its sequels, always turns them into gems, never cloying, as they easily could have been.

It might be tempting to read this book immediately; however, trust me: You'll be glad if you save it for your direst hour of need — and need of distraction. Highly recommended to readers of all ages.

Laura (Book Scrounger) says

3.5 stars

I probably would have enjoyed this more if I'd grown up with it, but I didn't, so better late than never. It is a lot of fun, with an amusing child's perspective and plenty of rural antics. It reminds me a little of *Adventures*

with Waffles (a more modern book from a similar location), but this came first. I'd say it's aged well for being almost 70 years old as well as a translation, but as a parent I definitely get the "times have changed" feeling at times when reading about some of the things the kids did (unsupervised swimming and boating, etc.).

Kimberly Brown says

Besides the old-fashioned "girl roles" and "boy roles" for things, my kids and I find this series hysterical. The little girl narrating it is a hoot. This book did not disappoint as a follow-up to book 1.

Brittany Larkin says

A very cute and endearing story. Perfect for a read-aloud for young children.

Kathleen says

This was a fun, easy read by the author of Pippi Longstocking. We enjoyed the antics of the children of Noisy Village, especially because the stories were told from their point of view.

Vanda says

Jako dít? jsem tuhle knížku m?la snad ze všech nejrad?ji, ?etla jsem ji mnohokrát a vlastn? jsem ji nikdy úpln? neodklidila do zapomn?ní. I tak m? ale p?ekvapilo, s jakým nadšením na tyto p?íb?hy ze života bullerbynských d?tí reagovalo moje vlastní (p?edškolní) potomstvo. Žádné princezny, draci a trpaslíci, ale zážitky normálních, trochu divo?ejších a rozhodn? šikovných a podnikavých d?tí v idylickém kout? švédského venkova, to je n?co! :) Užili jsme si to úpln? všichni, je to skute?n? nesmrtelné dílo.

ABC says

This book is pretty darn sweet. It is all about the lives of three boys and three girls who live in three houses out in the Swedish countryside. They do things like take care of their teacher when she is sick, sell cherries on the side of the road, and take care of a baby who gets into mischief. Maybe the only thing people might not like about it is that it sometimes uses the word "stupid."

Interestingly, in the original Swedish their houses are not called Noisy Village, but Bullerbyn. And in England, it is Bullerby. It was changed to Noisy Village for the American edition of the book. I personally love "Noisy Village" though!

This is the sequel to "The Children of Noisy Village" but I haven't read that because unfortunately I couldn't get a copy.

Also, this is by the author of Pippi Longstocking, so it makes me want to read that book, although I've heard it is not as great (?)

Loralee says

We loved it every bit as much as the first one.

Julie says

I don't want to write for adults. I want to write for readers who can perform miracles. Only children perform miracles when they read.

--Astrid Lindgren

Well, Ms. Lindgren, don't sell yourself short. . . as an adult, you performed many small miracles yourself with your writing.

For example, as I finished reading the last three chapters last night, you made two grouchy, fighting-like-ninja daughters declare a cease-fire when their anger turned to hilarity as I read chapter 12 *The Cherry Company*. It was a miracle, a game changer, right before bed! (By the way, their adult mother was laughing just as hard as they were).

You never insulted your young readers, even in 1963, when children's lit still had a long way to go.

One more miracle: my 7-year-old, who is notoriously hard to please, said she'd give this book a TEN out of FIVE stars.
