



The Four-Story Mistake (Melendy Quartet)

By Elizabeth Enright

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Into the Four-Story Mistake, an odd-looking house with a confused architectural history, move the Melendy family -- Mona, Rush, Randy, Oliver, Father, and Cuffy, the housekeeper. Though disappointed about leaving their old brownstone in New York City, and apprehensive about living the country life, the four Melendy kids soon settle into this unusual new home. Here, they become absorbed in the adventures of the country, adjusting themselves with all their accustomed resourcefulness and discovering the many hidden attractions that the Four-Story Mistake has to offer.

The Four-Story Mistake is the second installment of Enright's Melendy Quartet, an engaging and warm series about the close-knit Melendy family and their surprising adventures.

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The Four-Story Mistake (Melendy Quartet) By Elizabeth Enright Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #30958 in Books
- Brand: Square Fish
- Published on: 2008-01-22
- Released on: 2008-01-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.64" h x 14.22" w x 5.18" l, .40 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Welcome Back! Old favorites are being reissued in force this fall. Elizabeth Enright's Melendy Quartet follows siblings Mona, Rush, Miranda (Randy, for short) and Oliver. First published in 1941, *The Saturdays* kicks off the series and centers on the foursome's Independent Saturday Afternoon Adventure Club (I.S.A.A.C.), an allowance-endowed venture formed so one lucky Melendy can enjoy a solo sojourn each week. In *The Four-Story Mistake* (1942) the family moves from their city brownstone to the country; Then *There Were Five* (1944) describes what happens when the siblings befriend an orphan; and in *Spiderweb* for *Two: A Melendy Maze* (1951), when everyone else leaves for school, Randy and Oliver are left to solve a mystery. The author's charming pen-and-inks punctuate all four volumes. (Sept.)

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Review

"The Melendys are the quintessential storybook family...[their] ardent approach to living is eternally relevant." *Publishers Weekly*

About the Author

Elizabeth Enright (1909-1968) was born in Oak Park, Illinois, but spent most of her life in or near New York City. Her mother was a magazine illustrator, while her father was a political cartoonist. Illustration was Enright's original career choice and she studied art in Greenwich, Connecticut; Paris, France; and the Parson's School of Design in New York City. After creating her first book in 1937, she developed a taste, and quickly demonstrated a talent, for writing.

Throughout her life, she won many awards, including the 1939 John Newbery Medal for *Thimble Summer* and a 1958 Newbery Honor for *Gone-Away Lake*. Among her other beloved titles are her books about the Melendy family, starting with *The Saturdays*, published in 1941. Enright also wrote short stories for adults, and her work was published in *The New Yorker*, *The Ladies Home Journal*, *Cosmopolitan*, *The Yale Review*, *Harper's*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*. She taught creative writing at Barnard College. Translated into many languages throughout the world, Elizabeth Enright's stories are for both the young and the young at heart.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Judy Finley:

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Lorraine Vargas:

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Isaac Lewis:

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Margaret Pace:

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