



Goodbye Malory Towers

Pamela Cox, Enid Blyton (Creator)

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After taking their Higher Certificate, the sixth formers want to relax this term. But the Head has a surprise: a finishing school course, with old girl Gwendoline Lacey as teacher. Yet someone is determined to drive her out - and it takes the return of Darrell to solve the mystery.

Goodbye Malory Towers Details

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Lindley Walter-smith says

Really not a bad extension novel at all, although it had some issues. The feel of it is, if not Blyton, at least tolerably Blytonesque. There is still the problem that very few of the new girls, Bonnie aside - Bonnie is great, and unfortunately not in it much - have any defined personality. Worse, neither does Felicity nor Susan. Having Gwen back and treated more sympathetically, and giving her a gruff-voice down-to-earth girlfriend, was particularly great.

The big problems for me were:

- * Not properly understanding the period or the world. At the old girls' reunion, every single flipping girl has a career. Now, the "special" ones like Mavis and Irene, fair enough, but you can't tell me that those many years later in that period none of them would be housewives. I can't see Daphne's ideal future as anything but marrying well. The plot also turns on a massive misunderstanding of the role of housemaids and kitchen maids (completely undistinguished in this book) at the school - they are in no way the girls' personal maids, and it simply wouldn't be possible for schoolgirl!Gwen to have made one's life hell for years making her do all her mending and fetching and carrying.
- * Demonising the maid. Who has her living to earn, which doesn't matter at all. Yuck. How the hell would Gwen earn enough teaching deportment to the sixth form to "help her family" with the money? Especially once her room and board were deducted?
- * Forgetting things about Gwen that really were relevant. Darrell, Bill and Clarissa kept writing to her after she left. Darrell would know she was back at the school. Bill and Clarissa are particularly significant. They kept writing to her, they are living freaking next door, they run in and out of the school all the time to see Miss Peters (as per the other extensions), but they never bothered to drop in on their old schoolmate and say "Hello, welcome back" until the old girls' reunion? When they were two of the only three girls to make an effort to keep in touch with Gwen? That seems... uncharacteristically unkind of them.
- * Crushes Are Bad. (This might explain why B&C were absent, I guess.) And a girl who normally doesn't take any interest in others taking a kindly interest in a girl with a crush on her has to be stomped n by "kind, sympathetic" Head Girl Felicity, who resorts to mocking a first-former's weight. Nice.
- * It was mentioned that Amanda couldn't make it to the reunion - but what about Moira, Catherine, Ruth and Mam'zelle's niece? Did they just cease to exist the way Daphne did in sixth form? I was very sad not to see Moira.

In the end, despite the good points, these frustrations prevented me from really enjoying it. Which is sad, because proper school story plots like balancing games and lessons are always a lot of fun.

Almudena says

It was hard saying goodbye to Malory Towers the first time, and, it doesn't get better this time either. One of those books that stay with you forever, capable of making you laugh and cry of the same time, just pure Enid Blyton.

Eng Elysse says

This book is the last book of the Malory Tower series, where Felicity is in the sixth form and gets assigned the head girl. Head girl of the sixth means head girl of the whole school. As sixth former, they have their own studies 1 study to every 2 girls. So, of course, Felicity and Susan, June and Freddie, Pam and Nora,etc. Daphne, also known as Daffy, is in the first form this year and is Sally's, Darrell's best friend, younger sister. During the school year, Gwendoline Lacey, a girl from Darrell's form, is now teaching at Malory Towers. She teaches the sixth form for a few classes a week. Darrell comes back to boarding school for a surprise that she never told Felicity. From their dormitory, they saw Bill and Clarissa riding on horseback to the stables and later saw Irene and Belinda walking through the school gates. Most of the girls went running out of the dormitory to the gates and Felicity saw Darrell. Felicity was shocked and went running to her, although Darrell hasn't seen her yet. Felicity asked why was she and Bill, Irene, Belinda and Clarissa here. Darrell said that they were having an old girls meet. At that second, Alicia appeared and came down running June. This was a huge surprise for both June and Felicity, as Darrell is Felicity's sister and Alicia is June's cousin. Darrell also told them that they were to stay in the third form's common room as they were out on a field trip. Felicity enjoyed her very last moments at Malory Towers and then she had to say goodbye

Annie says

Read all the older Mallory Towers books as a child. In later life, decided to read these and relive my childhood!

Annebeth says

Another great nostalgic book! This one was even better with loads of references to the Darrell series and guest appearances.

Liz Yardley says

Not by Enid Blyton. However you would be hard to pick this.
A seamless transition from one writer to the next.
A good read for a 10-12 y.o.

Bernadette Ingleby says

My childhood ❤️?❤️?❤️?

Ariya says

Gosh, what a journey that was!

I'm not ashamed to say that I couldn't stop the tears at the end of the book, and to be honest, I kind of expected them to come.

Lizzie Mannering. How I sympathized with that girl! I've never been in a situation quite as daunting as hers, but I've been in similar stressful situations, and while I did not support many of Lizzie's decisions, I did understand why she made them.

The best part about the Malory Towers series is that every book has girls who are role models for us. I love how there's a mix of mischief, fun and learning!

I'm glad I was able to read this at such a time. For people who are older, some of its magic may not show, so I suggest that you read it while you're young and open-minded.

I have loved each and every one of these books whole-heartedly! A warm thank-you to Enid Blyton and Pamela Cox for creating these wonderful stories for us to enjoy.

Goodbye Malory Towers! Though I daresay I'll see you again soon! *winks*

Millie says

This book is really cool and exciting, you should read the first book of the series and then the rest. I read a year ago but I still remember it because it was absolutely amazing!!! I hope you will try to read it because it is worth it! It is about girls at a boarding school.....I wont tell you the rest!!!

Kavita says

This is the last of the new series of books written on Malory Towers. While I loved the first four books, the fifth jumped about quite a bit. This one, however, had a quite unlikely plot and showed a very bad understanding of the period. The narrative jumps around a lot and the writer does not seem to understand how to weave the different plots together in a nice Blyton-like manner. However, I found parts of the book really funny and enjoyed the final foray into nostalgia.

Ruby Granger says

It's always a pleasure to return to Malory Towers, despite the fact that I am now far too old for the series! Seeing as Felicity and her friends have just a term left at school, there is underlying melancholy in the book but also great excitement. Cox handles this tricky rite of passage well and I really do recommend this to anybody who is going to be leaving school soon.

A new character, Lizzie, additionally reminded rather a lot of myself for she does little more than study! The only problem is that she neglects her school life as a result and does not properly enjoy her time at Malory

Towers. Though of course, as always, there is a reason behind this...

Donna says

A nostalgic ending to the best school series ever! Even as a 27 year-old, I still wish I could go to Malory Towers!

Denise says

Felicity and friends return to Malory Towers for their final term to find an unexpected addition to their schedule: They are to attend finishing school classes, taught by none other than Gwendoline Lacey, Darrell's unpopular former classmate, who is trying to turn over a new leaf. But someone is trying hard to drive her out, sabotaging her classroom, stealing her belongings, and even going so far as to masquerade as Gwen to cause trouble. It's not until Gwen's old classmates arrive for a reunion that the mystery of who's behind all this might get solved.

An enjoyable finish to the series. Predictable, sure, but an entertaining read nonetheless.

Michelle says

Darrell and her friends are back for a reunion so we find out what they are doing. It's quite a satisfying end to the Malory Towers stories. Although, I'm a little sad they're over.

Elaine Mullane says

Revisiting the books of my youth out of a feeling of nostalgia! I loved Enid Blyton when I was younger and can't wait to re-read these with my own children.
