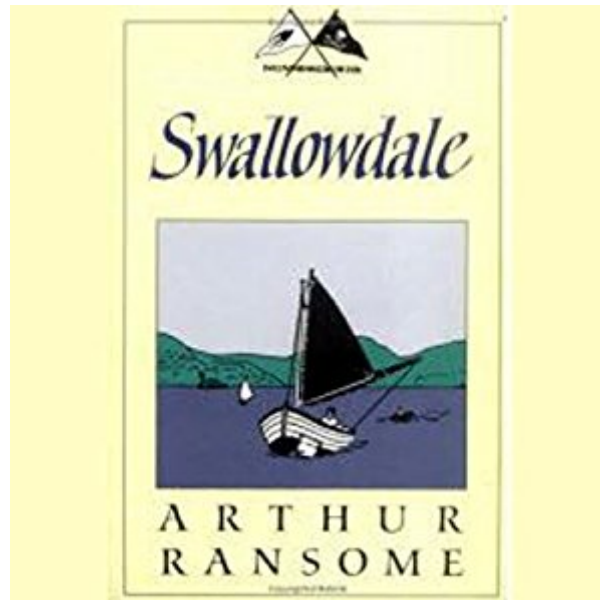




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# Swallowdale: Swallows And S Series



## Synopsis

The beautiful second volume in the cherished adventure series that the Guardian called “the 1930s equivalent of JK Rowling.” The Swallows and their friends return to their lakeside home (in England’s Lake District in the 1930s) bursting with grand schemes for the summer—camping, hiking, fishing and exploring. But a shipwreck and an impending visit from a Great-Aunt threaten to foil all their plans. Never fear: the discovery of a hidden valley and a secret cave lend new excitement to their days! The sequel to *Swallows and Amazons*, *Swallowdale* is charming and imaginative, yet firmly rooted in the reality of nature. *Swallowdale* will “capture the imagination of the Harry Potter generation” (Guardian) and will be treasured by generations to come. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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## Customer Reviews

I wish I could be a Swallow or an Amazon. It was great fun to read about the adventures these kids came up with and their idyllic lifestyle. This is also an interesting (if fictional) view of hands-off parenting: the mother gladly sends her children on their independent adventure to an island with just a few guidelines about touching base infrequently. This book's greatest strength and weakness is that it lacked serious conflict and did not suck me in. I was able to put the book down...and I found that pleasant for a change, since I normally gulp in one sitting. I read some, put it down for a few days, went back and read some more. I wish that today's literature had not built up a desire in me and in so many others to have serious, high conflict. I'm glad the kids were never in grave danger or trying to save the world. They had adventures, but I was never terrified for their lives and just enjoyed their

good-natured battles and explorations.

While "Swallows and s" was written in the 1930s that doesn't mean there isn't a lot here, especially for children who love the thought of adventure without their parents. Parents will appreciate the metaphors and poetry of the book; young readers will love the idyllic adventure on a lake island in the last warm days of summer holidays in the North of England. (This was the first long book I read as a child. One of the unintended consequences of this was that it gave me confidence to tackle other longer, more complex books.)

Child rearing seems to have been very different at the beginning of the previous century where young children are allowed to sail to rocky island alone and spend the days camping relatively unsupervised. Although children today are generally not permitted to do this (probably be arrested for child endangerment), children can still read this book and dream about how it was or it could be. Briefly the story is about two groups of children, a group of four siblings - the Swallows, and the other, two sisters - the s, who are enamored with sailing and of being outdoors and live a rich fantasy revolving around these two desires. The two groups are at first in conflict over who controls the island, but after a challenge settles the issue join forces to thwart skullduggery that casts unfair blame on the Swallows. The book might be a bit slow in the beginning for younger readers, but once the two groups meet, it takes off and is exciting in a very innocent way. These are children being children, not children trying to young adults, making it very different from much contemporary fiction aimed at tweens/young teenagers.

This delightful book was first published in 1930 and, logically reflects the ethos and morals of the time. The story is set in the Lake District of Northern England and relates the adventures of two groups of children; John, Susan Titty and Roger, who are on holiday there, make up the Swallows, while Nancy and Peggy, who live there, are the s. I first read this story when I was about twelve years old and have read the series of books several times in the last sixty years. As the introduction says, this book is about sailing, camping, fishing, swimming and piratical exploits on an uncharted lake (which bears a striking resemblance to Lake Windermere). The freshness of the early mornings on Wild Cat Island, the long days of sunshine, the challenge of lighting the camp fire and the unbridled pleasure of "Messing around in boats" totally enthralled me as a reader and gave me a life-long interest in sailing boats and camping. A delightful first book in an enthralling series. I highly recommend it to you. Steve Aldridge

One of the best stories ever told. The whole series is excellent; it gets progressively more sophisticated. This first volume is probably best for around 8-10 year old children.

This is the one you "start" with (but it won't be your last, I promise you...) Our kids enjoyed this series when they were small, and occasionally re-visit them even as adults. Of course, anyone interested in small-boat sailing, or curious about the Lakes District of England will want to give these a "once-over" at least.... Arthur Ransome was an interesting fellow who also wrote in other genres. Look him up for his experiences of the Russian revolution and other topics as well. But by all means, get these for your kids---not only will they thank you, but you'll enjoy them too. Especially if you hope your children develop an interest in small-boat sailing/handling.

Not a book for children per se. Its a long read with quite a few paragraphs that can be skipped entirely and the story won't suffer

Been a fan of this series for more than 40 years; my Dad introduced me to them when I was in grade school. I recently started re reading them when I found out they are now available as Kindle eBooks. I was very happy to find I still enjoy them; this is one series that the 'suck fairy' has not visited, at least to my tastes....

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