



Cave of the Dark Wind

Dave Barry, Ridley Pearson, Greg Call (Illustrations)

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While Peter is away from the island, James and the other Lost Boys discover a mysterious cave. Shining Pearl and her sister, Little Scallop, warn the boys that the cave is a dangerous place, inhabited by a creature known as the Goat Taker - a beast so scary that even the Mollusk tribe fears it. But the boys can't resist trying to discover the cave's secrets. When the first of those secrets turns out to be a tantalizing hint of a famous haunted treasure, Captain Hook and his band of cutthroat pirates quickly join the hunt. Before long, the children are fleeing for their lives in a dark and deadly underground labyrinth...and their only hope of escape is to solve the mystery of the *Cave of the Dark Wind*.

Cave of the Dark Wind Details

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Author : Dave Barry , Ridley Pearson , Greg Call (Illustrations)

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Hamster says

Okay, I'm a little confused about how this series is progressing. I picked this up thinking it was the second in the Peter and the Starcatchers novels, but it turned out to be a novella for younger readers. And a horrible one at that. Dave Barry really went out of his way to dumb this down for the "less intelligent" audience. It was so slow and obvious that I felt like I was being forced to watch Barney reruns. I might try to find the real sequel to Peter and the Starcatchers, but it's going to take me a few months to get this bad taste out of my mouth.

Tami says

Dave Barry & Ridley Pearson have teamed up to create an impressive body of adventure stories for young and middle grade readers. Both of these authors are well known to adult readers: Pearson for his suspense and mystery thrillers and Barry for his creative nonfiction in the Florida press and countless books of his humorous observations of our lives.

While I enjoy both these authors in their adult work, I find that where I get really excited about their stories is in their books for younger readers. Pearson's fast-paced, electric narratives are exciting and interesting while Barry's sense of humor and psychological insights offer extraordinarily entertaining and accessible characters.

I will refer, today, just to their adventure series surrounding the story and characters in J.M. Barrie's original story Peter Pan.

PETER AND THE STARCATCHERS was published in 2004. The idea of what Peter and the lost boys might have been before the events of J. M. Barrie's well-known (and loved) Peter Pan is intriguing. I found the series to be rife with adventure, danger and just enough of a hint of magic thrown in to make the storyline weave together really well with the Peter Pan characters that were already so firmly implanted in my imagination. I recommend this series for 3rd grade and up. The books are longer, which is sometimes intimidating to young readers. Although the series is appropriate and enjoyable for both boys and girls, my experience in the classroom seems to indicate that it is primarily boys who are drawn to and excited about these stories.

THE NEVERLAND SERIES: Escape from Carnivale, Cave of the Dark Wind and Blood Tide are written to be accessible to a slightly younger audience than Peter and the Starcatchers. These books are shorter and have slightly less difficult vocabulary. The main characters in this series are both the lost boys (stranded on Mollusk Island in the Peter and the Starcatchers series) and the children of Fighting Prawn, the leader of the Mollusk tribe on the island. Captain Hook and his pirates are also present, stranded on the opposite side of the island from the Mollusk people. Although the lost boys' and the pirates' existence on the island is due to the events in the other series of books, it is not necessary to know that to fully enjoy these adventures.

I have read all the books in this particular series—and am hungry for more. I enjoyed each one more than the one before it! I also like the fact that the main characters in each story vary. Sometimes the girl characters take the lead, and sometimes the boy characters do so. The encounters between the children and the pirates

are action-packed, but with a slapstick flair. I think these could be read as early as 2nd grade. I would consider using these stories as read-alouds in 3rd or 4th grade, but as yet I have not so.

If you enjoy adventure these are fantastic choices for early middle readers. In my opinion they offer the advanced adventure narrative many children begin to seek in 2nd & 3rd grade, without age-inappropriate language or violence.

