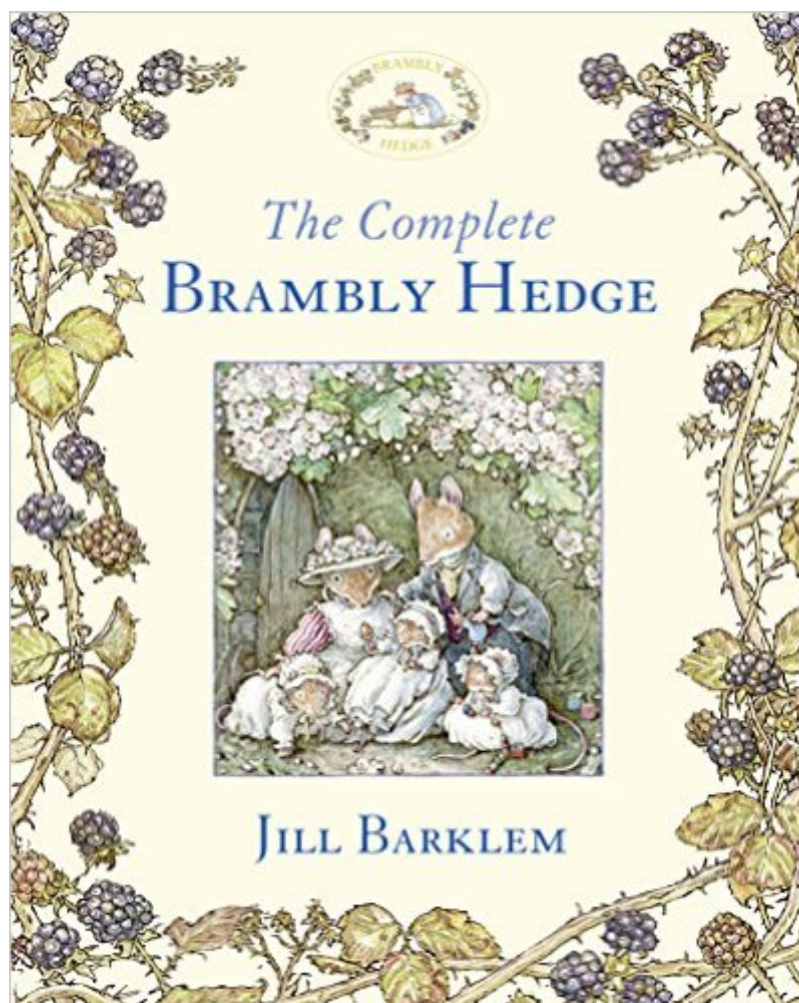


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# The Complete Brambly Hedge (Brambly Hedge)



## Synopsis

The mice of Brambly Hedge have been delighting adults and children alike for more than thirty years. All eight of the classic picture books are brought together in this exquisite volume. The mice of Brambly Hedge made their first appearance in 1980 when the four seasonal stories were published. Ever since, readers have loved exploring the miniature world of the hedgerow and meeting the families that live there. In this collection the mice have many adventures, but they always have time for fun and relaxation too. Whatever the season, and whether they are by the sea, in the High Hills, or simply at home by the fire, there is always someone ready to lend a helping hand. Contains: Spring Story, Summer Story, Autumn Story, Winter Story, Poppy's Babies, Sea Story, The High Hills, The Secret

## Book Information

Series: Brambly Hedge

Hardcover: 248 pages

Publisher: HarperCollinsChildren'sBooks; 1st Edition edition (October 27, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0007450168

ISBN-13: 978-0007450169

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.9 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars See all reviews (72 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #9,923 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Mice, Hamsters, Guinea Pigs & Squirrels #470 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic

Age Range: 5 - 7 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 2

## Customer Reviews

I learned about these books through Snapdragons, a blog about the domestic adventures of a new mom. The author of the blog had grown up reading these stories and was very excited about the prospect of sharing them with her own child. I'd never heard of them, but as I'm always on the look out for new books to read with The Four-Year-Old, I spent a week or two hunting them down. Sadly, the books appear to be a UK phenomenon, which means it's hard to find copies of them in the U.S. When I consulted my librarian, she found a spin-off by Alan MacDonald called Wilfred to the

Rescue. While the story was cute and the illustrations engaging, it was hard to see from this book exactly why Snapdragons would write about the Brambly Hedge mice with such passionate devotion. (I should probably mention here that *The Four-Year-Old* adored *Wilfred to the Rescue*. I liked it myself. I just didn't find it exceptional.) I finally found a reasonably priced used copy of the *Complete Brambly Hedge* through . The collection contains all eight original Brambly Hedge stories, including *Spring Story*, *Summer Story*, *Autumn Story*, *Winter Story*, *Poppy's Babies*, *Sea Story*, *The High Hills*, and my daughter's favorite, *The Secret Staircase*. Once I opened an original, I understood Snapdragons' devotion in about two seconds. For the stories themselves, think Beatrix Potter's *Peter Rabbit* stories with mice and without the sometimes surprising lapses into violence that forcibly remind you that Potter wrote in a different cultural context. In Potter's world, Mr. MacGregor has a distressing habit of stalking through the pages taking potshots at the cast with his shotgun. That sort of thing doesn't happen in the Brambly Hedge.

As a child I read many of Jill Barklem's stories and also listened to the tales from Brambly hedge on a cassette tape, (an older version of the modern CD audio book). I was mesmerised by all the beautiful animals that had so much fun and many exciting adventures, within these captivating stories that delighted me for so many hours. The tales are based around a community of self-sufficient mice who live together in the tranquil surroundings of the English countryside. The books, whose first titles were published in 1980, are written and illustrated by Barklem. The first four books follow a seasonal pattern of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. Her latter four follow the adventures of *The Secret Staircase*, *The High Hills*, *Sea Story* and *Poppy's Babies*. *Winter story* was one that certainly struck a cord for I remember vividly that I used to almost cry as I listened to the narrator whilst tucked up at night under the duvet, with a flashlight and a blanket. It was certainly quite poignant and moving, especially as lovely little animal friends were involved, hence why I could not wait until Spring! The mice of Brambly hedge made their first appearance in nineteen eighty when the four seasonal stories were published, from Spring through to Winter. Since then many readers have loved exploring the miniature world of the hedgerow and meeting the families that live there. In this collection the mice continue their adventures. By sea, in the High Hills or simply at home in Brambly Hedge, the mice manage to find plenty of excitement, although personally it is in the underground tunnels and burrows that I remember the most cosy and warm stories.

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