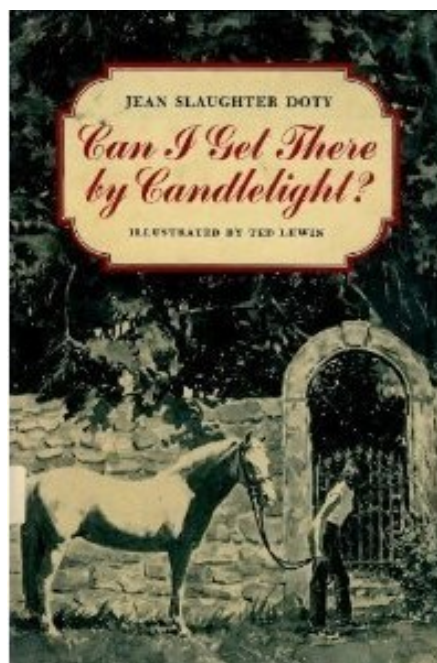




Can I Get There By Candlelight?

Jean Slaughter Doty , Ted Lewin

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Can I Get There By Candlelight? Details

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From Reader Review Can I Get There By Candlelight? for online ebook

Amanda says

Childhood favorite; I still love it, though it doesn't hold up as well now.

Alison McDonough says

One of my very favorite books as a girl and where I first fell in love with time travel.

Makenna N says

Gail Simmons is a girl who lives on a farm. It is summer and she is patiently waiting for school to start. She loves riding her horse Candlelight. One day she is riding Candlelight and she goes through this gate and travels back in time. She meets this girl named Hilary in the town of Babylon. She comes back to Babylon everyday so Hilary and her can ride horse together. They hung out all summer, but in the end, it's not just a simple ride.

Lynda Wylde says

One of the first time travel stories I remember reading. Gail and her parents are renting an old carriage house that used to be part of a large country estate, most of which has been torn down. One day, while riding her horse through the woods, Gail finds herself in the past, and face to face with the girl who lived on the estate 100 years ago. Apparently, I was smitten with silly time travel stories right from the beginning!

Emily says

(the rating is purely a reflection of how much I enjoyed it as a child, haven't attempted to reread.)

Jenn says

Loved this just as much as when I was 10. Fantastic little book, and the illustrations are wonderful.

Nancy says

Time travel, but not so's you'd notice. From the cover I expected a horse story, but didn't really get that.

There was a pony, but not much talk of relationship with it. From the description I expected a time travel story, and while she did communicate with someone from the past there was no connection to the present or sense of being in another time and place. Seemed more like an imaginary friend than a real adventure. Pretty dull over all. I left in on the airplane. Maybe someone else will enjoy it.

Jeanne McNabney says

Perfect for young adults who like a bit of mystery.

Adelaide Metzger says

Tear jerker...

Karen • The Book Return says

So I read this in about 4th or 5th grade from the book mobile (around 1982) and have often thought about it. Back before Harry Potter and a lot of you adult fantasy novels. This novel was very magical and unique in my mind. I did research and figured out the name and ordered it from Amazon. So I am read it again 34 years later and it was better then I remember. Very well written. I can't believe it's out of print. It still would apply well today. Really good book. Better then I remember. I love simple time travel books.

My blog

Suz Thackston says

What an utterly charming and delightful book. It turned me back into a 12 year old for a brief enchanted spell. The fact that it didn't wrap it all up in a neat happy ending bow did not detract one tiny bit from the pleasure. In fact, I admire it.

This is the sort of horse story I loved as a girl, when the Pullein-Thompson sisters and Pat Smythe and Enid Blyton ruled my reading world. I've been so disappointed by the comparative pablum of modern American Scholastic horse stories. How did I not know about Jean Slaughter Doty?

I see she's written some for the Scholastic series, I'll have to check them out.

If they're anything like this good, I'll happily turn Little Girl again to read 'em.

Heather Williams says

I read this book when I was younger, but found it (and a bunch of other horse books!) in a box that my mom made me take out of their house.

The main idea is that when the protagonist walks through a specific gate on a property her parents are renting for the summer, she is transported back about 100 years and meets a girl the same age (and of course same

size so she can fit her clothes, right?) and has an awesome summer... until she doesn't.

THE END.

I was hoping for some kind of cool resolution with a newspaper article appearing about the girl from the past, but there wasn't. It just ended, and life went on as if it never happened. Oh well. I think I was much more intrigued when I was a kid - and I glossed over some of the unbelievable details more.

