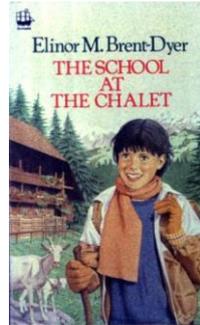
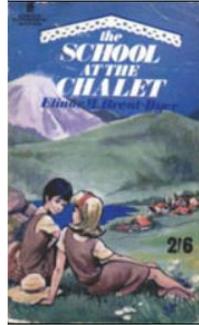
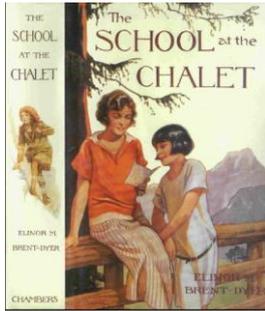


**Synopses
for the
Chalet School series**

(with spoilers)



The School at the Chalet

Synopsis:

Contributed by Evie Stevens, England – working from a hardback edition

Madge Bettany, along with her twin brother Dick and younger sister Joey, are left struggling financially after the death of their guardian. Dick works in India, in the Forestry Department (the Forests), and is unable to keep them on his pay, so Madge decides to run a school.

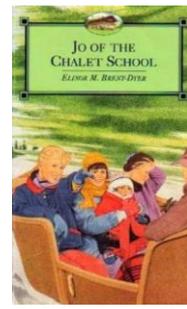
England is too expensive and India unsuitable for Joey's fragile health so she decides to set up the school in Briesau, on the banks of the Tiern See in the Austrian Tyrol, where they had been on holiday five years before. The school opens with nine pupils and two mistresses but quickly grows, with pupils of several nationalities attending. Gisela Marani is appointed first Head Girl. Madge is headmistress. With numerous pranks and adventures the girls strive to make the school truly English.

Simone Lecoutier, Mlle La Pâtte's cousin, is desperate to become friends with Joey, and goes to the lengths of cutting her hair in order to please the object of her affection, although Joey believes it all to be "idiotic nonsense".

Juliet Carrick joins the school and quickly becomes a troublemaker, disobeying the Head when a film crew comes to the lake. Grizel Cochrane makes an enemy in the form of an ill-bred lady from Berlin, nicknamed 'Frau Berlin' by the girls, while she and Joey are out buying a birthday present for Madge.

[Spoilers:](#)

Madge's birthday is celebrated with an expedition, which turns into an adventure when the group is stranded by a great thunderstorm. Soon after this, the idea for a school magazine, *The Chaletian*, is born. Juliet's parents leave the area abruptly, leaving Juliet at the school. Taken under the wing of Madge Bettany, the nicer sides of her character begin to shine through. A spate of pranks end in Grizel being punished for covering the blackboards in Vaseline. In a fit of anger and defiance she runs away to climb the Tiernjoch, a dangerous mountain nearby. Chased by Joey she is found safely but develops bronchitis, whilst for a while it is feared that Joey will develop brain fever as a result of the strain. Juliet's parents are killed in a car crash, leaving Madge as her guardian. At the end of the book, a train accident results in Madge meeting a Dr. James Russell, while rescuing 'Frau Berlin'.



Jo of the Chalet School

Synopsis

Contributed by Nicky Wade, England — working from a hardback edition

"Why, Madge thinks we may get up to thirty by Christmas, and it's only our second term!"

Joey Bettany is eager for the second term at the Chalet School, founded by her elder sister in the beautiful Tyrolean Alps, to begin. And when Madge and Miss Maynard come back from Innsbruck with a very new pupil, all of Joey's protective instincts are awakened, for little Robin Humphries is only six years old, and the motherless little girl soon wins the hearts of the whole school.

With the winter drawing in, the girls are eager to know how they will fill the cold months, and folk dancing and the school magazine are taken up with enthusiasm. Joey, voted to be editoress, is particularly preoccupied, and when she disappears it is assumed that she has sought a quiet place to work on her editorial. But a search of the school proves fruitless and Madge is at her wits end until a frantic Joey reappears, bringing with her a new addition to the family.

The girls soon forget this latest escapade in the excitement of the arrival of the new singing master - Plato is like no one they have known before, and Joey is distracted from the latest prank of the Middles when her sister is unwell, and then her own carelessness leads to much worry for Madge in turn. Still more excitement when the first issue of the *Chaletian* arrives, leaving more than one of its young contributors sure where their future lies. The term ends in grand style with the performance of the first Nativity Play, 'The Youngest Shepherd'.

The Bettanys and Robin then spend a magical Christmas in Innsbruck.

The new term at the Chalet is full of excitement; there is to be an ice carnival on the Tiernsee and they girls hope to be able to go. And when Madge declares it unsuitable, some of her pupils are determined to have their fun, with nearly tragic consequences.

Danger is on hand from more natural causes too; the Robin falls into the mill stream tearing down to the lake and then the girls are woken from their sleep by the sounds on flood waters crashing around the Chalet.

But not all of the excitements are unpleasant; Grizel Cochrane returns to school late, following the death of her grandmother, full of the Girl Guide movement and nothing will do but the girls must start a company of their own.

It is an exciting term for Joey on a more personal level too; laid up in bed as the result of her own disobedience she embarks on writing an Elsie book. And with the term drawing to a close, she finds that a story of hers has won a competition. For Joey, this settles things and she announces, "I'm going to start right in now and be an AUTHORESS".

The final excitement for Joey, however, comes from Madge herself, when she announces news that will change both their lives forever.

Spoilers

When Joey disappears from school early in the Christmas Term, she reappears "cuddling a roly poly ball of a puppy to her, crying, her clothes torn". A poor family has been forced to drown the pups of its dog, and Joey has only been able to save one. Rufus becomes as much one of the family as the Robin.

The excitement of the end of the Christmas term soon fades into the background for Madge, Joey and the Robin, who are to spend their first Austrian Christmas in Innsbruck with Bernhilda and Frieda Mensch and their family. Christmas shopping and skiing are followed by Mass in the great Hof Kirche and then the glories of Christmas Day; music, sleigh ride and finally the beautiful Christmas tree make a perfect holiday for the family three.

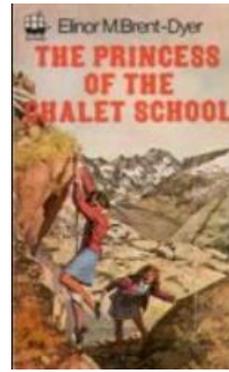
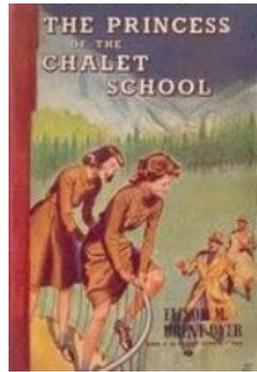
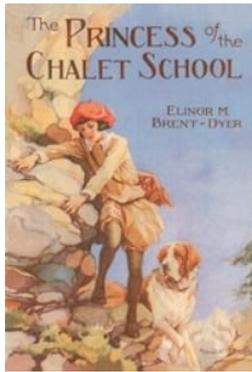
"Well, we had the most glorious time, and the splendidest Christmas I've ever known," Joey, heaved a little sigh.

The Chalet Girls make their first rebellion against the edict against slang; Jo is the ringleader in a campaign to speak only Shakespearian English.

When Madge forbids the girls to attend the ice carnival, Joey, Marie, Frieda, Simone and Paula defy her and sneak out of school, determined to have a good time. But Joey is no expert and, intent on watching Marie show off her skill, she trips and falls into the path of an oncoming skater.

Good comes from the near tragedy, however, for that skater is no other than Jem Russell who, finding himself with an excuse to visit the Chalet often, wastes no time in making himself invaluable to Madge.

He plans to settle at the Sonnalpe above the Tiernsee, and he wants nothing more than to carry off the pretty head of the Chalet School with him.



The Princess of the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Janet Williams, England — working from a hardback edition

Elisaveta, the daughter of the Crown Prince of Belsornia, is being sent to the Chalet School by her doctor after a tiresome illness. She is delighted as her greatest wish is to go to school. However, the location of the school is kept a secret as there is a fear that Elisaveta may be in danger from her mad cousin, Prince Cosimo, heir to the throne after Elisaveta's father.

At the school, a new Matron has arrived. She soon makes herself unpopular with both the staff and the girls. She invents rules of her own (she stops the girls reading in bed on Sunday mornings, for example), does not call Madge 'Madame' as the rest of the school does, and punishes the girls in her own, unique way. Eventually the Middles, including Elisaveta, form the Society for the Suppression of Matron or SSM. This Society plays various pranks on Matron, all designed to get her to leave the school. Eventually, after many problems and incidents, she is dismissed.

Elisaveta also joins the Guides which had recently started at the Chalet. She is enrolled (her father attends her enrolment and is very impressed by the movement) and starts to learn tracking and signalling.

For Madame's birthday the school goes to the Zillerthal and it is here that Jo first spots the two strange men.....

These two men appear a number of times and convince Elisaveta that they are her bodyguards, requested by Madge to look after her. Eventually, they tell her she must go into hiding for her own safety and take her away. Joey is suspicious (she overheard something spoken in Russian by one of them) and decides to follow them with Rufus.

Madge and Jem Russell get married at the end of the book and go off on their honeymoon. Joey, Juliet and Robin meet them in Firarto, the capital of Belsornia, where Jo is publicly thanked for saving the life of Princess Elisaveta who is now heir to the throne after her father.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

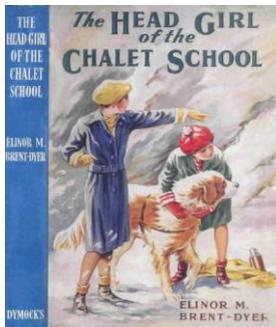
Jo Bettany - is a Middle
Robin Humphries - is a very junior Junior
Juliet Carrick - is head-girl
Grizel Cochrane - is games prefect
Peggy and Rix Bettany have just been born in India.

Spoilers:

Some of the pranks played by the Middles include putting snails on to Matron's bedroom window in order to scare her, and shouting at each other because Matron keeps telling them to "speak up".

Matron is eventually dismissed for locking the Robin in her room for being in the dormitory during the day (with permission) and refusing to let her out.

A number of adventures ensue after Elisaveta is taken by the two strangers and Jo is extremely pleased that Elisaveta had learnt the woodcraft and tracking signs as a Guide as this enables her to easily follow the route that the men have taken. She rescues Elisaveta and they return to the school. Elisaveta's grandfather, the King of Belsornia, turns up at the school to thank Joey for saving Elisaveta and to tell the girls that Prince Cosimo is dead.



Head Girl of the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Jo Marshall-Collins, England — working from a paperback edition

After one term as Head Girl, Bette Rincini has left the Chalet School and wild child Grizel Cochrane, almost eighteen, is to take over, although she is nearly demoted before she begins. Madge is now Madge Russell and her partner Mademoiselle LaPattre has become Headmistress. Joey and the Robin have spent Christmas in the New Forest at Miss Maynard's family home and Grizel travels back to Austria via Switzerland for the new term with them.

Despite a shaky start, Grizel is to become an exemplary Head Girl. In her very first Prefects meeting she is called on to handle a difficult confrontation with one of the Prefects, the results of which will make the Easter term very difficult for her.

Returning from a visit home, Marie von Eschenau reveals that she has found out about some caves near the school, although not where the entrance to them lies. The story interests Joey greatly.

At half-term Grizel accompanies Jo and Robin up to the Sonnalpe to spend the holiday at "Die Blumen", the Russells home. During this half-term break Madge makes her famous comments about death to Grizel and Joey, something which will later sustain them.

In the second half of the term the Robin gets lost and Grizel and Jo set off to find her. She is abducted but un-harmed by a mad old man, Herr Arnolfi, from whom the trio (with the faithful Rufus) have a dramatic escape. They later realise that they must have been very close to the entrance of the caves that Marie spoke of.

The Summer Term is marked by dramatic news from the Sonnalpe and by the arrival of new girl Cornelia Flower, a 14 year-old American. Cornelia does not make a good start at the school as she is a rather impudent prankster, and considered a liar and a cheat by the other girls.

Unfortunately, while sent to bed for her sins, Cornelia overhears this opinion being aired and vows to get back at everyone. Further idle talk about the mysterious caves and their possible whereabouts sets in motion Cornelia's plan as she sets off alone to try and find them. When she is discovered missing, it is Jo who guesses her destination and hares off with Grizel and Friedel von Gluck (with whom they had been picnicking with some old girls) to find her. All ends well and Cornelia begins to settle down having learnt her lesson.

The term comes to an end and Grizel leaves the Chalet School bound for music study in Florence to the sound of three cheers.

Series Characters whereabouts:

Jo Bettany is in the Fifth Form

Robin Humphries is a Junior of eight

Cornelia Flower is a new arrival at the school, aged "about fourteen"

Peggy Bettany is a 13-month old baby still with her parents, Dick and Mollie, in India.

