



## **Paddington: Here and Now**

*Michael Bond , R.W. Alley (Illustrator) , Peggy Fortnum (Contributor)*

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Paddington - the beloved, classic bear from darkest Peru - is back in this long-awaited novel from master storyteller Michael Bond.

## Paddington: Here and Now Details

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Author : Michael Bond , R.W. Alley (Illustrator) , Peggy Fortnum (Contributor)

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# From Reader Review Paddington: Here and Now for online ebook

## Matti Karjalainen says

Michael Bondin karuherra Paddington viettää tänä vuonna kuusikymppisiä, ja sen kunniaksi on Englannissa painettu niin juhlarahoja kuin otettu uusintapainoksia vanhoista kirjoistakin.

Vuonna 2008 alun perin ilmestynyt "Paddington Here and Now" on sarjan uudemmassa päästä, mutta siitä huolimatta elämä jatkuu Puutarhakatu 32:ssa hyvin samaan tapaan kuin aina ennenkin: pieniä kimmelluksia ja erilaisia väärinkäsityksiä sattuu, aamupäivän teetä vietetään herra Gruberin kanssa ja niin edespäin. Lopussa tutustumme myös toiseen karhuun, joka saapuu Lontooseen.

Tekstistä on kuitenkin löydettävissä syvällisempiäkin merkityksiä, onhan Paddington kuitenkin Perun perukoilta Englantiin saapunut maahanmuuttaja, joka joutuu tekemisiin virkavallan ja skandaalilehdistön kanssa.

Kuvitusta myöten sympaattinen tapaus tämä Paddington.

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## Angie Rhodes says

Yes, I know this is a kids book, but come on, who doesn't love Paddington Bear?  
Michael Bond has once again, managed to write a book, that even adults can smile and giggle at, as Paddington gets into mischief and mayhem, mostly by accident,  
I for one, will continue to keep reading Paddington, he brightens up the most gloomy, winter's day .

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## Aggie says

Review by 6 year old girl:  
I really enjoyed reading Paddington 'here and now'. It's my first ever chapter book, and I loved it. I am looking forward to reading the other Paddington Books.

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## Tiffany Spencer says

Paddington Here and Now

Plot: In this set of adventures Paddington finds out his \*wheels\* get stolen in the short time he's parked them outside the market place and decides to take matters to the police. Then he catches a famous thief known as Gentleman Dan the Drain pipe Man after accidentally painting Mr. Curry's gate causing him to get the paint on his hands and get arrested. He gets asked to play a concert after a misunderstanding over a piano that plays itself but comes out on top with the encouragement of his friend (Mr. Gruber) to play the piece he knows. He and the Browns decide to have a Halloween party but after a prank gone wrong wind up with an uninvited guest. Then his words just turned all kinds of upside down and inside out by a survey taker (but truthfully he felt more like a reporter looking for dirt for a trashy publication). Lastly the Brown's get a

surprise from a visitor Paddington knows all to well.

### My Thoughts

\*I definitely know what it feels like to leave something somewhere and you come back and it's not there, and the bad feeling of knowing someone took it. Happened to me in high school when I noticed a new CD player of mine came up missing out my bag. So I was happy it was returned. Paddington was a lot calmer than I was!

\*I REALLY want anti-burglar paint to be a thing. Although I don't think they come down drain pipes. There's a frightening thought to think you could be knocked out sleep and someone's slipped through the pipes and is there in your home unknowingly. The alarm wouldn't even catch that.

\*Why didn't Paddington just be honest and tell the guy it wasn't really him playing the piano. I guess it was too late tho when he saw the piano wasn't the same as Mr. Grubers.

\*FINALLY, a story about Halloween! NICE JOB they way they ran Mr. Curry off at the end by making him believe he was eating flies.

\*Secretly I think that guy worked for Kool Trash magazine!

\*He would have a FIELD DAY with Paddington's uncle and Miss Bird. Cause what was up with that?

Rating: 6

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### **Marcia says**

I've been reading Paddington's earlier adventures, and I found differences compared to previous stories. Some of these stories seem to have less integrity, such as the piano story and the adventures with Mr. Curry. In fact, Mr. Curry's stories are mean-spirited. Yes Mr. Curry usually gets what he deserves, but I thought the Browns took opportunities for petty payback. My dislike of this stems more from having just finished the previous books; if this weren't Paddington Bear I probably would have found it funny.

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### **A says**

Appropriate for ages 8-12

Paddington Bear reappears in the 21st century for more adventures and amusing mishaps.

This fictional series book was published in England for the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Paddington Bear. Although there have been many picture book versions of Paddington published, as well as Paddington activity books and other items, this is the first time in c. 30 years that a new chapter book in this series has come out. I would have expected that, by now, the Brown children would have grown up, but this hasn't happened. Only the London world around the Browns has changed. There are a few references to new technologies and tourist attractions, and the possibility that Paddington might be deported as an illegal refugee. Otherwise, things are comfortingly the same. Paddington still questions authority and accidentally causes mayhem. He still enjoys his marmalade sandwiches and "elevenses", and his Aunt Lucy lives on in the home for retired bears in "Darkest Peru", a phrase which sounds even more dated now than it did in the first book.

My biggest gripe about this edition is that it was translated into American in a way that sounds awkward. Even though Paddington is supposedly Peruvian, his quintessential Englishness is part of his iconic charm. For example, the first sentence: "My shopping basket on wheels has been towed away!". Are we Yanks really so incapable of understanding the phrase "shopping trolley"? If so, couldn't the translator have simply said "shopping cart"?

