

# Rasmus and the Vagabond

Astrid Lindgren, Gerry Bothmer (Translator)

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Dreaming of a home of his own, Rasmus runs away from the orphanage and meets Paradise Oscar, a remarkable tramp who takes Rasmus along on his travels, where they encounter adventure from both robbers and police.

# Rasmus and the Vagabond Details

Date : Published August 1st 1987 by Puffin Books (first published 1956)

ISBN: 9780140323047

Author: Astrid Lindgren, Gerry Bothmer (Translator)

Format: Paperback 192 pages

Genre: Childrens, European Literature, Swedish Literature, Fiction, Classics

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# From Reader Review Rasmus and the Vagabond for online ebook

# Afrah says

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# Steph says

3.5\*

As a child I devoured Lindren's Pipi Longstocking series. I fell in love with the quirky character and vivid, playful writing. I expected no less from Rasmus and the Vagabond, and was not disappointed.

In Rasmus and the Vagabond Astrid Lindgren explores the innocent angst of a young boy, his unlikely companion, and a journey that changes them both. Rasmus is a 9 year old orphan who, though well cared for, has not experienced much love or affection. He longs for a mother and father of his own, but comes to

believe that most parents only want a curly haired girl. Fed up with life at the orphanage, and sure that he can make a better go of it alone, Rasmus escapes.

Almost immediately he realizes that life outside the orphanage is tough...until he has the good fortune of crossing paths with a tramp named Paradise Oscar, the self-proclaimed "best friend of God". The two unlikely companions get into all kinds of scraps during their travels...and in the process, grow quite fond of each other.

This is an enjoyable book that I highly recommend. Rasmus is a very likable character, and the reader is drawn into his innocent longings and observations. Rasmus' desire for a family of his own is a universal theme that tugs at the heart strings of all ages. Oscar is a quirky character who does not reveal much about himself. However, his kindness and affection for Rasmus eventually wins the affections of the reader.

The plot is moved forward by a series of events involving Rasmus, Oscar, and a pair of thieves. Each chapter leaves the reader wondering what will happen next and yearning for more. The adventure is exciting and action packed...appealing especially to any boy who has imaginatively played out a cops and robbers scene.

My only criticism is that I feel the end came rather abruptly. It is a surprising and satisfying ending, however, I would have liked for it to have drawn out a bit more.

I read this book with my three boys, ages 6, 9, and 10. It both captivated and delighted all of us. I would recommend reading this book with your children of all ages, or just for your own pleasure!

# **Bashayer says**

## **Steven Walle says**

I accidently posted this book. I didn't read it but I don't know how to get rid of it so I chose this option. Be Blessed.

#### **Margaret Chind says**

Review below.

Through the many lists that I have acquired through out the years on books to read aloud to and books to let middle readers delve into, Astrid Lindgren has always been recommended. There are a few titles I often see, including her heroine Pippi Longstocking, but what about for the hero-inclined (aka boy) readers? Thus, we have Rasmus.

I love this cover! The book itself has that soft feel and the colors and image to the cover image are very attractive (Kudos Eric Palmquist!). For my personal book lists for my students I am a fan of the vintage classic books and it makes my heart smile when publishers republish titles that are worthwhile to be in the hands of a child. Originally published in 1956 and renewed and reinvigorated with life for a new generation for 2015, Plough has this in a pretty package. (Even the back cover text is in attractive fonts and shades!)

Rasamus and the Vagabond is engaging for the young reader. Our hero here is about the age of nine, and my 5.5 year old daughter is not quite ready for it alone, but I plan to have him nearby for introduction within a few years. I think she shall meet Pippi first. I won't hesitate to read this aloud to her at this point (little violence, but much like a classic old tv western) but would want to wait to have her read it alone to make sure she would discuss with me any fears and situations.

I'd recommend this if you enjoy Pippi, or Charlie (and the Chocolate Factory), or Wilbur (Charlotte's Web). 14 chapters of adventure that can create discussion and truly make you think.

posted; http://creativemadnessmama.com/blog/2...

I received this product free for the purpose of reviewing it. I received no other compensation for this review. The opinions expressed in this review are my personal, honest opinions. Your experience may vary. Please read my full disclosure policy for more details.

# **Jalynn Patterson says**

#### About the Book:

After running away from an orphanage, nine-year-old Rasmus finds the world a cold and unfriendly place until he meets an extraordinary tramp called "Paradise Oscar." Together they meet more adventure than they ever imagined, solve a mystery, catch the culprits, and find Rasmus a home. Astrid Lindgren, who gave the world Pippi Longstocking, sets this action-packed classic of children's literature in the Swedish countryside before the age of automobiles. This is one book you ll want to read more than once."

