



# Johnny's in the Basement

*Louis Sachar*

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## **Johnny's in the Basement** Louis Sachar

Johnny's in the basement where his parents won't bother him, sitting on top of The World's Greatest Bottle Cap Collection. He's just turned eleven and his parents have decided that it's time for him to grow up. Suddenly he has to wash the dishes and take out the garbage. And get rid of his bottle caps! His birthday presents are grown-up junk like socks and underwear and -- worst of all -- social-dancing lessons. Growing up certainly doesn't seem worth it -- until he meets Valerie Plum, who hates dancing school even more than Johnny does, but doesn't hate Johnny at all.

## **Johnny's in the Basement Details**

Date : Published May 1st 1983 by Avon/Camelot (first published October 1981)

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Author : Louis Sachar

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# **From Reader Review Johnny's in the Basement for online ebook**

## **Sprocket Doggingsworth says**

One of the most important books of my childhood. At once deeply shamanistic, kinda zen, and very anti-materialistic. Manages to be very spiritual and very down to earth at the same time. All this in a story about a kid who was forced to give up his bottlecap collection.

Read this goddamn book.

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## **Angie says**

I had three favorite books when I was 9-10 years old, this was the funny book on the list. I thought it was hilarious. I spent literally over a decade trying to track it down again (made more difficult because I thought the title was The Bottlecap Kid) when I re-read as an adult it had lost some of the magic but not the humor. Johnny's oops-sorry conversation with the moon, still makes me laugh.

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## **Casey says**

This book made me happy. I laughed and I cried. I thought of kids and kidhood. Johnny, Donald, and Valerie are my heart. Love, love, love.

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## **Shanna says**

Entertaining. I heard about this story in relation to a reality TV show when this girl mentioned her tattoo being connected to this story and how she loved the conversations between the boy and the moon, which I also happened to enjoy. Besides that though, his collecting bottle caps and his adventures in doing so whilst also trying to capitalize off of them was minor compared to his belief of the moon's capability in understanding his concerns and conversations in general. I enjoyed it, but have forgotten most of the finer details, since.

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## **Jack says**

I read this book as a kid, and it was the only book I could read over and over and over...well, you get the idea.

It is a great book for kids (especially boys) who are going through that "phase" where they think grown-ups are silly and misunderstanding.

It is a good reinforcer in that sometimes your thoughts and feelings are not as silly as you might think they are. Others go through and think the same things. They just don't always feel they can say it out loud.

I have still read it as an adult and gotten a kick out of the story. The condition of my copy is testimony to that!

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### **ABC says**

About a boy who collects bottle caps, and also sort of gets a girlfriend. My son liked it.

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### **Matthew says**

This was the first book that I ever read for a book report. I have to say it did not dissappoint. The way the boy grows up with the girl and matures is an amazing readers experience. IT kinda sucks though that he worked so hard for his collection and had to sell it all away.

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### **Peter Daniel Berg says**

not up to snuff.

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### **Emmanuel says**

one thing i like about this book is that in the middle of the story the character named all the friends that he have.

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### **the (book) supplier says**

This was a little piece of nostalgia for me, much like Voices After Midnight. I remember checking out this book from the library two summers in a row (my mother vetoed it the third summer). I don't know what it was about this story that drew me to it, but it's totally different reading it as an adult. I think that's further evidence that children reread things or want to hear the same stories over and over again because they're working through something. It makes me wonder, though, what I was working through as a kid.

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### **Kate Elizabeth says**

Forever ago, when Miami Ink was still a show, a girl came in wanting a tattoo based on this book. I can't remember specifics except that I know she read the book while they were tattooing her, and it's been on my to-read list ever since.

That being said...eh. I was pretty underwhelmed. I adore Louis Sachar, and this book had some nice moments, but it's by far my least favorite of his. I did enjoy a cameo from Wayside School's Maurecia, who

opened her own ice-cream parlor after being turned into a delicious flavor of ice cream herself in the Wayside books. Otherwise, I'd pass on this one. 1.5 stars.

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**Pam says**

This was one of my favorite books as a kid because I also had a bottle cap collection.

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**calico Rosenberg says**

haha. i was mentally reminiscing about this book and trying to find it. for a while i was thinking i had been confusing titles with content or some such... turns out i was just a little off in my quest to locate a confirmation of the existence of a book called 'johnny's in the attic'

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