



Secrets of the Gnomes

Rien Poortvliet , Wil Huygen

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Secrets of the Gnomes

Rien Poortvliet , Wil Huygen

Secrets of the Gnomes Rien Poortvliet , Wil Huygen

An account of the life and work of gnomes, based on first-hand observations by the author and artist, who, themselves turned into gnomes, visited with gnomes in Lapland and Siberia.

Secrets of the Gnomes Details

Date : Published February 1st 1986 by Random House Value Publishing (first published 1981)

ISBN : 9780810916142

Author : Rien Poortvliet , Wil Huygen

Format : Hardcover 194 pages

Genre : Art, Fiction, Childrens, Fantasy, Humor

 [Download Secrets of the Gnomes ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Secrets of the Gnomes ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Secrets of the Gnomes Rien Poortvliet , Wil Huygen

From Reader Review Secrets of the Gnomes for online ebook

Traveller says

These little gnomes are quite similar to British gnomes and brownies, however, they are more industrious and helpful.

These are excellent books for children; (and definitely the kind you'd keep into adulthood).

Inbetween little folktales and self-made-up stories about the fey folk, the authors pop in some general knowledge stuff, like for instance botany, biology and geology and little projects of things the gnomes make to try out yourself (especially if you're a children), with snippets of knowledge about all kinds of things, some as far afield as the Egyptian pyramids, and a nice lesson on useful knots. (Yes, as in knots that you tie in a rope.)

So, some useful and interesting stuff in there even if you aren't a children.

All of it demonstrated with cute and appealing illustrations.

EDIT: It has just been brought to my attention, that what I have, is part of the original 28 volume set that was published in the 1980's.

These volumes have been republished (possibly with some of the material excluded) in one large edition, The Complete Gnomes.

Paquita Maria Sanchez wrote a cool, beautifully illustrated review on these interesting li'l creatures:

<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

Paquita Maria has the copy that I accidentally chose to review, thinking it was the same as the 28 volume set, but apparently the single hardcover volume featured here, doesn't contain a lot of the features that would appeal to kids, that are contained in the 28 volume set reviewed above.

I won't remove this review, since there are already comments made in the thread below, but please take note that these are not exactly the same books.

The cuteness and the 5 star rating still applies, nevertheless.

Jessica says

This book is really cool in many ways. The illustrations are the best thing about it, although some of them are really creepy. It reads like a nature journal/ diary of events and is about two human men who are able to enter the world of the gnomes and some magic allows them to become gnomes themselves for a period of time so they can observe gnomes in their natural habitat and bring information back to humanity. This is the second book, and I never read the first. I don't think you need to, but I probably will. It makes you feel like its perfectly reasonable to believe gnomes are nearby living their lives because its all explained so scientifically. Questions about how they could possibly survive are answered so well. I was disappointed that

it was all dude gnomes and the lady gnomes were mentioned in passing as housewives and nurses. I don't mind that that was their designated role, but they had no personality development in the story. They were giggly and sexual objects and that was it. I just think it shows lack of imagination. In a magical world like this, we don't get to know any of the personalities of the women gnomes? I just think that part was boring. Otherwise its a fun book to read and its set in the Arctic which I am always fond of. Plus foxes. I want a book about lady gnomes!

Agewen Stifford says

Very breathtaking illustrations! I don't really into the story, there are so many facts about animals, surviving in nature, and magical creatures beside gnomes! I want to collect All of the Rien Poortvliet works!

BoekenTrol says

Again I loved the drawings in this book. The text too, but to me that was not the most important. At the time that I read it, this book opened new worlds to me, not only the gnome world, but also worlds as in other countries.

I was very scared by the very realistic drawings of the trolls, but the interesting things: how gnomes live, what they do, how they dress, differences between gnomes in different parts of the world made that less. And, after reading it many times, I already knew when the trolls would be next, so I could skip the pages.

Tonari says

E' ormai perso in qualche meandro di casa dei miei, in attesa di tornare alla luce quando meno lo si aspetta.

Letto ormai parecchi anni fa me lo ricordo comunque come una lettura piacevolissima: ?? l'avventura di due uomini tramutatisi in gnomi che studiano da vicino le abitudini, i costumi e gli strumenti di questo curioso popolo, compilando una sorta di vademecum. Il finale forse ?? un po' troppo moraleggiante, ma ci si pu?? passare sopra.

