



The Doll People Set Sail

Ann M. Martin , Laura Godwin , Brett Helquist (Illustrations)

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Annabelle Doll, Tiffany Funcraft, and their families are whisked out to sea when the Palmers accidentally place them in a box destined for charity donation. And it turns out they're not alone-there are plenty of other doll people on the ship, too. After traveling thousands of miles, will they be able to find their way home?

In the fourth installment in the beloved Doll People series, Brett Helquist joins Ann M. Martin and Laura Godwin on another exhilarating adventure from a doll's-eye view.

The Doll People Set Sail Details

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Author : Ann M. Martin , Laura Godwin , Brett Helquist (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review The Doll People Set Sail for online ebook

Goldilocks Reads (Jenna Vahue) says

I feel as if the series should have ended after The Runaway Dolls, but I'm so greedy for these characters that I would still read them. The Doll People Set Sail was so lackluster and did not possess the magic of the previous installments.

The most damning blow was Brian Selznick leaving his position as illustrator for the series. He is a phenomenal artist who provided stunning artwork and wonder to the pages. I believe he only works independently now, but his books are amazing too. The Invention of Hugo Cabret and Wonderstruck were so lovely to read. Brett Helquist provides the new artwork for the series. He is most well known for illustrating A Series of Unfortunate Events. His art style is too rigid and lacks warmth, for my taste.

The story was boring and easily avoidable. The Doll People are supposed to go in the attic while the Palmer house is undergoing renovations. Stupidly, they are also boxing old stuff for charity. They have a box for "attic" and one for "ATC". Really? Just label it "charity". Haven't you seen Toy Story 3?

I was fed up by the dumb decisions and I actually liked the other dolls more than the Doll family. The side characters were Giselle and Tarkie who were two dolls stuffed into a dollhouse and only had their eyes peeking out, a little German doll in lederhosen named Otto, superhero doll named Johnny-on-the-spot with a polka dot cape, and a family of mermaid dolls. My favorite doll they met was a baby doll named Sassafras whose voice box was broken and could only say nautical phrases very loudly.

I did not enjoy this installment and felt that their problems were solved way too easily and could have even been solved sooner too. The side characters made up for the lack of action and good decision making. I will still probably read more books in the series if they are published. This set of books are so unique and I love to read them.

Kayla says

I didn't know a fourth Doll People book existed! Imagine my excitement when I wandered through the children's section at the library and happened to glance at this wonder. I read the original three books when I was a child but by the time this book was published I was old enough to be out of the juvenile fiction sector. This fourth tale brought back so many happy memories of these stories and a happy childhood-time in my life. The plot was well constructed and fun. The characters were just as full of life as I remember and of course I appreciate the wonderful illustrations! It was great to rekindle this flame of a story!

I Love to Read! says

This book was a great finish to the Doll People Series. It wasn't the best book of the whole series, but I still enjoyed reading it.

Sally says

I noticed that a number of reviewers on Goodreads did not especially like this 4th book in The Doll People series, but I liked it as much as the first book. In fact, I thought it was especially clever how the dolls could travel so far away from home, (on a boat all the way across the Atlantic from America to England) since they can only move around when no people are watching them. It was an added treat to meet other doll characters from different "homes" and backgrounds.

I have become addicted to listening to audiobooks, but sometimes there are ones that I feel I must have a hard copy. This series is one I picture myself reading to my youngest grandchild. She is not yet ready for sit-down-and-listen books, but when she is, I want to have a copy with pictures she can enjoy, too. I hope the author writes more of these stories.

Eileen W says

I like the first Doll People book the best, followed by Runaway Dolls (book #3). I didn't care as much for the Meanest Doll (book #2) or this one (book #4)....but my girls, ages 10 and 7, liked them all.

Angie says

This is book 4 in the Doll People saga, a beloved series in my home. This book has come after my children are too old for a "read aloud" experience. We all love the characters so much, though, that we continue to follow the books and read them independently. It plays off the Toy Story idea that dolls can be alive, and follows their adventures when the humans aren't around. A great series for families. In this entry, the dolls are inadvertently picked up by a charity when they are supposed to be going into the attic for a short spell. The adventures that ensue happen when the charity boxes are loaded onto a ship set for England! Will the Dolls & the Funcrafts make it back home to Connecticut? You must read to find out.

Kathryn says

Alas, I abandoned this ship. I have been a huge Doll People fan but this installment just felt too "been there, done that" looking for lost dolls. Only this time, it's on a ship. And even then I read almost half of this and they barely got out of their shipping box. I did like the Merdolls. It's not a bad book, maybe if I was seven or eight I would have still been spellbound. As is, too many other books demand my attention.

Melissa says

I would have given it 2 1/2 stars if available. It wasn't bad, just a sleepy slow-mover. Also poor Brett helquist, though super talented(I adore his roger the jolly pirate), was forced to follow in the footsteps of the unparalleled Brian Selznick. That's a tough job. :-)

Aaron says

This is one of my kiddy lit addictions, and I think it is largely because I was such a fan of Jim Henson's old special "The Christmas Toy." There is just something so fun about the idea that our toys come to life and have their own little adventures. This is the fourth book in a series starring a family of five Victorian Era, china dolls (owned by Kate) and their friends, a family of modern plastic dolls owned by Kate's little sister. This is the fourth book in the series.

This time, the girls are having to pack up their rooms because they are having them remodeled. The dolls and their homes are set to be put up in the attic with the rest of their things. Annabelle Doll and Tiffany Funcraft are definitely not looking forward to being trapped upstairs, particularly because the two friends have not been allowed to see each other since they were grounded for their previous adventure (last book), which had them exploring the Outside.

Well, things turn out to be less boring than they thought when the girls have to not only pack up things in their room, but they are being encouraged to pack up toys they no longer want. Those toys will be sent to an organization that sends toys to poor kids all over the world. As you have probably guessed, the boxes get confused and our doll families end up being shipped out.

They quickly find themselves on board a ship heading to England. Three of our doll friends end up falling out of their box while it is being loaded on board the ship, and the others need to try and find them before any of them are discovered by the humans. Along the way, they meet some new doll friends, including a family of mer-people, some foreign dolls, and even a superhero.

This book has all the things that make the earlier books fun. The new setting keeps things fresh. I really think this would be a fun readaloud to do with your kids just before bed, though I think that any 3rd grader could handle it on their own. I am curious as to whether there will be any more books in the series, but I will definitely be giving them a try if there are.

C Rude says

I loved this book it is a great sequel to the original three

Joy says

Read this book just last summer (2018) as an adult...still just as cute! Maybe didn't hold my interest quite as well as when I was younger, but still a good book series. Imagine if Toy Story got really cutsie; this would be the result.

Anessa says

Finished this as an audiobook on the three hour drive home for this weekend. Glad that I managed to finish this series that I started when I was younger (I think this is the last book?) It was nice to see the progression from attic to school/another house, park/department store, and then to a ship. These dolls really know how to get around. I like the character development in Tiffany and annebelle and how they were initially antithesis and now they've been balanced out independently.

?Jinglemarco? ?????? - ?????? (Nursery rhymes enthusiast)* says

I think this fourth installment to have nothing less than the other Doll People books, apart from some humanization of the dolls that I honestly can't recall from the previous books, and, really, the merdolls made this story! I just love them! ;D

My collection:

Emma says

I nearly cried with happiness at the end.

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

2.5 STARS
