



Ben Franklin's in My Bathroom!

Candace Fleming , Mark Fearing (Illustrations)

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Nolan is a typical kid living in a typical 21st century American town. Ben Franklin is, well, Ben Franklin--Founding Father, inventor of the lightning rod and bifocals, and more. When, through a bizarre set of circumstances, Nolan and his little sister, Olive, find Ben in their house, chaos isn't far behind.

From introducing him to the toaster to taking him to the public library (another Ben invention) to preventing a nosy neighbor from blowing Ben's cover, Nolan does his best to be Ben's tour guide to the new world he helped form.

Ben Franklin's in My Bathroom! Details

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From Reader Review Ben Franklin's in My Bathroom! for online ebook

Martha says

Curious 10-year-old Nolan is excited when he receives a mysterious package delivered to his door step. His little sister Olive can't wait to see what's inside her brother's package. It turns out to be an antique box, labeled in gold with engraved letters "Property of H.H." Before long buttons are accidentally pushed, and the machine whirls to life, and Ben Franklin bespectacled and wearing a coon skin hat emerges from the box. Told from the perspective of the siblings, Ben is amazed with their new contraptions such as the blender, toaster, television, and especially the toilet. Blending graphic novel panels and lots of cartoon like illustrations with text, lots of important examples of scientific inquiry and Franklin's many inventions are skillfully entwined in this hilarious time traveling adventure, complete with an annoying busybody young neighbor who tries to expose the true identity of their historic hero. The "What Nolan Knows" section at the end of the book is full of important facts about the history of Ben Franklin's life and his many contributions to our country. There is a bibliography in the back with up to date and appropriate titles for students research, along with two of the author's favorite web sites on Ben Franklin. Readers will gravitate to this entertaining way to learn about Ben Franklin, and demand more titles by her in the same format, highly recommended for all elementary libraries.

?Tara Sheehan? says

The first in a new series introduces us to Ben Franklin in a fun way with easy to read chapters and adorable illustrations accompanying the well thought out story as kids are treated to how historical fiction is meant to be written.

Candace Fleming created a clever, surprisingly accurate and moving tale of what would happen if Ben Franklin turned up in modern times. Even though it might seem odd to have Ben show up, and in the way he does, somehow it doesn't seem to matter in the overall arc of the story thanks to the enthusiasm Fleming manages to drum up in her writing.

There's plenty of family drama and heartfelt parent/child moments that will appeal to a wide audience plus add some balance to the historical facts sprinkled throughout the plot. There is a TON of humor to make this an instant favorite for kids and parents will love the educational aspects.

Diane says

"We learn from the past how to live in the present."

Nolan is trying his best to hold his family together since his Dad has left. He keeps an eye on younger sister, Olive, even though she's annoying, so that their mother can write her books (the *Bumble Bunnies* series. He even tries to help her out of her writer's block by dressing up as a bunny.

So when the package arrives on their front porch, Nolan doesn't want to bother his mother about it. It is

addressed to him, after all. It looks like an old-time radio with the initials H.H. Who would send this package to him? There's no note or return address. Then, it starts to make a static-like noises, so Nolan puts the headphones on. And that's when Benjamin Franklin appears.

Now what? You can't have Benjamin Franklin running around the 21st century, can you? And if anyone finds out about this time-travel instrument, who knows what might happen. But Olive wants to show Ben around the city. And then there's Tommy Tuttle, who's always spying from the bushes. How much has he seen? Suffice it to say, this day just might go down in history.

Becky B says

Nolan's summer is pretty humdrum. His dad has moved away to London and his parents are getting a divorce. His mom has serious writer's block, and it's up to him to keep his little sister Olive occupied. But when a mysterious package arrives for Nolan, their humdrum summer suddenly gets much more eventful. After they fiddle with it a little, the strange box with H.H. on it makes some flashes and suddenly Ben Franklin is standing in the living room. Yep, that Ben Franklin. Nolan is immediately trying to figure out how to send Ben back to the past. But Olive is thrilled to show Ben Franklin all the wonders the 21st century has to offer, and Mr Franklin's curiosity is quickly getting the better of him. Before he knows it, Nolan is chasing Ben Franklin and Olive all over town trying to prevent a major catastrophe and figure out how to get Mr Franklin back to his proper time.

