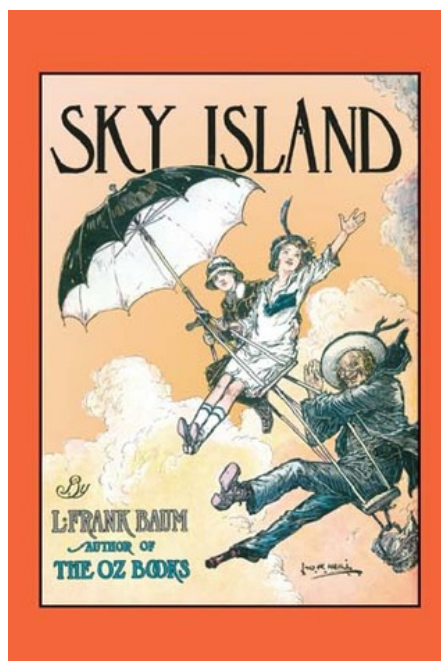




Sky Island

L. Frank Baum

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This captivating tale by the "royal historian of Oz" recounts the further adventures of a little girl named Trot and Cap'n Bill, an old sailor, after their visit to the Sea Fairies. A remarkable fairyland in sky country, Sky Island turns out to be a place that Trot, Cap'n Bill, and their friend — a little boy nicknamed Button-bright — were glad to leave after having experienced some unpleasant moments there. Transported by a magical umbrella that whisks the three travelers off to this island in the sky, they meet the six snub-nosed princesses, discover the King's treasure chamber, encounter a blue wolf, meet Tourmaline the poverty Queen and Rosalie the Witch, and eventually make the long journey home. A charming addition to Dover's successful line of Oz books, this volume will delight long-time Oz fans as well as newcomers to L. Frank Baum's realms of fantasy. 86 black-and-white and 12 full-color illustrations.

Sky Island Details

Date : Published November 7th 2002 by Dover Publications (first published 1912)

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Author : L. Frank Baum

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From Reader Review Sky Island for online ebook

Kat says

A fun, comical, and action-filled book. I enjoyed it immensely and admired it as well -- I wasn't expecting such genuine dramatic tension from a Baum book. Trot is a plucky young heroine who manages to remain goodhearted and sweet while not taking crap from anyone (although she is also aware of the benefits of an occasional strategic retreat). I may even like her better than Dorothy!

Jodi Woody says

This was a fun little read by the author of the Wizard of Oz. There are a few similarities. The main characters are a little girl, a one legged sailor, and a little boy. They fly off on an adventure with a magic umbrella and meet some interesting characters. Though I love the Wizard of Oz, this one wasn't as good. There is a "good" witch, for those of you who oppose all witches. I can recommend for middle grade and up. I give it three stars. I liked it.

hpboy13 says

I'll be honest, I didn't read this one as a kid because Sea Fairies bored me to tears – nothing much happened. Baum oscillates between telling a really compelling story in a fairytale land (usually revolving around getting home) and just regaling readers with a fantastic travelogue that has no point. But as part of my grand 2018 Oz reread, I picked this one up.

I think it skyrocketed near the top of my favorite Baum books, because it's absolutely delightful. Baum restrains himself to one land with three kingdoms (color-coded and very reminiscent of Oz). There's a compelling villain in the Boolooroo, and some hilarious satire of royalty. Button Bright isn't as obnoxiously useless as he becomes in later books, and Trot is a fun and spunky heroine.

Robert Taylor says

While not as famous as his Oz books, Sky Island is every bit as full of imagination and wonderful characters. I only wish I could find a continuation of this story, but Baum moved all the main characters to Oz so that he continue writing about them in his more popular setting.

Janie says

These are two of my favorite Oz characters.

Adaline Griffiths says

Sky Island is the story of Trot, Button Bright and Cap'n Bill. Button Bright has found a magic umbrella, which allows him to go anyplace in the world in seconds. He meets Trot and Cap'n Bill during his adventures, and the three decide to go to "Sky Island", a small island without a name off the coast. But the umbrella instead takes them up over the ocean. They land in a land of blue, where they are taken prisoner by the terrible Boolooroo. They must find a way to escape servitude, and on the way help the blue people. Will they escape? Will they ever find their way home? I rate this book 4 out of 5 stars.

Herman Gigglesworth says

This is a nice silly book. It's not technically an Oz book, though it does share some of the characters and takes place in the same universe. The story is about Trot, Cap'n Bill, and Button-Bright using a Magic Umbrella (it beats Mary Poppins and the Travelers insurance company to the punch) flying to Sky Island and having Oz-like adventures.

It's not quite as good as the first three Oz books, but it is on par with the majority of the series.

Jennifer Zartman says

I enjoy an occasional dip into Baum's fantasy world. I love his world building skills, and his stories charm me when I need a diversion. They champion great virtues like love, faithfulness, and kindness, and this story is no different. I really like Cap'n Bill, and Trot is a lot of fun. Button Bright actually owns and exercises brains in this story, which I find refreshing. I read the Kindle version, which has no illustrations.

George says

Started reading this a second time to Mike on 12/16/2012.

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I actually liked this one quite a bit! The story kept a good pace, the places and situations were interesting, and the characters were interesting, too. I think the only thing I didn't care for was that Baum's leading girl characters (Dorothy, Ozma, Betsy Bobbin, and now Trot) are all very similar. The only real difference between them is the names. That said, I really enjoyed this book and was very happy to see the return of Button Bright (who is much more talkative in this book) and Polychrome.

