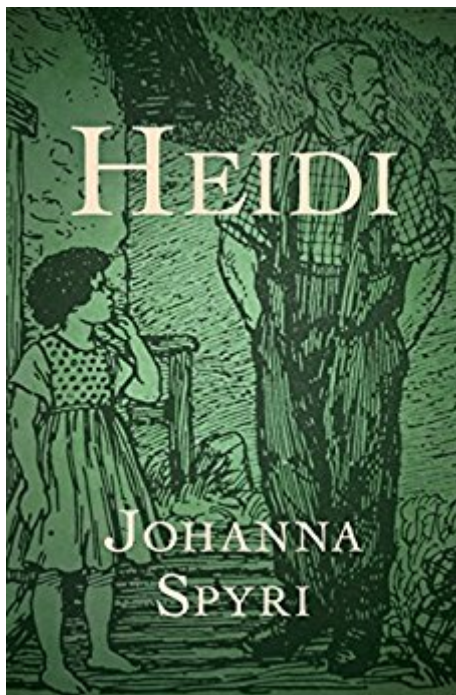


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Heidi



Synopsis

One of the most popular pieces of children's literature ever written After the death of her mother, Heidi, a rosy-cheeked six-year-old, is dropped off on the doorstep of her grandfather, who lives in the mountains above a Swiss town. Grandfather is a frightening and withdrawn old man who has no use for the antics of a young girl, but the whole town falls in love with Heidi's innocent spirit, and she in turn begins to feel affection for her grandfather. From the blooming meadows in the valley of the Swiss Alps to a "haunted" house in Frankfurt, Johanna Spyri's classic is suffused with Heidi's warmth. This ebook has been professionally proofread to ensure accuracy and readability on all devices.

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Customer Reviews

Beware, the beauty of literature is not in this edition! THIS REVIEW IS FOR THE PUFFIN IN BLOOM EDITION ONLY. Heidi is such an awesome story, the translation by Helen Dole reads so

beautifully and engages the reader to follow closely along, to interact and enter into the adventure. This book has short sentences, as if to hand feed the reader so that they don't need to pay attention or engage. In other words- it's a dumbed-down translation!! Please don't deprive young readers of good literature! There is a place for simplified versions of books BUT that should be clear when purchasing that it isn't the original version and writing has been altered. This book changes the names of characters too. It is a travesty!! So, if all you want is a "pretty" cover - fine, but even the inside illustrations aren't good - it saddened me and I sent it back. Thank you, for ease of returns. Please be aware that it sells different editions translated differently. Perhaps you'll find a new edition that is better than this one. I'm very happy with the used copy I found on with a copy write date of 1945. The illustrations are wonderful and the language is beautiful, and the names are not Americanized. The Puffin in Bloom edition has a character named Barbie.

Reviewing the unabridged original here. This is deservedly considered one of the very greatest works of children's literature. It is certainly longer and more challenging than many, but with patience (and a dictionary as needed), it repays the attention to it. Heidi is of course one of the most charming children in literature. The story has many great themes, uplifting to children and not just religious children as most of the themes are not specifically religious. This is the book if you want to hold up an example of optimism, great charity, independence, courage, friendship, and faithfulness or duty. These are not, perhaps, all the most modern lessons, but they include many that children today could still greatly benefit from.

We purchased this book in order my daughter to read and write a book report about the virtues and Christian-values through her Catholic Home School program. We chose this copy of the book because it was original and unabridged. Both my daughter and I read the book and thoroughly enjoyed it. It is so superbly well-written, with bits of anticipation and humor along the way. Heidi is about an orphaned girl in Switzerland, whose aunt took care of her until she obtained a better job, and decided it was Heidi's grandfather's turn to keep her. Heidi's grandfather lived up the mountain in a bit of remote area, with the town of Dorfli a trek away. Heidi meets Peter and his mother and grandmother and spends time with Peter, taking the goats to pasture. Heidi's aunt decided to later take her from the grandfather, who came to love her, to be come a companion to an "invalid" girl, Clara, in Frankfurt. Although Heidi is younger than Clara, Clara delights in the funny and inspiring things that Heidi says and does, and they become good friends. Heidi suffered terribly as she missed Grandfather and her life in the mountains, but came to know those in Clara's life, including

her grandmother, who taught her to have hope and keep praying to God, and the kind, good-hearted doctor who took care of Clara. Heidi's simplicity, and the way she looked at life, made her long the matched simplicity of the mountains and life with Grandfather. No spoilers here, but good things happen in the story! The characters are very well-defined, and Heidi touches the hearts of all who meet her. If you have seen any versions of Heidi in movie form, you are missing a lot from the book. As much as I like Shirley Temple, the producers of the version she starred in did a disservice to original Heidi book -- it is like looking at a whole different movie. (Disney later came out with a much closer account of the Heidi book as a movie in later years.) Everyone who reads Heidi will enjoy it and walk away with something that touches them -- something to recall and remember as their favorite part of the book.

Most people know the plot summary of Heidi yearning to return home to her grandfather and Peter the goatherd, and that Clara visits them in the Swiss Alps and regains her strength. But there are other important moments and characters, which are trimmed in the movies or Golden Book versions. Reading this as a very mature adult was even better than reading it as a child or a youth. The simple story shines all the better in our rushed and jaded age of info and activity overwhelm. This story might be called simplistic, and it is, and that's part of the charm. The light and clean storyline is like the kite string that starts the building of a bridge across the canyon: a simple pathway is the easiest one to latch onto and travel on in hope. So the story is just a fun tale on the surface, with layers also; thus it is an enduring treasure.

This is a lovely story about family and redemption. Spyri does a wonderful job of bringing the Alps to life, so much so, you can almost feel the brisk snowy air and hear the wind whispering through the trees. It's a sweet little fantasy, and well loved by generations for a good reason. I read it as a child and revisited it recently, and it was just as I remembered it after 40 some years, even better in fact because I appreciate the deeper themes so much better. Human nature is one thing that doesn't change, and the story of Heidi gives a lot of talking points for parents and grandparents to share with children, probably the 9 to 11 year old crowd, both boys and girls. For the adult crowd, it's a gem of a story to bring us to another place and time, about as far from this crazy, hectic life as is possible. Take a break and relax with this beautiful story.

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