



Bambi: A Life in the Woods

By Felix Salten

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Bambi: A Life in the Woods By Felix Salten

The Prince of the Forest

Bambi's life in the woods begins happily. There are forest animals to play with -- Friend Hare, the chattery squirrel, the noisy screech owl, and Bambi's twin cousins, frail Gobo and beautiful Faline.

But winter comes, and Bambi learns that the woods hold danger -- and things he doesn't understand. The first snowfall makes food hard to find. Bambi's father, a handsome stag, roams the forest, but leaves Bambi and his mother alone.

Then there is Man. He comes to the forest with weapons that can wound an animal. He does terrible things to Gobo, to Bambi's mother, and even to Bambi. But He can't keep Bambi from growing into a handsome stag himself, and becoming...the Prince of the Forest.

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Bambi: A Life in the Woods By Felix Salten Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #707575 in Books
- Brand: Aladdin
- Published on: 1988-07-01
- Released on: 1988-07-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.50" h x .50" w x 5.13" l, .30 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Bambi comes into the world in a forest glade, loved by his mother, protected by a thicket. He grows up frolicking in the meadow, befriending butterflies and screech owls, and learning about the dark fear of all the woodland creatures: man. Over time, Bambi seeks out the wisdom of the prince of deer, a magnificent old stag who walks alone through the paths of the forest. Bambi is torn between his desire to be with his beloved mate, Faline, and his yearning for the knowledge and solitude the prince represents. He is also conflicted about his friend Gobo, who has returned to the forest after a winter living among humans. Gobo behaves unnaturally by strolling through the woods by day when other deer are sleeping, showing no fear of his natural mortal enemy.

This 1926 classic has been stretched and squeezed into many forms over the years, but the Felix Salten original should not be missed. With the richer, more highly wrought language of his time, Salten crafts a story layered in meaning, weighty with its message. The sometimes cruel, often joyful cycle of life continues, in spite of those who try to defy nature's law. (Ages 9 to 12) --*Emilie Coulter*

From Publishers Weekly

In 1999, Schulman adapted Salten's 1923 novel, bringing the original tale of a young deer's coming of age to a generation more familiar with the Disney animated version. Here, the woodland story, considered by many critics to be the first "ecological" novel, springs to life via Dolan's fine reading. Young listeners will be eager to follow along on Bambi's first frolics in the meadow, where he encounters a magpie, grasshoppers, butterflies and dandelions. By then, listeners will be hooked enough to stay with this recording as Bambi takes in stride the important, if somber, life lessons imparted by his mother, all the while trying to understand why "life is so difficult and dangerous." And when hunters encroach, taking his mother from him, Bambi knows he has to follow the advice of the stag known as the Great Prince: "Listen, smell and see for yourself; live by yourself; find out for yourself." Dolan's comfortable storytelling style conveys all the wonder, awe and self-discovery of the material and does not over-sentimentalize the deeper emotional current that comes with encountering death. A wide range of listeners will find much to appreciate in this more serious (compared to Disney's interpretation) look at a beloved children's character. Ages 6-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 2-4-Many children know this story from the Disney film, but the book's lyrical, sometimes old-fashioned prose with its occasionally harshly realistic view of nature makes it most suitable for older children. Here is a well-crafted adaptation of the original story that is aimed at younger readers. It still recounts the story of Bambi and his life in the forest, but by carefully selecting words and phrases (many of them Salten's own), Schulman has told a much more compact version of the tale, but one that still retains the spirit and essence of the original. The major difference is that many of the descriptive passages have been eliminated, so readers get less of a feel for Bambi's surroundings and a bit less of the poetic tone. However, all of the main events are included, even the deaths of Bambi's mother and others, and the story's theme of humanity as the biggest danger facing the forest dwellers remains intact. This is not a "sanitized" retelling of the story, just a shorter one. The rather somber mood is well complemented by oil paintings that lend an extra element of emotion. The hard realities of life in the wild are still evident, and some of the events may be disturbing to younger, more sensitive children. Others, though, will certainly welcome this nicely presented, accessible version of a beloved tale.

Arwen Marshall, New York Public Library

Users Review

From reader reviews:

James Reveles:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to find out everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or even goal; it means that book has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They can be reading whatever they take because their hobby is reading a book. How about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, individual feel need book if they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will want this Bambi: A Life in the Woods.

Ashley Staley:

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Douglas Leverette:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the e-book untitled Bambi: A Life in the Woods can be fine book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Katie McCants:

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