



Winter Story

Jill Barklem

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It was the middle of winter and very, very cold. The mice of Brambly Hedge forecasted snow. And they were right. In the morning they awoke to find their doors and windows hidden behind deep drifts. There hadn't been snow like this for years.

"There's enough for a Snow Ball!" cried the mice with glee, and they set to work in the time-honoured way to make an Ice Hall for the festivities.

The little mice watched wide-eyed as all the preparations were made. Then at last everything was ready, and the Ball could begin...

Winter Story Details

Date : Published October 1st 1999 by Atheneum Books (first published 1980)

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Author : Jill Barklem

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From Reader Review Winter Story for online ebook

Sarah Middlestead says

Love this author/illustrator and her sweet stories so beautifully illustrated. A joy to read again and again. A book for each season.

Victoria Moore says

Upon starting "Winter Story" (Brambly Hedge) by Jill Barklem, a delightful children's book, rich with extravagantly illustrated pages chronicling the mice characters of Brambly Hedge, I wasn't expecting a tale so full of heart I'd become inspired by cold weather, but I was. Snuggled against the first snowfall of the season I could almost feel the coziness the Toadflax family felt as they sat down to their dinner of "hot chestnut soup."

Written in an easy, soothing style Barklem's ability to include lovely older characters like Mr. and Mrs. Apple to younger ones like little Wilfred, Teasel, Clover and Catkin Toadflax in one community gives the book an inter-generational appeal. The exuberant and lovingly decorated "Snow Ball," was my favorite part and remained a recurrent memory from the story, because it proved with imagination and ingenuity even the harshest circumstances can be turned around.

Ellen says

Darling

Joshua says

Winter is probably my favourite season, and this story is all about why that might be...

Rachel says

Absolutely adorable book about the little mice who live in Brambly Hedge.

Shala Howell says

For the story, think Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit stories with mice and without the sometimes surprising lapses into violence that forcibly remind you that Potter wrote in a different cultural context. In Potter's world, Mr. MacGregor has a distressing habit of stalking through the pages taking potshots at the cast with his shotgun. That sort of thing doesn't happen in the Brambly Hedge.

So a charming story, but it was the illustrations with their incredibly rich detail that won my heart. Small wonder each drawing took Jill Barklem three months to complete. (Each book in the series is the product of two years' effort.)

My favorites are the ones that dissect the trees where the mice make their homes. I could spend hours staring at all the little rooms the mice have carved out of the tree, complete with tiny furnishings, winding staircases, and halls.

(For a longer review of this series, visit my blog Caterpickles.com or see my review of the Complete Brambly Hedge here on Goodreads.)

Christabelle says

I had no idea how much I'd like this cute little mouse tale. I love the charming world of little creatures and how they respond to an abnormal winter snow. They seem to have so much fun preparing for the cold-weather season and the two little mice are such cute, naughty things! It makes me want to peel back another story to spy on these little ones once again.

Kate says

I recently found all my old Brambly Hedge books and decided to re-read them. I am happy to report that the stories are just as good and the illustrations are just as gorgeous as I remembered them being. I think these are stories young and old alike can enjoy and the beautiful pictures will definitely be of interest to all ages.

Mariana (DorothyReads) says

Memories :')

Douglas Cootey says

This is the first of the Brambly Hedge stories that I've ever read. In truth, there is not much of a story here. It's very old fashioned, even for the 80s when it was first published. However, even the old fashioned stories had plot and conflict. This book was very short on conflict. There are mice. There was snow. The mice became very excited about the snow. They prepared for a ball. The boys were naughty. They held the ball. Everyone danced until they were tired. The end.

That all being said, the illustrations were detailed and delightful. Clearly, this series is well known because of the remarkable artwork, and not the stories. Of course, there are seven other stories for me to review, so I can't judge the entire series by this one volume. I'd give this story ★★???. However, the art is why this series exists. I found myself stopping frequently while I read to admire Barklem's craftsmanship. I'm oldnt interest my daughter in reading the book with me, so I can't say what she thought of it. I'll likely look over the story to admire the artwork all over again. Therefor, ★★★★★?.

Mindi says

A delightful British children's book which is beautifully illustrated. A favorite.

Orinoco Womble (tidy bag and all) says

There's a snowstorm at Brambly Hedge and the grownups decide there's enough to hold a Snow Ball: the ultimate snow-fort party! There are of course a myriad of good snacks and cakes, music and dancing and sliding and fun galore. The illustrations made the snow palace come alive; again everyone helps out to prepare it, decorate, and gather the party food, even the little folk.

I loved the way the parents take the kids off to bed, tuck them in...and then go back and party some more till dawn! I've noticed that most of these stories end up with the characters fast asleep in a cosy bed after a hearty meal, tucked out from the adventures.

Christian McKay says

The title is very misleading. There's actually no story here. Unless you count 'Once upon a time it was winter and bunch of mice ate some winter-themed food and danced in the snow until they were tired. The end.' I thought the funniest part was the dust jacket, which proclaimed that Miss Barklem did five years of natural research before she began writing the Brambly Hedge series. What did she learn? That mice prefer acorn coffee? The art is beautiful though.

Faith Hough says

I want my kitchen to be a full-size version of the mouse kitchen. Would my house look so charming if I hung laundry to dry above the stove? I should look into this. :)

K.M. Updike says

Anyone who loves Beatrix Potter and small animal stories will love this book. I was a little girl thrilled with the imagination and charm of it all.

Karen says

This book was ok but we prefer the writings of Beatrix Potter...krb 5/9/16

Tamara Zann says

Probably my favourite of the series. Such a wonderful sense of community. There is always a reason the celebrate and always something to look forward to.

Friend of Pixie (F.O.P.) says

More fun than the Autumn story, where a little mouse gets lost and is scared. In this story, snow comes and the mice decide to have a Snow Ball. They carve out a beautiful hall of ice and snow under a drift and party till dawn. As always, lovely and detailed illustrations. Really, they're more of a draw than the story. I must say I thought the brothers in this story were pretty irritating. They do nothing but harrass their sisters and get in trouble. I do get tired of reading my son such negative representations of boys. Still, we look forward to the other seasonal installments of these stories.

David says

Third book I have read in this series, and it doesn't disappoint. Another great story and illustrations.

Two thumbs up from my 2 year old daughter.

Sandra says

E acaba assim uma pequena delícia de livros :(

Tão lindos e perfeitos
