

Mapstead-Eli -20050303110002

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Date: 03/03/2005

From: Eli Mapstead

Comment:

The Dorrie series is a series of illustrated childrens books about a little witch and her adventures that I grew up reading as a kid. However, all except one of the 20 some odd books in the series are out of print. The date of the first publish I can find for the first book in the series is ~1965. The different books have been published and republished by a hoard of different publishers including Harpercollins Library, Random House Childrens Pub, Harpercollins Juvenile Books, Clari on Books, Houghton Mifflin Company, "Dell, New York USA", "Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books", Bantam Books, and "A World's Work, UK". The only book for sale new out of the ~20 or so books is ISBN: 0618130535.

A list of the titles in the series is as follows:

- 1 Dorrie's Magic
- 2 Dorrie and the Blue Witch
- 3 Dorrie's Play
- 4 Dorrie and the Weather Box
- 5 Dorrie and the Witch Doctor
- 6 Dorrie and the Wizard's Spell
- 7 Dorrie and the Haunted House
- 8 Dorrie and the Birthday Eggs
- 9 Dorrie and the Goblin
- 10 Dorrie and the Fortune Teller
- 11 Dorrie and the Amazing Magic Elixir
- 12 Dorrie and the Witch's Imp
- 13 Dorrie and the Halloween Plot
- 14 Dorrie and the Dreamyard Monsters
- 15 Dorrie and the Screebit Ghost
- 16 Dorrie and the Witchville Fair
- 17 Dorrie and the Witch's Camp
- 18 Dorrie and the Museum Case
- 19 Dorrie and the Pin Witch
- 20 Dorrie and the Haunted School house

The cost of finding out who owns the copyrights on each different original print, re-print, audio print, etc. from all the different publishers over a 19 year period is burdensome to say the least.

Since 19 out of 20 of the books appear to be out of print and likely to remain so for the foreseeable future I am interested in making the stories available for free via the web in PDF/HTML/Flash format. It seems such a waste that current and future generations won't be able to enjoy the Dorrie series like I did as it appears to currently be orphaned.

Comments from other people that feel the same way (read entire thread <http://notabug.com/kahle/36>):

Justin: I loved those stories growing up. Even back then (mid 80's), some of these were impossible to find at the library.

Pin: There is a very small town in Illinois that has the whole series in their library. I personally would like to see the books reprinted, so that another generation can go to the Bizzare, become Dorrie's friend, and have a cat like Gink.

Janeen: I absolutely loved these books growing up and I would like to purchase the set to read to my daughter.

Deanna: I am a librarian and I frequently have requests for these books. They are also among my favorites as I had them when I was a child and I would love to share them with my own children and patrons.

April: I have a copy of Dorrie and the Blue Witch from 1964. It was my favorite book at my grandmother's home. I found it among her things when she passed in 1997. I have twins who are 5 and they can not get enough of this book. We read it over and over. I just wish I could get my hands on the others in the series so they could enjoy them also.

Kara: The Dorrie series are dear to my heart - she is timeless. I hope that someday soon they can all be reprinted so that all children can discover the independent Dorrie inside.

I have been buying used copies off the web. I would think that with the huge response to the Harry Potter books that these stories about Dorrie, Gink, Cook and Big Witch would be highly profitable. I know that I have spent a FORTUNE on natty x-library books.

Jasmine: When my parents first separated, I was living with my dad, and my mom used to read me a Dorrie story every night over the phone while I was lying in bed. I would love to have access to these stories again.

Jenny: I remember reading these books in grade school, and checked them out from the library over and over again. Now, I'd like to have them to share with my nieces and nephews, and perhaps my own kids someday. I really wish they'd be reprinted; I would probably buy the entire collection in a heartbeat if they were available. Sadly, it's almost impossible to find good, collectable copies without paying anywhere from \$30-\$100 per book.

Amy: I loved the Dorrie books as a child. I even named my cat Gink. It would be wonderful to see them in print again. I am sure today's kids would enjoy them as we did.