Molto belle le immagini, un libro consigliato (da leggere magari sotto Natale, periodo in cui si svolge la vicenda).

Dyslexic Bookmonster says

The art of Rien Poortvliet is really an important part of children's stories in the 20th century. At least, that is what I often hear people say.

And I too love the lore behind his art and stories. The combination it very gripping. Though not everyone is a fan of Poortvliet's art.

Sam Fletcher says

A wonderful book for anyone interested in Gnomes and how they work. The book is worth reading for the art alone. The pictures are absolutely beautiful. The reason I only gave it 4 stars and not 5 is that some of the art shows nudity which makes it questionable for little kids though the story would be loved by them otherwise.

Iju says

Täydellinen.

Mouse says

Hooray for Gnome tits....Hooray!!!
I just can't get enough Gnome tits and this thing is just chock full of them!

This is supposed to be a sequel to the original 'Gnomes' book by the original author but it really falls short and just doesn't have that same magic...but hey...it's got Gnome tits!

Marije says

Prachtige, sfeervolle tekeningen en schilderijen van het poolgebied en een (helaas) nog steeds relevante oproep om zuinig te zijn op de wereld. De schrijfstijl doet wat gedateerd aan.
Grappig detail: de 'etnografische' beschrijving van andere kabouterculturen: kabouterversies van cliché's die nu echt niet meer kunnen.

Krk says

The art is really nice and the story, for the most part, enjoyable. I was thrown off by the random references to Christian lore.

Vera says



Diana says

Ofschoon het boek voor kinderen lijkt te zijn bedoeld komt ook bij volwassen de boodschap over die kabouters voor de mensheid hebben. Dat is feitelijk de opdracht die de beide samenstellers van het boek van de kabouters meekrijgen, de serieus bedoelde Oproep dus vanuit de kabouterwereld. Stop milieuvervuiling en natuurvernietiging en ga leven op een duurzame manier! De menselijk levenswijze waarbij veel grondstoffen en energie wordt verspild moet zo snel mogelijk werden ingeruild voor een milieubewuste wereldsamenleving. De toekomst van leven op aarde staat op het spel.

Paquita Maria Sanchez says

Gnomes are so much cooler than trolls. They are resourceful, inventive, compassionate, loving, creative, and fun. They can communicate with animals, hitch rides on their backs, help them in times of need, and occasionally even playfully outwit them. Mostly, though, they're friends.

Trolls, on the other hand, are no friends of the gnomes. From birth, these near-monosyllabic, cretinous creatures "start kicking around blindly," solely capable of "discerning things they can pester." As the secret book of the gnomes informs us, in a brood of trolls, "only the meanest kicker remains alive," his singular purpose in life being to crush anything in his path. The gnomes inform us that a troll does nothing else with his time due to the simple fact that "his imagination doesn't stretch that far." The extent of troll philosophy is as follows:

Or anyway, that is how the gnomes explain it to the humans in human-speak, gnomes being naturally multilingual. Even the most advanced troll could not successfully form such a complex sentence, so how they really say it (again, according to the gnomes) is "Smash it! Smash it!" The ever-clever gnomes, however, have created an elaborate system of traps in order to trip up and contain these raging assholes, with the results being pretty much the same every time. "Once in the trap, the troll pulls the door closed behind him and remains there trotting in an endless circle - for lack of any constructive thinking - until he is freed by the gnome." One troll in this story is treated for his ailment via enema, to wash all the bullshit out of him. I'm not even making that up.

Grunt, me hate. Grunt, grunt, I right. You wrong, grunt. I smash you. Uh, grunt.

Gnomes, unlike trolls, love self-expression, affection, kindness, camaraderie, and play. They resolve "differences of opinion, irritation, and minor quarrels" by singing their complaints "in a self-made song" rather than scappin' and screamin' over someone else's song. (Take note, goodreads trolls: write your own goddamned song if it's so important to you.) I was especially keen on their views on the healing power of touch, considering I am by nature a total personal space-bubble popping bear-hugger, as a handful of you

goodreaders have come to find out. If we ever meet, I'm warning you right now that you'd better gnome up because these scrawny arms are a-comin' for ya whether you like it or not.

