



The Borrowers Afloat

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

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Pod, Homily, and Arrietty Clock -- the miniature Borrowers -- depend for their livelihood on the "human beans" whose cottage they live in. So when they discover that their humans are moving away, the Borrowers are forced to find a new home and a new family to borrow from. With the help of the wild Borrower boy Spiller, they make a harrowing journey down the cottage drain in a soap dish and are soon living in a teakettle by a river. But the poor Borrowers barely have time enough to catch their breath before flood or famine or their old enemy Milk Eye sends them looking for a home once again.

The Borrowers Afloat Details

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From Reader Review The Borrowers Afloat for online ebook

Mary says

One of my favorite books as a child holds up some fifty years later. I am so enchanted by the miniature Borrowers who make do with the things that humans lose.

Robin says

Mary Norton does peril very well. In this installment, we also get to see the family acting as a strong, calm unit, despite that peril.

I'm deeply impressed by these books as I reread them. Few children's books surpass them in writing quality, plot, and characterization.

Judy says

In the third book of The Borrowers series, the family takes to the water. At the end of The Borrowers Afield, Pod, Homily, and their daughter Arrietty finally arrived at the cottage where Uncle Hendreary and his family lived. Their dwelling was between the walls behind the fireplace in the cottage of the gamekeeper for the Big House.

Initially they were all relieved to have found shelter and safety, but in this story it soon became apparent that being dependent on relatives and in very cramped quarters was far from ideal. Arrietty had become used to the wide outdoors and began to pine away for more space.

When the cottage humans moved out, leaving no food or other necessities for "borrowing" a crisis was reached. Arrietty and her family decided to move on.

This time they head for a miniature village called Little Fordham, all Borrower-size, where human visitors pay admission to wander through. The plan is to float two days down the river in an old teakettle.

The escape, the river journey and another run in with the Gypsies make for dramatic adventure. Homily gains even more strength, daring and insight. While Arrietty and her father have always been brave and resourceful, Homily is the true heroine in this book.

The Borrowers Afloat was the most exciting story in the series so far, though reading the books in order makes each story mean more.

Lauraloves says

I am currently working my way through the whole series of The Borrowers and this is the third out of five books. In this book Arriety and her family are living with Aunt Lupy and her family in a gamekeepers cottage. However the family dont really like this arrangement and then the humans decide to move out so it could be fatal for all the borrowers with all those mouths to feed. So the three borrowers leave in the middle of the night with there friend Spiller who always turns up at the right moment. in this book they end up floating down the river in Spillers kettle, hence the picture on the front of the book.

I did like this book however it was a little bit predictable for my liking. I know that its a childrens book and its going to be easy reading but i did think it is a bit too simular to the second book for my liking. still it is a good book and i think that children will enjoy it a lot.

Melody says

Installment #3 of the Borrowers saga was, for my money, the strongest. Spiller comes into his own here, and he's quite the taciturn but romantic hero. Arriety may possibly learn a thing or two in this novel, though it's arguable, as she continues with the talking to humans at every opportunity. Pod's a resourceful if staid old gentleman. Homily drives me mad with her panics and her flighty girly taking on.

Dusty says

And now -- my annual relaxing dip into *The Borrowers* series. Rereading the books now, as an adult living with an infant to whom I may someday read them, I do understand why they're no longer popular with youthful folk. For one, compared to your best-selling teenage fantasy series about wizards, vampire lovers, and the zombie apocalypse, they're rather boring. I mean, the book is essentially a comedy of the manners of the pint-sized bourgeoisie. For another, the characters are so fussy. Fortunately, in this volume Norton allows the mother character, Homily, to loosen up a bit and even tramp around for awhile in her petticoat. This is probably the least notable installment so far -- which explains why I hardly remember it -- but I do confess the climactic stand-off between the Borrowers and Mild Eye, the Gypsy, really had me turning the pages. Why the antagonist needs to be so strongly racialized, well, I'm in a charitable mood tonight, so I'll leave that issue be.

Joey Woolfardis says

The third in The Borrowers series of books, *The Borrowers Afloat* sees Pod, Homily and Arriety living in blighted conditions with their relatives in a run-down cottage that is soon to be left empty because Tom, Arriety's Human friend, is going to live with his uncle. The Borrower family then make the decision to set out for the much-spoken of Little Fordham, a model village that lies at the end of a dangerous river. With the help of Spiller and his broken kettle, the Borrowers flee their weasel-haunted home and take the journey downstream, where nothing but mad gypsies and the unknown await them.

I don't think I've ever read a Borrower book, even though I am well-versed in the story, which, as an English person, isn't quite as inappropriate and weird as it sounds. Borrowers are similar to Lilliputians in size but that is where the similarity ends. As you can gather from their name, they "borrow" items from the Humans whose homes they inhabit, always keeping out of the way as much as possible. Although technically the Borrowers are stealing, it's always harmless and they're very endearing towards those they "borrow" from. This particular story was interesting because it drove the imagery I had of the Borrowers out of my mind (homely, frightened, comfortable under the floorboards) and basically dumped myself and the Borrowers in the outside world, where birds and rivers threaten their lives at every turn. It's a lovely children's story that is easily accessible to an adult, though it has a more British-vibe to it because of our history with it. There have been numerous television and film adaptations and the thought of tiny people living under our floorboards as if there were mice is so ingrained in to us it's almost part of our culture.

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Nikki says

Nothing much really happens in this instalment: having found the Hendrearies, they more or less have to turn around and leave again. Having done that, they decide to go to a mythical (to Borrowers) model village, where they'll be safe. A sort of paradise, for them. And while they wait for Spiller to take them there, they get carried off in the current, in his kettle-home, and have a run in with an old enemy.

Definitely not my favourite of the series. Arriety doesn't do much, and we see little of Kate or Mrs May, except to begin the story. Somehow, I'm rather fond of them, too, and their belief.

I remember liking the next book best: I hope that's still the case. But I'm starting to suspect that the magic just built up and up for me, through all the books, and then got varnished, so to speak, by my imagination.

Indah W says

Okayy.. waktunya membaca buku ke-3 dari seri The Borrowers, sebenarnya udah rada2 lupa sih, haha.. karena gua bacanya seri ke-2 dulu terus buku pertama baru sekarang baca yang ke-3.

Mudah2an ceritanya masih bagus ;) I'll update later when I have finished reading the book :D

Filippa says

I didn't enjoy The Borrowers Afloat as much as the earlier two, probably because Arriety wasn't as active and creative as in the two first parts. I still enjoy Mary Nortons writing a lot though and I'm looking forward to part four.

Annie says

Liked it.

Shala Howell says

What the Five-Year-Old thought: "I liked that they were floating in a kettle for a little bit, and that the gypsy got caught."

Weston says

It was good, but it talked too much about Mild Eye and too little about Spiller. He did save the Borrowers lives, you know. But it did have a good plot-line.

R.F. Gammon says

Probably my second favorite of the series. I love Dreadful Spiller <3

Hailey Bug says

The borrowers Afloat is a book written by, Mary Norton. This book is about a family that is little. Each person in this family is smaller than your pinky. They set off on a journey to find a new home. After being seen by humans they had to find a new home. Many adventurous things happened as they were traveling.

I liked this book because it was interesting. You should read this book because it is exciting and adventurous. It takes your mind to new places. If you were one of the borrowers you could do things that humans cannot do. You could float in teapots, live in a teeny tiny doll house, and fly through the air on leaves.

READ THIS BOOK THAT IS ALL!
