



# Lulu and the Dog from the Sea

*Hilary McKay*

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## **Lulu and the Dog from the Sea** Hilary McKay

Lulu befriends a stray dog while on vacation

Lulu loves animals. When Lulu goes on vacation, she finds there's a stray dog living on the beach. Everyone in the town thinks the dog is trouble. But Lulu is sure he just needs a friend, and that he's been waiting for someone just like her. The second book in this early chapter book series for young animal lovers.

## **Lulu and the Dog from the Sea Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2011 by Scholastic

ISBN : 9781407117928

Author : Hilary McKay

Format : Paperback 108 pages

Genre : Realistic Fiction, Childrens, Chapter Books, Animals, Dogs, Fiction

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## **From Reader Review Lulu and the Dog from the Sea for online ebook**

### **Diana says**

Lulu and her family soon discover that the stray dog from the sea, who has been living at the beach by the sand dunes, is a thief and a menace, while staying in a 4 room cottage off a bumpy, potholed road. Lulu decides on her vacation to tame the dog and make friends with him because the dog seems lonely. Melanie is Lulu's 7 year old cousin and they are best friends although they have different hobbies since Melanie likes to make kites and Lulu loves dozens of animals immensely. While Lulu's mother reads her book and the dad smuggles rocks, a problem arises when Melanie falls with a hurt ankle and the dog who was abandoned as a pup, that the whole town wants to catch, is now chasing bubbles and a frisbee. You'll love the conclusion of this adventurous story, especially if you love animals! Very nice illustrations compliment the book.

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### **Karen Burt says**

This is a great book for 3rd-5th grade. It has characters that are likable and offers action, heart, friendship and a scruffy dog. (Who doesn't love a scruffy dog?) Lulu, her best friend Mellie (who is also Lulu's cousin) and Lulu's parents set out on a vacation at the beach. They arrive at a cottage they have rented and the cottage owner greets them. She informs them of a stray dog that is very bothersome that will steal your food at night and get into the trash creating a huge mess. Shortly after being informed about this stray dog they are introduced abruptly as they see a scruffy blur grab their dogs' food and run. Lulu, an animal lover, takes an immediate liking to this dog and makes it her goal to become his friend. Kids will relate to the dog (as Lulu does) because he is cunning, smart and lovable in his own way. He is a survivor and just needs someone to love him, and that someone is Lulu.

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### **Jademcuffey says**

I think that this book should be rated a three of five stars because this is a book that a fifth or a lower level sixth grader might read. However this book is adventurous, detailed, and well thought out. I would recommend this book if you had a little sister like I do. She enjoyed the book Lulu and The Dog From the Sea because it reminds her of our dog and enjoyable moments that we have had at the beach.

Lulu and The Dog From the Sea is about eight and nine year old cousins that experience many horrible, but exciting vacations together. Lulu is an animal lover that has many pets living in her house hold. Melie on the other hand loves to clean and will clean for fun everyday and every night if she has to. If she is not cleaning she is drawing or painting. They both end up going to a cottage right along the shore of a beach. Then they figure out there is a mysterious creature that is on the hunt for survival so Lulu and Melie go out to make friends with this creature and realize that it is a dog that has had a horrible back story with his family. They take care, raise, protect, and save the dog from any harm and ride back happily to their hometown.

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## **Pinky says**

Oh, these Lulu books are so clever and cute! I feel like maybe I should be giving them five stars. If there were 1/2 stars, they would be 4 1/2. Lulu and Mellie and the gang are heading to the sea for the holiday and bring Sam, the dog, along with. The way Hilary McKay captures the way the parents are eying Sam on the car ride anticipating any possible motion sickness had me in stitches. It is so perfectly awful and hilarious at the same time. The family has ambitious plans for their holiday by the sea including training for a marathon (dad), reading a book a day (mom) and putting an unorganized mess of a kite together (Mellie). The girls befriend a stray dog that is being chased by the dog catchers all over town. Lulu's goal is to tame the dog in order to bring it home with her. Love these books.

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## **Katie Fitzgerald says**

This review also appears on my blog, [Read-at-Home Mom](#).