Bride Bettany is born Mary Bridget in India - at this stage her parents are calling her "Biddy"

[Spoilers:](#)

[Grizel nearly doesn't become Head Girl after running off Tiernjoch-style to see the Falls at Schaffhausen during the pre-school trip with Miss Maynard. Despite Miss Maynard's doubts, Madge feels it is right to give Grizel a second chance.](#)

[In their first Prefects meeting, Irish Deira O'Hagen and Grizel have an altercation resulting in Deira burning Grizel's music manuscript book and with it her Grandmother's last letter. During an organised snowfight, Deira mistakenly thinks Grizel has hit her with a snowball and returns fire with the nearest object to hand](#)

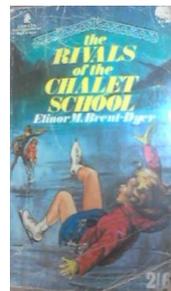
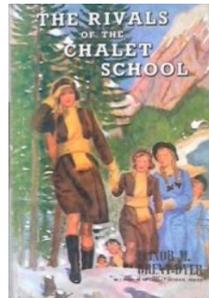
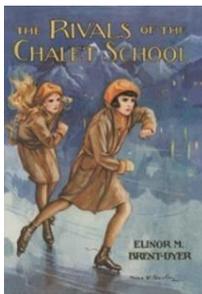
which hits Grizel on the head, knocking her unconscious. No permanent harm is done and Grizel and Deira make up their quarrel.

During a holiday trip to Salzburg with Evadne Lannis's father, Grizel, Jo, Evadne and Robin have yet another narrow escape, this time from a burning hotel where they come across "Frau Berlin" (first met in THE SCHOOL AT THE CHALET).

Since PRINCESS OF THE CHALET SCHOOL, Matron Lloyd, "Matey", has arrived on the staff.

There are two engagements among the Old Girls at the beginning of the book: Gisela Marani, aged twenty, is engaged to Dr Gottfried Mensch and Wanda von Eschenau, aged nineteen, is engaged to a young officer, Friedel von Gluck. It is at their betrothal party that Marie first hears about the caves.

Madge and Jem have their first child, David James, in the Summer Term and Bernhilda Mensch becomes engaged to Kurt von Eschenau at the end of the book.



Rivals of the Chalet School

Synopsis

Contributed by Gillian Hussain, Australia — working from a hardback edition

The Chalet School has been at the Tiernsee for 4 years, and many of the original pupils have left. It is the school's third Winter term, and Joey Bettany is to be a sub-prefect. During the holidays, a new chalet has been built across the lake, and it turns out to be a new school.

An instant rivalry springs up between the Chalet School, and St Scholastikas, which leads to a number of incidents when the two schools meet. Pupils from both schools are stranded when part of the lake path caves in, and are forced into a long strenuous climb to get home. Whilst this incident sees the beginning of some friendships between the two schools, it also serves to heighten the resentment felt by some St Scholastika girls, as does the fact that the Chalet School has Guides.

When the lake freezes enough for skating, girls from both schools are involved in an accident which leads to serious illnesses for Joey and Maureen O'Donovan, from St. Scholastikas. When the concern for them is over, the Middles break out with some practical jokes, which is countered by the famous powdered hair incident.

The term is ended abruptly with a chicken-pox epidemic in both schools. Old Chalet girl, Grizel Cochrane, turns up with her friend Gerry, just in time to help out. They witness even more of the rivalry between the schools, and are appalled. The final act of resentment from the "Saints", comes in the form of a letter to Princess Elisaveta in Belsornia, and this proves to be the end of the feud, as the headmistress of St. Scholastikas, horrified by what her students are capable of, finally allows Guides in the school.

School Facts:

Headmistress : Mademoiselle Lepattre. (In this term, she gives up all teaching duties to concentrate on the administration of the school, with Mademoiselle Lachennais coming to take the modern languages department)
The School is located on the Tiernsee, in the Austrian Tirol.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Madge and Jem Russell live up on the Sonnalpe.
Joey Bettany is 15, and a prefect for the first time this term.
Robin Humphries is a Junior at the school. She is obediently following Dr Jem's regime for her health, and is doing well.
Cornelia Flower is a Middle and right in the middle of the rivalry.
Dick and Mollie Bettany are back in Europe and with their children, Peggy, Rix and Bride, have been sharing a chalet by the lake with the Russell's for the summer.

Spoilers

St. Scholastika's is an established school which has been transferred from England as an experiment. They are totally unprepared for the Austrian winter. There are about 50 pupils in the school.

Robin's father, Captain Humphries, is Jem's secretary, and is staying at the Kron Prinz Carl for the summer.

The middles read all of Jo's *Elsie* books in order to find out about the Ku-Klux Klan, to find out ways of getting at the Saints. When the Chalet School is snowed in, time is spent on preparation of the Christmas Play, written by Madge Russell, and called "The Guest". However, because of Chicken-pox, the play was never performed.

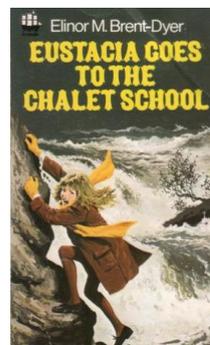
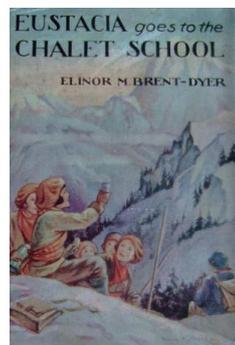
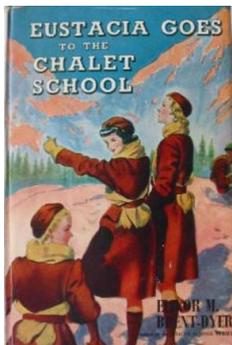
When the girls are marooned by the lake path, they climb through the pine wood above Geisalm, up to a village on the alm, and cross down to the Tiern Pass. They have coffee and rye-bread at the guesthouse at Geisalm, and hot milk and bread in the alm village. Hay carts met them at the bottom of the pass to take them back to their respective schools.

Miss Browne, head of St Scholastika's objected to Guides because she disagreed with them, and felt it was unnecessary for her girls, although some of her staff disagreed with her.

Joey goes out on the ice to warn the St. Scholastika girls that it is dangerous, and she and Maureen O'Donovan both become immersed in the freezing water. Maureen contracts rheumatic fever, and Joey comes down with pleuro-pneumonia. They are taken to St. Scholastika's (which was closer), and, whilst they are sick, the rest of the Saints are sent to the Chalet School, except for a handful of seniors who can work by themselves. Joey is near death when the Robin asks to sing to her, and this proves to be the turning point for Joey, who then begins to recover.

As revenge for a practical joke played on them by the Middles, Joey, Simone, Marie and Freida put cornflour in the hair of Cornelia, Yvette, Evadne and Anita. As a punishment, they have to wash and dry each girl's hair.

Out of all the St. Scholastika girls, the head girl, Elaine, and her friend, the snobby Vera, are those that continue to hold resentment towards the Chalet School longest. In an effort to discredit the other school, Vera writes a letter to Princess Elisaveta, to inform her that "a very common school at Briesau was claiming that she had been there for a time".



Eustacia Goes to the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Gillian Hussain, Australia — working from a hardback edition.

Eustacia Benson is a 14 year old recently orphaned girl, who is now living with her aunt and family of boys in Taverton where the Bettany family lived before coming to Austria. She is described as "an objectionable child" and her aunt is despairing about what to do with her, as she is disrupting the family life. Grizel Cochrane's stepmother recommends the Chalet School but Eustacia is by no means reconciled to the thought of going to boarding school.

Eustacia is one of thirteen new girls. From the beginning she openly expresses her dissatisfaction with the school - including such things as feather beds (insanitary), shared dormitories, being in the same class as girls of her own age (she felt that she should be in the top form). She does not endear herself to the girls, as she quickly becomes a "tale teller" and she flagrantly disregards rules which she feels should not apply to her, thus incurring the wrath of the prefects.

Eustacia's first enjoyable moment at the school seems to be the snowfight with St Scholastika's. At Half Term, she joins the expedition to Fulpmes and the Stubai

Glacier. Eustacia clashes with Joey over a number of issues during this trip - including Napoleon, and church attendance. During the climb of the Stubai Glacier, the group get caught in a blizzard on the glacier, and Miss Wilson sprains her ankle.

A spate of incidents in Chapter 21 culminates in Eustacia deciding to run away. Whilst Joey and a number of others visit the dentist in Innsbruck, Eustacia becomes stranded in a flood in the mountains.

When she is rescued, and on the road to recovery, her reformation begins, and Eustacia is no more. She becomes Stacie, and, in her own words.... "Eustacia wasn't nice, as you say. But I know Stacie will do her best to be a real Chalet School girl now and always".

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Joey Bettany is 16 and a Prefect in the Sixth

Robin Humphries is a Junior and is reported as being "stronger"

Cornelia Flower is a Middle, and has already formed a disreputable partnership with Evadne Lannis

Peggy Bettany is a very small child, and with her brother Rix, is living with Madge and Jem (and baby David) at Die Rosen

Spoilers

Before the term proper begins, the school attends the wedding of Bernhilda Mensch to Kurt von Eschenau, in Innsbruck. Bernhilda's sister, Freida, along with Joey, Robin, Maria Marani and Marie von Eschenau are her bridesmaids. During the wedding reception "die grossmütter" (Bernhilda and Freida's grandmother) dies.

Juliet, who has been at college for 18 months, turns up for Bernhilda's wedding and will be staying at the Sonnalpe to recover from a bout of scarlet fever.

Joey is horrified at first by the thought of being the next Head Girl, and is battling with the reality of growing up. She is missing the large number of "old girls" who have now left or will be leaving soon.

Eustacia steals the key to the Library from Joey's drawer, and the prefects decide to deal with this themselves, without informing the staff. She repeats the offence by stealing the key for the Science Lab from staff room, so that she could find somewhere quiet to read!!! A startling event brings Miss Wilson to the scene and the staff take action.

A feud between the Fourth and the Fifth develops over Eustacia leaving her fountain pen on Margia Stevens' desk. The Fourth actually takes Eustacia's side against Margia and the Fifth.

The expedition to the Stubai Glacier is taken by train to Innsbruck, where they stayed in an hotel. Miss Wilson and Miss Stewart are the accompanying mistresses. From Innsbruck an electric-cable train took them to Fulpmes, which is at the foot of the

Stubai Glacier. The girls took turns to stay with the Robin, who was not able to join in the walking and climbing.

As a blizzard approaches the party of walkers on the glacier, and the group is hurrying to shelter, it is Eustacia who causes Miss Wilson to fall and injure her ankle. The group shelters from the blizzard in a hut. To pass the time until they are rescued - or the blizzard passes - Joey tells historical stories.

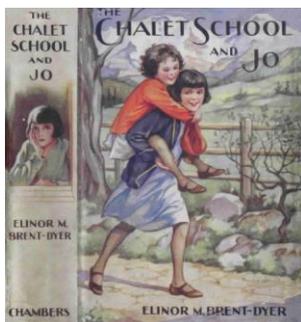
The Robin becomes ill as a result of the worry when Joey did not come home and as a result Robin does not return to the school for a good while. As a consequence of her actions on the expedition, Eustacia is given the silent treatment by the Third, Fourth and Fifth forms.

After half term, preparation begins for the end of term Sale, as well as the next issue of the Chaletian. However, details of the sale are not given. The feud between the Fourth and Fifth escalates.

Whilst on the way back from the dentist, Joey has a premonition of trouble, and when they arrive back at the school, they learn Eustacia is missing. She has left a note for Joey, saying that she is running away back to England. She blames Joey for making her school life miserable.

On her rescue she is taken to Die Rosen (Madge and Jem's home) and whilst there, they begin to call her Stacie, and she apologises to Joey for "being such a beast".

At the end of the book, the first "grandchild" of the Chalet School is born; Gisela Mensch has a daughter, to be called Natalie.



The Chalet School and Jo

Synopsis

Contributed by Nicky Wade, England — working from a hardback edition

"What is the matter?" asked the Robin with interest.

"Everything!" was the curt reply.

Jo Bettany is not looking forward to the new term at the Chalet School. Her carefree days are over; she is to be head-girl and feels that all her fun will be spoilt. Wise words from the first head-girl, Gisela Marani, now Gisela Mensch, go part way to

reconciling her to her fate, however, and she comes down to the Tiernsee from the Sonnalpe determined to do her best.

And it looks like being a thrilling term; boating, Guide work, camping and, even better, a half-term trip to Oberammergau to see the Passion Play of which they have all heard so much.

But Joey's first weeks in the post are overshadowed with worry about the Robin. Always frail, the little girl is now showing signs which may be symptoms of the dread disease which carried off her mother.

Juliet Carrick, nearing the end of her course at Holloway and looking forward to taking over the new Chalet School venture on the Sonnalpe, joins the school for half-term, a decision which has far-reaching consequences for her future consequences when Joey intervenes to reverse a romantic tragedy.

Evvy, Elsie, Corney, Maria and Ilonka contrive to give the quiet village of Oberammergau something to talk about, but the Passion Play is a complete success with the girls.

The sobering influence of the play does not last, however, and before long the five sinners, with the addition of Margia's leadership, throw themselves into a situation which changes the whole life of one small girl.

The term has a happy ending for all, and it is an older and wiser Jo who returns to Die Rosen for the holidays. There is no doubt that her head-girlship is a success.