A Horn Book reviewer (September/October, 2008) thought Paddington fans would be relieved that nothing much has changed in this latest installment, and Paddington still gets into "glorious muddles". Kirkus review (5/15/08) ran an even more positive review, calling the book "children's literature in its finest, purest form". Both reviews were descriptive and praised the book--I thought the Kirkus one was better because it didn't give away too much about a surprise at the end.

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### **Maria Ana says**

I really enjoyed this book. A dear friend of mine lent me the book, so i can feel a little bit happier when i'm sad.

I finished it in a couple of hours. It was amazing! I think the writting wasn't too childish. Acctually it is a good writting for adults. I smiled and laughed a lot with Paddington and all it's adventures.

I recomend this book to everyone. To dream, to smile, and to be happy along with a cute, little and amazing bear!

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### **Doug says**

Bond's Paddington reminds me a smidge of Wodehouse's Wooster in that after reading a few stories, the template is so nakedly obvious that you might almost think you could produce one yourself: Paddington, well intentioned but unpossessed of sound judgement, mishears and/or misconstrues something and acts foolishly. Dark looks are exchanged, cocoa is drunk, things are exclaimed hotly, it's difficult with paws, and Mr. Curry frequently roars "Bear!" before everything is sorted.

But as with Wodehouse, the magic of Bond's tales doesn't lie in the easily imitated aspects. The rhythm of Bond's prose has a comforting familiarity, but what really makes it work, I think, is the reader's peculiar orientation with respect to Paddington: outside him enough to clearly perceive his folly, but inside him enough to see with equal clarity how his misconceptions arose. It's a very delicate balance.

Paddington buying bottled water and riding the London Eye makes me sad; it seems unfair to the bear to drag him into a new century. To me, Paddington belongs in some ill-defined, improbably innocent, mid-last-century decade free of the spectre or aftermath of war. I have no wish to see him age, but bringing him forward half a century with no changes introduces an unpleasant note of cognitive dissonance, like the panels in which Watterson portrays Calvin's pal Hobbes as a lifeless, limp, stuffed thing.

But thankfully, obtrusively modern details mar only a handful of these stories. Mostly -- particularly when the magnificently unpleasant Mr. Curry is on the scene -- I chuckle, I snort, I guffaw. I'm swept up, once more, in the unlikely exploits of the winsome bear from "Darkest Peru."

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## **Maria Carmo says**

The funny return of the peruvian bear! And this time he receives the visit of his Uncle Pazu... Very funny!

m€aria Carmo,

Lisbon, 22 March 2012.

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## **Philippa N says**

This wasn't a read-aloud for the children - just a fun read for me. I loved the Paddington books as a child and this latest book, published in 2008 to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary, did not disappoint. Paddington is brought into the 21st century and loses none of his charm in that process thanks to Michael Bond's sensitivity and skill.

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## **RJ McGill says**

Half a century has passed & this little bear is still able to melt your heart & keep you & your little ones interested right up to the end...

Paddington Bear is celebrating his 50th birthday the only way this lovable, adventurous little bear would...with a delicious marmalade sandwich...and his first new book in 30 years, *Paddington Here and Now!* For those of us who have enjoyed reading the stories of Paddington's escapades, this book is a welcomed return to good ol' fashioned literature.

The book opens as the eternally optimistic and oh so innocent little Peruvian bear returns to the curb to find his shopping cart has been towed away. Confused and in a state of dismay, nearby stall owners offer their support, as well as, a few gruff opinions. Paddington had been shopping at Portobello for the Brown family for years and nothing like that had ever happened before. Dealing with grumpy neighbors and the always eager tabloids, Paddington has his little paws full, but this is just the beginning of his misadventures. Later, Paddington is arrested and taken to the police station where he is questioned about his citizenship and exclaims, "I'm not an immigrant." Thus moving us to the crux of the story...is home still where the heart is?

The foundation for this particular story line was laid many years ago when Paddington's Aunt Lucy decided to move into the Retirement Home for Bears in Lima and helped the little bear stow-away on a ship bound for England. And although the Brown's adopted the homeless bear after discovering him among stacks of mailbags at Paddington Station, he doesn't have the proper paperwork, therefore, technically, Paddington is an immigrant...or even an illegal immigrant. Author Michael Bond infuses the story with Paddington's trademark sense of humor and naivete and in doing so addresses such serious personal questions as how do you define home? And how does one decide where they belong?

Paddington Bear stories transcend the page...dealing with contemporary issues, yet delivered with that special bump and bungling comical narrative, that fans immediately recognize as the classic Paddington style

and new readers will undoubtedly find irresistible. The story is well written, entertaining and filled with many “ahh’s and oohs.”

Reliable, family friendly and a true original, Paddington Bear Books are as sure as a PB & J sandwich to illicit smiles from youngsters. And parents that utilize a combination of the two are pretty much assured a few minutes of free time! I can easily and without reservation recommend Michael Bond’s new book, Paddington Here and Now and not just for the kids, even the adults that grew up reading these stories will enjoy spending some time with this old furry friend.

Happy Reading!

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### **Mark says**

Another good collection of Paddington's (mis)adventures. This one was published in 2008 to mark the 50th anniversary of the books and as such there are references to modern London (most notably, a memorable trip on the London Eye) but there is still the same charm about the stories.

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### **Dee says**

Ahh Paddington stories never get old :)

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### **Marlee says**

What a lovely story. It was definitely different with a computer and such suddenly existing, but obviously that is the point of “here and now.” A great story for fans of Paddington. A funny new character. New adventures with lots of laughs.

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### **Aspen says**

I loved Paddington as a kid and I was so pleased to share him with my children who love him just as much.

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