Shane Hurst says

There's a great deal to crow about this little book. The dedication alone is charming, indicating that it is a diversion from what began with Peter and the Starcatchers and would (will?) continue with future novels in the series. The dedication further suggests that this is a simpler story for younger audiences though there is still a lot of clever writing that will appeal to older readers.

In this side story Peter (Pan) is away from the island. This may seem at first a negative, but the authors use the opportunity to focus on secondary characters from the first novel--the Lost Boys and Captain Hook and his pirate crew.

What I most appreciate is the character development of James, youngest of the Lost Boys and the hopeful (yet undeclared) second in command. Hook is also a little more focal since he isn't having to share time with other foes and dangers as in Starcatchers. Also high in my marks of praise is the presence of a strong female character. Given the time period of the action and the audience, I would not judge the authors too harshly if they had gone a different direction, but the leadership and guardianship shown by the young girl Shining Pearl (daughter to the chief of the island's indigenous tribe) is a nice follow-up to the character Molly from the initial novel. Even Shining Pearl's younger sister Little Scallop shows a lot of moxie in her minor role.

[Editorially--I think Barry and Pearson have (intentionally or subconsciously) picked up on a theme inherent to the original Barrie story, novel, and play. Though pirates and a boy who refuses to grow up are at the original plot's fore, the story is just as driven and shaped by two engaging, commanding female figures--Wendy and Tinkerbell. I'm sure there are dissertations out there about it.]

The story is a bit more predictable than its predecessor (but note that it is aimed at a younger audience). Still, the writing is brisk and engaging. While it does not advance the Peter Pan mythology/backstory, it does provide a nice little adventure on the way to the second full novel in the series.

C-shaw says

Very nice little middle-school adventure featuring the Lost Boys sans Peter Pan. Illustrations by Greg Call get five stars!!

Izzy Ringer says

What do the Lost Boys do while Peter Pan's away in England? They get in trouble with pirates, discover

creepy caves, swim in mermaid infested waters, and hunt for treasure of course! The Lost Boys don't expect Peter to have all the fun! James and the other Lost Boys find this eerie cave which is called "The Cave of the Dark Wind" by the Mullisk tribe (the tribe that lives on Neverland). Legend says that there was once a magnificent treasure chest hidden deep within the cave. But when word gets out over the colossal jungle of Neverland, Captain Hook and his idiotic brigade of pirates want in too!

I could probably compare this book to the original cartoon movie of Peter Pan. I find that the idea of Neverland is very similar in both storys. Both describe Neverland as a vast jungle (which was wrongly a forest in the newer Peter Pan movie) and both the storys described the natives that lived there (though in more detail in the book). But I must say, it was very interesting to learn more about the Lost Boys in the book, and how they accumulated their eccentric personalities. Where as in the movie they were just a bunch of side characters in funny animal costumes.

I gave this book four stars because the wit and humor was subtle but definitely smile worthy. And I thought that was a very sweet touch. I loved how they showed behind the scenes in Neverland and how the Lost Boys managed on their own. I found it a breath of fresh air from the commercial view of the old Peter Pan and I certainly hope they make more books like it!

Kaylee Melendez says

On the Mollusk Island, the six children find a mysterious cave. Little Scallop and her sister Shining Pearl warn the boys that the cave isn't safe and that there are stories saying a mysterious creature ,known as the goat taker, is living inside the cave. This creature is so scary, that even the Mollusk tribes fears it. The boys can't resist going into the cave and unlocking it's secrets. When the boys first go into the cave, they return with a skull with a piece of a famous treasure. Captain Hook and his men soon find about the gold too. On the hunt for the treasure the children find themselves running for their lives in a dark and deadly mysterious cave.

Jenne says

Written for a younger audience than "Peter and the Starcatchers". Barry and Pearson tell tall tales of life on Mollusk Island while Peter is away.

In this first book of three, the lost boys learn of a strange and deadly cave and are told by their friend, Shining Pearl, the terrible tale of the monster "Goat Taker" that lives in the cave and eats the Mollusk tribes goats every full moon. Wanting to impress Peter when he returns, the lost boys, led by James, decide to find out what or who the "Goat Taker" is.

