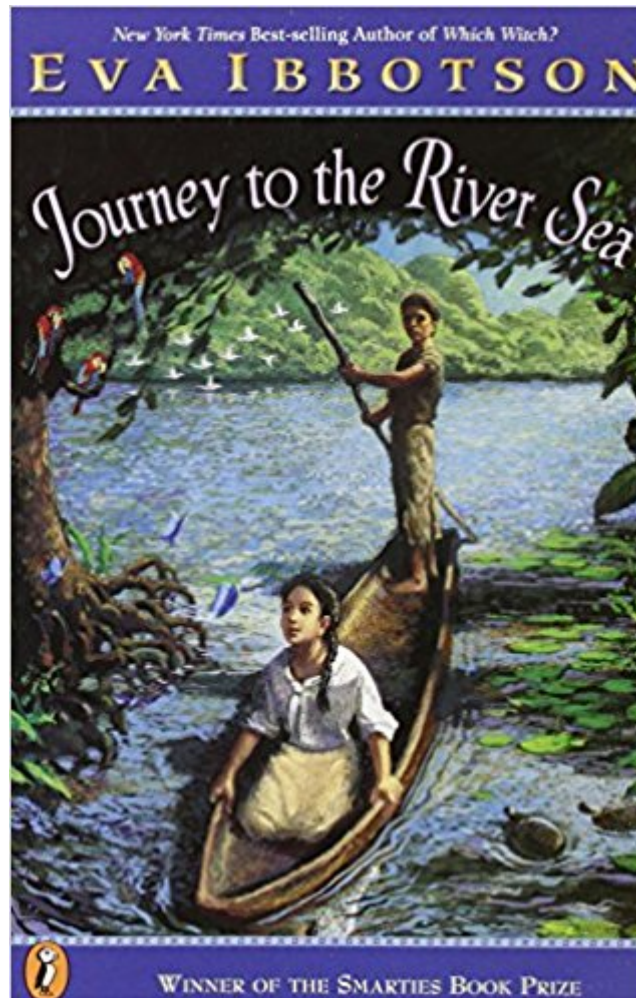




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Journey To The River Sea



Synopsis

Accompanied by Miss Minton, a fierce-looking, no-nonsense governess, Maia, a young orphan, sets off for the wilderness of the , expecting curtains of orchids, brightly colored macaws, and a loving family. But what she finds is an evil-tempered aunt and uncle and their spoiled daughters. It is only when she is swept up in a mystery involving a young Indian boy, a homesick child actor, and a missing inheritance that Maia lands in the middle of the adventure she's dreamed of. Readers of every generation will treasure Ibbotson's lush historical adventure that harkens back to the beloved classics of Frances Hodgson Burnett and Louisa May Alcott.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (88 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

If you want ghosts and witches, then read any one of Ibbotson's other novels - they're all great, and perfect for Harry Potter fans. However Journey to the River Sea has its own kind of magic, and it's just as good as the stuff with wands and potions. Maia, an orphan, is sent with her formidable but loving governess (shades of *The Little White Horse*) to stay with her unpleasant relations on the . They're being paid to take her in, and hate everything to do with the extraordinary country in which they find themselves as much as Maia loves it. Luckily for her, she makes friends with two boys - one a child actor playing Little Lord Fauntleroy on the boat over, the other a mysterious boy who lives in the jungle, who turns out to be the heir to a great title and fortune back in England. Maia's evil twin cousins and relations are soon plotting how to kill her and capture the boy, for whom a huge reward is being offered. But the love of her governess and friends may yet save her....This

won the Smarties Gold Prize in the UK and is expected to win the Carnegie too. It's unputdownable, packed with old-fashioned story-telling virtues from a great plot to characters you'd love to know.

Set mostly along the River, this newest book by acclaimed author Eva Ibbotson (*Which Which?*, *Island of the Aunts*) was a wonderful, enjoyable read. It is the story of the orphan Maia who leaves her British boarding school to move in with some distant relatives who live on the mighty River, or "river sea." Before she arrives, Maia imagines beautiful wildlife and exciting adventures, as well as being greeted by a wonderful family who will love her as one of their own. Unfortunately, this is not how things turn out, as her aunt and cousins are extremely xenophobic, and will not allow any bit of Indian culture to infiltrate their household. Her uncle, on the other hand, is almost completely oblivious due to his fascination with his collection of glass eyes. Just as things are getting to be truly unbearable, Maia meets a young "Indian" boy who has a secret and needs her help to keep him from the place of his father's youth. With the help of her governess, the museum curator, and a young actor fearing his demise due to his adolescence, Maia is able to help her new friend and find the truth. I highly recommend this book to all children ages 8+, and adults would probably enjoy it as well. The reading level is not difficult, and the story is definitely a page turner. Happy reading!

This comfortable, winding story will keep you reading. Maia leaves the security of her boarding school to live with relatives in Brazil after the death of her parents. She is hoping to find a loving family and is apprehensive about leaving everything she knows to live along the wild River. Her courage is further tested when she meets Miss Minton, the serious governess who is traveling with her. The wildlife, color and scents of the Amazon are thrilling her. Unfortunately her new family smells like bug spray and they live in fear of the very Nature that amazes Maia. The story has some fun characters, Clovis, a young English actor longing for England, Finn, a mysterious and exotic boy who lives in the jungle, and a Miss Minton, a governess who recognizes Maia's sharp mind and nurtures it. The comical twins, Beatrice and Gwendolyn, are the proverbial "ugly stepsisters." The story has an old fashioned feel to it, in the best sense. A missing inheritance, switched identities and the setting of the Amazon rain forest intertwine as Maia and her friends search for home. Kevin Hawkes illustrates the book, as he has other Ibbotson novels, with humor and whimsy.

OK--so there isn't a missionary anywhere in this book, but it is the type of thing that every person who has ever been on the mission field can relate to...Before Maia leaves England to go to Brazil to live with some long lost relatives, her friends tell her about all the "bad" things she will encounter.

The crocs, the piranhas and headhunters, however she does her own research and quickly finds some good to look for and tries to enlighten her friends about how she is not going to the "ends of the earth" but rather a new and exciting country where she will have great adventures. Most of the people that Maia meets in Brazil are typical of those you will meet in a any "foreign" embassy, company, mission agency, etc. You will have those who miss trivial things about their homecountries and will never be happy. You will find those who refuse to have anything to do with the natives and their way of life and thus make both their lives and the ones of those around them miserable. You will have those who reject their native land totally (for various reason) and totally inculturate themselves...and finally you will have those like Maia and her governess who decide to look for both the good and bad, the beautiful and the ugly to make it all "real" but also live a fuller happier life. I am so glad that a friend suggested this book to read and while it made me homesick for the , it also gave me something that I can share with my daughter about the glories of just "living" rather than simply existing.

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