She (Stacie) flushed a little, but she answered "All the girls look up to you, and follow you. You can do a tremendous lot with them if you like, because you are head-girl, as well as because they like you so much. It's a tremendous thing, really."

Series characters whereabouts

Jo Bettany is sixteen

Madge Bettany, now Russell, is happily settled on the Sonnalpe with Dr Jem and baby David

Also at the Sonnalpe are Stacie Benson, making a gradual recovery, and the Robin, her health a continual worry after the long hours of worry at Fulpmes earlier in the year

Juliet Carrick is now in her final year at the Royal Holloway and preparing to return to the Tyrol as the headmistress of the new Chalet School Annexe.

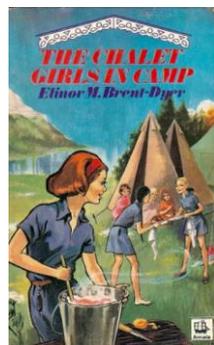
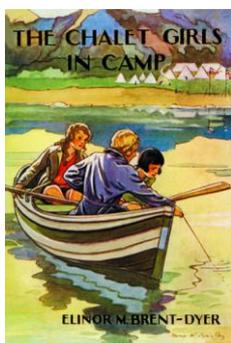
[Spoilers](#)

The Robin is tried and tested in every possible way, but at the end of a long and very difficult week Miss Annersley breaks the news to a distraught Joey that there is every reason to hope for good news.

The prank pulled in Oberammergau is one of the most outrageous ever perpetrated by the middles; outdoing one another with hair raising stories leads to the idea of acting out one of those stories, and, to the credit of the five, they are horrified when the excitement wears off and they realise what they have done.

Meanwhile, Juliet's background and the appalling behaviour of her father has become known to a certain young man at Holloway College. It takes Joey Bettany to set him straight, in blunt schoolgirl fashion.

The six middles who, in their final escapade of the term, shelter a runaway Biddy O'Ryan in the games shed, have no way of knowing that, as a result of their actions and the resulting interest of the school, she will go on to become one of its most popular mistresses ever.



The Chalet Girls in Camp

Synopsis

Contributed by Catarina Tjallberg, Sweden — working from a paperback edition

Elisaveta Arnsonira, Crown Princess of Belsornia and first met in THE PRINCESS OF THE CHALET SCHOOL, is once again back in Tirol and staying with Joey, Madge and Jem at Die Rosen. As before Dr Tracy is the man behind the decision, proclaiming that "Veta" needs the open air treatment.

When the King of Belsornia comes for a short visit he not only gives Madge a fright by asking if Joey has been sick since she looks so delicate, but he also gives leave to his 'one and only' to join the Chalet School Guide Camp.

At the end of the summer holiday three charabancs containing about thirty excited girls and three cheerful mistresses set off to the Baumersee. Before them lie two glorious weeks of camp life.

No one under fourth form were allowed to join, much to the indignation of the younger girls, but the staff decided that the firebrands in the Quintette (Corney Flower, Evvy Lannis, Margia Stevens, Elsie Carr and Lonny Barkocz) were quite enough for anyone to cope with...

If the staff was hoping for a fairly peaceful time, they were bound for disappointments. Between the swimming, the firewood gathering and the singsong

round the campfire their lambs find time to fall into pits, closely examine a hornets nest and even to insult their captain! Not to mention the shock they get when Grizel, Juliet and Joey accidentally catch on to the secret of the lake...

Series Characters whereabouts:

Jo Bettany is Head Girl

Frieda Mensch is Second Prefect

Robin Humphries is about 11 years old

Corney Flower is about 13 - which is impossible (an EBD-ism)

Rufus is 4 years old

Rix and Peggy Bettany are 3 years old and living with Jem and Madge

David Russell is 15 months old

Spoilers:

Joey creates a sensation when she (although unconsciously) calls Miss Wilson an idiot.

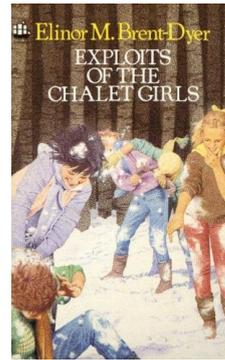
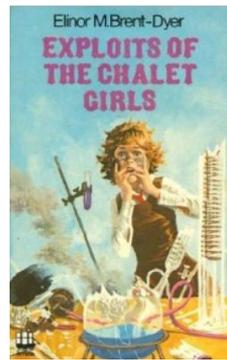
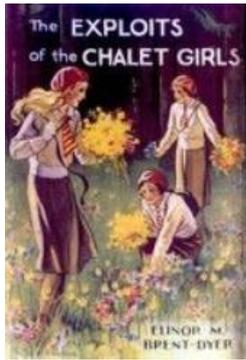
During a fishing trip Jo, Juliet and Grizel catch a lot of fish, but also something more frightening. Fortunately it turns out to be the redundant belongings of an artist who in misguided zeal combined with lack of time had seen fit to dispose of them exactly where our heroines decided to fish for pike...

At the end of camp the Quintette find themselves short of clean clothes. Left alone for a couple of hours they decide to take a hand. It results in a decision to add Domestic Economy to the school timetable.

Information about Old Girls and others:

Juliet Carrick, newly engaged to Donal, is Head Mistress at the School's Annexe for delicate children, where Grizel Cochrane will also take a place as Music Mistress. Mollie Maynard, Jack Maynard's sister, former mistress and known to the school as 'Maynie' (although nowadays named Mrs Alastair Macdonald) is leaving for New Zealand.

'Carty', or Miss Carthew, a former mistress, is now married and has a baby girl called Josephine after Jo.



The Exploits of the Chalet Girls

Synopsis:

Contributed by Helen T Bradley, Scotland — working from a hardback edition.

The School has reconvened for the Christmas term following the adventures described in THE CHALET GIRLS IN CAMP. As usual, there are several new girls, including a Prussian by the name of Thekla von Stift, a cousin of the school beauty, Marie von Eschenau. Thekla proves to be very unlike her cousin, and causes problems in the school. As a member of the Junker class, she considers herself to be socially above most of the other pupils. Despite the school's reputation for making even the most difficult girl fit in, Thekla has no wish to do so. Her behaviour not only enrages her form mates - who include Maria Marani, Margia Stevens and Evadne Lannis - but on one occasion she also gets them into trouble by "telling tales" against them. Even an accident on the Staff Evening, which has a Halloween theme, fails to make Thekla a "real" Chalet girl, although it does bring her slightly more into the fold. In the end, she even has a part in the School's Christmas play - but the question remains as to how deep her loyalty and commitment to the school goes.

The Annexe has just opened on the Sonnalpe.

Series Character whereabouts:

Jo Bettany is Head Girl

Frieda Mensch is Second Prefect, and is almost eighteen, therefore has put her hair up.

Robin Humphries' age is given as ten (though she was older in THE CHALET GIRLS IN CAMP!) and she attends the Annexe.

Juliet Carrick is Head of the Annexe.

Grizel Cochrane is Juliet's assistant.

Peggy and Rix Bettany are three years old.

David Russell (Madame's son) is about 17 months.

Cornelia Flower has been left behind in the Fourth Form while Evadne and Co move up in the Fifth.

Biddy O'Ryan is a junior in Le Petit Chalet.

Spoilers.

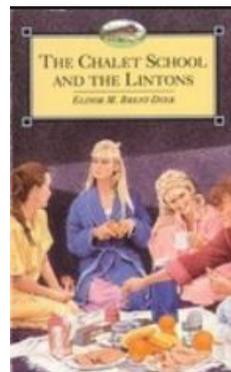
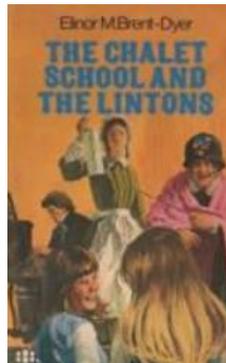
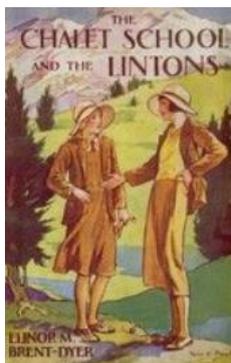
Thekla disapproves not only of the school's range of pupils but also of the emphasis on physical exercise, which she sees as "unladylike". For example, while on a walk to the Barenbad Alpe, Thekla refuses to walk any further, and is only persuaded to move when Miss Wilson threatens to leave her behind.

More surprisingly, on this same walk, Thekla succeeds in doing what no-one has done before - making Marie von Eschenau lose her temper and create a scene in public. Marie is pushed to the limit by Thekla's behaviour and tells her exactly what she thinks of her - and brings down the wrath of the staff on herself as well as her cousin.

Cornelia falls down a pit during the walk on the Barenbad, just as Jo did in *THE CHALET GIRLS IN CAMP* and has to be rescued.

Many of the girls spend half-term at the Sonnalpe, among them Evvy and Corney, during which there is a major thunderstorm, well up to usual Chalet standards. The girls set up a series of charades for entertainment the day after the storm.

After Half-Term Evadne creates a sensation when she accidentally blows up the science lab, though no serious damage was done to girls or building.



The Chalet School and the Lintons

Synopsis:

Contributed by Julie Robertson, Scotland — working from a paperback editions of Lintons and Rebel.

A consultation with Sir James Talbot leads to Gillian and Joyce Linton coming to the Chalet School. Mrs Linton is diagnosed with TB and advised to leave England immediately and go to the Sonnalpe for treatment, where it is hoped she will eventually recover fully. She is so ill that they can only travel very slowly and it takes them two weeks to reach the Sonnalpe.

Gillian, at 15, is a responsible, hard-working and capable girl but is inclined to worry a lot. Joyce, although 14, has been spoilt and is lazy and conceited. She is an

exceedingly pretty girl and has been used to having lots of followers and admirers in her previous school.

Gillian is placed in Upper Fifth while Joyce is in Lower Fifth, of which Thekla von Stiff is a member. They start to settle into school but Joyce contrives to get into trouble with the Prefects. She resents being called to order, and vows to get even. Her next rebellion has unpleasant consequences for more people than herself.

The Staff Evening goes off with a swing and a bump or two, and Lower Fifth's attempts at cooking apple pies cause uproar.

Finally, half-term comes round and a party of girls depart to Die Rosen. There, Jem gives Joey a regular shock, but once she's got over that, she and the rest of the girls supply hours of amusement for Jem and Madge.

A REBEL AT THE CHALET SCHOOL continues from the half-term celebrated in the paperback version of THE CHALET SCHOOL AND THE LINTONS where Madge gives birth to Sybil.

Gillian and Joyce Linton have come to the Chalet School because their mother is receiving treatment for TB at the Sonnalpe. Joyce has been in trouble since she arrived at the school. She is lazy and impudent in class, she was involved in passing notes and she organised a midnight feast which made her very ill. The second half of the term starts with her again being in trouble.

She, along with Thekla and some of the Juniors, has to take extra languages with Miss Norman. Ivy Norman is Head of the Junior School and very good with the younger girls but she is unsure of the older girls and finds it difficult to keep order. Feeling bored, Joyce devises some opportunities for "ragging" the mistress. She gets a dire warning as a result of her behaviour.

Gillian asks Joey what she should do about Joyce and Joey offers to talk to her. As a result of their talk, Joyce decides to really try at her lessons and to try and become a nicer person. However, Thekla is jealous of Joyce's friendship with Joey and she plots to hurt them both and get Joyce into trouble.

It's the Easter term and there's the usual Sale of Work. They have a Fairy Tale Sale and Joey manages to well and truly suppress Bill when she is setting up their stall. The Fifth Form Saints have everyone in a state of suspense, with their contribution. The Sale ends with bad news for Gillian and Joyce and Joey plays a vital role in the battle to save Mrs Linton.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Jo Bettany is Head Girl

Frieda Mensch is Second Prefect.

Robin Humphries' age is "ten or eleven" (which would conveniently tie up the conflict between her age in CAMP and in EXPLOITS) and she attends the Annexe.

Juliet Carrick is Head of the Annexe.

Grizel Cochrane is Juliet's assistant.

Peggy and Rix Bettany are about three and a half years old and at Die Rosen with Madge and Jem.

David Russell (Madame's son) is 2 years old.

Cornelia Flower, Evadne Lannis and Ilonka Barkocz are in Lower Fifth, while Margia Stevens and Elsie Carr are in Upper Fifth

Biddy O'Ryan is a junior in Le Petit Chalet.

Spoilers

Mrs Linton won't have Joyce told how ill she is and asks Gillian to protect her sister. The nurse travelling with them to the Sonnalpe puts Joyce straight and lets her know exactly what she thinks of her selfish attitude. Joyce also contrives to make herself unpopular with Joey when, on the first night they're there, she tactlessly questions Stacie about her accident and shuns the Robin.

After being brought to order by the Prefects for passing notes in class, Joyce plans to have a Midnight Feast. Very easily upset, she is violently sick as a result of eating sardines on slices of rich cake. Mary Shaw is also sick and Thekla has bad nightmares and wakens up her whole dormitory.

The Staff dress up at Mrs Jarley and her Waxworks for the Staff Evening and the whole show is very topical and really funny. Lower Fifth make apple pies for dessert and want to flavour them with cloves and cinnamon. Cornelia gets the wrong ingredient from the cupboard and gives half the girls garlic cloves instead.

