



Five Have a Wonderful Time

Enid Blyton

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The Famous Five are having a brilliant time - on holiday in horse-drawn caravans - and they've discovered a ruined castle nearby! The castle looked deserted from a distance - but is that a face at the window? Or is it a trick of the light? The Famous Five just have to find out! Just who is hiding in the castle? About The Author: Enid Blyton, 1896 - November 28, 1959 Enid Blyton was born in London in 1896. She was educated in a private school and thought that she would become a musician until she realized that writing was her passion. She attended Ipswich High School where she trained to become a kindergarten teacher and eventually opened her own school for infants. Blyton's first poem was published in 1917, entitled "Have You-" which appeared in Nash's Magazine. In 1922, her first book of verses was published, entitled "Child Whispers." In 1926 she accepted a position editing the children's magazine "Sunny Stories" as well as writing the column "Teachers World." Blyton's first full length children's book was published in 1938 and was titled "The Secret Island." After working on the column for years, Blyton quit "Teachers World" in 1945 and also ended her stint as editor of "Sunny Stories" seven years later. In 1953 she started her own children's magazine called "The Edith Blyton Magazine" which featured stories about her characters and news on the clubs formed around them. Her most famous stories were those of the "Famous Five" The Magazine closed in 1959. In the 50's and 60's Blyton was criticized for the language in her book, for being too simple, but some 300 are still in print today. Blyton has published over 600 books in the course of her career. Enid Blyton died in her sleep on November 28, 1968. She was 72 years old.

Five Have a Wonderful Time Details

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From Reader Review Five Have a Wonderful Time for online ebook

Kirsti says

Ah, one of my favorite Five novels! Why? Because it isn't set in Kirrin, and they get to go and stay in caravans within sight of a castle. That sounded like a load of fun, I can tell you, to a young girl who loved caravans and castles both!

I also liked that Jo made another appearance in this novel, she always makes me smile. She and Beauty used to make me giggle, thinking of the python tripping the men over in the tower together. Poor Quintin, once more having a mistaken identity and having a bad time of it all. I just wish I'd been allowed to do what these kids did, and have half the sense while doing it.

Once more the Five solve a kidnapping, and once more Uncle Quentin is involved because it is regarding a scientist he worked with. They of course, spot a clue and from there it is merely putting it all together to solve the mystery. It's nice to see them come up against the circus folk at first, because too often they are handed the easy way out because they are well mannered middle class children, lol.

Anyway, another Five book, almost finished reading them all now. A great book for kids and adults alike!

Lila Cyclist says

Yeay, liburan cukup baca petualangan Lima Sekawan di Puri Faynights.

Meski baca ulang, saya masih berasa tegang di beberapa bagian. Sempat salah ingat dengan Sirkus Misterius dimana para aktor aktris sirkus menjadi dalang kejahatan. Jadi cukup lega ketika ternyata bukan di cerita ini mereka jahat ?. Terlebih ketika Lima Sekawan sudah mulai asyik dengan mereka. Dan bonusnya adalah munculnya Jo ??. Sejak kemunculannya di Jo Anak Gelandangan, dia sudah menjadi favorit saya, selain George ???

Farseer says

Five Have a Wonderful Time (1952)

Brief Summary by Poppy Hutchinson (from <http://www.enidblytonsociety.co.uk/>): Whilst caravanning in the hills beside Faynights Castle, the Famous Five are eventually invited into the company of some extraordinary fair folk who are camping in the same same field, and meanwhile learn of the disappearances of two well-known Scientists who have presumably fled the country to sell some priceless Scientific secrets. The adventure really begins when the children spy a face at the window of a tower belonging to Faynights Castle, and following further investigation – find that the tower is not open to the public... Who was it, and how did they get into the tower when it was strictly out of bounds?

Random thoughts:

The name of the book couldn't be less descriptive. Five Have a Wonderful Time? Could have been the title of any book in the series. Of course, Caravan is already taken... I don't know... Five and the Fair Folk?

Listening to these books one after the other, you notice Enid Blyton having to introduce small variations in the beginning to avoid making all of them the same. After all, the books mostly start with the Five going on holiday together. When you leave a more reasonable interval between books, though, these familiar beginnings offer a re-encounter with old friends and the promise of fun times and adventure to come.

In this case, we start with George, who has caught a cold due to swimming in the sea in April and was unable to join Julian, Dick, and Anne from the start on their planned caravan holiday. What a bad patient George is, so eager and impatient!

As George writes to tell the others she's finally coming, the children learn that two scientists have gone missing. It's presumed that they are traitors, and have fled the country to sell secrets. Since EB wouldn't mention something like this unless it was relevant, we know they are going to have something to do with the Five's adventure. I had never noticed the Five paying attention to the newspapers at any other holiday. Maybe they did but it was not included in the book as it was not relevant.