Lulu and the Dog from the Sea is Hilary McKay's second adventure about a young animal lover whose compassion for animals in need often leads her into trouble. Set during the summer, this story takes place at the beach, where Lulu and her family take a vacation with Lulu's best friend Mellie. On their first day in their vacation home, Lulu is warned not to befriend a stray dog who wreaks havoc on the neighborhood by digging through everyone's garbage cans, but she just can't help herself. The dog from the sea is obviously lonely - and hungry. Lulu is overwhelmed by the desire to save him, but to do so, she'll have to protect him from the local dog catcher as well as from angry neighbors who would do him harm. A subplot involves Mellie's difficulties with building a kite, the end result of which figures heavily into the fate of Lulu's new canine friend.

For more than two thirds of the story, I liked this book better than its predecessor, Lulu and the Duck in the Park. Whereas the first story focuses mostly on Lulu and her class at school, this second one delves deeper into her family dynamics, and into the personalities of Lulu's parents. Occasionally, it shifts points of view so we get to understand the thoughts of Lulu's own dog as well as the so-called dog from the sea. Lulu's empathy for animals gets transferred to the reader so that, dog lover or not, the reader becomes invested in the well being of this particular stray dog. The writing is strong and evocative, and at times, even funny. In particular, I enjoyed the moment in chapter three when Lulu's dog Sam reflects on the ill behavior of other dogs, and the narrator tells us that Sam would be surprised to learn that he himself is a dog. I also loved McKay's descriptions of the beach atmosphere. I felt as though I could practically breathe the sea air.

There is just one problem with this book, and for me, it was sort of a deal breaker. In the final moments of the story, when the tension mounts between the dog from the sea and his neighbors, the dog suddenly becomes Lassie. In episode after episode of Lassie, the famous collie has a sixth sense about his master, Timmy, and she is always running off to wells and mines and various dangerous places to rescue him. Essentially the same thing happens near the end of this book. I saw it coming, hoped desperately that it wouldn't happen, and then found myself rolling my eyes as the book jumped the shark in a way I could not really forgive. Will kids who love dogs find the ending believable? Perhaps. This series is very sweet and gentle, and readers who don't mind a mushy ending might buy into the easy way things wrap up for Lulu and the dog from the sea. For me, though, having read many chapter books, I thought this was too simple an

ending to an otherwise beautifully written book. I felt that the author owed the reader a more realistic and less cliched finale, and it dropped my Goodreads rating from five stars down to three.

Lulu and the Dog from the Sea is likely to appeal to fans of the first Lulu book, as well as to readers who like the Puppy Place, Vet Volunteers, and Critter Club series. It's also a nice family-oriented alternative to some of the other girl-centric chapter book series where crushes and girl drama have taken center stage.

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### **Betsy says**

Originally reviewed on Literaritea

Lulu and her cousin Mellie are back in another adventure involving new animals. This time, Lulu's parents are taking the girls to the beach. Upon arrival to their somewhat less-fancy-than-expected beach house, Lulu and her family are warned by the cottage owner that there is a stray dog in the area who's been a menace. They even have to take the stinky outdoor trash can in at night (Lulu's parents test this suggestion only to have to pick up trash the next morning). Lulu's animal-loving soul, however, sees beyond the dog's presumed bad nature to the lonely, hungry dog underneath. She befriends the dog, and he, in his turn, does Lulu and Mellie a big favor at the end of the book. Will Lulu and Mellie rescue the dog like he rescues them?

The Lulu books are just what early/transitional chapter books should be: tightly written with just the right amount of words/pictures for newly independent readers. Great characterization, good plot resolution, and solid relationships make these books winners! Recommended for 1st through 4th grade. Look for these books at bookstores or in your local library.

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### **Carol says**

Lulu and her family go to the beach for their vacation. The cottage is not the most comfortable place to stay. More potholes than road make up the driveway making it an adventure every time they need to go to town for something. Lulu's dad is "training" for a marathon and her mom just wants to read. Mellie, Lulu's cousin and best friend just wants to build a kite which is more difficult than expected. And Lulu...she only wants to befriend the dog from the sea. He has made a nuisance of himself with the locals causing them to call in the dogcatcher. The dog from the sea is an expert at evading them while living among the sand dunes and eating from garbage cans. Lulu knows he just needs someone to love him. Though their vacation wasn't perfect, the family had a great time together and Lulu added yet another member to her menagerie. This is a great intermediate series. Lulu is a wonderful and natural character for young girls to relate to.