Madge gives birth to a new daughter, much to Joey's surprise. She is 7 weeks premature but Madge still accuses Joey of being "unaccountably thick" when she had tried to hint to her. Jem organises a name party for the baby and gets some weird choices for names. Madge and Jem decide not to use any of the suggestions given and choose Sybil Margaret instead. We also find out that Cornelia has two middle names that she's so ashamed of, she's kept them a closely guarded secret.

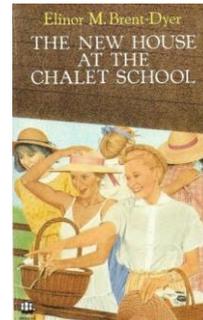
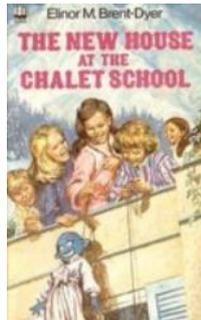
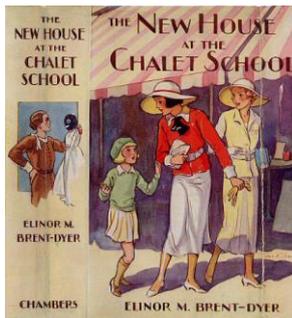
One of Joyce's rags is for them to sing *God Save the Queen* at the tops of their voices and Joey bursts in on the class thinking there is no-one with them. Miss Norman is finally pushed too far when Joyce suggests they should behave like savages. They all paint their faces and arms and dance around the classroom, talking in grunts and clicks. Miss Norman reports them to Mademoiselle and they are all in silence for a week. Joyce is threatened with expulsion.

Thekla wakens Joyce in the middle of the night and tries to get her to stop being friends with Joey. Cornelia and then Miss Wilson find them in the corridor. Thekla hoped that by getting Joyce into trouble by breaking rules, Joey would be hurt. She doesn't think that if Joyce was in trouble again, she would be expelled and it may mean the death of Mrs Linton. When questioned by Mdlle Lepatire, she's only disappointed that it hasn't worked. Feeling that she is causing the school harm, Mademoiselle expels her.

During the construction of her stall for the Sale, Jo falls off the "roof" of the cottage and lands on Miss Wilson, temporarily winding her and thus effectively suppressing her! The Magic Cave belonging to the Saints is kept a great secret and everyone

declares it was a wonderful surprise. The Sale is a great success but near the end, Gillian and Joyce are summoned to the Sonnalpe by Jem.

Mrs Linton has had a shock and has lapsed into a coma. She believes Joyce to be expelled and though the girls tell her it isn't true and the doctors try to rouse her, she remains in the stupor. Finally, Joey talks very sternly to her and tells her that Joyce is okay and not expelled and that she's "never heard such poppycock in my life!" and Mrs Linton begins to come round.



The New House at the Chalet School

Synopsis

Contributed by Julia Chantrell, England — working from a paperback edition

Starting in the Easter term after the expulsion of Thekla Von Stiff, Jo is stunned to learn that she and the other members of the 'quartet' (Frieda, Simone and Marie) are to be domiciled in the new building with the Middle School. Jo is at first flabbergasted and then dubious about this idea, as it is her last term: in spite of the pretty room she has all to herself, she feels she would prefer to stay in the old Chalet where she has been so happy.

Stacie returns to the Main School 'a different girl', and begins to be accepted by her year. In the process of a visit to Innsbruck to the dentist, Jo and Frieda discover a long-lost relative of Dr. Jem's, with interesting repercussions. On her return, she proceeds to fall foul of the new Matron, Matron Besly, a 'fluffy little idiot' with an overinflated idea of her own importance, who annoys everyone by repeating Matron Webb's mistake and confiscating all books from the dormitories.

Some of the more enterprising Middles forgather on the flat roof one night, to be caught and trapped by Jo; the 'joke' they were planning for Cornelia goes wrong, scares a housemaid into fits, and lands them all into extremely hot water.

Because of Jo's problems with the new matron, including an argument regarding Sunday supervision of the Middles, and an authorised trip to the Hotel to listen to a Tsigane band, the SSM, the Society for the Suppression of Matron, (see A PRINCESS OF THE CHALET SCHOOL) is reformed by Evadne Lannis and Cornelia Flower, but the older prefects recognise the symptoms, and 'Charlie' squashes it

before too many pranks are played. Matron Lloyd (Matey) tries to show the new matron where she is going wrong but with no success.

Biddy O'Ryan, now a Middle in the school, creates havoc when she is coerced into telling Irish ghost stories after lights out. The school takes another trip up the Zillerthal; and Cornelia and her cronies start their own 'orchestra' on the quiet, resulting in an end of term 'concert'

However, the most stunning news comes from Marie von Eschenau, although there are hints along those lines in earlier book.

School facts

The Headmistress is Mademoiselle Lepattre, with Miss Wilson head of St. Clare's
The school is still on the old site in the Tyrol
The new Middle School building is christened St. Clare's; the Petit Chalet becomes St. Agnes's, and the Main Chalet is renamed St. Therese's
The Annexe, Die Rosen and Sonnalpe characters are only mentioned in passing

Series Characters

Jo Bettany - Head Girl, living at St. Clare's
Robin Humphries - at the Annexe
Cornelia Flower - Fifth Form and in St. Clare's
Biddy O'Ryan - at St. Clare's
Daisy Venables - newly arrived, and up at The Sonnalpe with her mother and sister, Primula

Spoilers

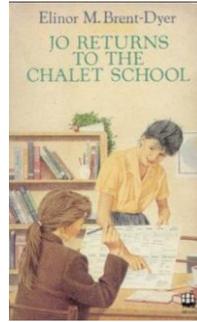
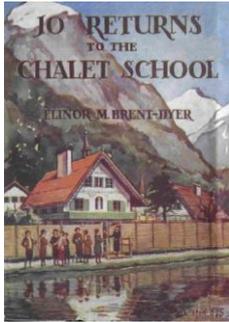
Jo decides that after all she cannot leave Madge with 'all those babies', and will not be going to Belsornia as lady-in-waiting to Elisaveta after all.

Dr. Jem's new-found relative is Margot Venables, his sister, who eloped to Australia. She had five children, but the three sons and her husband are dead, leaving her two little girls, Daisy and Primula Mary. She brings them to the Sonnalpe and then breaks down - the doctors are afraid for her, but she recovers in time to be proposed as the new matron for St. Clare's when Matron Besly leaves at the end of the term.

The Middles roof top joke involves a 'baby' with a luminous face, nicknamed 'Baby Voodoo' that Jo accidentally leaves on top of the piano once she has confiscated it.

The 'pranks' played on Matron include Epsom salts in her early morning tea and a staring campaign that nearly drives the unfortunate lady into a nervous breakdown before it is spotted and stopped by Miss Stewart.

Biddy O'Ryan tells the story of the Banshee, and Alixe von Elsen sleepwalks as a consequence in the middle of a thunderstorm that sends Matron Besly into hysterics and seals her fate. Biddy is condemned to week sleeping in Miss Wilson's room as a punishment.



Jo Returns to the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Susan Vass, Scotland — working from a hardback edition

Having left school the term before, an unfortunate chain of events finds Joey, having returned to school for a visit, unable to return to her sister's home Die Rosen. Joey settles down to enjoy her extended visit, but finds her stay becoming longer as time goes on.

Somewhat unwillingly to begin with, Jo is pressed into service as a stand-in mistress when one of the staff falls ill. However, Joey comes to terms with the situation and the girls are delighted to have their beloved Jo returned to them for a while.

Joey manages to complete her first novel in her free time, after a false start when she is put straight by an unexpected critic, and nervously sends it to a publisher.

She is also instrumental in obtaining a new girl, Polly Herriot, for the Chalet School after a chance encounter in the Post. Having never been to school before, Polly's education has been with very old-fashioned methods, and she requires intensive tuition to bring her education up to date. She has also obtained some very unusual ideas about the life of a schoolgirl, from the school stories, which she was so fond of, before she arrived at the Chalet School. This leads to some unfortunate incidents, before she settles into the role of a true Chalet School girl.

The term has its low points when the girls' beloved headmistress is taken seriously ill, but finishes on a high note with the customary Christmas play.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Jo Bettany - is living at Madge's home Die Rosen but for the duration of the book spends her time at the Chalet School

Robin Humphries (aged 12) - is at the Chalet School Annexe at the Sonnalpe

Peggy Bettany (aged 4) - is living at Die Rosen while her parents are in India

Bride Bettany - is living at Die Rosen

Daisy Venables - is a new Junior in St Agnes House

Biddy O'Ryan - is a Middle in St Clare's House

Spoilers:

Due to the Bettany children contracting measles Joey is unable to return to Die Rosen after a visit to the school.

On a visit to the Post Joey offers help to a girl struggling to communicate in German and discovers that she has run away from her elderly guardians. The girl, Polly Herriot is taken to the Chalet School and when her guardians are contacted they request that she should stay there.

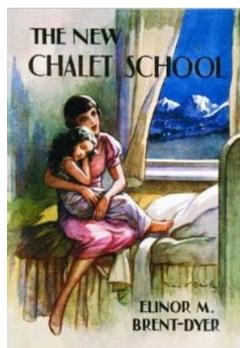
Polly's education has been old fashioned, so Jo is pressed into service as her tutor. Polly gets into trouble when she damages a book belonging to Herr Laubach. She also manages to rouse the whole of Briesau when a prank backfires.

In her spare time Joey begins a novel but Matey is extremely scathing about it and Joey later burns it realising that Matey was right. She begins afresh and over the course of the term completes it and sends it to a publisher.

Over Half Term Mlle Lepattre is taken seriously ill and has to have a dangerous operation. The entire school is relieved when she manages to pull through.

Dick and Molly Bettany return to India after Dick's furlough, leaving their younger children, Jackie and Bride, with Madge, along with twins Peggy and Rix.

The term finishes with the Christmas play in aid of the poor in Innsbruck, which Joey arranges that they will perform for the parishioners of Vater Stefan at the start of the next term.



The New Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Lorraine O'Donnell, Sligo, Ireland— working from a paperback edition

The Chalet School and St Scholastika's become a single school after Miss Browne, the headmistress of St Scholastika's wins a law-suit and retires. She offers her school as a whole to Madame and Mademoiselle Lepattre, who accept.

Due to the addition of more than 40 pupils as well as new staff, the Chalet School is quite crowded, so plans are made for the building of a new house, as well as the

acquisition of a nearby chalet. As the students try to become a united school, the Mystic M play a series of pranks on both the school itself and people related to it. The affair comes to a head when Sybil Russell is kidnapped!

With the addition of two new buildings, the authorities of the Chalet School make plans for a new house system to be introduced next term which will see each level of the school mixed thoroughly. The newly built house will be named St Scholastika's, and the newly bought chalet named St Hild's. St Hild's will serve as a home for members of staff not accommodated elsewhere in the school.

School Facts:

St Scholastika's has closed and its pupils have joined the Chalet School. Mademoiselle Lepattre will not be returning to the school due to her continuing illness. Headmistress: Miss Annersley had been appointed to the position permanently.

Series Character Whereabouts:

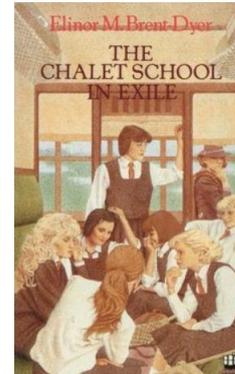
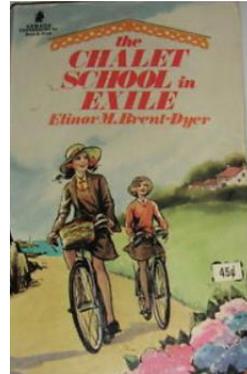
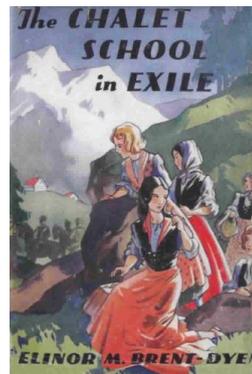
Jo Bettany - is living with the Russells and writing a new book, 'The Rose Patrol in the Alps'
Robin Humphries - is living with the Russells
Cornelia Flower - is a Senior at the Chalet School
Peggy Bettany - is living with the Russells
Bride Bettany - is living with the Russells
Biddy O'Ryan - is a Middle at the Chalet School
Daisy Venables - is living with the Russells

Spoilers:

Dr Jem Russell buys the old St Scholastika school building, and Joey and Madge relocate themselves to the building in order to prepare it as their summer home. While at lunch with Robin, they are both attacked by a small boy with a catapult. The boy, Mario and his twin sister, Maria, are the only children of Princess Balbini who is dying at the Sanatorium. Joey later offends the pair and they vow revenge against her and Madge. When they discover that the Chalet School belongs to Madge, they pay a visit with snuff, sending many of the girls into a sneezing fit. On the first day of lessons, the Seniors discover that someone has covered the door to their boathouse with chewing gum! Some time later a box hand-delivered to Mademoiselle Lachenais is found to contain dozens of tiny frogs. A Prefects meeting is interrupted by stink-bombs thrown in the open window and the school experiences a power-cut.

