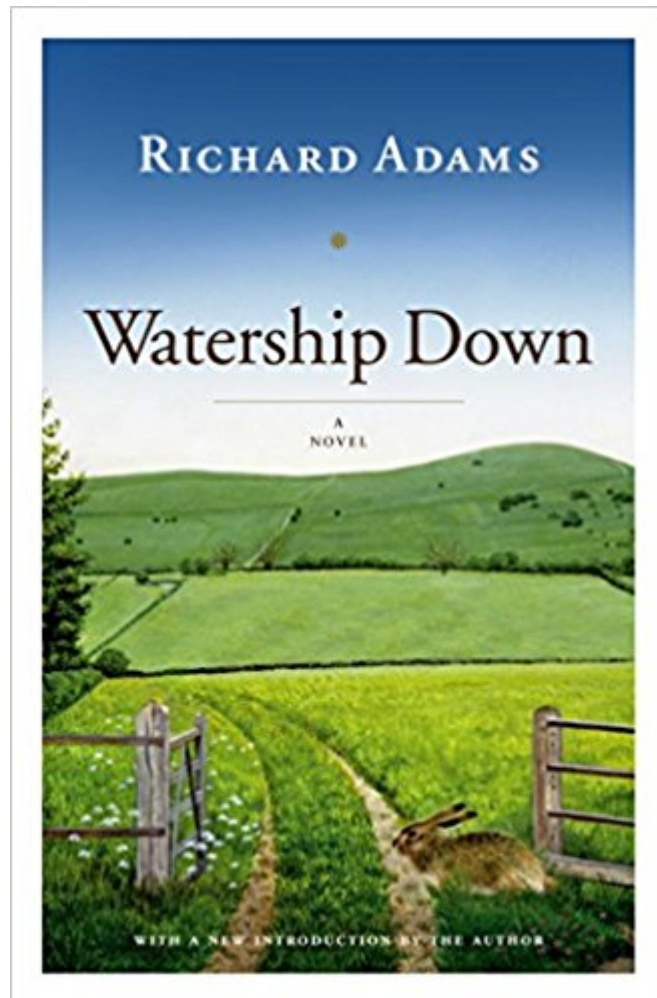




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# Watership Down: A Novel (Puffin Books Book 1)



## Synopsis

A phenomenal worldwide bestseller for over thirty years, Richard Adams's *Watership Down* is a timeless classic and one of the most beloved novels of all time. Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of friends, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Richard Adams used to make up stories about little bunnies for his daughters during long car rides in the English country. One day, infuriated at a lousy children's book he bought, he considered: "I can do better than that". The result is one of England's most beloved young reader's novels. The story of *Watership Down*, edited originally in 1972, starts when the rabbit Fiver begins to have visions showing a great catastrophe destroying his colony. "The field is full of blood", he says. This trope is based on

Cassandra's myth, and much like the Greek prophetess, the little bunny's visions are ignored by the leaders and only a small group decides to escape in search of a better place. When my girlfriend asks her English friends about *Watership Down* their expression shows love and fear at the same time. Love because the animal characters actions and personalities are built in a very endearing way by the author. Fear because the little furry creature's deaths are many and bloody. Like all good children's literature, *Watership Down* does not insult the young reader's intelligence with simplified messages. The bunnies have anthropomorphic thoughts and can speak, but the book was built around real rabbit's behavior, their organization, their ways of feeding, etc. It's interesting how the author imagined how it would be a society of hunted creatures, instead of hunters like us. They are in a constant state of fear, always alert to any weird sound or noise. Adams also created a sort bunny speak, called 'Lapine', that even without the depth of other literary created languages like those made by Tolkien, has consistent prefixes and endings to convey an exotic but realistic tone. The rabbits also have a rich mythology with several stories intertwined. There is the solar god Fritz, the black rabbit In (bringer of death), the primordial rabbit El-ahraiah and his many tales deceiving dogs or stealthily attacking gardens. The characters are very well constructed. Fiver is the prophet flirting with madness, Hazel the leader, Bigwig the warrior, Blackberry is pretty much the scientist, Dandelion is the bard, and entertains his friend with his tales. The book has a curious flavor, like a Greek tragedy or a Shakespearean epic only with bunnies. One of the best books I have ever read. The ambience makes the reader really imagine how life is a few centimeters from the ground and think about how frail life is. And also about the number of stories that are hidden everywhere.

I love this book so much and in a digital age, it is very nice to have such a beautiful physical copy. The artwork complements the book perfectly.

Let me start by saying that *Watership Down* is my all-time favorite book. I first read it as a child and have read it multiple times since then. Not surprisingly, my paperback copy was showing a lot of wear and I thought it was high time I invested in a hardcover copy. This copy is simply gorgeous and is an ABSOLUTE MUST for the collector. The dust jacket artwork is hauntingly lovely and has gold foil detailing that is echoed on the front cover. The end papers are a beautiful robin's egg blue, which is a nice complement to the cover art. The publisher really did this book justice with all of these thoughtful details. But what really sets this edition apart is the illustrations. Simply put, they are stunning. There are around 20 or so full-color illustrations throughout, each of them beautifully

capturing a scene from the book. Some of the illustrations spread across 2 pages, and one of them was also used as the dust jacket cover art. The illustrations have been printed on glossy pages, which showcases this artwork to full effect. I was a little surprised to find the font was a bit larger than I'm used to, but it's by no means an issue. The book dimensions are 9.5"x7.5", so the slightly larger font actually makes sense, as it gives the impression that this edition is meant to be read aloud and shared, which I certainly intend to do with my young son. The book was very well protected during shipping, and I was so pleased to receive this book in PERFECT condition from the seller.

"Harry Potter" fans of all ages will love its predecessor "Watership Down" - a wonderful saga of the courage, teamwork and cleverness demonstrated by a group of rabbits as they struggle to escape destruction by man and build a new home for themselves. The prescience of Fiver, the courage of Bigwig and the supreme cleverness and good judgement of Hazel make for an unbeatable combination and an unforgettable story. Even the "bad guy" General Woundwort is given his due respect. Along the way, the reader is treated to a wonderful introduction to the Lapine world and its mythology and beliefs. Adams' obit caused me to take the time to read a book I missed 30+ years ago. Every second of that read was a pleasure.

Watership Down by Richard Adams is an interesting book that shows you the life of wild rabbits. A group of rabbits led by Hazel ventures into unknown territory. They encounter danger and other warrens. The rabbits have to learn how to live their new lives. After many adventurous events, the rabbits reach the perfect location for their new home and start to get settled. With a great problem on their paws, they journey to a nearby warren, hoping to find does. They find does, but they also find some very serious rabbits who want to make them stay at their warren. Eventually, after many obstacles the rabbits get the does they wanted and lived happy lives. Their warren is successful because they take customs from each previous warren to make their warren. This book is an intriguing story that is very descriptive. It is also very enjoyable and great for when you need to relax.

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