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### **Ashley Green says**

Lulu is somewhat of an animal collector. Her home is filled with animals, and she is constantly cleaning up after them. When her family goes on vacation, they take her best friend, Mellie, and Mellie's parents take care of the animals. This vacation is different, though. A grumpy cottage owner greets them at their week-long beach home by warning them about "the dog from the sea" who was a thief and a pest. Upon investigation, Lulu finds out that this dog simply has no home or family, as he was born in the wild and his family has been captured by the dogcatcher. She is determined to befriend this dog, and swiftly accomplishes

this goal. When the two girls find themselves in a sticky situation, the dog from the sea comes running to the rescue and secures his place as part of their family. This is a sweet, fiction book that will charm any animal loving 2-5 grader. It explores family and friendship, and highlights the ability to compromise.

Realistic Fiction

ALSC Notable Children's Books 2014

Mckay, H. (2013). Lulu and the dog from the sea. Albert Whitman & Company: Illinois.

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### **Madeline Coyne says**

Lulu and the Dog from the sea is a charming little book about a girl named Lulu and her cousin Mellie. Lulu loves pets and had two guinea pigs, four rabbits, one parrot, one hamster, a lot of goldfish and an old dog named Sam. She would go and visit her cousin all the time and they would do things together. Lulu, Mellie, Nan and Sam all go on vacation together. On vacation they find a dog that lives on the beach and scavenges for food. Lulu who loves animals is determined to take the dog home with her and love the dog. However, the dog is very scared of people. Lulu just wants to be friends with the dog. At the end of the book the girls are able to take back both dogs! This heartwarming story is something students would enjoy reading. Many children love dogs and pets in general. This book allows them to connect to Lulu and this poor sea dog! The illustration on the front of the book is very bright and is clearly drawn. The reader can see the book will contain a dog and a little girl and its near the beach due to the cute seashells surrounding the main photo. Throughout the book there is also pictures that help the reader visualize what is going on. They are in black and white and pencil drawn. They are very useful to the reader that needs to have some picture to help visualize what is going on. They are also a nice break in text. Overall the book was very well written and would be useful in an elementary classroom. It could help readers move from picture books to chapter books. It has a great storyline that many students might be able to easily access.

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### **Sarah Riney says**

Lulu and the Dog from the Sea

by Hilary McKay

Lulu and the Dog from the Sea is a great book to read. In this book you have Lulu a seven-year-old girl who loves animals. Lulu has two guinea pigs, four rabbits, one parrot, one hamster, lots of goldfish, and a dog named Sam. In her house the motto is the more the merrier, as long as Lulu picks up after them. This story begins with Lulu's parents deciding to take the family on a vacation to the sea. They rent a cottage by the sea and head off. Lulu brings along Mellie, her seven-year-old cousin and best friend. When they arrive Lulu's parents notice the cottage by the sea is not exactly what they expected. It is far from the beach, there is hardly any dishes, and the owner is very grouchy and warns the family about a stray, savage dog. When the girls hear about the dog they are delighted. They soon learn the backstory of the stray dog, through local restaurant folk. He was born behind a restaurant, the Golden Lotus, his mother and sisters were taken by the dogcatcher, he survives by stealing food from picnics and trashcans and by avoiding people. The girls find ways to lure the dog their way by bribing him with food. One morning the girls decide to take Mellie's kite out. The girls get lost and the dog from the sea has to overcome his fear of adults and lead them to the lost girls. Do you think the dog from the sea will overcome his fear? Read to find out.

This book is a great read for students ,2nd or 3rd grade students would be best fit for this book. It not only

has a great story to tell the students, it also has a great theme. Overcoming fear and differences as well as, family vacation and being able to relate Lulu's families vacation back to the readers. Lulu and Mellie do not care that people say the dog is savage. They still continue to try and feed it. In the end this kindness they have shown pays off when the dog from the sea has to overcome his fear in order to save the girls. Animal lovers will love this book. The cover of this book really grabs your attention. It has Lulu petting a dog. The cover is colorful and heartwarming. Showing Lulu's kindness and love for animals right from the start, on the front cover.

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### **Shazzer says**

Charming animal-lover Lulu is back with another adventure. This time, Lulu, her parents, her best friend Mellie and her dog Sam are off to the seaside for some rest and relaxation. Unfortunately, their destination isn't quite what they'd hoped for. The cabin's not up to snuff, Mellie's kite-making kit is a disaster and there's a wild, garbage rooting, food stealing dog on the loose. Of course, to canine friend Lulu, this dog could only be good news, as long as she can tame him.

