



The Tale of Cuckoo Brow Wood

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Beatrix Potter loves the warmth of Sawrey, her new hometown. But even the kindest of souls can turn snappish when houseguests overstay their welcome. When Beatrix returns from time away, she finds the attic overrun with rats. Rosabelle, resident rat and generous hostess, has offered her family a place to stay. But when word gets out, she soon has dozens of rat families on her tiny hands. To get rid of them, Beatrix invites some cats over-deeply offending Felicia Frummety, resident cat. Then a mysterious outsider plans to ruin the pristine shoreline of Lake Windermere by building a sprawl of villas. And trouble has beset three village children, favorites of Beatrix, who are counting on the help of the fairies of Cuckoo Brow Wood. Now, with her signature tact, Beatrix must work with her friends-human and animal-to set things right.

The Tale of Cuckoo Brow Wood Details

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From Reader Review The Tale of Cuckoo Brow Wood for online ebook

Shala Howell says

This series continues to be a charming antidote to anxiety. It's a fairy tale for adults packaged as a cozy mystery, and as long as you wander into it with the expectation that nothing too diabolical or exciting will happen I think you will enjoy it. It's a gentle soothing sort of read, with a sweet hint of budding romance.

Eleanor Jones says

Another delightful entry in a completely delightful series. Unputdownable.

Andree says

This one was less good. I basically predicted the villains, the plot and the resolution stupidly early on.

And the animals, and their sentience got a bit too much in this one. I could perhaps have also done with fewer descriptions of rat massacres.

On the other hand, I still enjoy the characters. And I find these are good reading for right before bed, to sort of turn off my brain. Which is perhaps not the most ringing of endorsements, but there you are.

Sarah says

Lake district 1907. Quaint, endearing, and relaxing, these stories can't help but provoke nostalgic reminiscences of childhood, when everyone seemed to believe in fairies, magic, Father Christmas and talking pets! On a more serious level, the historical context seems to be accurate, and the social position of women in that era certainly gives food for thought!

If, as a child, your mother or granny used to read you bedtime stories such as Beatrix Potter's Tales and Cicely Mary Barker's beautiful "Flower Fairies" (both published by Frederick Warne), then you'll love this series.

Roberta says

I had REALLY mixed feelings about this book. In some ways I would say it is a 5-star book and in others a 2-star book.

The book is well-written and plotted (and edited, too) and I am crazy about the real person Beatrix Potter

becoming a fictional amateur detective.

I am less enthusiastic about talking animals but at least in this book they talk only among themselves (sort of like the adults in Peanuts cartoons) and not to humans. What I really hated in this book was animals who were wearing clothes, falling in with a bad crowd, drinking at pubs, and playing pool and their demise being plotted and violently carried out by other anthropomorphized animals. It was nasty in a way that did not feel in keeping with the rest of the book. Like having Miss Marple and Jack the Ripper in the same book.

Grace says

With this third book of the series, the author is definitely finding her voice for this series. I've never read anything else (yet) by Susan Wittig Albert, but she's developing a distinctive voice for this particular series that strongly reflects British literature of the late 19th/early 20th century - which is very appropriate, since that is the setting for these stories.

This book felt a little different from the previous two because of the stronger fairy-tale element. The animals (which are characters in their own rights and often have whole chapters devoted to their adventures) played a stronger role in this book. Not only was more page-time devoted to the animals, but the animal characters had a greater influence on the humans' lives and the overall plot than in previous books. I loved this whimsical element, and it added a stronger fairy-tale feel. It also was strongly reflective of many of Beatrix Potter's own books, in which the animal world goes unnoticed by the humans, but the animals still exert power and influence over the humans' world.

I would recommend this book to anyone who loves cozy mysteries, Beatrix Potter, or historical fiction with a hint of whimsy and a fairy tale-like feel.

Marci says

This book is the first in the series that I read, and then I got all the rest and read them too. It really takes me back to my summers in the Lake District and makes me very homesick! I love the series. I think Ms. Albert got all the details just right. It's charming without being silly. It's well written. It's interesting. The blend of fictional and historical characters is virtually seamless.