All of these pranks have one positive effect - at last the Saints and the Chaletians were united in their attitude of disgust! They also have another far-reaching effect - Prince Balbini, once informed of the situation, requests that Maria be accepted at the Chalet School as a pupil, whilst Mario is sent to school in England. Distraught at the prospect of being separated, the twins disappear, taking little Sybil Russell with them. At the same time, a summons comes for them from the Sonnalpe, as their

mother is close to death and wishes to see them. When they are finally found in Spartz, Princess Balbini is dead and Dr Jem breaks the news to Maria and Mario.



The Chalet School In Exile

Synopsis

Contributed by Julia Chantrell, England — working from a paperback edition

The story is set at the beginning of the Second World War, when Germany wishes to absorb Austria into the Third Reich, and both the Chalet School and the Sonnalpe come under threat.

To postpone problems, Dr. Jem purchases a large Hotel up at the Sonnalpe, and moves the School up during half term. This is a very satisfactory temporary measure, because it means that the Annexe can be mixed in with the School for the first time. However, matters progress in a very worrying fashion, and nearly half the pupils of the school are withdrawn; some, because their parents are afraid; others, the German and Austrian pupils, are told to leave by the Gestapo. Dr. Jem decides to take the school right away to the Channel Islands.

The girls, saddened by the fact that so many of their friends are having to leave, form The Chalet School Peace League, to be signed by staff and past pupils as well as current. Having done this, they decide it must be hidden in a very safe place, and go to do so, in the company of Dr. Jack Maynard. But they are followed by Frau Eigen and her son, Hermann. While in the middle of a game of hide and seek, Robin and Hilary Burn try to hide the document in 'Robin's Cave', but Hermann nearly catches them and they have to leave by another route.

As a result of this, the Gestapo try to take all the girls involved, and also Dr. Maynard. The British Consul steps in to save the girls, but Jack has an uncomfortable week in Innsbruck before he is finally released. Jem decides to send Jack and some of the girls home early, but before he has a chance to do so, Miss Wilson, Joey, Robin, Daisy and some others go into Innsbruck and fall foul of a Nazi mob. They have to run for it with the help of the local priest and wind up in 'Robin's Cave' through an underground passage.

Flight is the only thing possible and, joined by Jack Maynard and Gottfried Mensch, they decide to try for the Belsornia border. However, Robin is recognised, and the

party make a run for Switzerland, disguised as peasants, where they are taken in by Gottfried's Aunt, and are thus safe.

The second part opens on Guernsey, some few months later. Madge and Jo decide to restart the school in an old house called Sarres, and with the help of many of the original staff, they begin with about fifty pupils, among them the elder Lucys, Chesters and Ozannes. The Fourth form start chaos almost immediately, but are squashed by a visiting mistress they considered 'safe'.

A new girl causes worry, especially when she runs away, and the death of an old mistress saddens everyone. However, the biggest shock the school has ever had is caused by Jo, and a downed German plane causes injury for certain prefects, just as the school has an outbreak of German Measles. At the end, one of Jo's best friends and two other people escape from Austria and come to join them, bringing with them the one thing that Jo values the most.

Spoilers

As a result of the traumatic hide and seek game, Jo and Jack become engaged, and are married shortly after their arrival in Germany. Bruno von Ahlen and Gottfried Mensch, two doctors at the sanitorium, are ordered to leave by the Gestapo, but finally escape.

As a patriotic gesture, the school starts gardening lessons when it re-starts in Guernsey. Visiting mistress, Miss Everett, and the Fourth form (specifically Betty Wynne Davies and Elizabeth Arnott) clash when the girls decide it would be funny to hide the tools all over the garden. However, the mistress goes straight to Miss Annersley and the joke backfires badly on the girls.

Just after the start of the first term at Sarres, the school is told that Madame Lepattre has died in Paris. Cornelia Flower and Simone Lecoutier, back at school as a mistress, are particularly upset.

The new girl is Gertrude Beck (Gertrud Becker), a young Nazi, who is sent to the school to find out just what the girls were trying to hide that day on the mountain. However, the atmosphere of the school thaws her, and when she receives news that her mother has disappeared from Germany, the girl runs away from school, leaving a note to confess her position. The ship she takes to Denmark is torpedoed by a U Boat, but she is rescued by a British ship, and on arrival in Scarpa Flow is sent a letter from her mother who is now safe in Denmark.

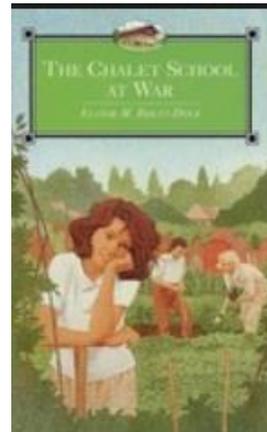
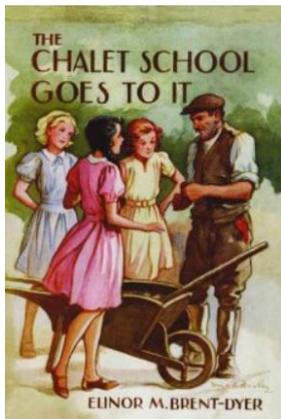
Jo's big surprise is the arrival of triplet daughters, Helena, Constance and Margot, and her insistence that they are to call her and Jack Mamma and Papa.

The hurt prefects are Violet Allison, Cornelia Flower, and Maria Marani. The latter's recovery is slowed down by the lack of news concerning her father, but while Maria is still in hospital, his ashes are received by Frau Marani; at least now they know for certain.

The people who escape from Austria are Bruno von Ahlen, (Frieda Mensch is his new wife), and Gottfried Mensch. They bring with them Rufus, Jo's big St. Bernard dog. Their escape was made possible by a German member of the Chalet School league, but we are not told until the next book who it was.

Missing from the paperback

The hardback edition has a short chapter in Switzerland while the escapees are with Gottfried's Aunt. Jo has recurring nightmares and Miss Wilson's ankle is still uncomfortable when they leave the safety of Switzerland for the last part of their escape to Guernsey.



The Chalet School Goes To It (hardback) The Chalet School at War (paperback)

Synopsis

Contributed by Angela Woodgates, England — working from a hardback edition

It is the Easter term, and the "foundation stones" of the Chalet School staff are discussing the wartime situation in the Channel Islands. A German aeroplane has crash-landed in the Islands, and Madge Russell and Miss Annersley feel that the School must evacuate to the mainland for the safety of the children. They would like to join the Lucy and Ozanne families near Armiford in the west of England if they can find a suitable building.

Coincidentally, they receive a visit from the Reverend Ernest Howell, an old schoolfellow of Jack Maynard's brother, who has come to offer them the use of his huge old house in Howell Village (just outside Armiford), conditional upon their taking his young half-sister Guenever (Gwensi) as a pupil. He is joining up as a naval chaplain, and has no-one to take care of her.

The Russell, Bettany and Maynard children are all sent over to England in short order, and the School will follow in due course. After Miss Wilson, Frieda von Ahlen, Jo and the triplets encounter a German U-boat on their Channel crossing, the School authorities hurry matters and arrange to move into Plas Howell for the summer term.

Gwensi Howell is by no means pleased at having the Chalet School in her home, but an encounter with first Jo and the triplets, then Robin Humphries, reconciles her to the situation and she begins to make friends among the girls. There are various new pupils from the surrounding towns and villages, and on the staff are several old friends and ex-pupils. The School as a whole determines to Dig For Victory, and so gardening makes its first appearance on the curriculum.

Part-way through the term Colonel Black, commanding officer of the troops in the area, comes to investigate reports of torchlight in the grounds after blackout, and disappointed of finding the culprit among the pupils, posts soldiers outside the house to keep watch.

Hard on these excitements comes an air-raid, during which a German 'plane drops a canister containing a message from the brother of two old girls. A split develops between Betty and Elizabeth, the school's two Bad Girls, and the latter makes great efforts to reform.

The School settles down again after the upheavals. Then, near the end of the term, there is a telegram for one of the Old Girls on the staff, to say that her fiancé is coming in two days, and she is to be married when he arrives. Jo organises an intensive sewing-party to make a dress for the bride, and the story concludes with a wedding attended by the whole school.

School facts

Miss Annersley is Headmistress (Mademoiselle Lepâttré died the previous autumn)
The School is in its second term on Guernsey at the start of the story

Whereabouts of series characters

Jo Maynard moves with the School to Armiford and settles in Plas Gwyn with the (roughly) six-month old Triplets
Cornelia Flower is Head Girl
Robin Humphries is a Prefect
Daisy Venables is thirteen and in the Third Form
Beth Chester is thirteen and in the Third Form

Information about Old Girls and others

Miss Wilson is teaching science and geography, Grizel Cochrane is in charge of Music, Simone Lecoutier is teaching Mathematics, Gillian Linton is Kindergarten assistant

Miss Stewart plans to move with the school, but her fiancé comes home before the evacuation, and she leaves to be married. Her replacement is Mary Burnett, former Head Girl. Juliet Carrick (now O'Hara) has had a son, and is moving near to the School.

Margia Stevens, in Australia when war broke out, is now on tour in South Africa. Simone's sister and parents arrive in Guernsey and follow the School to England, and the Ozanne, Chester and Lucy families have all moved to the Armiford area.

Frieda von Ahlen is sent to the Isle of Man to be interned as an alien; her husband Bruno is in the Polish Legion. By the end of the book, she is released and they are reunited in England.

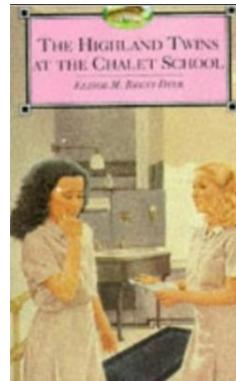
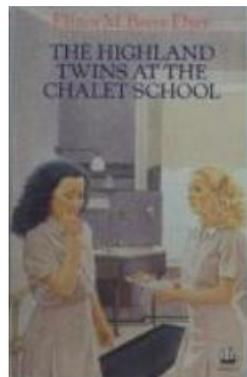
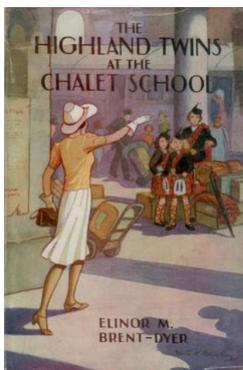
Spoilers

Betty Wynne-Davies and Elizabeth Arnett have their own ideas about hunting the Spy, which lead to Gwensi, Beth Chester and Daisy Venables being lost for several hours.

Betty Wynne-Davies asks Gwensi whether Plas Howell has any secret passages (thinking that The Spy might be using them). Gwensi takes Beth and Daisy to a secret place of hers, a tunnel between the bushes, and they encounter poachers. While Elizabeth, influenced by Gillian Linton, begins to grow up, Betty is hurt by her coolness and shows no sign of reforming.

The message dropped in the air-raid is from Karl Linders, brother of Emmie and Joanna: he is a reluctant member of the Luftwaffe but later becomes a prisoner of the Allies. Emmie and Joanna are still in Germany.

The end-of-term wedding is that of Simone who marries André de Bersac in Armiford. Jo finds them lodgings two miles away, and so Simone can stay on at the School.



Highland Twins at the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Susan Dunnachie, Australia — working from a hardback edition

Mrs Jean Mackenzie, a friend of Jo's, writes to Jo about her cousins; Archie (24), Sheina (a little younger than Jo), Hugh (late teens), Kenneth (15) and twins Flora and Fiona Macdonald (11). Their parents are dead and they live in a remote island in the Outer Hebrides called Erisay.

The Admiralty have taken over the island and the girls are going to have to go to school and Sheina expects to be called up. As they are unused to people Jean wants them to go to Jo's first. Jo instantly nicknames the twins "Flora and Fauna".

The triplets are nearly 2, Margot nearly died of bronchitis the previous winter as she was always the most fragile of them and the family are just realising that the triplets are not going to be identical after all.

Jack sailed to the East 2 months ago and will be gone for a long time.

There are nearly 150 girls at the school by this time. During the term, Miss Annersley gets a telegram from London signed by two of the peace league and believes it may be the Linders.

One twin mentions the chart of Erisay and its secret and Betty WynneDavies overhears the Junior's chattering. Sheina had given it to the twins for safe keeping. A spy overhears Betty planning to take the chart to spite the twins who had annoyed her.

Jo receives news that Jack was swept overboard and can't be found. Daisy goes to fetch Jem who has known him since he started at the San when Jo was a schoolgirl of 14. Fiona uses her second sight and believes that Jack is not dead. Jo makes the final transformation to adulthood.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Jo is living in Plas Gwyn

Robin Humphries is in the Sixth and a Prefect

Biddy O'Ryan [O'Hara in hardback] is in the Sixth

Daisy Venables, Gwensi Howells and Beth Chester are Seniors

Bride Bettany is in Upper Second

Spoilers:

Simone was living in the North of England but André has been moved to a defence area so Simone and little Thérèse are going to Jo.

Gisela and Gottfried have rejoined the San in the Welsh Mountains with Maria who has suffered terribly with the Nazis. Gisela has just had a son Toni and has 4 other girls. Her previous son Florian (after her father who died in a concentration camp) was delicate and died after 3 weeks.