McKay's characters are a joy to be around (I have a particular fondness for Lulu's father), and Lulu herself is a plucky, enjoyable heroine. I loved the way Lulu tamed the dog from the sea, with her gentle and trusting nature (of course, it begs to wonder if it's a good idea to encourage kids to interact with strange dogs, but that's neither here nor there). Coming in at a petite 108 pages, this is perfect for emergent readers, as well as animal and dog lovers. I know there are more in the series, so here's hoping they continue to release them in the US.

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### **Bryanna Johnson says**

This is the second book in a series for young children who love animals. This charming story is about a young girl named Lulu and her cousin Mellie in their beach adventure. Lulu and her family are on vacation to a less than nice beach cottage. This same beach is where people say there is a rowdy stray dog that is only up to trouble. Lulu is an enormous animal lover, and her young curious mind tells her to befriend the dog and help people see the sad and lonely dog that Lulu sees inside. As the girls hit a rough patch in their crazy vacation Lulu's new friend comes to the rescue. This stray pup was simply repaying a debt in a sense of how Lulu saved him from the cruel face of society.

This book is very appropriate for young readers around a third to fifth grade reading level. This story was very short, sweet, and to the point. All the while very entertaining to the reader. The reader is captivated and has the need to want to help Lulu in her goal of proving the town wrong about the poor stray dog.

I found this story to be fun and quirky for the reader. I would recommend this story as well as the rest of this book series to someone who simply wants to entertain their animal loving side.

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### **Fran says**

This is such a sweet, cute, and well-written book for animal loving kids! Lulu and Mellie are the best of

friends and they're prepping for a beach vacation. Their personalities are very different, but they work well together. When they arrive at the cottage, the owner is really upset about a stray dog that's hanging around. Immediately, Lulu hatches a plan to tame the pup and convince her parents to take him home. This book has a happy ending, but Lulu and Mellie manage to create some trouble before it's all over, of course. This is a great early chapter book for children in 2nd and 3rd grades. It would also work well as a family or classroom read aloud. The illustrations are soft and appropriate, but not too childish for the age range. The characters provide a multicultural element, which is hard to find in the early chapter book genre. I plan to read every and any title in this series that I can get my hands on!

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### **Tasha says**

This second book in the Lulu series continues the story of Lulu, a seven-year-old girl who loves all kinds of animals. In this story, Lulu goes on vacation by the seaside with her parents, her dog, and her cousin, Mellie, who is also seven. At the seaside, they stay at a small cottage and Lulu quickly finds out about a stray dog who has been living off of garbage along the beach. Lulu sets out to make friends with the dog, but no one else is enthusiastic. Mellie just wants to build her kite, Lulu's mother just wants to read the stack of books she brought along, and her dad wants to work on his running. But Lulu knows that this stray is actually a very special dog, she just has to convince the rest of them.

McKay has a knack for creating characters and experiences that read as vibrantly true and honest. In her books, there are lost kite bits, sand tracked into the house, trashed garbage cans, and too many shopping trips for forgotten items. At the same time, there is also the love of a dog, a family that truly spends time with one another, and the success of plans coming together in the end, perhaps not exactly as planned. As with her previous books, I have always wanted to live in a McKay novel in the midst of the loving mess.

I must also mention that this is an early reader series featuring a modern family of color. Nothing is made of this fact in the stories. It is just there, not a plot point, just a fact. It's handled with a matter-of-fact nature that I wish we saw more of in books for children.

A great addition to this growing series, the second Lulu book is sure to please fans of the first and bring new fans to the series too. Appropriate for ages 6-8.

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### **Terry says**

Adult Reader Reaction: Lulu and Mellie are fun to be with. Lulu adores animals, and by the end of the first chapter you can predict where this is going. The wholesomeness of it is refreshing, and I liked how Lulu and Mellie asked the townspeople about the dog to learn more. Great initiative. What I didn't like, though, is Lulu climbing out the window at night. She and Mellie are seven! I also thought the cottage owner's character was a little overdone for the minimal role that she played in the story.

Pros: Humor and realism combine in this fun story for animal lovers.

Cons: Mellie and Lulu made some dangerous choices climbing out the window to feed the dog, and then later to fly Mellie's kite. The author missed a great opportunity to help children better understand the impact of these kinds of decisions. She could easily do it without being heavy-handed or overdoing it.



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