



# Capyboppy

*Bill Peet*

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## Capyboppy Bill Peet

The creator of whimsical fantasies featuring a bevy of lifelike and lovable creatures, Bill Peet consistently combined excellent storytelling with enduring illustrations, becoming one of the most popular picture book creators of our time. Born in Grandview, Indiana, Bill Peet nurtured his childhood drawing talent and was awarded a scholarship to the John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis, where he studied painting and design. After a brief apprenticeship period, he went to work for Walt Disney as a sketch artist, eventually becoming a screenwriter and helping to produce such beloved films as "Fantasia, 101 Dalmations, " and "Peter Pan." In 1959 Bill Peet published his first book, "Hubert's Hair-Raising Adventure, " going on to write and illustrate over thirty successful books for children.

## Capyboppy Details

Date : Published April 29th 1985 by HMH Books for Young Readers (first published March 1st 1966)

ISBN : 9780395383681

Author : Bill Peet

Format : Paperback 64 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Animals

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# From Reader Review Capyboppy for online ebook

## Shannon says

Totally love this book. Definitely one of my favorite children's books. It makes me smile, it makes me laugh, it makes me cry. It also made me fall in love with the world's largest rodent.

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## Julia says

Going on a Bill Peet binge (and one that isn't even close to being finished yet) I chose to read this particular book out of my pile that I have since it was related to an actual true animal character. As a result this book explores the small bit of time when the Peet family opened up their house to their son's strange pet request of a young capybara and what it was like to have this giant rodent take up residence whether the results were good, bad and ugly.

With only the simple and yet entertaining tone that decorates most of his books, Bill Peet allows the reader yet again into his home. The reader gets an entertaining memoir that not only looks back in time but also educates the reader upon the biggest rodent in the world and why as is most often heard it isn't wise to keep wild animals even if they start off as cute adorable youngsters.

Furthermore Bill Peet's adorable and signature illustrations help to bring the story even more alive to the readers. Capyboppy keeps a charming and yet more animal-like face throughout the book while the illustrations on the neighboring cats mimic the humanish traits that decorate the majority of Peet's more well-known fictional characters.

All in all it was a great read and one that children will most definitely enjoy if they are into Peet.

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## Dark Luna Rose says

After great anticipation from my children about reading this book I was left extremely disappointed at the animal cruelty inside. I wouldn't recommend it for children. I would never recommend a book where an animal gets kicked and left to suffer like Capy did for children. Ever. This book actually teaches violence as an answer, which is not what children need. There is enough violence in our world without making it seem normal and OK.

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## BradenE. says

I loved this book. It was amazing!

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## **Melki says**

I really enjoyed this true story of the Peet family's attempt to welcome a capybara into their home, garage, yard. Peet's artwork is winsome and engaging. I particularly liked the drawing of Capy lying on the couch with his head on Mrs. Peet's lap, and the one of him being towed off after a shower; he's got a big, goofy grin on his snout.

The ending is rather bittersweet, but it does serve as a reminder that wild animals DO NOT make good pets.

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## **Karen says**

This book brings back such good memories. We first read it when Ellie was 2 and Jake was 4 curled up on the couch in our old house. The kids didn't remember it too much but reading it again they really liked it. Funny.....Ellie sure did turn out to be like Bill, coincidence?....krb 7/1/17

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## **Melanie says**

Although the ending is very sad, especially if you know Capyboppy's ultimate fate, the book is very nicely drawn and the story is touching. Plus it is the only book currently available that features a capybara and that is worth a lot.

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## **Saturday's Child says**

A blast from the past as this was a childhood favourite of mine from my Primary School library. I loved the illustrations and the very exotic capybara. As a child I felt sad for Capy after he was kicked into the pool. Upon re-reading it as an adult and knowing about the trades in exotic animals as pets I still feel sad for him but also angry as animals such as Capy should not be taken from their own environment to be kept as pets.

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## **Austin W says**

CapyBoppy

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## **Stacy says**

Do you even have to ask?

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## Peacegal says

*Capyboppy* is a sweet little children's book filled with Peet's whimsical artwork. The book relates the true story of one family's experience with trying to turn a capybara, a giant South American rodent, into a house pet.

This being a book published in the 1960s, it reflects the values of its time. Society was moving toward recognizing wildlife as something other than a roiling mass of expendable beasts--yet it still had a way to go. Thus there were numerous stories about individual animals becoming amusing and doted-upon pets. Nothing is said about the "wild animal dealer" from whom the author's son purchased the single baby Cappy, but one gets the sense that story would not make for such an entertaining read. Today, a children's book about capybaras would more likely follow them in their natural habitat.

If you've read any of the other books about wild animals as pets, you probably know where this story is headed. Cappy's story ends on an innocuous note that will have young readers grinning, but hopefully they also come away with the message that capybaras don't belong in living rooms.

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## Stephanie A. says

Both my parents swear they read this to me, but while I remember every other Bill Peet book in near perfect detail, I had no recollection of either the story or illustrations in this when I tracked it down this year. It blew me away.

Capyboppy is different from all his books not only in the way the illustrations are black and white, but in the whole tone of the story. It is essentially a nonfiction recounting, drawn from his own life, and featuring a pet rather than wild animals. But what a pet!

The story is very much a time-locked one - try imagining a world today where a wild animal bites a child hard enough to make him bleed, and instead of bringing in police and lawyers, it just makes a fun newspaper story. (Of course, it does force them to reevaluate his suitability as a household pet, but I think that's another product of the time in the first place. How many capybaras have you seen in your neighbors' backyards?)

The illustrations completely capture the animal's cuteness (and then some), and the way he describes its sound as a "tweetle-tweet" is charming. The imagery of a pile of cats flying in all directions at the brain-breaking sight of a giant rodent invading their territory is priceless. There's even something about the idea of him "chewing his grass in sullen silence" that I love; I can just picture the expression on its face.

All in all, a brilliant book no matter your age. I love every word in this so much I can't stop reading it. The only drawback is that now I can't stop wishing I could have just one night spent reading on a loveseat with a sleepy capybara curled up next to me.

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### **Kristyn says**

I read this to my five-year-old son. It's not action-packed but the story is somehow compelling regardless. The illustrations are excellent. This book is a great choice for kids who can pay attention to a long picture book but not quite a chapter book without pictures.

Read-aloud, age five.

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### **Corbinw says**

Great story

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### **Keith Bowden says**

Hardcover here, too. Absolutely my FAVORITE children's book. Bill Peet was at his best with this one. If I had kids of my own, I could justify making sure I got every book Bill Peet ever did. (Actually, that's a lie. I might do it anyway, even if Antonio never develops an affection for the stories. I hope he does, though.) I love Bill's art - I particularly remember still checking this out of the library in 4th grade - ahem - just because it was my favorite. And that was before I developed my delusions of artistry (I was still practicing guitar and hankering to be a writer back then).

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