



Heidi: Adapted for Young Readers (Dover Children's Thrift Classics)

By Johanna Spyri

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Johanna Spyri's beloved tale of a delightful Swiss miss has captivated generations of readers. Set in the towering Swiss Alps, this story "for children and those who love children" tells of a cheerful, 5-year-old orphan who is sent to live with her hermit-like grandfather in a small hut high in a mountain pasture. Bursting with energy and an immense love of nature, Heidi proves to have remarkable, transforming powers over those people closest to her: Clara, a young lady from a wealthy German family, Peter, a goatherd, and Peter's blind grandmother. Even Heidi's pessimistic grandfather, the old Alm-Uncle, eventually accepts and enjoys the healing effects of Heidi's innocence, sensitivity, and love.

Translated into many languages, Heidi has also captured the hearts of countless motion picture and television audiences with its heartwarming story of the joys and sorrows of childhood. This abridged version of the novel retains all the enchantment of the original edition and is sure to charm young readers today as much as it did when first published over a century ago.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Johanna Spyri's classic story of a young orphan sent to live with her grumpy grandfather in the Swiss Alps is retold in its entirety in this beautifully bound hardcover edition. *Heidi* has charmed and intrigued readers since its original publication in 1880. Much more than a children's story, the narrative is also a lesson on the precarious nature of freedom, a luxury too often taken for granted. Heidi almost loses her liberty as she is ripped away from the tranquility of the mountains to tend to a sick cousin in the city. Happily, all's well that ends well, and the reader is left with only warm, fuzzy thoughts. Spyri's story will never grow wearisome--and this is a very appealing edition. --*Naomi Gesinger*

From Publishers Weekly

This truncated retelling of orphan Heidi's simple life in the Swiss Alps and her sojourn in the big city seems almost as indebted to the Shirley Temple film as to Johanna Spyri's 1880 novel. Krupinski's (A New England Scrapbook) heroine mimics Temple, curls, button nose and all, though she lacks the actress's expressive smile and gestures. Similarly blank-faced characters contrast with Krupinski's serene, lushly idealized landscape paintings: the people seem like wax dolls, but the glowing blankets of flowers make the Alps heaven on earth. The text emphasizes the sensual joys of fresh goat's milk, fir trees "with their piney scent," Heidi's sweet-smelling bed in her grandfather's hay loft, etc., but that is its only demonstrable strength. Both Heidi's relationship with her grandfather and the idealized subplot about wheelchair-bound Klara's learning to walk are woodenly described; little space is given to dialogue and even less to Heidi's emotions. The plot, too, is severely condensed: "Many more good things happened after that day." The book succeeds as a portrayal of the joys of mountain life, but otherwise fails to do justice to Spyri's story of a girl's courage and persistence. Ages 5-9.

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From School Library Journal

PreSchool-Grade 3—The text in this picture-book version of the story flows smoothly while incorporating many incidents from the original. Dusíková's watercolor illustrations feature rosy-cheeked children, cuddly goats, and flowering hillside pastures. The images enhance the narrative and reveal enough in themselves for browsers to understand the basic plot. Although not an essential purchase, the book provides an attractive option for those wishing to introduce the classic tale to a young audience.—*Kathy Piehl, Minnesota State University, Mankato*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Genoveva Johnson:

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Patrick Cartwright:

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Walter Feuerstein:

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