



# Wendy

*Karen Wallace*

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**Wendy** Karen Wallace

**Wendy's imagination never runs away from her -- it flies.**

Wendy Darling is not the perfect girl her parents would like her to be. Intrepid, outspoken, and willful, she's always getting into trouble. One evening, confined to the nursery by her horrible nanny, she sneaks out to spy on one of her parents' glamorous parties.

Their world is lavish, rich with excess -- and off limits to Wendy. On this evening Wendy uncovers a secret she had not bargained for. It catapults both her and her brothers, Michael and John, into a series of confusing events as she tries to make sense of the mystery and intrigue that lie at the heart of her family.

## Wendy Details

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Author : Karen Wallace

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## From Reader Review Wendy for online ebook

### Connie says

**Where did you get this book?** this book was 20p from a Library clearance sale.

This book follows the life of Wendy Darling in an average old style London, there's no magic, there's no mystery, this is normal life through the eyes of a child and there's something low-key magical about it. Her approach to life and how she deals with various situations presents something so clear but I also feel like this book, for being set in my favourite universe, was a little lacklustre. I wanted more than just one mention of Peter Pan at the end of the book to be honest, and I wanted more drama than her father kissing another woman and being a drunkard. I just feel as though life is beautiful and magical, and I think this book portrayed this kind of, but it also missed something.

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### Abigail Carter says

(3.5 stars) One of my childhood favourites!

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### R. C. says

I was pre-reading this to see if it was appropriate for my eight-year-old, who wants to read every Peter Pan related book written in English.

It was entirely realistic with not a touch of fantasy. After spending so many pages observing this perceptive little girl's agony, caused by her precocious ability to empathize with adult problems like adultery and financial ruin, the author provides us only an overly simplistic resolution that no one older than fourteen could believe really helps anything get better. When her contact with Peter is finally foreshadowed, the author insinuates that he's the product of an emotionally deprived child's head trauma.

A sad and pointless story. I'm not letting my kid touch this with a ten foot pole.

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### Steph says

The pre-Peter Pan story, really has nothing to do with the magical Neverland at all. Honestly, the characters didn't have much of a resemblance to what would be later to come.

Wendy Darling and her brothers are not having a fantastic time. They have a horrible Nanny who is abusive, their parents do not get along, and their "friends" treat them like crap. The end wraps up neatly with resolutions that are unrealistic.

For a book that was clearly written for a much younger audience (large font and double spaced), the story dealt with mature topics that Wendy only brushed at. I feel that it was heavy but unexplained. If the author is going to walk that path, I think the audience should have been changed and the plots hashed out more.

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## PurplyCookie says

Using Wendy Darling from "**Peter Pan**" as her focal point, Wallace re-creates the upstairs-downstairs world of Edwardian society that was both hypocritical and destructive to its children. Nine-year-old Wendy is aware of how little sway she has in her home. The nanny can hit her and her brothers and routinely fill them with castor oil, and her oblivious mother doesn't notice.

To gain power, Wendy becomes a spy and in so doing learns something she doesn't want to know--her father is having an affair. When she sees her father kiss Lady Cunningham on the mouth, Wendy is confused and stunned. After she and her brothers are sent to Uncle Arthur's country estate for the summer, Mr. Darling sinks lower, crashing his car while driving drunk, losing all of his money, and getting fired from his job.

Wendy loves being at Rosegrove, where she is able to see Thomas, a teenager considered "soft in the head." Seeing her mother hugging him confuses Wendy even more. She eventually learns that Thomas is her brother, who was not perfect enough for her father.

In a rapid and pat conclusion, Mr. Darling reforms, the Cunninghams move away, and Thomas's artistic abilities are recognized. Wallace draws an interesting portrait of the world of the privileged classes in early-20th-century London.

There are some elements of fantasy: Wendy can read the thoughts of Nana, the big black Newfoundland that dispenses advice; and her final dream of flying comes from a creation of Thomas's mind, a young boy who would never grow up.

But who is the audience for this novel? Wendy, while old for her years, is only nine, yet the themes seem more appropriate for older readers. She sees something that changes her life forever, which is perhaps why she chose to visit Peter in Neverland.

A major theme in Barrie's "**Peter Pan**" is that children can have perfectly happy home lives and still wish to fly away, just to see what's out there, confident in the belief that they can always come home, that Mother will leave a window open. Wallace completely ignores this concept. Most of the time it just seemed like a completely different novel whose characters happened to have the same name as the Darlings.