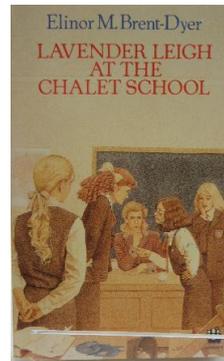
Col Black, the officer in charge of the troops in the area, comes to the school. He had caught the spy and wanted to know who had betrayed the information. No one confesses and the spy points out Betty. She had spoken to him in the garden and he had blackmailed her into letting him into the school. Betty will be expelled. She is nearly 18 and will be called up soon. Her guardian has never really cared for her. Her mother's friend Mrs Graves (her other guardian) has been the only one to take any interest in her. She now decides to take over her care and with this they believe Betty may make good. Elizabeth Arnott blames herself for ignoring her old friend.

Jem just got his baronetcy in the birthday honours list.

Jack arrives back at the end of the book. He had been picked up by a tiny boat near Mauritius.

In the hard-back edition there is also the following thread:

Elizaveta and family turn up after a hair-raising escape from Belsornia. The King has stayed behind, as has Elizaveta's husband, and she has not heard from them for months. Elizaveta registers as 'Mrs Helston' and finds a home near Joey's.



Lavender Laughs In The Chalet School (hardback) **Lavender Leigh at the Chalet School (paperback)**

Synopsis

Contributed by Angela Woodgates, England — working from a hardback edition

Thirteen-year-old Lavender Leigh has been taken to the doctor by her Auntie Sylvia because she is nervy and has little appetite. Miss Leigh (Auntie Sylvia) is soon to be called up into the Women's Services. Dr. Marilliar of Medbury (near Armiford) recommends that Lavender be sent to the Chalet School, which his own daughter and two of his nieces attend, as there she will be under careful medical supervision.

Until the outbreak of war, Miss Leigh and Lavender had travelled about the world, collecting material for a series of Geographical Readers ("Lavender Laughs In New Guinea", "Lavender Laughs In Libya"). This wandering lifestyle is at the root of Lavender's nervous problems, and Dr. Marilliar strongly advises Miss Leigh to give Lavender the settled routine of an ordinary schoolgirl.

Lavender, although almost fourteen, is placed with younger girls in Lower Third, to which Bride Bettany has just been promoted. Lady Russell asks her niece to look after Lavender, who has never been to school before. Lavender has had to come to school a week before term begins. Consequently, Bride starts her "sheep-dog" duties immediately on arrival, and Lavender, accustomed to being petted and indulged, finds it difficult to settle into school life.

At the customary new girls' party at Plas Gwyn, Jo talks to Lavender about coming to school for the first time. New to school ways, Lavender offends various people and quarrels arise among the Juniors, which contribute to an accident during a snow-fight.

Jo Maynard gives birth to her first son, Stephen John, but refuses to see any visitors for a week or two, because of a mishap at home about which she keeps very quiet (although Jack lets the Staff into the secret). A Kashmiri girl whose home has been bombed comes to the school unexpectedly, and Lavender shows that she is learning to think of others in the Chalet tradition.

Whereabouts of series characters

The Head Girl is Elizabeth Arnett

Robin Humphries is in the Sixth, and lives with Jo and Jack in the holidays

Daisy Venables is in Lower Fifth, and living with Madge and Jem in the holidays

Biddy O'Ryan is a prefect

Bride Bettany is in Lower Third

Amy Stevens (19) is the oldest girl in the school, and still delicate

Cornelia Flower is in Ireland looking after her father

Jo Maynard has been poorly after the shock of believing Jack lost at sea and Jack is at home on six months' sick leave

Juliet O'Hara (née Carrick) is looking after the Triplets. She has a son, Donal.

Elisaveta (now registered as Mrs. Helston) and her three children have left Plas

Gwyn to live with a cousin. Margia Stevens is in Sydney, training as a nurse. Evadne

Lannis is in the WAAFs and engaged to a Lieutenant in the US Army. Polly Heriot

(20) is coming to stay with Jo before joining up.

Spoilers

"Auntie Sylvia" tells Miss Wilson that Lavender is a clever, sensitive child who worships beauty. In fact, her education has been extremely patchy and consists mainly of a fluency in foreign languages and wide experience of travel. She has always had her own way and is accustomed to a lot of attention and admiration (Bride suspects that such a celebrity will be "awfully stuck-up").

Lavender makes various faux pas which don't endear her to either the Staff or her fellow-pupils, and contrives to "get across" Matey within minutes of beginning her unpacking. She is critical of the Chalet School Peace League, sniffs at the girls' pride in having Josephine M. Bettany as a neighbour and former pupil, and is inclined to swank about her own experiences.

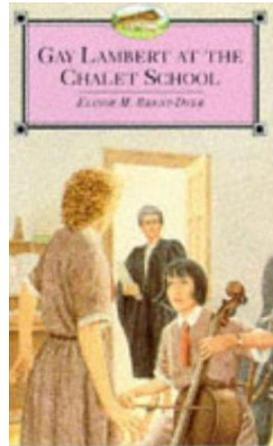
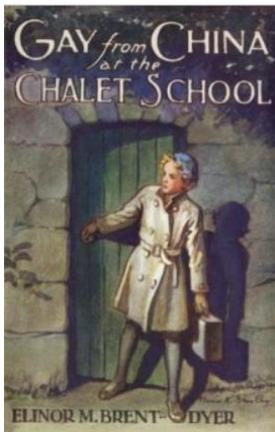
Lavender quarrels with Joy Bird, another Junior, during a snow-fight with the result that she gets buried in a snowdrift. While she is recovering in San, Lavender does some hard thinking and undergoes a change from the selfish, indulged pet of Auntie Sylvia's régime.

The new girl who arrives late in the term turns out to be Lavender's friend Lilamani whom she knew in Kashmir, and whose mother is at the Sanatorium and who is very frail. Lavender looks after Lilamani, and shows that she can be concerned for someone other than herself. Gradually, she is losing her "only child" ways and learning to fit in.

Finally, playing games with the other Juniors, she loses patience with her old-fashioned ringlets and cuts them off with Frau Mieders' big scissors. Now, with an up-to-date hairstyle, she is ready to become a proper Chalet School girl.

The only significant difference between the paperback and hardback editions is that the paperback omits most or all references to past school history/old girls/family information.

Miss Wilson is Second Mistress and in charge of the Chalet School Peace League membership



Gay from China at the Chalet School (hardback)

Gay Lambert at the Chalet School (paperback)

Synopsis

Contributed by Angela Woodgates, England — working from a hardback edition

Jacynth Hardy's aunt who has brought her up is to have an operation after which she will have to convalesce for some time, so Jacynth is off to the Chalet School as a boarder. On the train she meets Gay Lambert, who tells her about the school. Changing trains, they fall in with a family -- father, mother, aunt, five children and a formidable grandmother -- who are also bound for Howells Village, to take over the shop there. Jacynth helps Gay to carry her 'cello, and confides that she would like to learn, but there is no money to spare for extras: Auntie has saved hard just to manage the school fees.

When the girls arrive at school, things are not as usual and rumours are going around. When they assemble in Hall, the School learns that four of the most senior Staff have been injured in an accident on holiday and will be unable to return for the coming summer term. Some former pupils -- Jo Maynard included -- have been recruited to take over their work, but there is no-one to take on Miss Annersley's role, so Miss Bubb, a brilliant classical scholar, is to be Headmistress in her absence.

Miss Bubb instigates sweeping changes. Supervision is increased, hobbies, games and Guides are treated as very much subordinate to lessons, and Senior privileges are restricted. Appeal to Madame is impossible, as little Josette has been badly

scalded and cannot be left. No-one on the Staff has sufficient authority to overrule the new Head, so Jo Maynard writes to Miss Wilson begging her to try and return. 'Bill' arrives to find Staff and girls unhappy, and is welcomed by everyone except Miss Bubb.

Gay Lambert has more than once been in trouble with Miss Bubb, so when a letter arrives asking for leave for Gay to go home for a while (as her brother is to be posted to the East), the Head refuses permission. Gay runs away by night and makes for home in the North. Luckily, on her journey she meets sympathetic acquaintances who look after her, and inform the School that she is safe.

Lady Russell sends for Miss Bubb, and they agree that she should hand over to Miss Wilson. Miss Bubb has received a job offer from an old friend, and leaves almost immediately, to everyone's delight.

When she eventually returns to School, Gay unwittingly infects various people with German measles, among them Jacynth. During this time, Jacynth's beloved Auntie dies, but Jo Maynard, Miss Wilson and Gay and her family make themselves responsible for her future.

The German measles victims recover in time for the end-of-term, and with Miss Bubb gone the School can prepare for Parents' Day. The usual programme of music and folk-dancing is followed by the first presentation of a new award, the Margot Venables Prize, in memory of Madame's sister-in-law. It is sponsored by Jo Maynard, and is to be awarded yearly to the girl who receives most votes for being kind and helpful. Miss Wilson announces the winner, and the School applauds its chosen heroine.

Whereabouts of series characters

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Robin Humphries is in the Sixth, and lives with Jo and Jack in the holidays

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[Spoilers:](#)

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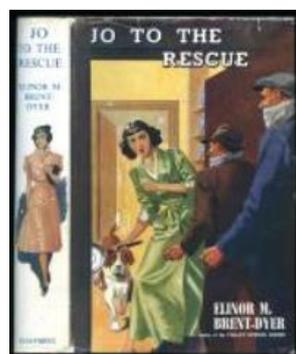
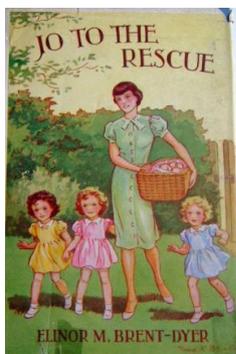
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Jo To The Rescue

Synopsis

Contributed by Angela Woodgates, England — working from a hardback edition

Twenty-two year old Phoebe Wychcote is an orphan, living alone with her maid Debby in a cottage on the edge of the Yorkshire moors. An invalid for the last ten years, she pines for companionship but has no relatives or real friends except for Reg Entwistle, a young lad from the village. Her father, a famous 'cellist, died leaving her only the house and a tiny income which she supplements by doing exquisite needlework.

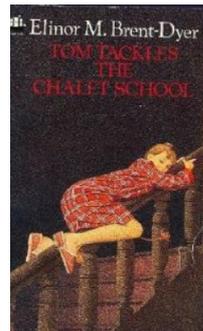
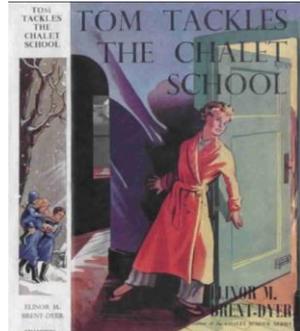
The Vicar's wife, "a big, bustling lady with very decided views on every subject", is unsympathetic because of an earlier disagreement with Mr. Wychcote, and Phoebe is being pressed by a Mr. Burthill to sell her most precious possession, her father's valuable 'cello, because his daughter Zephyr desperately wants it for herself. Phoebe feels that she has no-one to turn to for advice.

To the cottage across the way comes a party of four young ladies and ten children: Jo Maynard, Simone de Bersac, Marie von Wertheim and Frieda von Ahlen with their own families, plus Sybil Russell and Jo's precious St. Bernard, Rufus.

They are staying at The Witchens for the summer holidays, and quickly become friendly with Phoebe, whose father had performed with Vanna di Ricci, and Old Girl of the Chalet School. Phoebe asks Jo for help with the question of selling the 'cello: the Burthills are very persistent, but she does not wish to sell. Jo later encounters Zephyr Burthill, a spoilt nineteen-year-old who is determined to get her own way by any possible means, fair or otherwise.

Phoebe becomes ill while Jack Maynard is visiting his family, and is taken to the San in the Welsh mountains. While she is away, Jo and Rufus foil an attempted burglary. Jo arranges for Zephyr to meet the Robin, now nearly nineteen, and a friendship begins between the two girls which comes to mean more to Zephyr than the need to own Nicholas Wychcote's 'cello. Jack and Jo take up the cause of thirteen-year-old Reg, who is eager to study medicine but lives with an aunt who disapproves of "all this here eddication" for village lads. At the San under the care of Jem Russell, Jack Maynard and Dr. Frank Peters, Phoebe's condition rapidly improves, although she knows that she cannot hope for a complete cure.

There is a surprise for Sybil who, following an accident to her little sister in *GAY FROM CHINA AT THE CHALET SCHOOL / GAY LAMBERT AT THE CHALET SCHOOL*, has grown into a much more attractive character. Finally, Phoebe receives some delightful news which will solve all her problems; and as she points out, it is really all thanks to Jo for coming to the rescue.



Tom Tackles the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Chris King, USA — working from a paperback edition

Tom Gay, whose real name is one she hates, and is always known as Tom, has been raised by her mother and father to live up to the standards of a "real gentleman". Her parents had always wanted a boy, and so her father raised her as one as much as possible. A visiting Aunt finally convinces Tom's parents that she must go off to school to become more feminine. Thus, at the age of 12, she is enrolled in the Chalet school where she certainly causes a stir.

