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Minnow On The Say



Synopsis

David can't believe his luck when a worn wooden canoe mysteriously appears on the banks of the River Say behind his house. With summer stretching endlessly before him, it seems too good to be true. Soon there is another boy--Adam, the Minnow's rightful owner. Adam wants his boat back...but something else, too: a trustworthy friend to help him find the long lost ancestral jewels that could save his family from financial disaster! Can two boys find what history has kept an untouchable secret for hundreds of years? Or will they lose the race against time and against another treasure seeker lurking at the river's edge.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Originally published in 1955, *Minnow on the Say* was Philippa Pearce's first book for children. It is now considered a classic novel on both sides of the Atlantic. Philippa Pearce is also the author of *Tom's Midnight Garden*, winner of England's prestigious Carnegie Medal, and other acclaimed books. She lives in Cambridgeshire, England, very near the village where she grew up.

I came to this book recently as an adult after first reading *Tom's Midnight Garden* as a boy many years ago and then re-reading it many times as an adult. I became an admirer of the way Philippa Pearce constructed that story and told it so well. I don't think *Minnow on the Say* is quite as good, but I think I had expectations which were too high. The book is beautifully written, the characterizations are good, slightly exaggerated in a Dickensian fashion, and the solution of the central riddle is well described. I would definitely recommend this book to any young person who

enjoys good stories, and any adult who enjoys good children's literature.

One of my favorite children/youth books. A great adventure/mystery.

Two boys find a riddle which leads them to buried treasure – but someone else is also on the trail so it leads to complications. Single-mindedness might be a virtue urged by this book but it does not have the imaginative value of the other two books which this author has written, which are also based on the village and house where she grew up.

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This old-fashioned story of buried treasure sneaks into your heart with its winning ways. David finds a canoe on the river and when he locates the owner, he also finds a true friend in Adam. Adam's poverty is made more agonizing for the family by the legend of buried treasure handed down since Tudor days. With one clue that eventually leads them to another, this story has suspense, appealing characters, a fine plot and a very believable bad guy haunting the action. Pearce, well-known for her classic story, *Tom's Midnight Garden*, originally published this in 1955- but the quality of the writing and story well justify this reissue.

Minnow on the Say is enchanting, comforting, quirky, and uncommonly beautiful. It's about children

and completely for children, but its characters are as complex as any created for adults. The moment where Adam falls from the bridge will chill you and the surreal ending will delight you. Make sure you look for Edward Ardizzone's glowing illustrations, and read Pearce's other wonderful books Tom's Midnight Garden and A Dog So Small for another glimpse of David and Adam and the rich setting of the book.

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