Anyway, I was going to say something about how weird it was to read about the characteristics of the troll in the midst of all the recent goodreads drama, but then I realized that kinda makes me sound like I was born yesterday. It has been, is, and always will be, but the parallels still made me laugh, given that I was reading this at my desk while once again sporadically dealing with internet assholes and their boorish, insufferable opinions on opinions. Caught up in that as I was, I may have misled with the way I chose to order the information in this review. To clarify: this book isn't solely or even primarily about the feud between trolls and gnomes, but rather is about everything that is gnome, from fashion to construction methods to diet to tools to games to their primary purpose in life: environmental conservation. I'll come back to that last part.

The watercolor illustrations are lovely and whimsical, though the fact that this is considered a children's book concerns me for a number of reasons. Oh, I am so scatterbrained. I should have mentioned the premise. Two humans are summoned to Holland by the gnomes so they can learn the very secret secrets of their super-secret secret gnome book. They are shrunk down to gnome size and given the customary gnome garb to wear, while still retaining their human faces. This leads to exhibit number one regarding why this may be too disturbing for children. Ummmm...yeah, pretty much sure that's Richard D. James:

Creepy.

In order to learn the secrets of the gnomes, our two human protagonists travel all over the world, time, and even dimensions, meeting a cast of characters both friendly and terrifying, from the Abominable Snowman to Neolithic Man to talking animals of every stripe. Only very special humans such as Charles Perrault, Hans Christian Anderson, and the Grimm brothers have been allowed to make such a journey and become privy to such knowledge, so it is quite a privilege despite all the obstacles they come to face along the way. In their travels, they also meet an array of gnome-types, some a bit more, errr, liberal than others. For example, Arctic gnomes are known for such an excess of hospitality that they even offer their wives up to the humans at bedtime. The gnomes are taken up on their offer because the humans, uh, don't want to be rude or anything. Yeah, okay. Blame it on the 70's, I guess, but remember: this is a book for kids. Or an Aphex Twin video.

Despite the often fairly disturbing text and some even more disturbing illustrations, this book is a whole lot of fun even for (specifically for, seriously, specifically) adults, and littered with all sorts of useful facts which may or may not even be true. For example, did you know that pine twigs can fight scurvy, or that the tale of Little Red Riding Hood comes from true instances of rabid wolves eating gnomes? Or that the Werewolf Witch Trials occurred because of some thieves running around causing trouble in wolf suits, being seen from afar and taken for real life monsters? Or that the carriages on reindeer sleighs are built so far back so that the riders won't get smacked in the face by flying poop? True shit.

For the most part, I sorta dig the world of the gnomes. In gnome land, when a fella compliments a lady, he does so by saying things like "she couldn't be more than 110 years old!", which is something I can totally get behind as the grey hairs peak and the eyes go dull. Though learning about the - sometimes wonderful, sometimes a little too loose for my taste - ways of the gnome is the stated reason these humans were granted

passage to this secret world, the real goal is for the gnomes to get these Homo sapiens to return home with a mission: to fight the evil Seven-Headed Dragon who goes by the name "Pollution."

...who is also a little too creepy for a child, perhaps. The dragon's heads are:

1. LET THE FUTURE TAKE CARE OF ITSELF
2. IT WILL LAST MY LIFETIME
3. IGNORANCE IS BLISS
4. AFTER US, THE DELUGE
5. LET'S WAIT TILL IT HAPPENS
6. IT WON'T BE ALL THAT BAD
7. COULDN'T CARE LESS

With that, the gnomes go on to beg our travelers to make it their mission in life to spread this message: that all humans should do their part to "reduce the number and needs of spoiled humanity," and see beyond the tips of their noses, unlike so many trolls who just smash and slobber and sulk about the state of things. Thinking back on their wonderful encounters with the deer, lemmings, foxes, bears, birds, and even wolves who helped them along the way, the humans are moved to write and illustrate this little book. Because hippies.

This beautifully illustrated fantasy was totally perfect for a stunted grown-up like me who was in pretty dire need of a cuteness-injection after reading a slew of depressing novels pretty much back-to-back. Or I'm just mentally regressing. For the kiddies: maybe wait till you're older before checking this out. Until then, play nice. Bye!

Kara says

This was a fun book. Anyone who appreciates being cozy and loves going on little adventures will love this one. And of course any gnome lover will be thrilled at all the gnome info gathered on its pages.