#### About the Author:

Astrid Lindgren, the creator of Pippi Longstocking, Emil, and dozens of other world-famous characters, has delighted three generations of children with her storytelling prowess. Lindgren's children's books have sold over 144 million copies worldwide. Astrid Lindgren (1907-2002) is the only children's author with a literary prize, a theme park, a museum, a satellite, and a minor planet named in her honor. (After this last honor, she suggested changing her name to "Asteroid Lindgren.") A jury appointed by Swedish Radio's Culture Department to elect the "Author of the Millennium" voted Astrid Lindgren second after William Shakespeare. She was awarded the Hans Christian Andersen Medal for her contribution to international children's literature.

#### My Review:

I think everyone at some point in time in their childhood has wanted to run away from home at least once. We believe that the world in all its glory is such a fascinating place full of wonder and excitement. Well 9 year old Rasmus is no different, he wants to run and do as he pleases. So he runs away from the orphanage that he resides in and almost instantly realizes that the world is not so great after all. Soon Rasmus meets a fellow "traveler" and the two of them become fast friends and so the adventure truly begins.

An amazing story brought to life once again after it's original publishing in 1956. This book is a classic now, just as it was all that time ago. It is a fun read that my children enjoyed. They didn't know that it was a classic from long ago, it is still full of action and intrigue after all these years.

\*\*Disclosure\*\* This book was sent to me free of charge for my honest review from Flyby.

# Liza Adishvili says

#### Erika says

As a long time fan of Pippi Longstocking, I couldn't pass up the chance to review a new book by her creator, Astrid Lindgren. Lindgren's newest novel, starring an orphan boy named Rasmus, is a wonderful adventure that takes me right back to my childhood nights, reading under my blanket with a flashlight. As a grown woman with children too young for chapter books, I still gobbled up the whole story in one sitting!

Lindgren does an amazing job of making both Rasmus and his unlikely, but loveable vagabond, Oscar, endearing and relatable. Engaging from page one, the plot moves quickly and effortlessly as Rasmus tackles the challenges of boyhood, while living out a most dangerous adventure that children are going to love to read and/or hear aloud. The storyline is strong and exciting, but not overly complex as to distract younger readers. The language is clear and flows beautifully, allowing for easy engagement and immersion in the story.

Reasons to Read: The biggest reason to read this book is because it is enjoyable and fun. The characters are unfailingly morally sound and the adventure riveting! I highly recommend reading this one alongside or with your children.

Reasons to Pass: Contextual clues indicate the story to be set in a bygone era and as such, there are elements of gender stereotyping with the girls at the orphanage performing household associated chores, while the boys dig up potatoes. This does little to dissuade me from enjoying the story, but I appreciate that some parents are especially sensitive to this and I wanted to mention it here.

Genre: Children's Chapter Book, Fiction, Adventure

Suggested Rating: PG There is some violence including fist fighting and a gun; although, no one is severely injured or shot. The main character, Rasmus is delightfully opposed to and sickened by the very sight of violence, which is very refreshing. Gender stereotyping is present. A few of the characters, some potentially homeless, display characteristics consistent with mental illness, which may warrant discussion with younger children.

Bottom Line: I loved this book and am adding it to the list to read with my children.

Would you recommend this book to a friend? Yes! Go ahead and get the book. I dare you not to fall in love with Rasmus and Oscar!

#### **Linda Walters says**

Oh boy, this was another story that I wasn't sure I was going to like. I found before too long, that wasn't the case. What a surprise! I fell in love with it! It was such a sweet, charming story with more than one subtle character building points. Rasmus is tired of being passed over for girls with curly hair. He has two strikes against him when it comes to getting a family. He's a boy. AND he has straight hair. So when he innocently gets in trouble several times in one day, he hightails it out of the orphanage. He tries to be brave, but he is cold, hungry and just a tiny bit afraid (okay, maybe more afraid at times than he wants to admit.) That is until he meeets, Paradise Oscar. Oscar becomes a buddy over time, someone who helps him, while still helping Rasmus keep his dignity. That part is so well done, that it made me smile every time it happened. That and the fact that Rasmus so often found himself less acceptable because he had straight hair. Don't get me wrong, I wasn't smiling because he felt somehow flawed but I smiled at the many times, in innocence he wove it into different conversations.

The crooks in the story, give both Rasmus and Oscar a lot of grief but in the end, justice is served. But the mystery of the chase is enjoyable. There is a lazy day kind of wandering that Oscar and Rasmus did, that gave it a warm feeling but it also had adventure, and some challenges. Just in case anyone thinks its a snoozer, its not.

Oh and brace yourself, you might not see the end coming the way it does. I like that a lot too!

The cover is a bit old world style and I didn't really care for it at first but I found it grew on me. The same could also be said of the black and white sketches that are inside the book. This kind of illustration is not normally a favorite with me. Its probably because I've gotten spoiled with the more elaborate ones we see in most books. BUT, not only did this style grow on me, it seemed to fit with the fresh, innocent simplicity of the story. This story really surprised me. I went from doubting I'd like it, to loving it and wanting to put it into my Keeper Library.