Spied upon by the ever present pirates, who also hear the tale and when they see the boys come running out with a skull with gold for eyes, one greedy look turns the pirates blind. When Hook learns of this he is convinced that the lost boys have stumbled upon the Blind Luck Gold that was taken from South America and cursed to blind all those who look on it with greed. Despite the danger, Hook sets about to get the gold. Can Shining Pearl, James and the other Lost Boys find out what the Goat Taker is and stop the pirates from getting the gold? Read "Cave of the Dark Wind to find out"!

Read by the award winning Jim Dale, whose amazing talent for voices gives extra life to the bumbling Smee, added evil to Hook and further spunk to the boys and their friend Shining Pearl.

Sandra Stiles says

You've heard the saying, "when the cat's away the mice will play", well that is the way it is with the Lost Boys. When Peter is away they can't seem to keep out of trouble. Bored James convinces Shining Pearl and her sister Little Scallop to take them to the Cave of the Dark Wind. There they find treasure, the secret goat taker, and pirates. All of these elements are brought together to solve the mystery of the cave while they once again escape from Captain Hook. This is a good addition to the Starcatcher series. This is geared for a younger reader but is still just as interesting to the older reader.

Frank says

And yet another great book in this Never Land series. This is book two and has the Lost Boys, two of the Indian girls, the Pirates and an unknown figure from deep in a cave all involved in gold that can make you blind. Again Peter Pan is still off in London and not a part of this series. They explore a cave with lost treasure and deep secrets that will test both the kids and the pirates. Fresh and exciting it is one you can read over and over. Dave Barry is truly a master in writing this sort of adventure stories for kids of all ages.

Shannon McGee says

Through their friend Little Scallop and Shining Pearl the four Lost Boys learn about a dangerous cave that can make people blind. Peter is away the Lost Boys want to play...well at least James does. He has to convince some of the others.

It was odd reading a Never Land story without Peter Pan and I thought I would immediately dislike it but I did not. I actually loved this story and the tying in of Hook, Smee and other pirates. I don't know how many of these Never Land books were created but I am enjoying the new tales. Some of the book reminded me of the SyFy movie that premiered last year called *Neverland* which was wonderful. This book just captured the fun and excitement of unknown adventure.

Marie Garwood says

This is a perfectly fun little addition to a great children's series. I can envision reading this to my children one day as a bedtime story. Naturally, it is quite short, but I think it does a wonderful job of providing an entertaining tale for its intended audience. As an adult, I finished it in one sitting and enjoyed it. If you are a fan of *Peter and the Starcatchers*, then you can probably get a chuckle and a smile from this.

Alejandra says

I just read this book with my son this past week for an upcoming World Book Day event. Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson absolutely rule in the Peter Pan realm! J.M. Barrie would be so proud of them because they do the story justice.

In this one, Peter is absent and it's all about the lost boys, two Indian girls, a cursed treasure and none other than Hook (of course!).

For readers between the ages of 8 and 10, this is the perfect precursor for Peter and the Starcatchers. I just love everything Peter Pan related ;)

Shannon says

To me this felt like Lost Boys meets the Goonies. But I liked it. It was amazingly fleshed out for a short story. The Lost Boys (minus Peter) plus one of the Natives, Shining Pearl, travel into a cave looking for treasure and trying to avoid the "Goat-taker" Meanwhile, the dastardly Captain Hook plus cronies follow them in. Add in a curse, mysterious noises, and a maze of tunnels, and you have quite the adventure. I would recommend reading this after reading at least a few of the Peter and the Starcatchers.

Elizabeth Meadows says

Fun book, fun series!

Linda says

I sort of had to force myself to finish this one. My complete-ish nature wants me to read all of the Neverland stories but this one just made me frustrated with children who get themselves into trouble for silly reasons. The plot was not that great and very far-fetched (even for a series based on magical stardust).
