

Peter and the Sword of Mercy (Peter and the Starcatchers)

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The year is 1901--it's been twenty-three years since Peter and the Lost Boys returned from Rundoon. Since then, nobody on the island has grown a day older, and the Lost Boys continue their friendship with the Mollusk tribe, and their rivalry with Captain Hook. Meanwhile in London, Molly has married George Darling and is raising three children: Wendy, Michael, and John. One night a visitor appears at her door: it's James, one of Peter's original Lost Boys. He is now working for Scotland Yard and suspects that the heir to England's throne, Prince Albert Edward, is under the influence of shadow creatures. These shadow creatures are determined to find a secret cache of starstuff which fell to London many centuries ago. The starstuff is hidden in an underground vault which has only one key: the Sword of Mercy, a legendary weapon kept with the Crown Jewels. Molly is determined to help, but when she suddenly goes missing, it is up to her eleven-year-old daughter, Wendy, to keep the starstuff out of the Others' clutches. She has heard her mother's stories of a flying boy named Peter Pan, and he may be her only hope in saving the world from a shadowy doom...

Dave Barry is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author of more than a dozen books, including Dave Barry's History of the Millennium (So Far); The Shepherd, the Angel, and Walter the Christmas Miracle Dog; Dave Barry's Money Secrets; and Big Trouble. Along with Ridley Pearson, he is the co-author of Peter and the Starcatchers, Peter and the Shadow Thieves, Peter and the Secret of Rundoon, Escape from the Carnivale, Cave of the Dark Wind, Blood Tide, and Science Fair.

Ridley Pearson, in addition to the Peter and the Starcatchers series with Dave Barry, is the award-winning author of The Kingdom Keepers-Disney After Dark, Kingdom Keepers-Disney At Dawn, and Steel Trapp. He has also written more than twenty best-selling crime novels, including Killer View and Killer Weekend. He was the first American to be awarded the Raymond Chandler/Fulbright Fellowship in Detective Fiction at Oxford University.

Greg Call has illustrated the entire Peter and the Starcatchers series. He has worked for clients in music, entertainments, and publishing. His work has garnered many honors, including the ADDY Award.

In the fourth prequel to J.M. Barrie's classic PETER PAN, the boy who never grew up is not quite the flying superhero of memory (although he does rescue Wendy three times). This is a complex caper involving several grown-up Lost Boys, Captain Hook, Mollusk Island, the imprisoned Darling parents, mermaids, pirates, porpoises, steamships, flying trains, and a sword that could be the key to opening a magical cache of "star stuff." It's an appealing tale, made more so by the voice of the amazing Jim Dale. Whether he's voicing dithering Uncle Neville or gruff Karl the Bear, Dale brings each character to life. He highlights the humor of Tinker Bell's snide asides to Peter and gives the evil Lord Ombrage a whispery, sinister scariness that helps us understand Peter's fear. Dale's voice has its own Peter Pan quality, never aging and always ready to leap to a challenge. M.M.C. AudioFile 2009, Portland, Maine

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