Lynn K. says

Sky Island is the second book in Baum's Trot & Cap'n Bill series. The first book is The Sea Fairies, and while I found Sky Island less imaginative than The Sea Fairies, I thought the story was more engaging. It's not necessary to read the first book in order to understand the second, and if you are looking for a fun, fast paced adventure that features a strong little girl as a main character you won't be disappointed in Sky Island.

Stuart Lutzenhiser says

The girls loved this. Tells the story of Trot and Cap'n Bill who are dropped in (literally) by a small boy named Button-Bright who lands in a magic umbrella. They fly into the clouds to Sky Island where they get caught up in a conflict between the Blues and the Pinks. Typical Baum writing and Oz related - while not actually being set in Oz.

Kirsten Dent says

I'm giving this book 5 stars on behalf of my 8 year old son. He loved it so much he was upset when we finished it so the sign of a good story. On a personal level I thought this was a much better read than the previous Trot & Cap'n Bill story, Sea Fairies and dealt with some interesting and still relevant themes mainly racial equality. In true L. Frank Baum style the day was saved by an unlikely young heroine with a big heart. There is also a cameo appearance from Polychrome the Rainbow's daughter which all Oz series fans will appreciate.

Roxanne says

This was our first foray into Baum's non-Oz books. *Sky Island* features several characters from the deep Oz backstory, including Trot, Captain Bill, and Button Bright (who didn't feel the same here - I don't think he said "don't know" even once - and also we found out his real name and where he's from, which I didn't really need to know). I liked the story overall, including Baum's sly commentary on government (how he depicts the Blues versus the Pinkies), but my daughter seemed to feel it was too long, and unlike with Oz stories, she was ready to be done and move on to something else. Overall, recommended for serious Oz fans only.

Brandy says

Trot & Cap'n Bill have another adventure, this time with the help of Button-Bright, who manages to not get himself lost this time. (Except insofar as he finds himself on the other side of the country from his Philadelphia home.)

The first half was pretty dull, but eventually the story picked up and Julian was willing to read the second half. I'm not clamoring for more of Trot's adventures outside of Oz, but J was super-bummed that it ended.

Janelle says

A little bit of Oz without actually being an Oz book. Much better than the first Captain Bill and Trot book.

Peyton says

What happens when a old sailor, a intelligent young boy, and a snarky little girl go into a land full of rivalry between the pinkies and blues? Sky Island is a book about true loyalty and friendship. L. Frank Baum built the imagination into the pages of this book, and it goes to show such as little pink people. The explanation to everything is short and simple and gets the point across easily, such as the flying umbrella it is nothing more and nothing less than a flying umbrella. There is a lot of detail in this book it almost makes the reader feel like they're there with the characters an example of this would be when the pinkies and blues fight until the death. Anybody who likes to get lost in a book and has a good imagination would like to read this book. 300 pages

Frank says

If you like Baum's series of the Wizard of Oz you love this one. After Baum finally put the 14 or 15 book series of Oz to bed he started another series and produced a new Dorothy and this time without limiting to Oz. This actually uses two characters from the Oz series. They get to this strange land (island in the sky) with a magic umbrella and then the rest of the book is full of adventures and attempts to return home after the umbrella is taken from them. It is presented in typical Baum fashion but his style seems freer and it is easier to follow and relate to. This is the second of this series but I have not read the first one yet.

Morgan says

I didn't like this one as much as others many because I don't really care for Button-Bright. Polychrome is in this and I liked that part of it.

Kore Qualls says

I listened to the audio book version of this story. I thought it was very creative and simple. I would like to recommend this book to anyone who wants to get a way from all the super thick, complex plot twist books and refresh their mind with some more lazy reading.

Theodore says

Surprisingly, THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ was not L. Frank Baum's favorite of his books; this one--SKY ISLAND--was. He wrote that he expected he would be most remembered for it, not for any of the Oz books.

SKY ISLAND features a villain so fearsome and loathsome that he makes the Wicked Witch of the West look like a sweet old lady by comparison. The Booloroo (ruler) of the Blueskins is like a children's-book version of the Roman Emperor Caligula: emotionally stunted like a malignant infant, almost always in a frenzy of rage, but also creative when it comes to making others unhappy. He has a standard way of punishing people he does not like, which he calls "patching". One victim describes it: "They stand you under

a big knife, which drops and slices you neatly in two—exactly in the middle. Then they match half of you to another person who has likewise been sliced—and there you are, patched to someone you don't care about and haven't much interest in. If your half wants to do something, the other half is likely to want to do something different, and the funny part of it is you don't quite know which is your half and which is the other half. It's a terrible punishment, ..."

SKY ISLAND has a much more logical and better structured plot than WIZARD, too. WIZARD, like many of the Oz books, is mostly a walking tour, the protagonists wandering around encountering local weirdos like the Kalidahs, the Fighting Trees, and the denizens of the dainty China Country, with a few structural elements thrown in to give it body, such as the goal of getting to the Emerald City, the mission to kill the Wicked Witch of the West, and the final journey to Glinda's castle after the Wizard leaves in his balloon. There's very little of this walking-tour stuff in SKY ISLAND! It's a tight, complex adventure with twists and subtleties in the plot. I don't want to give too much away, but plot-elements include the protagonists being enslaved by the Boolooroo and his family, then escaping and becoming military leaders of another, less-hostile community known as Pinkies, and finally, waging war against their former masters in order to recover their magical umbrella which they need in order to return home. One of their party gets captured in battle and needs to be rescued from the Boolooroo, who intends to patch him with a goat. When I first read this as a small child many decades ago, I think I read the whole book in one sitting.