Stephanie A. says

A fantastic wish-fulfillment adventure. Summer, ponies, and a mysterious door to hang out in the elegant past? Yes, please.

QNPoohBear says

I loved this book when I was a tween! I forgot all about it until now but I'm giving it 5 stars because I know I read it at least twice and enjoyed it.

Tania says

Gail and her pony Candy face an isolated summer in a new home. Then they chance upon an old rusted gate that leads to a welcoming path in the woods, and their lives are forever changed. Gail and Candy follow the path to Babylon, a place seemingly untouched by the last hundred years of progress. There Hilary awaits, and they while away the summer in her company. But with the coming of fall, Gail fears that facing reality again could be a challenge.

Jean Slaughter Doty weaves a fantastic tale of friendship and mystery. She never falls back on the tired trope of our teenage protagonist feeling sorry for herself, but instead let's her organically follow the path she has set her upon.

A B says

I'll admit it - I only read this book because of the title.

How many miles to Babylon?

Three score mile and ten

Can I get there by candlelight?

Yes, and back again.

Yes if your feet are nimble and light

You can get there by candlelight.

Just a pretty little rhyme that I happened upon years ago and found charming.

I appreciate that the author formed an entire story about the rhyme. Gail is the new girl in town and has no

friends except for her horse. It's set in the early 1980s so she doesn't have Netflix or GTA online or such to entertain her. To make matters worse, her family is renting an old carriage house on the outskirts of town as they wait for their new home to be built. She's isolated and lonely. So one day when she stumbles upon a little wicket gate along a hedge row, Gail takes a chance and walks through it.

It's a sweet story of friendship and a rather poignant one as it explores loneliness. I'm not sure if it was intentional, but I felt sorry for both girls. What detracted from it - and probably would have bothered me even if I'd read this as a kid - is the rushed ending without much resolution. I wish there'd been another chapter in which Gail (view spoiler).

Jennifer Ogawa says

I have read this many times since I was a child. Loved it then and still do.

Debbie says

A summer spent in a rented house while Gail Simmons waited for school to start, started out normal, looking through the attic of the old coach house, Gail found a trunk with a side saddle and riding habit. She was a good horseback rider, her and Candy (short for Candlelight) had even won awards together but she had never ridden sidesaddle so the dusty saddle interested her. Spending her afternoons on Candy, riding in the orchard, she found a gate in the old stone wall, they went through and followed a path and were surprised to see a summerhouse (gazebo type building) on the other side (Babylon). The girl, Hilary was there, drinking lemonade and dressed differently than Gail was. Through out the summer, the two girls became friends and together they taught Gail how to ride sidesaddle and drive a pony cart. The whole time, Gail knew there was something so different about their friendship, she just was not sure and in the end, the time difference was so much more than the ride through the simple woods.

Fun and easy read, short chapters, the concept of time is subtle only pointed out by the differences between dress style, transportation forms, and several words. The girls become friends with several similar interests including the love of horses, riding, and being outside in the summer. The ending is sad and in some ways incomplete, what happened to Hilary, how bad was she hurt, who put the trunk back in the attic. Good read aloud story.

"How many miles to Babylon?
Three score miles and ten.
Can I get there by candlelight?
Yes, and back again.
If your heels are nimble and light.
You can get there by candlelight."
- Mother Goose

Linda says

One of the first time travel books I ever read. I was thinking about this book today after about 25 years, and thanks to the miracle of the internet, found it again easily.

I am not a "horse person", but i loved the story and the literary nursery rhyme reference. I agree with the other reviewers that the story is sweet but in the end, unsatisfying, in that it leaves too many questions unanswered.

Rena Sherwood says

I've read perhaps a literal ton horse books in my life. Jean Slaughter Doty is one of a handful of authors I wish I'd met. (Sadly, she died in 1991.) I wanted to ask her how she came up with the ideas some of the more screwed-up of her books, such as **Can I Get There by Candlelight?** I wonder if she had a recurring nightmare and so just had to write this story down so she could finally get a good night's sleep. Or perhaps the story just came to her and nagged at her so much that she was driven to write it down.

Well -- I guess we'll never know.

This is the most bizarre of Slaughter Doty's books -- and I mean bizarre in a nice way. It's rare to find horse books that mention time-travelling. (If you know of any more, please let me know.)

Unfortunately, the book does not have a satisfying ending. It just ends and lots of questions are left unanswered. I know that's like life but in a kid's book I was hoping for a more satisfying tale, no mater how original the plot.