Kathryn says

This series is just fun and most enjoyable. This particular story did not have a murder, but there was a bit of mystery about a certain someone's new wife and also the fairies. Are there fairies in the woods or not? It's for each of us to decide. My opinion? Absolutely!

Emily Cullen says

This cozy mystery that focuses on children's book author Beatrix Potter's real life on her farm can only be

described as delightful. The descriptions of England's Land between the Lakes makes you want to take a trip there and, if you are willing to believe, the animals talk. Major Kitteridge is back from war, injured and having a new, mysterious wife, who is trying to convince her husband to sell his property and build villas in the area. At the same time, three children go into the woods trying to catch a glimpse of fairies. I am really enjoying "The Cottage Tales of Beatrix Potter" series!

Pamela Shropshire says

Miss Potter is back in the Lake District just at the time spring is really making an appearance. The village is preparing for May Day celebrations, the village school is about to break at half term and it's lambing and calving time.

There are two village children we have met in previous books, Jeremy Crosfield and Caroline, granddaughter of the local lady-of-the-manor, Lady Longfield. Both are orphans and Miss Potter has befriended both. In this book, a third orphan has come to the village, a ginger-haired Irish lass named Dierdre. These three play important roles in this book.

Jeremy is a very intelligent boy but unfortunately, he lives with his aunt who does not possess the funds necessary to provide an education beyond the village school. She has obtained two possible apprenticeships, one with the local carpenter and the other with a Hawkshead apothecary. He has passed the exams to be admitted to a school in nearby Ambleside, but knows his aunt cannot afford the tuition, lodging and clothes.

Caroline is a bright, engaging child, but she is unhappy with her grandmother who is old-fashioned in her views about ladies and commoners and won't allow her to play with the village children. So Caroline sneaks out to meet Dierdre and Jeremy.

Dierdre believes in fairies and the like and she hopes to find them on May Eve. She asks Miss Potter to accompany them, along with Rascal, the Jack Russell terrier.

In addition to the fairy-hunting, Miss Potter is occupied with the rats that have overrun Hill Top Farm, thanks to the lazy cat who lives there. Plus, a local landowner, Major Kittredge, has married and there is some mystery about his wife. And the vicar is plagued by visitors who have worn out their welcome.

Miss Potter seems to be on hand at the right time to help resolve all these problems.

As I've said before, these books are so charming and restful - I just love reading them as a break from more serious fare.

Becky Hoferer says

I really do like this historical thread of Wittig Albert's Beatrix Potter. It was very engaging to read and you don't have to start with the first book (I know I didn't). If you start somewhere other than book 1, you can easily catch on to what is happening since it is explained on how it happens in the first place (book 1). The slueing that is done by Miss Potter is independent from each book in the series. What I really liked was, at the end of the book, there are recipes from that time period to set out and try.

Sherry says

BK 3:, of The Cottage Tales of Beatrix Potter.

When Beatrix returns to The Lake District she finds Hill Top Farm over run by rats, Major Kittredge has returned from the Boer Wars missing an arm and an eye, but with a vividly painted, red-haired wife (sure sign of a witch),there are rumors of villas being built along the shores of Lake Windermere, the Vicar has two unknown greedy relatives mouching at the vicarage for months, and Miss Potter overhears several conversations that reveal the true identity and nefarious plans of several characters. The Fairies come to the aid of Jeremy Crosfield with the help of Miss Potter and the animals of Sawrey. Ridgley Rat's advertisement for cats to rid Hill Top Farm of it's infestation seems to get out of hand, but his love of literature and Miss Potter's The Roly Poly Pudding provides a solution just in time.

Debbie says

As I have said before, I really enjoy this series. They are so much fun and just a breath of fresh air.

Grey853 says

Let me just say that I have "rat phobia" and because of that I had a very hard time even finishing this book. It seemed like every chapter was full of either animals or people talking about the rat problem. It gave me the creeps. The story itself would've been interesting if I could've just concentrated on Caroline and the con game storylines, but I was too distracted by all the comments about rats in the attic, barn, and just about everywhere else.

Emily says

oh dear how i love these little beatrix potter mysteries. they are so charming, such gentle reads, really lovely.
