



## More William

*Richmal Crompton*

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This is the second unabridged release of the classic William series. It was on Christmas Day that the centipede appeared on Aunt Evangeline's plate, the library clock was found mysteriously dismantled, and the conjuring trick with the egg went disastrously wrong. But as William's Aunt Lucy told him, "A Busy Day is a Happy Day"—and William is always eager to please adults. The terror of the Brown family is back, leaving a trail of havoc behind him—with the very best of intentions, of course.

## More William Details

Date : Published March 1971 by Armada (first published 1922)

ISBN : 9780006903970

Author : Richmal Crompton

Format : Paperback 128 pages

Genre : Humor, Childrens, Fiction, Short Stories, Classics

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## From Reader Review More William for online ebook

### Lindley Walter-smith says

Currently a free download on Kindle! A really wonderful collection. The combination of child-friendly mischievous adventures of William, Joan and the Outlaws and Crompton's E. F. Benson-like satirical touch when it comes to the social pretensions of William's elders just doesn't have its like in any other series. "More William" is early, classic 1920s William, as he causes havoc everywhere - and even ends up with a genuinely heartwarming Christmas story.

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### Graham says

MORE WILLIAM is a fine follow-up to the original book in the series (JUST WILLIAM) and even better than the first. It's another collection of stories that capture William's irrepressible character, yet the stories seem to have more heart and character than ever before. Two are Christmas-themed, with the final story a particularly heartwarming example of the genre, sentimental without overdoing it. Elsewhere, girls play a big part in William's adventures, and much hilarious ensues. Crompton has really got into her stride with this one and I look forward to following it up with the next.

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### Kimberley says

Being a mummy you have to read plenty of stories and this is one we originally found in audio form. Luckily I managed to find a copy for bedtime and other times I am demanded from my 4yr old to read to him. These wonderful stories, while dated are full of adventure and mischief but truly lovely.

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### Nandakishore Varma says

Still on the nostalgia trail... moving on to another childhood favourite. I made my first acquaintance with William, the boy with the outsize imagination, grandiose schemes and total disregard for social consequences through this book. I fell instantly in love with this "outlaw among outlaws.

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### Madhulika Liddle says

*"Honk. Yonk. Ponk."*

William, dressed in a bed sheet and obliging a visiting relative who yearns for an experience of the supernatural. Because William Brown, eleven years old and the scourge of the village, the eternal thorn in the side of his long-suffering family, is not completely devoid of finer feelings. He can feel for the little girl who wants to be May Queen but has no chance. He can understand the plight of a meek and mild-mannered bachelor neighbour who is being preyed upon by another bossy neighbour. He can set out to help, to catch

smugglers, to even take it upon himself to reform.

But, all said and done, William is William. A boy who paints a cat green, steals supper for twenty, wants to be apprentice to a burglar, and is *constantly* driving his family batty. (I began reading *More William* with the thought that I'd pass it on, a few years down the line, to my rambunctious five year old daughter, but gave up the thought later, fearing it would give her ideas. The very thought of being parent to someone like William gives me the shivers).

Utterly delightful little stories. William is an unforgettable character, and the plots are clever (even if predictable at times, though perhaps the predictability is part of their charm). The other characters, especially William's family and Joan, the girl next door, are well-etched, and the writing is witty, entertaining, lots of fun.

Plus, there is the little tidbit now and then that an adult will perhaps appreciate more than a child would: *"School always bored him. He disliked facts, and he disliked being tied down to detail, and he disliked answering questions. As a politician a great future would have lain before him."*

Highly recommended for anyone who wants a good wholesome laugh. Plus, of course, there's that old-fashioned feel to the series that often puts me in mind of Wodehouse's books: vintage Britain in all its countryside glory.

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### **Geevee says**

What made this re-visit of a book I read as a boy a 5-star rating was listening today - on BBC Radio 4 Extra - to a recording of Martin Jarvis reading this live to a BBC audience.

Jarvis is one of the finest audio book story tellers and rightly so his talents has seen him amass a huge body of work.

The adventures of William and his friends Ginger, Henry and Douglas: The Outlaws are still fun and enjoyable 90 years after first being published, as they are simply about young ...moreWhat made this re-visit of a book I read as a boy a 5-star rating was listening today - on BBC Radio 4 Extra - to a recording of Martin Jarvis reading this live to a BBC audience.

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The adventures of William and his friends Ginger, Henry and Douglas: The Outlaws are still fun and enjoyable 90 years after first being published, as they are simply about young boys being young boys: bored, dismissive, argumentative, disruptive and selfish but also kind, funny, ingenious, inventive and loyal.

If you have the chance to hear Jarvis's version then grab it and enjoy it (whilst one's own children were playing quietly upstairs). Happy days.

