



The Enchanted Castle and Five Children and It (Barnes & Noble Classics Series)

Edith Nesbit



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“I love E. Nesbit. . . . Her children are very real . . . and she was quite a groundbreaker in her day.”
—J. K. Rowling, author of the best-selling *Harry Potter* series

Considered the first modern writer for children, **Edith Nesbit** wrote wonderfully imaginative tales about magical adventures in the everyday world. In *Five Children and It* (1902), a group of children are digging in a sandpit one day when they discover a small, bad-tempered sand-fairy known as the Psammead, who is allowed to grant one wish per day. The children wish for many things—to be beautiful, to be rich, to grow wings—but none of the wishes turn out right. Luckily, the magic wears off at sunset, but will that be soon enough?

The Enchanted Castle (1907) begins when three children stumble upon a mysterious house and discover an invisible princess and a magic ring. At first it all appears to be a great adventure. When the children need an audience for a play they have mounted, they make their own out of old clothes, pillows, and umbrellas. Then things go inexplicably wrong. To the young dramatists' horror, as the curtain falls, there is a ghastly applause. The creatures have come alive—and they prove to be most disagreeable!

Features illustrations by H. R. Millar.

Sanford Schwarz teaches English literature at Pennsylvania State University. He is the author of *The Matrix of Modernism* and various essays on modern literary, cultural, and intellectual history. He is currently writing a book on C. S. Lewis's science-fiction trilogy.

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