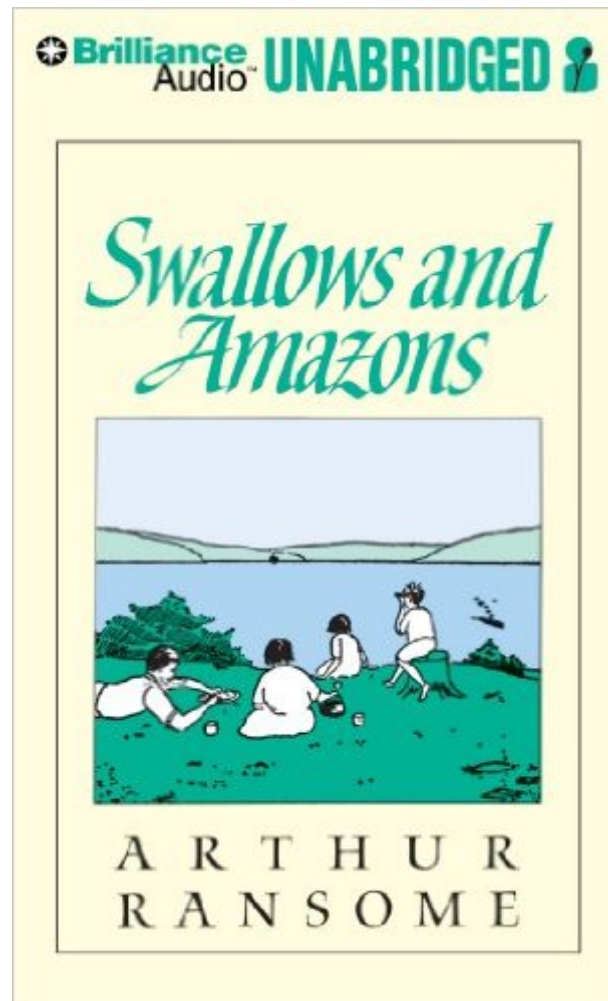


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# Swallows And S (Swallows And S Series)



## Synopsis

The first title in Arthur Ransome's classic series, originally published in 1930: for children, for grownups, for anyone captivated by the world of adventure and imagination. *Swallows and Claws* introduces the lovable Walker family, the camp on Wild Cat Island, the able-bodied catboat *Swallow*, and the two intrepid sisters, Nancy and Peggy Blackett. "The author really does know how to write for children: in other words, he writes of what he himself delights in and so pleases without any effort both young and old." "The Nation" "This book is both silvery present and golden retrospect. All that is tedious and sullen and deceptive vanishes in its sunniness as clouds vanish in the tempered air of a summer day.... We think that the book will last, too, from edition unto edition." "Saturday Review

## Book Information

Series: Swallows and Claws Series (Book 1)

Audio CD

Publisher: Brilliance Audio; Unabridged edition (January 20, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1455849243

ISBN-13: 978-1455849246

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.1 x 5.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (205 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #524,391 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in Books > Books on CD >

Children's Fiction > Classics #286 in Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > General #481

in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Sports

## Customer Reviews

I didn't discover Ransome's series until I was in my 20s, but I picked the first one up out of curiosity and was hooked. As a child, I was a great explorer, going all over the local landscape, giving names to the different topographical features. I loved to camp and ramble. I loved boating, although I never sailed, and a picnic on an island in the river nearby (and a chance to explore said island on my own while everyone else was fishing) was a joy I'll never forget. This book, and the others in the series, recapture those happy days for me. This one is very innocent, with no real violence or menace, but full of joyful adventure. The children are great role models; they're feisty and independent, yet still respectful of their elders. They're imaginative but know when to set aside their fantasies and deal

with realities. The book also conveys the joy of adventure and the great outdoors, and also shows that everyone has something important to contribute. Sure, one member of the group might be more interested in cooking and provisions, but that's necessary. The adults take a back seat in these books, generally, but they're there. This one, especially, can be seen as a test by the parents to see how responsible their children are, and it's implicit that the kids are doing their best to prove themselves to their parents. The parents don't neglect them, they're there if they're needed, and check up on them regularly, but they also give them space to ramble and have an adventure. Today it may seem as if these parents are letting their kids run wild; but I think families today could use books like this. When you have kids who are shuttled back and forth to band practice and swim team and heaven knows what else, they need the time to just relax and let things happen.

Arthur Ransome's "Swallows and s" is the first in a classic series of children's stories that will appeal to readers of all ages. The book is set in the English Lake District in the period between the two World Wars, (where the author was living at the time). It tells of a time when a healthy imagination (and the freedom to take advantage of it) was enough to keep most youngsters both amused and out of mischief. The world was a safer and simpler place back then and this book does much to make us realise just how much has been irretrievably lost since. Not that this was ever Ransome's intention, of course. He was simply drawing upon his own boyhood experiences (from a yet earlier time) as well as contemporary ones of the children of a family friend. He used these to weave an enchanting tale that would remind those same children (by then returned 'home' to the deserts of the Middle East) of a happy summer spent sailing in England. The story's strong basis in reality (albeit several separate realities, as it were), tempered with Ransome's love of sailing (and his knowledge of Lake District life), imbue the book with a strong sense of authority. Both the text and the author's own pen-and-ink illustrations also have an endearing charm that comes across even now, some 70 years after the book was first published. One of the great things about this book (and indeed, the whole series of books that was to follow) is that Ransome avoids most of the stereotypical treatments of children's roles that his contemporaries (as well as later authors) continually espoused. He always manages to treat (nearly!) all of his characters as equal partners in their activities, whatever their age, gender or background.

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