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## **Joy Martin says**

William Brown has been called 'the bad boy of fiction.' As he says himself: I don't WANT to behave like a civilised yman bein'. I'd rather be a savage any day. I bet savages don't let themselves be dragged off ti ditty ole women when they'd rather go to see blood-curdlin' an' nerve-shattering Westerns.' Or plunge into ditches, climb trees, fight with his enemies and come home a sight to break his mother's heart. The Just William books have enthralled children for decades but, in fact, they were originally intended for adult readers. If you would like to read about William's creator, Richmal Crompton – The woman behind William by Mary Cadogan paints a charming biographical picture of a witty, talented and tolerant writer.

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## **Radhika Gunawardena says**

The William Brown books are meant to be read by young teenagers. But when I was of that age, I merely knew of their existence though I never found the books to read. I find them in the bookstores only now... when I'm firmly in my 30s. But I read a few anyway just to see why my mother and her siblings spoke so highly of William Brown.

While William's antics are a bit predictable now, Richmal Crompton's language is exquisite. Her narration is certainly a treat to read.

Now that I know what William is like, I doubt I will read any more. However I will ensure that my daughter reads the whole series when she reaches the appropriate age. These books are truly too good to miss!

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## **Michael Trup says**

I loved the William books...a bygone age but still amusing and real insight into the mind and imagination of a 'boy'!

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## **Kirsty says**

I very much enjoyed my first taste of Richmal Crompton's William books, *Just William*, and chose to read its sequel, *More William*, less than a week later. This is just as amusing and surprising as the first book, and I wish I'd got around to reading it in childhood. Very enjoyable.

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## **Sandy Millin says**

Having really enjoyed Just William, I found this book quite frustrating. I stopped reading it for a while over Christmas when I went back to the UK, and didn't really want to pick it up again. Although I got to the end eventually, I didn't finish at least one story because I didn't like the way that one of the characters was

mocked for having a stutter. This book felt very dated, and I probably won't read any of the others in the series now.

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### **Iona Stewart says**

This is another entertaining William book.

For Christmas William gets a book called "Portraits of our Kings and Queens", which he understandably casts aside, and one entitled "Things a Boy can do" which he finds extremely promising.

This unfortunate book suggests and gives precise instructions as to how to take a clock apart and, hopefully, reassemble it. There are also instructions for examining the insides of a mincing machine, which William finds one of in the kitchen. He doesn't stop to consider that Cook may need it in order to make the Christmas dinner.

Regrettably, they miss the church service because the library clock fails to strike ten, which would have been the signal that it was time to depart. On investigating, the family finds William and his little cousin Jimmy in the library with the inner bits of the clock spread out on the floor.

Someone has put up a sign in William's room conveying the message "A Busy Day is a Happy Day". Jimmy had collected numerous snails to use as presents, but they had escaped leaving slimy trails all over the house. William and Jimmy decide to make a busy day of it by thoroughly washing and scrubbing the snail trails away. This leads to a thoroughly enjoyable water fight, however, which results in a flooded hall.

In a further chapter William engages in various exploits together with his Outlaw gang, which includes Ginger, Henry and Douglas. William is the head of the Outlaws, of course.

He is also friendly with Joan, a little girl who lives next door, who quite admires him. At the instigation of Mrs de Vere Carter, they both take part in a play about Red Riding Hood; William has a star part as the Wolf, and does justice to the role.

The William books are not just about a mischievous boy but also in part a parody of the times. The author is particularly partial to making fun of snobbish, pretentious, gushing females such as Mrs de Vere Carter.

One of the passages in the book that made me laugh out loud was this one about the Society of Ancient Souls, whose female President moves in next door to the Browns. Here Richman Crompton does not hold back:

"The Society of Ancient Souls was a society of people who remembered their previous existence. The memory usually came in a flash. For instance, you might remember in a flash when you were looking at a box of matches that you had been Guy Fawkes. Or you might look at a cow and remember in a flash that you had been Nebuchadnezzar. Then you joined the Society of Ancient Souls, and paid a large subscription and attended meetings at the house of its President in costume."

In short, this is another hilarious book in the author's rich style, and I look forward to reading or re-reading many more of these books.

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### **Sangeeta says**

And my first book of the New Year was first published in 19-bloody-22! Must've read this first as a schoolkid, and I definitely remember this series of Armada paperbacks with "William" written in script. Hilarious, nostalgic, and refreshing. If you need a breath of fresh air in your reading, or just want to cleanse your palate for the year ahead -- dip right in.

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### **Michelle says**

This audio book continues the adventures of William and his family and friend and is just as amusing and lighthearted as the previous books. The narrator, Martin Jarvis, is excellent and his performance adds to the enjoyment of the book. I really enjoyed this book and recommend it,

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### **Susannah says**

We enjoyed this follow-up to the first William book. My kids were sad to see it end and begged for another! The last story was actually sweet.

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