Again the children go on a caravan holiday! Only this time they meet fair folk instead of circus folk! OK, this setup does not feel very original after Five Go off in a Caravan, and the adventure itself, with the castle, the secret passages and the kidnapped scientists is not the most original either.

On the other hand, the fair folk are colorful and delightful, easily the highlight of the book... along with the return of Jo!

Jo's foster family is quite understanding, letting her go roaming the country on their own like that... if she even asked permission, I mean.

The fair folk are not so delightful in the beginning, though. They are downright nasty to the children, quite the bullies, sneakily moving their caravans when they are away, sending them from person to person as they try to ask where they are, Bufflo the Whip Cracker taking some hairs from Julian's head with his whip... I'm quite happy that we can have people being rude and unfriendly without necessarily meaning that they are criminals, however. I thought for a moment that we might have an encore of Caravan, with some of the fair folk using their abilities to steal. It turns out that their hostility had nothing to do with them wanting to hide any crimes, however, but they wanted to get rid of the children because some outsiders had cruelly freed the birds belonging to one of the fair folk, causing the animals to die and him to lose his means of making a living.

The amounts of food ingested by the Five is not as awe-striking as in other books.

I know they are blatant comic-relief, but I had to grin at the huge Alfredo the fire-eater and his tiny, scolding wife.

The pre-adventure part is quite long in this book, but it's very entertaining.

Thankfully, Jo's arrival breaks the tension, as she colorfully scolds the fair folk for being so nasty to her friends. I can't blame Julian and Dick for still wanting to leave, though. Even if the Fair Folk are nice now, having all those previous unpleasant incidents kind of spoils the holiday mood.

Fortunately, before they leave the adventure starts. The children spot a face in the window of the castle tower, where no one should be. The Five plus Jo decide to investigate. They find out some puzzling pieces of information and soon the events come one after the other.

The adventure is nice but quite standard, until we get the fair-folk coming to the rescue. They are a force to be reckoned with, colorful and compulsively entertaining. Alfredo the Fire-Eater, Bufflo the Whip Cracker and his assistant Skippy, Mr India Rubber, Mr. Slither the snake man... What a group!

Jo does tend to steal the show when she shows up, doesn't she? Here not as much as in her previous appearance, but she still got a lot of spotlight.

When the fair folk capture the man who was asking so many questions, I remembered that it was Uncle Quentin, and enjoyed the scene thoroughly, imagining his consternation and indignation.

Really, couldn't the bad guys have found a better place to hide the kidnapped scientist than in an old castle that is open to the public?

For once, Uncle Quentin was a good judge of character. He was insistent that his colleague could not be a traitor, and even went to London to tell the authorities just that.

However, at the end when he was listening to the whole story and kept saying "Why, I never heard a story like that!" I was thinking "What about all the other adventures your daughter and her cousins got into? You were even kidnapped yourself!"

Anyway, this one is not among the very best books in the series but it has a lot to enjoy.

Next up: Five Go Down to the Sea (1953)

Grace Tjan says

Jess, my 7-year old little girl, gives it 4 stars.

Arush Ul islam says

It's a very nice mystery book.

The book is based upon a conspiracy against Terry Kane, the scientist, conspired by his rival James Pottersham.

In the beginning the fair folks were not good to the five, but when Jo, Alfredo's niece, came and introduced them to the folk people, they quite regretted their bad behavior towards them and since then the five's days became more enjoyable.

The end is the most humorous part of the whole book.

Nicola says

"George's has caught a cold due to swimming the sea in April, and as such, is unable to join Julian, Dick, and Anne on their planned caravan trip. The other children have already set up their caravans on a hill opposite Faynights Castle. George is on the mend from her cold, so she writes a postcard to let Julian, Dick, and Anne know that they should meet her at the train station the next day. That day, the children learn that two scientists have gone missing. ..."

I absolutely adored Famous Five as a child. I trawled through secondhand stores and slowly acquired all of them. For some reason in my childhood, there were lots of British books and comics widely available and back then they were sold for the mighty sum of 10 cents. Seems funny now when some of the secondhand shops charge \$7-10 per book! I still have all of them safely saved in storage for when Little Miss grows up.

Monish says

One of the best books in the world

Michael says

This one is a lot of fun. The kids make do with only a small amount of vittles, for them at least. Was that a hedgehog in the stew - no problemo. All the fun of the fair and more.

Sakshi says

This novel is the 11th novel of the Famous Five series and is written by Enid Blyton. It is a mystery-adventure novel for children above age 7.

The main characters are the four cousins - George, Anne, Julian, Dick, and Georges' dog, Timmy. They are spending their summer vacation in the town of Faynights in horse-drawn caravans, next to Faynights castle and have a lot to explore.

One day, while watching jackdaws(birds) with Georges' field glasses, Dick and Julian spotted something strange. A face was at the tower window, but how could someone have climbed up there if the staircase was broken? Could it be one of those two missing scientists that have been written about in the newspaper?

My favourite character is Timmy, as he is loyal and is almost always there for the others when they need him. I enjoyed this novel as it is very interesting. My favourite parts are when it becomes exiting.

