

Five Children and It



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(Prof. Alvis Wuckert)

FIVE CHILDREN AND IT

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Createspace, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 196 x 128 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Like Nesbit s Railway Children, the story begins when a group of children move from London to the countryside of Kent. While playing in a gravel pit, the five children-Robert, Anthea, Cyril, Jane, and their baby brother, the Lamb-uncover a rather grumpy, ugly and occasionally malevolent sand-fairy known as the Psammead, who has the ability to grant wishes. However, the Psammead has been buried for so long, he is no longer able to grant individual wishes. Instead, he persuades the children to take one wish per day, to share amongst the lot of them, with the caveat that the wishes will turn to stone at sundown. This, apparently, used to be the rule in the Stone Age, when all children wished for was food, the bones of which would then become fossils. However, when the children s first wish-to be as beautiful as the day -ends at sundown, it simply vanishes, leading the Psammead to observe that some wishes are too fanciful to be changed to stone. All the wishes go comically wrong. When the children wish to be beautiful, the servants don t recognize them and shut them out of the house. When they wish to be rich, they find themselves with a gravel-pit full of gold spade guineas that no shop will accept as it is no longer in circulation, so they can t buy anything. A wish for wings seems to be going well, but at sunset the children find themselves stuck atop a church bell tower with no way down, getting them into trouble with the gamekeeper who must take them home (though this wish has the happy side-effect of introducing the gamekeeper to...

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