Tom is placed in the Upper Third. She has a little difficulty fitting in. Some of her ideas are a little unusual - "Girls are awfully sentimental usually" to quote Tom. Tom's father has warned her that girls see nothing wrong with breaking rules in secret, but that it is still not straight and Tom must maintain her honour like a gentleman.

Tom's difficulties in settling in come in many ways from these ideas. She quickly decides that Daisy Venables is a "gentleman" (Tom's highest complement) and then, after a row in prep, followed by a lecture in class from Miss Linton.

Tom comes to the conclusion that Daisy had sneaked on her to Miss Linton. While Daisy did not in fact sneak, Tom is convinced of this, and becomes very upset that she could have made such an error in judgement.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Len, Con and Margot Maynard - are four years old

Peggy Bettany - is in the Upper Fourth

Bride Bettany - is eleven years old and in the Third form

Tom Gay (a girl) - is a new girl in this book and is placed in the third form

Daisy Venables - is a prefect

Gwensi Howell - is a prefect

Beth Chester - is the Head Girl

Robin Humphries - is at Oxford

[Spoilers:](#)

Since she loses her appetite over the confusing affair with Daisy, Matron sends her off to bed, and while in bed Tom has time to think. Matron and Tom have a

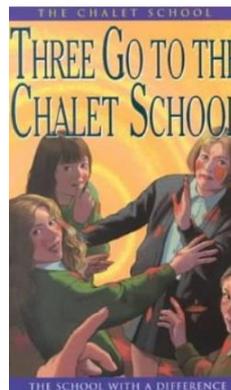
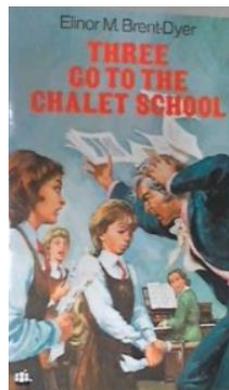
discussion and, while Tom does not directly address her issues with Daisy, Matron does set her straight on girls versus boys. Girls can be just as honourable and need not be overly sentimental.

The matter with Daisy comes to a head when Tom is on a walk with Daisy and Elfie, getting caught by a snowstorm. Daisy proves her mettle to Tom and while they are both in the San recovering, Tom is able to talk with her about the row in Prep. Tom finally understands after Daisy explained what actually happened.

Tom has one last adventure. Waking up one night in the middle of the night, she hears a noise downstairs. Sneaking downstairs to investigate, she hears the noise coming from the stock room. Seizing the moment, she slams the door and locks it tight, thinking she has caught a burglar.

The next morning, Tom reports the captured burglars to Miss Wilson, who had been among those trapped by Tom!!! She is scolded for not reporting the matter promptly to a Mistress and told not to tell anyone about the incident.

The last portion of the book revolves around getting ready for the Sale. Tom's woodworking skills draw the admiration of all as she builds a wonderful dolls house.



Three Go To The Chalet School

Synopsis

Contributed by Helen T. Bradley, Scotland — working from a hardback edition

This book introduces Mary-Lou Trelawney, Verity-Anne Carey and Clem Barras. The book opens with Mary-Lou aged almost ten. As there is no appropriate school near their Devon home, her mother and grandmother have decided to move house and send Mary-Lou to the Chalet School (her father is exploring in South America, and has been since Mary-Lou was a toddler). The move is also intended to benefit Mrs. Trelawney's health.

Mary-Lou is upset at leaving Clem Barras, her only real friend, although Clem is older than her. Clem has been living next door with her brother, Tony, and her artist parents. Mary-Lou is a little reconciled to the idea of a move when she learns Clem is leaving too.

Mary-Lou has reservations about going to school. Until now, her mother had taught her at home. However, at her new home she soon makes the acquaintance of the Maynard Triplets and their Mother, Joey - not to mention Madge Russell (Madame) and her family. This helps to persuade her that school may not be bad after all.

Verity-Anne Carey is sent to the Chalet School after the death of her Grandfather. Her mother is dead, and her father is abroad. Soon the two girls, Mary-Lou and Verity-Anne, discover that their fathers are with the same expedition.

Mary-Lou quickly settles into school and makes friends, most notably with Vi Lucy. Verity-Anne, on the other hand, finds it much more difficult. Having been brought up in an old-fashioned way by elderly relatives and her governess, she has little in common with the girls in her form. Nor does she want to. Unhappy and confused, she sticks to her own ways, which brings her into conflict with both girls and staff. Mary-Lou does her best to befriend her, with little success.

After her first half term, Mary-Lou changes from being a daygirl to a boarder. She is unhappy at first over the idea of sharing a room. Much to her delight, however, she finds herself sharing a two-bedded room with a new pupil - Clem Barras!

Clem's parents have sent her to school because her parents are painting in the Hebrides, where there was no suitable school for Clem or her brother.

Series Character whereabouts:

Madge Russell and her family are at the Round House, near the school.
Joey Maynard has six children - Len, Con and Margot (aged seven and at school) Stephen, Charles and baby Michael.
Peggy Bettany is in the Fifth form.
Sybil Russell is thirteen.
Josette Russell is nine, and in Mary-Lou's form.
Gillian Linton is on the staff, and is Mary-Lou's Form Mistress.
Grizel Cochrane is on the staff as Music Mistress, and is much feared for her sarcasm.
Gillian Culver, later secretary at St. Mildred's, is Head Girl.

Spoilers

The school goes back to the practice of being tri-lingual (which had fallen away since the school arrived in England), German, French and English being spoken on different days. Verity-Anne, out of misguided patriotism and with no one of her own to talk her out of it, refuses to speak or sing in German. This leads to a major row with Plato over the Christmas concert.

Although the age difference means Mary-Lou and Clem are in different forms, they are still great friends outside of lesson, but Clem's attempts to help Mary-Lou catch up to her in school lead to unexpected consequences.

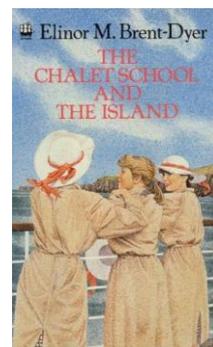
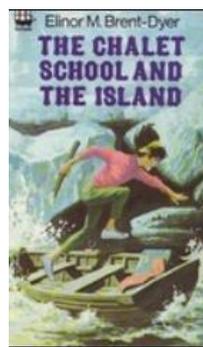
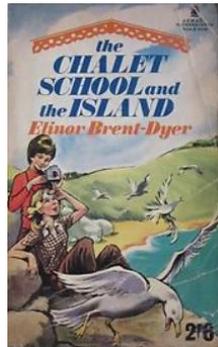
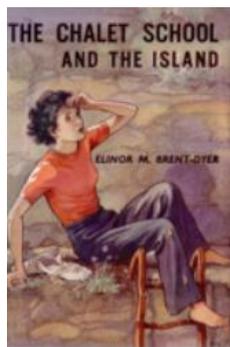
Mary-Lou and Verity Anne are brought closer together by tragedy, which also proves to be the means of settling Verity-Anne in as a Chaletian - finally. By the end of

the book, not only is there a friendship between Clem, Mary-Lou and Verity-Anne, but also between all their families, which leads to further changes for them all in their home lives over their years in the Chalet School and beyond.

E.B.D-ism - Clem is 11 in chapter one, but by the time she arrives at the school after half term, in the ways of CS ageing, is miraculously 13.

Omitted in the paperback

Clem's godfather, an artist like her parents, comes to visit Clem at school, and falls in love (instantly, of course) with Gillian Linton. She and he are engaged by the end of the book



The Chalet School and the Island

Synopsis:

Contributed by Lorraine O'Donnell, Sligo, Ireland— working from a paperback edition

After a bout of mystery illnesses, the drains at Plas Howell, the school's home, need to be seen to. As the work may take up to a year, a new home must be found. After turning down several unsuitable offers, an offer finally comes that suits everyone - The Big House on St Briavel's, an island off the Welsh coast. Meanwhile, Dr Jem Russell has taken most of his family, with the addition of Margot Maynard, to a conference in Canada.

For the most part, the school is excited by the move and all the changes it will bring, especially the prospect of water sports. Unfortunately, Annis Lovell, after a term at the school, has still not settled down, and sets out to cause some trouble. Annis declares that she will make Bill and the Abbess thankful to be rid of her come the end of the term, and sets out to fulfill her threat. She is isolated from the rest of the school after refusing to apologise to Mademoiselle Lachenais for rudeness.

There is another discontented soul - Cherry Christy resents a school coming to live in her home, while she and her family must move. Her sister Dicky, however settles happily in the school. The school meet Kester Bellever and visit the birds on his island. Feeling that her Aunt Margaret resents looking after her, Annis Lovell decides to run away and is soon in great danger.

Series Character Whereabouts:

Jo Maynard - living in Howells' village, but visits the School for several weeks
Len Maynard - 8, currently a member of the Chalet School Kindergarten
Con Maynard - 8, currently a member of the Chalet School Kindergarten
Margot Maynard - 8, living in Canada with the Russells
Mary-Lou Trelawney - 11, Lower IIIb
Julie Lucy - Middle
Peggy Bettany - Senior
Bride Bettany - Lower Va, Prefect for St Therese's
Daisy Venables - working in a big London hospital

Old Girls

Grizel Cochrane - Music Mistress
Ivy Norman - returns to teach at the school after an absence of 5 years
Gillian Linton - Old Girl, Mistress, leaving to be married
Mary Burnett - Old Girl, Mistress, leaving to be married
Joyce Linton - married with two children, Frank (5) and Jocelyn (6)
Luigia di Ferrara - a nun, died in a concentration camp

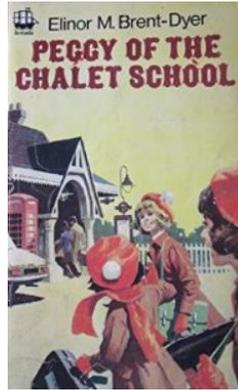
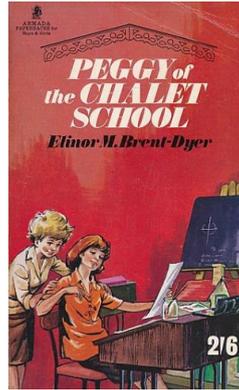
Spoilers:

The Maynard's decide to send Margot to Canada with Madge in the hope that it may help the little girls health. Len and Con are to remain with the Chalet School. Flora and Fiona McDonald will also travel with the Russell family and be reunited with their sister and her new family.

On a trip to Carnbach, Lower Va meet Cherry Christy and Kester Bellever, the warden of a sea-bird sanctuary on a near-by island and are fascinate by them both. Annis rescues one of Cherry's crutches and is cheered up as a result. When she returns to school, she apologises and her isolation is ended. Lower IIIb have a stand-up fight which surprises everyone and Joey visits, bringing five boats with her. Joey also manages to help Cherry to see that the Chalet School is not such a bad place.

Annis once again stirs up trouble when she runs away after an infuriating letter from her aunt. On the night of the school Regatta, she takes one of the school boats and finds herself lost and unable to control the boat. She is pulled to a rocky area and jumps out, injuring her ankle. With the tide coming in, she is forced to climb a cliff after which she is discovered by Kester Bellever and Cherry. Feeling very ashamed of herself, Annis is returned to the school, to find that they are more angry with her aunt than with her herself. She is also given the news that her father, supposed dead, is alive and returning to Britain.

During the summer holidays, Joey and family spend some time at a guesthouse in Cornwall where both she and Annis' father give Aunt Margaret a piece of their mind!



Peggy of the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Chris King, USA — working from a paperback edition

It is the Christmas Term, and Peggy Bettany is excited about the coming term, her first in the Sixth. While traveling to school, and making a transfer between trains, Peggy and her family get on the wrong train, resulting in their arrival at school a day late.

This book also introduces two new girls, Polly and Lala Winterton 15 and 14 years old respectively. They had grown up in a rather unsupervised environment while their father, a journalist, was away of assignment in the Far East for ten years. Upon his return, he was shocked to find that his girls were "lazy, impudent, and disobedient."

He decides to take action by moving the family to a new home, away from the Pennine Moors and to a place where they would grow up in a more controlled environment. He also resolved to send to good school rather than continuing with a tutor. The Winterton's new home is near the Quadrant, home to the Bettany's, where the Winterton's first learn of the Chalet School.

Much to her surprise, upon Peggy's arrival at school, she learns that she has been selected as the new Head Girl. Many of the prefects from last year have left school or have been promoted to the Special Sixth. After a very bad experience with one Marilyn Evans two years earlier, the heads have decided that no member of the Special Sixth can be a prefect.

Peggy's peers are delighted with her appointment as Head Girl and rally around to support her. One of the Special Sixth, Eilunedd Vaughn is acting in a strange manner - challenging Peggy constantly. What is wrong with Eilunedd?

