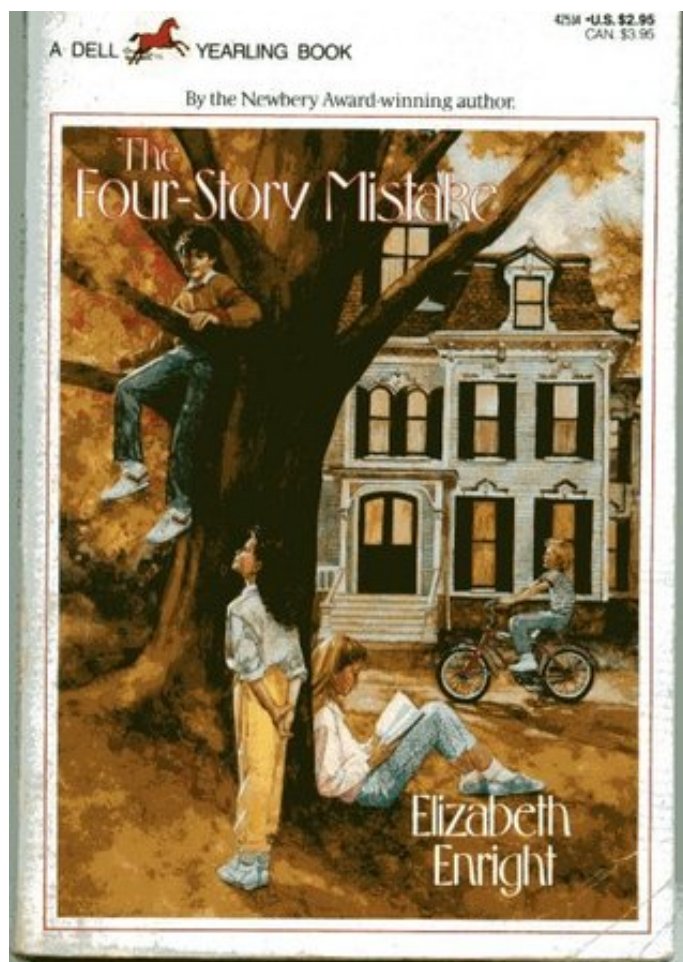

Elizabeth Enright

The Four-Story Mistake (The Melendy Family #2)



Title: The Four-Story Mistake (The Melendy Family #2)

Author: Elizabeth Enright

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Description

Meet the Melendys! Mona, the eldest, is thirteen. She has decided to become an actress and can recite poetry at the drop of a hat. Rush is twelve and a bit mischievous. Miranda is ten and a half. She loves dancing and painting pictures. Oliver is the youngest. At six, he is a calm and thoughtful person. They all live with their father, who is a writer, and Cuffy, their beloved housekeeper, who takes on the many roles of nurse, cook, substitute mother, grandmother, and aunt. Elizabeth Enright's Melendy Quartet, which captures the lively adventures of a family as they move from the city to the country, are being published in new editions. Each of the books features a foreward and signature black-and-white interior illustrations by the author. Popular artist Tricia Tusa provides irresistible new cover art that will appeal to today's readers.

Insightful reviews

Maureen E: by Elizabeth Enright

Asking me to choose a favorite book from this series would be like asking me to choose a favorite Melendy: it could be done, but it would be painful, and I'd really rather not have to. But I have to admit that *The Four-story Mistake* is definitely high on the list. [The Saturdays](#) is a wonderful introduction to the Melendys and Cuffy and Willy Sloper, but with the Melendys move from New York City to the country we begin the real business of the series. (Don't ask me what that is. I don't know. It just sounded like a nice phrase.)

At the beginning of this book the Melendy children are saying goodbye to their home as they prepare to go with Cuffy (nurse, housekeeper and friend) to their new house. I love the opening: "Well, thank goodness there aren't gong to be any more children here anyway!" said Randy crossly. She spoke crossly because she was sad and she preferred sounding cross to sounding sorrowful, even though there was no one in the room except herself. Nobody and nothing, for that matter: her words had the particular ringing echo that is heard only in entirely empty rooms."

I love Mona, who's the oldest like me, and Rush, who's the kind of big brother I don't have but like. I love Randy, who's my favorite if you really make me tell you, and I love Oliver, because he makes me laugh. I love the Four-story Mistake too, with all of its secrets and exciting discoveries. These are wonderful books, and I'm so glad that I grew up on them like I did. They're sweet without being saccharine; that kind of sweet that works because it's also real.

