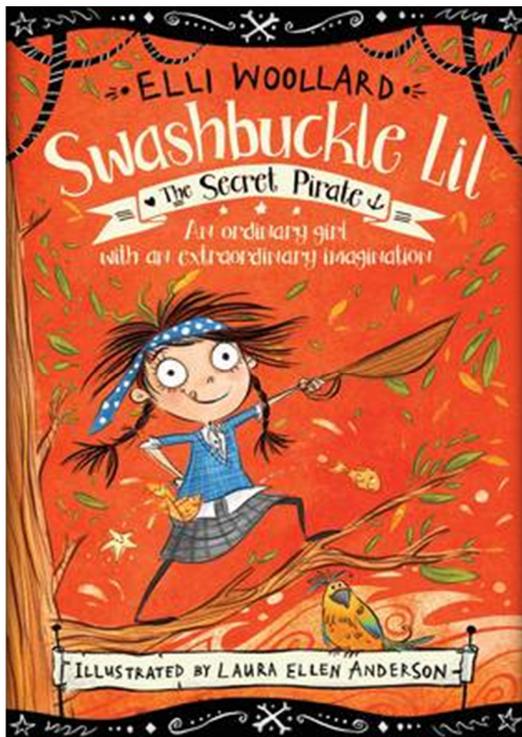


Helping you choose the best books for children

PAN MACMILLAN

LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Swashbuckle Lil** **The Secret Pirate** by Elli Woollard

Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.



Edith Andrews, age 4

Lovely, brave, empowering role model for young children. Lil is great fun. The stories are brilliant with just the right mix of hilarity, chaos and frights with Captain Stinkbeard.

Firstly, I would like to say how much I enjoyed reading this book to my daughter. What an empowering, fun character for girls.

Lil is a little girl who is also a pirate. Together with her trusty parrot, Carrot she protects her friends and miserable teacher from the smelly Captain Stinkbeard. Is she really a pirate or is she imagining it? Does it even matter??? My 4 year old loved these stories. She liked the fact that they were like 'adult books.' I think she means the chapters and the black and white drawings. On that note, Laura Ellen Anderson's illustrations jump out of the page with their energy. We particularly liked spotting the grotty creatures in Stinkbeard's beard.

Elli's rhymes are brilliant. They keep the story moving at a pace and also kept my daughter's interest.

To conclude, these are lovely books. Recommended for 5+ but my 4 year old loves them. I will definitely buy for friends.

You can follow Edith's mum, Ella on Twitter: @elllamkp

Lucy Collings, age 6

I really enjoyed reading this book because I found it funny and I liked the character of Lil.

I'm glad there are other 'Swashbuckling Lil' books because I'm looking forward to reading the other ones. It's good to have a pirate book that's for girls.

Lil is a swashbuckling pirate. When she sits at school she thinks about roaming the seas and having adventures. Meanwhile Stinkbeard tries to kidnap Miss Lubber who is Lil's teacher. What is Stinkbeard up to? Will he catch Miss Lubber and can Lil save the day?

*This book has short chapters and lots of eye-catching drawings on every page that are in and around the writing. This makes it a good book for newly confident readers. It is **a fast moving adventure with a strong, brave girl heroine.***

Elissa Watkin, age 4

A lovely fun book about a girl pirate called Lil who is a hero who saves the day from the naughty stink beard pirate who tries to cause chaos and mayhem. The story is written in rhymes and is funny.

Elissa loved this book for a number of reasons.

Firstly the main character is a young girl who is a fearless and clever pirate who has a sidekick parrot.

The book is well illustrated and the sentences rhyme and build as the story flows along.

These are great books to read along to young children and are similar to Julia Donaldson.

The story was engaging and fun and wasn't too long so it held Elissa attention.

Mum, Emma with Sam, age 6 and Jack, age 4

*Thank you for our copy of 'Swashbuckle Lil the Secret Pirate'. **We really enjoyed both the stories.** My boys especially like the story about the crocodile, and the clever way that Lil saves the day. **The rhyming prose is great as it allowed them to guess how sentences would end.** My 6 year old has enjoyed reading it himself, as well as hearing it read aloud by myself to*

him and his younger brother who is 4. I loved the adventures that Lil gets up to, and thought it was great to see gender stereotypes challenged. **We definitely recommend this book.**

Gianna Smith, age 7

Lil was an ordinary girl at least that is what everyone thought. But underneath her jumper and vest she was a pirate. No ordinary pirate, she was a pirate that liked to help. There is also a mean pirate. His name is Stinkbeard. He has a pet crocodile. Together they were thieving villains and they never said please or thank-you. They just stole treasure and were very selfish. Swashbuckle Lil stops him any time he lurks up somewhere nearby. Swashbuckle Lil has a pet parrot. When Stinkbeard is near she calls to her parrot to get her the news.

This is a very adventurous book. It seems like it is all in Lil's imagination and she has a very adventurous mind which never stops. It is a very good book for girls and boys but especially girls. It's good to see a girl hero saving the day, being daring and having fun. ***I want to read more about Lil. I think she is amazing.*** It is also surprising as each time you feel that Lil can't stop Stinkbeard. Lil always has an excuse for when her teacher gets cross with her. This book is easy to read and fun.

Romila Bahl

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