I knew that Candace Fleming could write spectacular nonfiction. I had no idea she was just as equally skilled in weaving a fun fictional story too. Given what we know of Ben Franklin, the hijinks that he and Olive drag Nolan into are all too believable and make for a very entertaining summer's day adventures. (And the illustrations, especially Ben's stories in graphic novel form, help make it easy to visualize.) There's Ben at the pool, Ben at the fire station, Ben at the library for the living history presentation, and of course, Ben's fascination with things like flushing toilets and toasters and light switches. To add to the excitement there's also the nosy neighbor boy bent on proving that Ben is from the past and making trouble for Nolan. Of course, along the way you learn quite a bit about the historic Ben Franklin without even realizing it. Even the bibliography gets woven into the story. There's a promise of further historic figures showing up via the machinations of the mysterious box and clever readers will be able to figure out who will show up in the next book. The box also seems to have an agenda. It isn't until Ben and Nolan learn an important lesson that Ben gets to return to his own time. If you want kids to get into history without even realizing it and pick up some important life skills too, you need to go hunt down this book and keep your book radar up for the next one in the series.

Notes on content: No language issues. No sexual content. Some electrical shocks and a runaway fire truck, but no one gets seriously hurt.

Stuart Chandler says

I LOVED the spirit of this book. The kids are playful and it seems like something that would capture 3rd or 4th grade readers. The dialogue is perfectly-fun! When Ben Franklin goes into storytelling moments, they are historically based and the book uses a graphic novel style for telling accurate history of Franklin's life

(creation of the library, pursuit to create fire stations, electricity, the tense relationship with his son, and inventing swim fins). I'm excited to see this series continue and I wonder who the author will choose as the next historical character.

BiblioBickie says

Nolan (10) and Olive (7) are having breakfast one morning, trying to be quiet while their mother, an author, works on a deadline upstairs in her studio, when a package for Nolan appears mysteriously on the front stoop. The package contains an old wooden box with the initials H.H., and inside is an "old-timey radio." But it's no ordinary radio; the crystal glows brighter and brighter, and all of a sudden, Ben Franklin is standing in their hallway. They have many adventures showing Ben the modern world, complicated by the self-styled private eye, Tommy Tuttle. Eventually, Ben tells Nolan about the rift between his son William and him, which clears the way for him to return home and helps Nolan decide to video-call his dad, who moved to England after the parents divorced. A sequel is set up with what appears to be Eleanor Roosevelt appearing in the closet where the time machine/radio is stowed. Includes facts and bibliography at the end. Ben's stories are told in graphic format interspersed with the regular text.

Basically, Magic Tree House for 3rd and 4th graders (a little more realistic fiction life mixed in with learning about different historical people).

Annette says

Review by Grace, age 7. 1/20/18

I love this book because it is disgusting. Ben Franklin toots all the time and he likes bathrooms. (Why?) Because they're different from his and he doesn't know how the toilet works.

(OK, let's start at the beginning. What is this book about?)

Ben Franklin. (Other characters?) Olive and Nolan : There was this box that got delivered to them, but it was actually this radio time machine thingymabob. They fidget with it for a while and then - poof - Ben Franklin's there.

(What do they learn about Ben Franklin?)

That he made the first library, he does swimming experiments, he invented lightning rods, and he did the kite experiment that I don't even know if it's true.

(What does Ben Franklin think about where they live?)

He thought it was amazing, but he doesn't like their breakfast cereal. He says it tastes like weeds and dirt. Speaking of that, in the beginning of the book Olive was pretending to be a mermaid. She told her brother "Don't just read and eat that stuff. To us mermaids it tastes like weeds and dirt!" So it was funny when Ben Franklin said the same thing. She said 'Told you!'

They took Ben Franklin to the Library, the swimming pool, and to get ice cream. Then they went to the fire department and Ben Franklin got a toy fire hat. For some reason they went riding the fire truck because Tommy Turtle stole the crystal radio time machine. They went too fast and had to be taken home by the police. (How did they get it back) With the shock-kissing-machine. Which was harmless. But it scared Tommy.

(Did they send Ben Franklin home?)

It took such a long time. In a few days he was still there. (What did their parents think?) They were fine.

Finally when he was writing a note the crystal radio started working. Right before he went home Olive took his toy fire hat and gave it to him.
That was the end.

Colby Sharp says

I thought this book was super funny. It made me want to hang out with Ben Franklin.

Cindy Mitchell *Kiss the Book* says

Fleming, Candace Ben Franklin's in My Bathroom! 264 pages. Schwartz & Wade Books (Random), 2017.
\$14. Language: G; Mature Content: G; Violence: G.

Ten year-old Nolan and his seven year-old sister, Olive, are trying to keep out of trouble so their mother can work through writer's block on her next installment of the Bumble Bunnies series. But then a mysterious package shows up on their doorstep that contains some sort of machine. That machine brings Ben Franklin into their kitchen. Ben seems delighted with all the latest and greatest gadgets, from toaster to toilet. Nolan realizes that Ben must return to the past, but is thwarted by classmate, Tommy Tuttle, who just happens to be peering into the kitchen via periscope. While Nolan tries to deal with Tommy, Olive and Ben take off through town on an adventure.