Book source: public library

Book information: Henry Holt, 1942 (originally)

April Knapp: This series was published originally in the 1940s, though this is my first introduction to the books. I found them to be nothing special, but they are pleasant stories about loving siblings.

This series is not my cup of tea. If you enjoy saccharine sweet stories, like *The Boxcar Children*,

and believing that the 40s and 50s were simpler, more innocent times (I don't buy it :-)), then you might enjoy these books.

I don't think this series stands the test of time-they seem a bit outdated. Enright is excellent with words, but I found her plots uninteresting and her characters typical. There is very little character development. I have absolutely no interest in knowing what happens to the Melendy siblings, so I will not be reading the last two books of the series.

Charity: My kids put this audiobook on during lunchtimes and car trips around town, and while I listened carefully to some parts, others got lost in the background of other things that caught my attention, like hemming my son's pants (which takes all of my brain power). Usually I don't bother hemming my son's pants. I just cuff them or let him walk on them until his legs grow into them, but these are the pants for the little suit he's wearing to my brother's wedding. If I had been willing to cut them off, it would have been easier, but I wanted to retain the length so he could wear them again if either of the two remaining unmarried siblings decided to enter into matrimony before he outgrows his size 7 trousers.

So you see, I was a bit distracted from the adventures of the Melendy children, especially during the last chapter of the book.

But what I heard and actually listened to, I quite liked. I loved the ice skating excursion and the menagerie in the police officer's house and Rush's unexpected breakfast in the woods. The descriptions of the landscape and the seasons drew me in, especially the description of the unfolding spring, although that might just be because Enright mentions spring peepers; I love spring peepers.

Even though we're heading to the library this afternoon and could take it back, this audiobook isn't due for a couple of weeks, so we're going to hold onto it and listen through it again, I think. Maybe I can pay attention better this time, or at least pay attention at different parts than I did this time so that I get the whole story.

Linda Lipko: there's not anything incredible approximately it, no advanced plot, no tricky tale line, and there's no web page turning, can't wait to get to the top feeling. But, there's a calm feel of wonderment concerning the means during which the writer painted an idyllic early life of 4 gorgeous young children who have been uprooted from a home within the urban to a wide mansion-like constitution within the country. There is a loving widowed father, a nanny who's variety and gentle, a dog, and hot meals and funky drink. There are streams, tree houses, wintry ponds for ice skating, motorcycles for riding, fields with mild breezes that rustle the flowers, summer time storms that necessitate the lighting fixtures of candles, crisp leaves of merry colour and a hidden, mysterious room to be explored. Reading this publication is sort of a sluggish stroll down a beautiful fall lane, like a gradual summer time rain, like a lovely, gleaming wintry weather snowstorm and prefer a box of spring daffodils. Recommended for somebody who wishes a holiday from tension that calls for balm for a weary soul.

Qt: one other totally fascinating and pleasant Melendy publication :-)) i actually love Elizabeth Enright's writing and the way she makes daily information so special.

Emily: i have now learn aloud the 1st Melendy books to my son, who's having fun with them, which yes, up to i actually love them, is a shock to me. Enright's practical (if no longer regularly solely plausible) relatives tales are a bit old-fashioned; they're character-driven, episodic, and entire of references to musicians and actors and different high-culture varieties such a lot nine-year-olds have not heard of. My son additionally seems acutely aware that his curiosity in them is a bit unexpected. "I have no idea why i love the Melendy books," he acknowledged to me the opposite day, apropos of nothing. I tentatively recommended a few reasons. "Probably you're keen on them as the writer writes fairly well, and she or he describes issues so that you think like you are relatively seeing, smelling, and listening to them. you are feeling such as you are correct there with the Melendys, and also you virtually are one in all them." i am not certain if that chuffed him, yet he did not disagree. Anyway, we accomplished this one tonight, and he requested what the subsequent one used to be called. "Then there have been Five," I said. "Oh, so one other baby joins the family?" he said. (view spoiler)[This is correct. (hide spoiler)] "And the final one's Spiderweb For Two. that is my favorite" "Oh," he said, "I bet in that one Father and Cuffy have a spider problem." (view spoiler)[This isn't correct. (hide spoiler)] He obtained offended while I cracked up.["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>["br"]>

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