More of Purplycookie's Reviews @: <http://www.goodreads.com/purplycookie>

### Book Details:

Title Wendy

Author Karen Wallace

Reviewed By Purplycookie

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## **Diana says**

### Wendy

By Karen Wallace

307 pages

Simon Pulse

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Wendy Darling is a simple girl who doesn't ask for much, just that she wants some love and care from her family. She wants to get away from the supervision of the unreasonable nanny who's been working for the Darling's family since Wendy and her two younger brothers, John and Michael, were born. Every day, the three kids would be supervised by their nanny and they aren't allowed to do anything besides doing what they're told to do by the unfair nanny. It wasn't until one day when both Wendy and Michael sneaked out of their rooms to watch the attendance of each person entering their house to attend the party hosted by their parents. This is when the secret begins to reveal, and it leads to more mystery and questions floating in the mind of young teenage Wendy about her family.

The writing style of Karen Wallace leads me to read at an unstoppable pace. When I began reading the book, I wasn't too interested and was about to give up, but when the interesting part came, my hands couldn't get off the book. The description of the actions that were being done by the characters in the book made you want to watch it in person. Although there were times when I was confused with what I'm reading, the rest of the paragraph made me get back into place, which I thought she used good context clues to clue me back into the picture.

I would recommend this book for young adult readers because kids younger than this age group wouldn't really be able to understand what's happening in the story. This story is kind of saddening and only readers around this age group might be able to feel how Wendy is feeling and think like how Wendy is thinking. For kids so young, they wouldn't understand what the decisions made are and they especially wouldn't know why those decisions were applied. In general, mostly young adult readers would be suitable for reading this book.

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## **Laura says**

This book was like poison. Half-way through I had to put it down and give up on its ever getting better. This book for me totally ruins the magical world of Peter Pan.

It is suppose to be Wendy's Pre-Peter Pan world. It doesn't paint a very pretty one. This novel seems bent on portraying every worse case scenario that could happen to children in Victorian England. It is filled with petty, shallow, and immoral characters. Wendy is continually hurt and betrayed by the adults in her life. From this author's perspective, it is easy to see why Wendy would never want to grow up and become an adult. If I were her, I would have run away to Neverland, too!

Bad things kept on occurring to the children in the book, but I finally put it down in disgust when it became apparent that Wendy's adored and child-like mother was having an affair with a mentally handicapped 15 year old boy. I don't know why this novel was so critically acclaimed and praised, but it definitely painted pictures that I didn't want to read!

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## **G says**

[Written: 4-14-2004, Edited: 8-7-2017] This was a great story centering on the witty female character of the original Peter Pan, Wendy Darling. Despite the barely there, but-present sexual content -- which there was very little, thank goodness -- the story was compelling.

Wendy Darling's hardships centered around her misunderstanding and misinterpretations of her father's affairs is intriguing, and makes Wendy's character hard not to like. Wendy is struggling to grasp a situation she has lived outside of, uninvolved, for most of her life. To be thrust into it without really broaching the subject face-to-face with her family, reveals all sorts of interesting things about her as a character through Karen Wallace's interpretation of the character.

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## **Tiffany says**

First off, I'm not sure if I liked this book. You know how you read a book and you instantly know if you hated or liked it? I'm somewhere in the middle. I WOULD have liked it if it were something OTHER than what it was trying to be. I think I didn't like it because I THOUGHT Peter Pan would be in it, but he's not....

The cover and the presumption that the book was based on Peter Pan tainted the book for me. I will admit that I had my mind set on one thing and when the book turned out to be something else it was a bit of a let down and I believe this is why I didn't like. I assume This was meant to be a "dark side of Peter Pan" a twist on fairy tales that a lot of authors have been doing for some time now.

Well let's get this out of the way first, by now if you've read my reviews you know that I have issues with people dumbing down their books. However I found this book fairly well written, has great vocabulary and I easily could imagine the setting they were in. The characters seemed lively, the author did a very nice job making me hate the nanny. Which I always seem to feel bad for the characters when an evil one is made. I always seem to make up some kind of excuse for why they are the way they are and with the nanny I couldn't find a reason. She was crude and mean to the kids for no reason. I enjoyed hating her. With this out of the way...