Interspersed through the story are stories told by Ben Franklin in graphic novel format. These are interesting, and are documented in the back of the book. These segments save the book from being too cute and convenient.

EL-OPTIONAL. Michelle in the Middle
<https://kissthebook.blogspot.com/2018...>

Rebekah Kroll says

Ben Franklin's in My Bathroom!

By: Candace Fleming

Illustrator: Mark Fearing

Published: 2017

Publisher: Schwartz & Wade Books

Nolan and Olive's morning was about to change when a package arrived at their house. It contained a crystal radio set from the 1920s. Nolan and his sister's inquisitiveness gets the better of them as they try to make the radio work when the unthinkable happens! Benjamin Franklin appears in the middle of the living room! Nolan, Olive, and Ben Franklin explore advancements of the 21st century, "I shan't waste this precious opportunity." Ben Franklin is amazed to see his early experiments with electricity have led to many more inventions. Mark Fearing's black and white illustrations are scattered throughout the chapter book, providing visual imagery for the scenes. The stories told by Ben Franklin are written in graphic novel format, as

imagined by Nolan. Stories of the crazy inventor of Philadelphia, the first library, invention of swim fins, and may more! This book brings two completely different centuries together to learn from one another in a humorous, insightful, and developmentally appropriate way. Fleming truly knows how to bring history to life for middle level readers. Quoting Nolan's teacher, "We learn from the past how to live in the present." Who knows, someone else might be brought to the 21st century through the crystal radio set.

Kelly Veatch says

Cute book that I think my students will love.

Joan says

This was fun reading. I'm not sure if kids would read this or not. A mysterious invention lands in Nolan's house. Nolan has problems. His Dad has left them. He is in charge of his annoying little sister so that his Mom can finish up the next installment in her bunnies series. I assume Fleming couldn't think of anything more stupid because it does seem as though she was trying hard to find a bad series. This might be a decent way to expose the kids to history: have historical figures appear in your kitchen and let things go on from there. I'm curious to see what others have thought.

Barbara says

In this debut title in a new series for young readers, Nolan and his little sister Olive get a visit from a most unlikely historical figure, Benjamin Franklin, after a mysterious radio set arrives at his house. Although Nolan has no idea who sent the package or how it works, when they jiggle some wires and press a lever, Franklin apparently travels forward in time and ends up in their house. The author has captured the famous inventor and storyteller ably here, and the youngsters end up taking him all around their hometown where he visits the library, rides in a firetruck, and leads a class of swimmers in underwater ballet. Some of it might be silly, but other aspects of the story are downright informative, and readers may feel as though they have a grasp on Franklin's personality and how he might feel if he could see the modern world. It's abundantly clear that Candace Fleming has had a blast while telling this story, which weaves in cartoons and scenes from the historical figure's life, including his experiments with swim fins and his rift with his son William over politics. It isn't easy to make someone who lived more than two centuries ago interesting to a modern audience, but this book pulls it off quite well. Readers will be anxious to see who visits Nolan's house and bathroom next. Interestingly, the sibling's mother, the author-illustrator of a children's book series, uses the Ben Franklin story as material to alleviate her writer's block. History goes down smoothly and with humor and a touch of pathos here. Wise social studies teachers will definitely plan to add this book and future titles in the series to their classroom library.

Kristen says

A cute upper-elementary read full of humor and history. Watching Nolan and Olive show Benjamin Franklin around modern-day America--going to the swimming pool, eating ice cream--reminded me of *Bill and Ted's*

Excellent Adventure. Super fun. This first book sets up the series nicely--not just the magical radio that brings past figures to the present, but the family issues surrounding Nolan's parents' divorce.

Lone Tree Reviews says

Ben Franklin's In My Bathroom is the first book in this new series. In a 21st century home, Nolan and his little sister, Olive are just trying to keep quite one Saturday morning while their mother tries to find ideas for her new book when a mysterious box appears on their doorstep. In the box comes a surprise in the form of Ben Franklin! As Nolan And Olive show Ben what it's like living in the 21st century, the adventures they get into will lead to a day that Nolan and Olive will never forget!

I loved this book and what is to come in the future for this series! I love the fact that this book is part history lesson and part adventure book for kids that will hopefully will make them want to learn more about Ben Franklin in the most fun way that I have seen to date! I would have loved a book or series like this when I was growing up just to learn more about someone who had a major part in making something that we sometimes take for granted today! I can only imagine who is coming next in this series but you can bet that I'm gonna be reading it just to see the adventures that Nolan and Olive get into next with their mysterious guest!

Thank You to Candance Fleming for writing a book that will hopefully start a series that will have everyone talking about!!

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book from NetGalley!