Leslie: When I was growing up in MN, my mother worked as a Library Aide in an Elementary School. I was looking through some of her lesson plans, and noticed several Dorrie books jotted down to read to the classes as they came in for their library time. This peaked my interest. I too work as an Aide in an Elementary School in MO. I work with a young teacher who just happened to mention her memories of her childhood, and the Dorrie series. I looked into Dorrie, and remembered them myself! This has sparked my search for the series. I hope to collect them for my future grandchildren. Dorrie is a true classic!!

Bobby: I used to read these books as a child. Anyone out there remember the Dorrie read-a-long audio cassettes and books? These books need to be published again, perhaps even in a set of all 20!

Kitty: My mother used to take me to the library every week, and every week, I would select one or more of the Dorrie books. I loved them! I had my first child (daughter) in 2002 and, unfortunately, my mom passed away 7 weeks later. Now that my daughter is of the age where she can sit through a longer story, I wanted to introduce her to Dorrie. I am so sad the books are unavailable. I would certainly pay a pretty penny for an entire set.

Brooke: Dorrie was (and remains) my favorite children's book character. Like some other people on this site, I have been trying to locate copies of most of the books

in the series for years - with no luck (except for an occasional option to buy an extremely expensive 'rare' edition). I want children today and in the future to have the opportunity to get to know Dorrie and Gink and Cook and The Big Witch! Best of luck to anyone who tries to re-publish this series.

Crystal: I am a 32- year old mother who is now able to share the Dorrie series with my 9 - year old, daughter, Merrill. I used to have the entire set when I was younger, but it was stolen during a move. It has taken me almost 15 years, but I have re-completed the set, with the exception of " Dorrie's Magic". I think these books of Ms.Coombs are wonderful creative works, great for young & old - for many generations to come. Hopefully the books will be reprinted so ALL may enjoy them! Hats off to you, Patricia Coombs!

Nikki: I too loved these books growing up and am interested in collecting them for my children. I think they would be extremely popular if they were to be re-published for 'the next generation'.

Jen: I am 33 years old and have loved Dorrie since my mom and older brother used to read Dorrie and the Blue Witch to me over and over as a child. As kids do, we lost track of our Dorrie books. When my brother died about 10 years ago I went on a search to find a copy of Blue Witch and finally did--just seeing it again made me cry! It is one of my prized possessions! I now have recollectd about 5 of the Dorrie books and hope to complete the series. I would love to see the books published again, but I will always love my beat up, 1960s, worn and torn, Dorrie and the Blue Witch.

Martha: I just want to say that I am also interested in acquiring the whole series of the Dorrie books. When I was growing up I love to read these books over and over again at the library. When I started high school I worked at the local library as a library page and was able to see when a new Dorrie copy came in and I was usually the first one to check it out. Hopefully the series will be published so new generations will have access to them. If anyone knows how or where to get copies of these books, please publish it so I can get some.

Shawn: I have searched the world over and our town library and bookstores for some reference to the Dorrie series. I came up with nothing until I searched google..yeh. My mom purchased a small building and placed it in our backyard so our community could have a library. She was the "branch" librarian for many years. It was wonderful at the time to have so many books to read at my fingertips but as I look back I realize it was really just the window of the world that my mom wanted my brother and I to experience. I loved Dorrie and could not wait for the traveling bus to bring the next one for me to read. My son is now 7 years old and I want him to share in the "magic of Dorrie." Thanks again for letting me know many people got carried with Dorrie. Please let me know where I can purchase any books.

Melissa: I also grew up reading these books. I started reading at a very early age and always enjoyed the "Dorrie" books. If available, I would also like to purchase the whole set. I will keep searching on the NET for the complete set. Please let me know if at any point these are reprinted and become available. Thanks!

Patricia: I grew up reading the Dorrie series from my town's library. They were my favorite books and I borrowed them over and over. For a few years now I have been searching for the any and all copies through local library book sales, secondhand bookstores and now on the Internet. A few years ago I was able to acquire one book through a popular online "hard-to-find" bookseller for a reasonable price. Today, I am shocked to how the prices have skyrocketed of these rare copies held only by a few individuals on auction and other book websites. This series definitely needs to come back in print. I agree with the other Dorrie fans that they should offer a box-set of all the books as well. I would love my children to come to love these books as I did - lets give them the chance!