I GUESS (I mean by now I can only guess what the Author is trying to do.) the author was trying to show the reasons why Wendy was so eager to never grow up and fly away with Peter later on in life? In the story she is nine year's old and has to face some intense adult situations. The family being realistic with depression, irresponsible money spending, and the children being neglected while abused by a nanny. I understand what the Author was trying to do, trying to give us a tale before Wendy was really Wendy, and how bad of a life she and her family had to get over in order to be the "happy" family we know from the stories. I just didn't care for it.

I tried to connect this to what this has to do with Peter Pan and how it holds up, ultimately it doesn't. It really doesn't make sense, this could be ANY family at the time. It was as if the only common ground between an old fashion tale and this book was the names.

Again I believe I didn't like the book because I had it set up as something else. The book itself I will

probably forget in a day or two, it didn't really stick with me and I'll probably never pick it up again. I hope this doesn't prevent me from reading more of Karen Wallace's work because I did like the style of writing.

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### **Erin says**

I was curious to see the author's take on Wendy's life before Peter Pan. I didn't like it. I was interested at first, but the further on the book went, the more dissatisfied I became. By the end, I didn't appreciate the way the story had gone and I decided that I'm fine with the Peter Pan story I knew before. This didn't make it any more magical or meaningful. It just complicated things a bit more, and actually made some of the characters quite unlikable. I hated how Mr. Darling was a cheating, drunken mess. Yes, he had issues at the start of the original story, but this turned him into an outright monster. His miraculous turn-around at the conclusion of the book was not believable. And the identity/story of the the boy who is (or rather becomes...) Peter Pan? No. I'm sorry but... no. Let's stick with a young, unknown boy who flies through the window please.

All together, I didn't appreciate this book as much as I wanted to. I think the idea of the story *before* Peter Pan came is a fascinating one. It just wasn't accomplished very well in this book.

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### **Abby-Rose Viveiros says**

Meh.

I was really excited to read this one, and in the end I just found it plain disappointing.

First, it's marketed as a prequel; it's not, really. More of an alternative, "If Wendy made up the whole thing, including Peter, in her head, and based it on somebody else, what would have led her to do this?" sorta thing.

(Or maybe it's actually not; that was a huge part of my problem with this book. It felt like it was trying to have it both ways. The slow brother was the inspiration for Peter Pan, but no wait, we're meant to believe this is ALSO a straight-up prequel? Talk about trying to have your cake and eat it too!)

Second, it's well written but the story feels all over the place. We really didn't need to know about Wendy and John's nasty friends, and the George Darling having an affair deal could have been better handled, or at least had a point to it.

I was going to give it one star, but the prose has it's nice moments and it's a decent Edwardian-style novel, so I took pity and gave it two stars.

Don't recommend.

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### **Nessy96 says**

I don't really know what to think about this book it was really weird.....

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### **Alison says**

For those interested in Peter Pan and his fantasy world this is not the book. I first read this book when I was six (before knowing who or what Peter Pan was) and I absolutely loved this book. I loved the characters and how they developed. There are a lot of reviews here looking down on the book because they were expecting it to be magical, as it is quite misleading. But this book takes the story of Peter Pan and paints it in a realistic way from the pov of Wendy an insightful girl full of questions. Though my own mother let me read this book at a very young age I would say the age bracket for this book would be from eight upwards. As it touches on serious topics of troubled family life and strained marriage (trying to keep it vague as to not spoil the book.) This book for me was a fascinating read but be warned it is not the magical Peter Pan you are expecting. This is the real world for Wendy Darling experiencing issues that hit hard to home for many people. This book may not be for everyone but I adored it.

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### **Kathryn Parry says**

What a depressing little read. No connection to Peter Pan apart from the names and a sure way of spoiling the magic of Peter Pan.

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### **Kelly says**

Ok this might be the worst book I've ever read. And I've read A LOT of books. I mean it was confusing and things were so sudden. One minute the family is separate and rich. A few chapters later the father crashes his car, loses his job, drinks himself into a drunken stupor ever night, is found in an affair, and goes broke. Then in the end all the sudden the father sells off his car, loves the mother again, Wendy is super happy, Letitia moves away, and the father finds a job again? And this all happened in what? 6 pages? This book has kind of ruined any book revolving around the whole Peter Pan theme for me. I can safely say that this book completely and totally SUCKS!

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