



Home Alone

Eleanor Schick

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Home Alone Details

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Author : Eleanor Schick

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From Reader Review Home Alone for online ebook

Adrienne Pettinelli says

This book is a primer for latchkey kids, told from the point of view of Andy, the saddest child I have ever met in a beginning reader. Part of the mood comes from the beginning reader format, with its short declarative sentences and lack of contractions. It makes the narrator sound traumatized, especially when he turns on the radio to block out the scary noises outside his apartment. He claims to do this for the sake of his toy animals, which just makes the whole thing that much more pathetic: "They say they like the music this town has and they like the magic music box. Now they do not have to hear the stairs creaking in the hallway whenever someone comes home."

Jeepers.

Another crazy thing about this beginning reader is that the boy's cat is named "Bisquits." Right now, I would like you, experienced adult reader, to try to say "Bisquits" out loud.

Right.

How is someone who has just learned how to read supposed to cope with "Bisquits"? You also have to make a huge inference to figure out that Bisquits is the cat; it took me about four pages after he was first mentioned to figure it out.

I can see why this book exists. At the time, it filled a need, addressing latchkey kids' fears and telling them how to behave. It is much less relevant today, though, and certainly in a community like the one in which I work.