I received the book in this post compliments of Plough Publishing via Handlebar Marketing for purposes of this review, however all opinions are my own.

# **Create With Joy says**

When you think back to childhood, which books and literary characters hold a special place in your heart?

One of my fondest memories comes from the time I spent vicariously experiencing the adventures of Pippi Longstocking - that unforgettable, high-spirited gal with the remarkable red braids!

If you are also a fan of Pippi's - or a lover of classic children's books - or are simply looking for a wholesome adventure featuring a young male protagonist - you'll be delighted to learn that Astrid Lindgren's classic story, Rasmus And The Vagabond, is now back in print!

Rasmus And The Vagabond tells the story of Rasmus - an endearing, 9-year old orphan who wants nothing more in life than to be adopted by a family who will love and want him - straight hair and all!

When his hopes for being adopted are dashed, and he can no longer bear living under the ever-watchful eye of Miss Hawk, he decides to take matters into his own hands and run away.

Rasmus soon discovers that life on the road isn't as easy as he thought. Fortunately, he soon crosses paths with Oscar - the "self-proclaimed paradise tramp" and "God's best friend!"

Before long, Rasmus and Oscar befriend one another and find themselves in the midst of an exciting adventure that involves dastardly villains - hidden treasure - and even a damsel in distress!

Although Rasmus And The Vagabond was initially written in 1956, this easy-to-read book with its compelling themes and charming illustrations still stands the test of time.

Rasmus And The Vagabond is a well-beloved classic that deserves a place on your family's bookshelf.

To read this review in its entirety, visit Create With Joy.

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book from the publisher for review purposes. However, the opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own.

#### **Kimberly Miller says**

I loved this book! From start to finish, Astrid Lindgren had me hooked. This is an excellent story to read to your children at bedtime - a chapter or two each night - will wisk them off to dreamland where they can travel the road with Paradise Oscar and Rasmus in search of parents for Rasmus. They have many adventures during their travels and even solve a mystery! Children of all ages, young and old, will enjoy this book!

## Reem Alkhalaf says

#### **Kirsten Swanson says**

An old favorite, now shared with my children.

Rasmus the orphan child shows the importance of touch and listening to children. Oscar the vagabond, loveable and surprising becomes a hero in more than one way.

## Melanie says

Poor Poor Rasmus. If only he had curly hair and better yet- was a little girl instead of a boy with straight hair. Surely if he was, the nice families would come and adopt him from the orphanage, Right? While the older boys try to tell Rasmus to stop hoping for a family, he simply can't give up the dream and settle into the orphanage life, which is all he has ever known. Rasmus is a pretty good boy, but he just cannot take the orphanage anymore and he runs away wishing for freedom and hopefully a family. It turns out, freedom is scary when you are a little kid in a dark, cold and foodless world. Oh, he forgot about hunger! And Man, is he cold! Thankfully our little friend bumps into the friendly Oscar not too long into his newfound independence. A disheveled, friendly man who declares himself to be God's best friend.

Together Rasmus and Oscar travel the countryside in search of food. They sing for their supper (Oscar is a wonderful accordion player how can earn decent money when he tries) and do various chores to get by. The country setting makes me want to get out of the city immediately and go for a stroll down some dirt road and just enjoy the world for a bit. In fact, I was jealous of it all if I am honest and can see why Oscar chose to be a wandering bum. The world isn't all rosy for our friends. The police suspect them of stealing all the time, and they bump into two very bad men. I do not want to wreck the surprise or storyline, but this isn't just a cute story about a friendship between a lonely boy and a nice man. There's action in it to keep the kids entertained. Action with guns, and rolling fist fights, Jail-time and secret hideouts.

For a book written in 1956, Rasmus and the Vagabond sure is a timeless and wonderful read. Astrid Lindgren does a fantastic job writing books that kids and adults both love. There was emotion that made me want to hug poor little Rasmus and his fantasy of a mom to hug him when he is sick, and action enough that kept me reading late into the night to see what was going to happen. When I closed the book... I literally sighed a happy sigh and went to sleep with a big silly smile on my face. I thought I knew how it would end, but I didn't guess correctly! I have read a number of Lindgren books, and this one is my favorite so far. I am so glad that Plough Publishing re-released this story (using the same illustration as the older hardback versions) the book world is a better place because of it. New York Book Review is releasing two other Lindgren books in May that I am eagerly awaiting so I can read them too. Mio My Son, and Seacrow Island so be on the lookout for those too. It has gotten to the point where I don't have to know what the book is about, if Astrid Lindgren wrote it, I'm going to read it. I know it's early in the year still, but for now Rasmus and the Vagabond is my favorite read of 2015. I received a copy of this book for review and its going on my favorites shelf.