I think this novel is for anybody over age 7, but sometimes the sentences are a bit hard to follow. I would say that this novel is for entertainment.

It doesn't really matter if you have read the other Famous Five books or not. The novel doesn't have much related to the ones before, so you won't get entirely confused.

In short, I really liked/enjoyed this novel and I think almost everyone will, too.

Ash says

I haven't reread this volume in the series I think. I did not remember much about this mystery. Usually when I start a Famous Five book, I already am aware of how it would end. So looks like I read this book again after 20+ years this time probably. Love it as always.

Paul E. Morph says

Let's get this out of the way: *Five Have A Wonderful Time* is possibly the worst book title of all time. It's not exactly indicative of excitement and peril, is it? I guess the author and the publisher figured that, by the time you get to the eleventh book in a bestselling series, people are going to buy it no matter what you call it. I suppose the modern equivalent would be J.K. Rowling releasing *Harry Potter Teaches Ron To Floss*.

It's a shame, really, as this is one of the more exciting instalments in the series, with one of the Five even getting attacked with a whip at one point! (*Anybody have any idea why my autocorrect changes the word 'point' to 'Poi the!'? It makes no sense to me.*)

They encounter their friend Jo from the last book again, so the Five become six for most of the book. Dick is very happy about Jo being back; I foresee a long and happy love affair in their future. There's everything you'd expect from a Famous Five book: espionage, kidnapping, vicious baddies and heroic kids. The main deviation from the norm is that they didn't seem to get through as much food as they usually do. Maybe their parents have put them all on a diet...

Archit Ojha says

Sukant Jain says

Complete Paisa Wasool

The famous five I wish I could have read in my school days. This book is quite simple, adventurous, funny and true to the core even after being a fiction. People told me that it was kids book- I pretty liked it even now and would not mind reading the complete series of the same. For me- it's better late than never. This kind of novel brings adventure in anyone's life. They prepare you to have some adventure in whatever way possible. The love for the animals and help anyone gets from a pet is also narrated correctly. It also fulfilled my fascination of living somewhere away from home- in fields, with people from Circus who could fire eat, Have pythons as pet, and a rubber man, sitting around camp fires and, above all, wandering in Old ruined

castle looking for the stories of them and Hidden passages. It was like a movie but because of the actual movies some things were predictable but the writing of Mr. Blyton covers this part.

Neja says

These books (Famous five) are hands down one of my favorite books from my childhood. All those adventures and mystery ...and those sandwiches they always packed! aww, just the best! I would love to read one of these again. To bring back those memories..memories of first experiences with reading books.

Gina says

I'm not sure why this book is called what it is. I thought all the children were going to have an excellent time, and in some ways I guess they did.

It was good to see Jo in this book, and while she's got her same spunk, she and George got along a bit better in this book.

I didn't really see the twist at the end of this book, but it was sort of surprising for a Famous Five book. :)

Karina says

Petualangan ke 11 Lima Sekawan!

Setelah lama membujuk kedua orangtuanya George dan Timmy akhirnya diperbolehkan untuk menyusul ketiga sepupunya untuk menginap di karavan di bukit dekat sebuah peri kuno. Asyiknya lagi ada artis-artis pasar malam yang juga menginap di situ. Belum lagi mereka bertemu dengan kenalan lama, Jo. Seperti biasa dimana ada Lima Sekawan disitu ada petualangan. Petualangan dimulai saat mereka secara tidak sengaja melihat seraut wajah di jendela puri kuno yang seharusnya tidak lagi bisa dimasuki!

Saya kembali membaca Lima Sekawan setelah berhenti cukup lama. Saya melahap buku ini dengan cukup cepat karena alurnya yang menarik dan cepat. Saya sudah suka dengan Jo dari buku sebelumnya maka dari itu saya cukup excited bertemu lagi dengannya.

Saya sangat suka suasana yang digambarkan Bu Enid di buku ini. Baik suasana desa dan perbukitan serta purinya juga dengan pertemanan yang unusual antara Lima Sekawan dengan para artis pasar malam (dan Jo). Seperti biasa di buku ini juga ada lorong rahasia, ruang rahasia, dll. Sangat menyenangkan!

Salam Limun Jahe!

Gurnam Sodhi says

Five Have a Wonderful time with adventures and I am having wonderful time reading famous five.

Sunshine says

This one should be called 'Five Leave It All Up To Jo'. I really enjoyed it but the famous five were kind of background to Jo's heroics.

Neel says

??????????

David Evans says

More gipsies, kidnapped mad scientists, ruined castles, secret passages. But what was the favourite chocolate bar, the wrapper of which the Five recognised so well? I wanted to be told so that I could eat it and be like them too. Enid Blyton missed some lucrative product placement tie-ins there. "Five have a wonderful time is brought to you by Cadbury's". Oh, I hope it wasn't Galaxy, chocolate for wimps.
