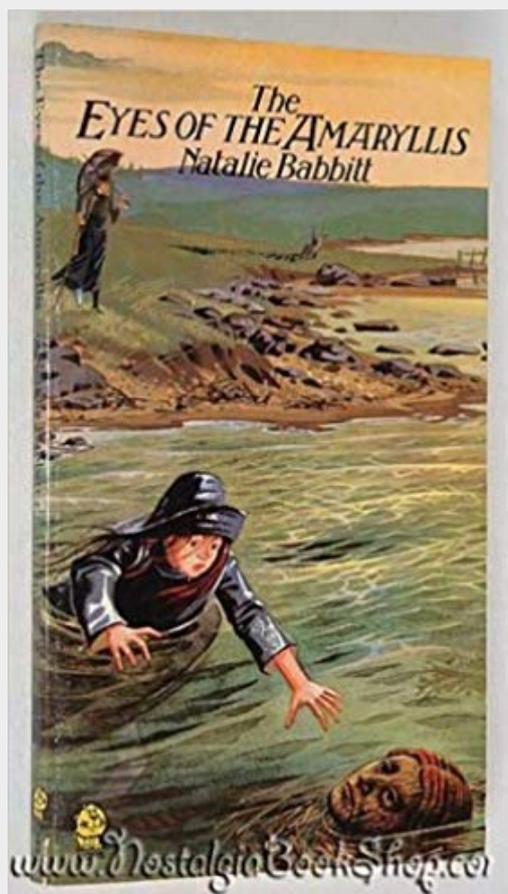


The Eyes of the Amaryllis (Lions) by Natalie Babbitt



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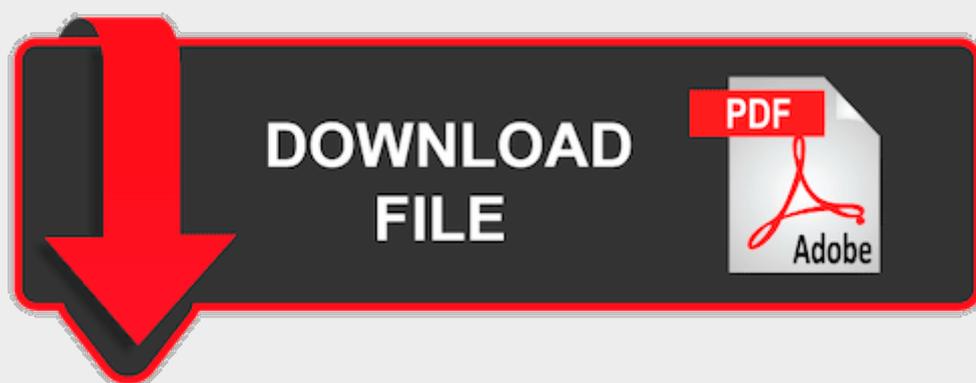
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When the brig Amaryllis was swallowed in a hurricane, the captain and all the crew were swallowed, too. For thirty years the captain's widow, Geneva Reade, has waited, certain that her husband will send her a message from the bottom of the sea. But someone else is waiting, too, and watching her, a man called Seward. Into this haunted situation comes Jenny, the widow's granddaughter. The three of them, Gran, Jenny, and Seward, are drawn into a kind of deadly game with one another and with the sea, a game that only the sea knows how to win. *The Eyes of the Amaryllis* is a 1977 New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of the Year.



Reviews of the **The Eyes of the Amaryllis (Lions)** by Natalie

Babbitt

1. POFOD

From cover to cover, Natalie Babbitt's "The Eyes of the Amaryllis" is an absolutely magical read! As I read the story, I kept thinking "What a wonderful book to read aloud so that a group of people (adults or children) could experience the enchantment together with the reader!". Babbitt's stories are so rich in characterization and so well-written as to flow seamlessly from one page to another. There is no need for the reader to go back to re-read a previous page or paragraph to grasp the evolution of the story. Babbitt effectively pulls the reader "through the rabbit hole" to a time, a place, a world where there are things beyond what we can see and easily understand. Each journey the author takes us on promises well-crafted tale and a window through which we rarely look. But with Babbitt as our guide, readers can rest assured the journey will be a pleasant one and we will never quite see the world the same again. This story of Geneva Reade, her name-sake grand-daughter, and her son George depicts their individual responses to the raging sea that sweeps back and forth with the tides below the house where the first Geneva has lived as a widow for years. Many years before, she and her son George, then only a boy, had watched the ship the Amaryllis, manned-by her sea-captain husband, George's father, sink and completely disappear in a storm. Geneva remained, longing and looking, for some bit of the ship to land ashore as a message of love from her Captain husband. George flees as quickly as possible from the threat of the mighty sea that left him alone and frightened. He does not return until he brings his daughter, also Geneva, to care for his mother after she breaks her ankle. The two Genevas immediately share their affinity for the sea and the magical hold it has on them. When a hurricane comes ashore so that "the sea can reclaim what it values," George throws off his fear of the sea to rescue the women he loves, and the first Geneva receives the miraculous sign for which she has waited. The intricacies of the story provide the depth and dimension to make this book a most charming and delightful read and a wonderful change of pace from more ordinary literature.

2. ALAN

The Eyes of the Amaryllis is a lovely story about belief and

mysteriousness. The Amaryllis flower isn't in the readers' minds until the ending. I liked that. I liked the author's use of language and her use of description. She made every scene visible and real. The description of the hurricane makes readers' want to take cover or get away from that place as soon as possible. I had a group of 7th graders read this story which was printed in the back of the textbook we were using. Nearly all of the students really loved the story, although a few 7th grade boys could have cared less about any story at that stage of their lives. Those who liked The Eyes of the Amaryllis liked the way the story flowed and the way it ended. This is a great little book.

3. Endieyab

I feel sure that I am repeating myself, but this book is an exceptional story.

The story, plot and grammar speak to the need for children to read books of this type and for adults to read for fun, relaxation and education.

4. Anayalore

I loved this book when I was young so I bought it for my daughter. She loved it too! I got to relive being eleven and getting totally immersed in a ghost story again. :) Good times.

5. Mohn

An outstanding story beautiful told, for ages 8 or so on up.

6. Use_Death

Interesting book; had not read it before.

7. Haralem

A wonderful book 11 year old read for school

8. A poignant story of family, of romantic love, all rolled into fantasy, in a way only Babbitt seems able to pull off.

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