



The Door in the Wall (novel)

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The Door in the Wall is a 1949 novel by Marguerite de Angeli that received the [Newbery Medal](#) for excellence in American children's literature in 1950.^[1]

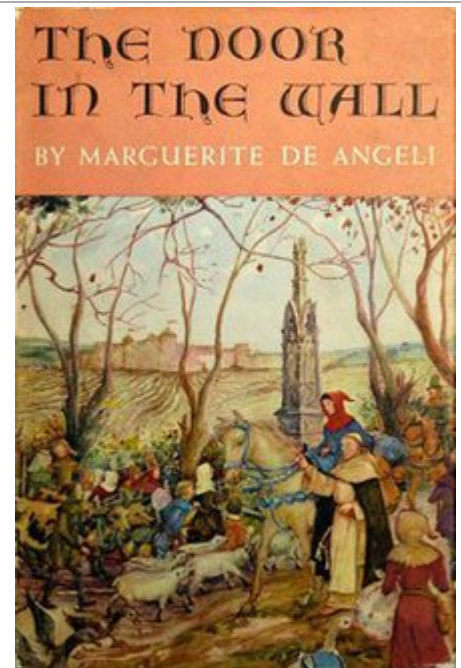
Plot summary

The story, illustrated by the author, is set in [England](#) during the [Middle Ages](#), as the [Black Death](#) ([bubonic plague](#)) is sweeping across the country. Young Robin is sent away to become a knight like his father, but his dreams are endangered when he loses the use of his legs. A doctor reassures Robin that the weakness in his legs is not caused by the plague and the doctor is supposed to come and help him but does not. His parents are away, serving the king and queen during war, and the servants abandon the house, fearing the plague. Robin is saved by Brother Luke, a [friar](#), who finds him and takes him to a [monastery](#) and cares for him.

Brother Luke teaches Robin how to read using the [Bible](#), how to swim and carve wood and use crutches, to be independent and build self-confidence, but Robin also learns patience and strength from the friar. The friar tells him that before overcoming a challenge you must first find "the door in the wall".

Robin's parents had planned for him to become a knight and to stay with Sir Peter de Lindsay to be a [page](#) first. John Go-in-the-Wynd, a minstrel, gives him a letter from Robin's father telling him and John Go-in-the-Wynd and Brother Luke to go to Lindsay. They get there after traveling for long hours, almost being robbed, and going on the wrong road for a time. When the [castle](#) of Peter de Lindsay is besieged by the [Welsh](#) and unable to send word for assistance, Robin swims the river, hobbles through enemy lines with his crutches, disguised as a simple-minded young shepherd, and alerts his messenger John Go-in-the-Wynd. John Go-in-the-Wynd sends for Sir Hugh's help, and they defeat the Welsh invaders. The king and his forces deliver the

The Door in the Wall



Author	Marguerite de Angeli
Country	United States
Language	English
Genre	Children's literature Historical fiction
Publisher	Doubleday
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Media type	Hardback , Paperback & Ebook
Pages	128 pages (first edition, and hardback)
ISBN	0440402832

inhabitants of the castle. Robin is reunited with his parents and they assure him that they love him more for his brave spirit than for his physical prowess. He is then rewarded for his service to the crown.

The term "door in the wall" means if one keeps trying and never gives up, they'll find a way to break through and to succeed. A quotation from the book (anachronistically rendered in Early Modern rather than Middle English) reads "If thou followeth [*sic*; proper Early Modern English would read 'followest'] a wall far enough, there must be a door in it."

References

1. ALA Newbery Medal winners list (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal#50s>)

External links

- *The Door in the Wall* at Fantastic Fiction (<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/a/marguerite-de-angeli/door-in-wall.htm>)



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