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Jo Maynard is living near the school on the mainland and teaching History at the Chalet School

Mary-Lou Trelawney - is a twelve year old junior

Len Maynard - is in the Second Form

Con Maynard - is in the Second Form

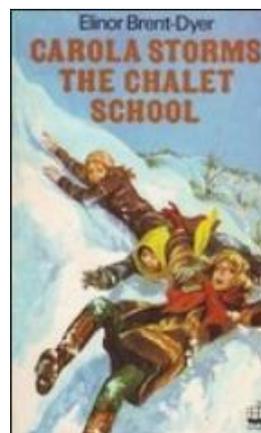
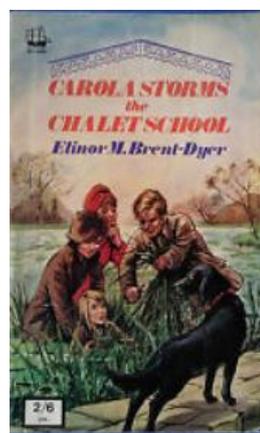
Margot Maynard - is in Canada
Peggy Bettany - is the Head Girl
Bride Bettany - is in the Fifth form
Tom Gay (a girl) - is in the Fifth form

Spoilers:

Polly and Lala react to school differently. Lala is quick to settle in and become a part of school life. Polly is initially more resistant, particularly when it becomes apparent that the work habits of old would not last in the Chalet School. As the marks continue to be poor, Polly sulks more and more. Finally the opportunity to be a part of the Form in developing dolls house items for the spring sale gives her something to enjoy and Polly starts to settle in.

As it turns out, Eilunedd is disappointed that she was not named Head girl. She doesn't think that it is fair that she was refused this opportunity because she was in the Special Sixth and blames Peggy for it. She spreads discontent amongst the Juniors and Middle, gossiping about how Peggy had been treated with favouritism when she was named Head Girl and pointing out that Peggy had not got into trouble for missing the train.

The other prefects, led by Dicky Christy, are able to settle down the school by explaining what really happened on the train mishap. Jo takes care of Eilunedd, explaining to her that words are like feathers while Eilunedd is trying to pluck a chicken on a windy day in the garden.



Carola Storms the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Chris King, USA — working from a paperback edition

Carola Johnstone, age 14, is in the care of her cousin Maud Curry, while her father is working in West Equatorial Africa. Her cousin is a globetrotter, going here and there with only a minimal amount of time back in England prior to the next trip. Carola travels along as well, with a governess to provide her with an education, but Carola has grown extremely tired of this routine, wishing only for a normal stable life.

This feeling grows even stronger after Carola and her cousin spend Christmas at the same guest-house/hotel as Biddy O'Ryan, a teacher at the Chalet School, who has spent hours regaling her with stories of school life.

Carola decides to take matters into her own hands and go to the Chalet School no matter what. She carefully plans her escape, slipping away from her cousin just as they are supposed to be boarding a ship to Jamaica. She then takes a train to the Chalet School, arriving with the rest of the school at the start of the term.

When she is found out, which doesn't take more than a few moments, Carola finds herself in with Miss Annersley trying to explain her actions. She quickly is reduced to her favourite saying "I didn't think."

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Mary-Lou Trelawney - is a twelve year old junior

Len and Con Maynard - are in the Second Form

Margot Maynard - is in Canada

Peggy Bettany - is the Head Girl

Bride Bettany - is in Lower 5B

Tom Gay (a girl) - is in the Fifth form

Daisy Venables - is a doctor in her early twenties

Biddy O'Ryan - returns in this book to be a History Mistress

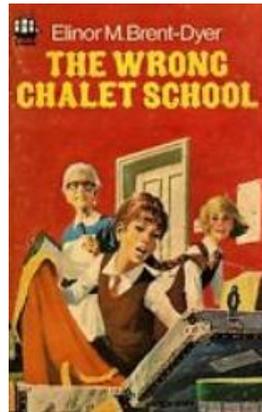
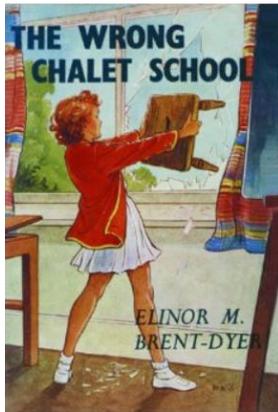
[Spoilers:](#)

When Carola's cousin and parents are notified of her running away, the cousin refuses to have any further responsibility for her. Her father flies home at once from Africa to enrol Carola in the school.

Carola quickly settles in to the school. When the half term comes, she is the oldest of 10 girls left at the school over the half term break. A half term trip, led by Miss Burn nearly turns into a tragedy as one of the younger girls nearly drowns, only Carola's quick thinking saving her life. Miss Burn, who also participates in the rescue, falls ill due to the exposure to the icy water. Her doctor, a Doctor Graves, tends to her carefully and she is soon on the road to recovery.

Shortly thereafter, Carola creates herself a place in the legends of the school through a misadventure in cooking class. The class is attempting to make doughnuts, but runs short on oil in which to fry the doughnuts. Carola is asked to go ask Matron for some oil, but, unable to find her, simply helps herself from the large container. The doughnuts are disgusting, fried, as it turns out, in cod liver oil.

The term ends with the Sale. Tom Gay [a girl] has made a dolls house. Carola thinks up the competition to win the house - you must guess the materials used to make the house and its furnishings. Yet another near calamity occurs after the Sale when Grizel carelessly throws away a match, catching Len Maynard's dress on fire. Carola slaps the fire out with her hands, burning them, but is recovering by the end of the book. The book closes with the announcement of two engagements for Old Girls.



The Wrong Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Chris King, USA – working from a paperback edition

Katherine Mary Gordon, age 14, is in the care of her Aunt Luce, a famous artist, while her parents are working as medical missionaries in China.

Her mother asks Aunt Luce to arrange for Katherine to be sent to boarding school to complete her education. Aunt Luce, remembering vaguely that a friend of the family teaches at a Chalet School, makes inquiries and determines that there are three Chalet Schools. One of them is only a Prep (Preparatory) School. Aunt Luce enrolls Katherine in one of the other two schools, selecting from the different schools on the basis of the uniform colours.

Arriving at the school, Katherine finds that her name has been switched to Mary Katherine Gordon, and further finds that two trunks of clothing have arrived, only one of which she packed. Meanwhile, Aunt Luce has disappeared on one of her sketching trips and Katherine's parents are out of touch due to war in China.

Katherine is assigned to the Upper Fourth, where she quickly becomes friends with Hilary Wilson.

This being a summer term, Katherine finds the games to be great fun, and she in turn is perceived as a real asset as she is a fine swimmer and outstanding tennis player. She also finds that she is able to do well at lessons, particularly French, but does have some difficulty with Art - and Herr Laubach!!!

Then a letter arrives at the school, informing the school that Mary Katherine Gordon will not be attending school that term. At the same time, word reaches the school that Katherine's parents have been put into internment camps.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Jo Maynard - is visiting her sister in Canada

Mary-Lou Trelawney - is Form prefect for Upper Third

Len, Con, Margot Maynard - are in Canada

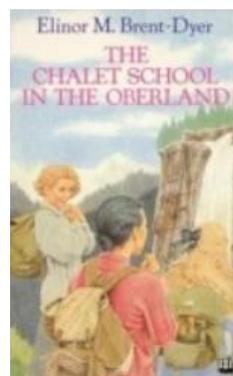
Peggy Bettany - is the Head Girl
Bride Bettany - is Head of the Upper Fifth
Tom Gay (a girl) - is in the Upper Fifth
Biddy O'Ryan - A history mistress
Julie Lucy - is in the Upper Fifth

Spoilers:

Before long, Katherine receives word that her mother was freed, sent to Hong Kong and will be flown home shortly and that her father, while still a prisoner, is back working as a medical missionary.

Katherine is then put into the Tennis Six, where she play brilliantly in her own match, and then fills in as an emergency substitute in a second match, winning that one as well. Blossom Willoughby, who should have been the substitute, had been locked in an art studio and, unable to get out by any other means, smashed a window using a stool, a bust (named Clytie) and her shoe.

Her Aunt Luce turns up announcing that she forgot to enrol Katherine at all - actually just failed to mail the final letter. The book closes with Katherine's mother and father safe and sound and Katherine feeling very much a part of the school enjoying a water pageant.



The Chalet School in the Oberland

Synopsis

Contributed by Sindhu Menon, India — working from a paperback edition

A finishing branch of the Chalet School has been opened in the Bernese Oberland with Miss Wilson as Head. This new branch is originally called the Welsen branch, but this changes in a later book. The book occupies the same term as SHOCKS FOR THE CHALET SCHOOL.

Peggy Bettany is one of the first students along with many others of her Chalet School friends. But there are also several students from other schools who nurse an imaginary grievance that the Chalet girls are trying to impose their own traditions. As this is a finishing school, the girls are given a considerable amount of freedom and

there are no prefects. This rather goes to the head of some of the girls at first and there is trouble in the offing.

Two problem pupils, in very different ways are Edna Purdon and Elma Conroy. Edna is a perfect example of the "prunes and prisms" type of girl, unable to enter into the fun of her fellows and miserable because she does not understand why she is not accepted. Peggy takes her in hand about half way during the term and manages to effect a great change, so much so that Edna is able to take a comic role in the end of term pantomime and carry it off quite well.

Elma is a much more serious case, as she has actually been sent to the Oberland because her parents are worried about a relationship she has developed with a particularly unsavoury man called Stuart Rainer. She breaks the rules with impunity, indulging in card playing on Sundays and crowns her iniquities by carrying on a clandestine correspondence with Stuart and even planning to sneak out and meet him. This causes a lot of trouble until the situation is sorted out.

After all these confusions, the term ends happily with a pantomime got up by the girls, themselves. This is to later become a settled tradition, as the pantomime is one of the most eagerly awaited events in later books. As the term comes to an end, Miss Wilson is able to reflect that the finishing branch has got off to a really promising start.

[Spoilers](#)

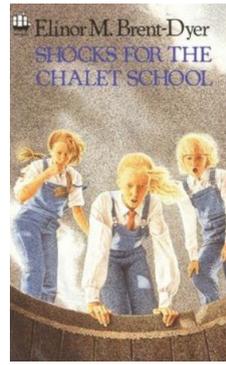
A very old girl, Gillian Culver, has joined the staff as Miss Wilson's Secretary.

Gabrielle Fournet, a new girl turns out to be the niece of yet another old girl, Yvette Mercier.

Peggy has her own personal trauma to undergo as she is suddenly called home as her mother is to undergo surgery.

Elma's plan to meet Stuart Raynor is foiled and she is warned that any further conduct of that sort would result in expulsion. She tries to break off with Stuart, but finds that he is an utter cad who will not stop pestering her even if she gets into trouble. Elma had taken a dislike to Peggy from the very beginning but it is Peggy now who comes to her assistance and enlists Miss Wilson's support to see that Mr. Raynor is firmly warned off. Elma and Peggy become friends after this, and in *THE CHALET SCHOOL DOES IT AGAIN* we have a reference to Peggy being bridesmaid at Elma's wedding.

Elma's callous behaviour leads to a serious breach between her and her great friend Pamela which is finally resolved during the much greater crisis of a railway accident.



Shocks for the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Jo Marshall-Collins, England — working from a paperback edition

In the few days before the beginning of term, Miss Annersley, Rosalie Dene and Matey receive the first two shocks of the book.

The first shock is the announcement - by telegram - of the imminent arrival of fire-raiser Emerence Hope (aged thirteen and eleven months) from Australia, sent on recommendation of Con Mackenzie, formerly history teacher Miss Stewart.

Emerence is a handful with no manners, who has never been told "no". The second is when, unexpectedly, Jack Maynard turns up from Canada with startling news about Joey.

The next shocks are for Bride Bettany, who returns to school to find that her best friend, Elfie Woodward, is leaving following the death of her stepmother. Then, since the previous term's Prefects and Head Girl have gone out to Switzerland for their final year in the new branch of the Chalet School in the Oberland, Bride and her circle find that they themselves are now the "grandees" of the school. Bride herself is in for a worrying term due to family illness, but Elfie does provide her with a more pleasant surprise after half term.

Emerence's first entrance on to the Chalet School stage is when she calmly gate crashes the first Prefects meeting. Although assigned to the care of Mary-Lou and Co it is not long before Emerence is in trouble for rudeness and disobedience. She shows a flair for originality, however, carrying out a bet to hide in the Prefects room during a second Prefects meeting, after which she gets mistakenly shut in.

Excitements follow thick and fast as, during a gardening session with the Middles, the new P.T mistress (herself an old girl) falls into a hidden well, and then later the Prefects stumble across a sunken path. These are both elements in a family mystery of the Christy's (owners of the house on the island in which the school presently resides). The area is promptly made out of bounds while Commander Christy investigates his family history and uncovers stories of an underground tunnel and possible buried treasure.

By the time of the Christmas Play Emerence has been more or less assimilated into the school and the last-minute arrival of another visitor from Canada provides the nicest shock of the term.

Series characters whereabouts:

Jo Maynard is in Canada with her family and the Russells

Robin Humphries is also in Canada and has decided to enter La Sagesse, a nunnery, as a postulant

Peggy Bettany is starting her finishing year at the newly-opened Swiss branch of the Chalet School in the Bernese Oberland

Bride Bettany is 16-and-a-half and is a Prefect

Biddy O'Ryan is history teacher

Len, Con and Margot Maynard are all in Canada

Julie Lucy is a Prefect

Mary-Lou is a 13 year-old Middle

Emerence Hope is a new girl and joins Lower IVa

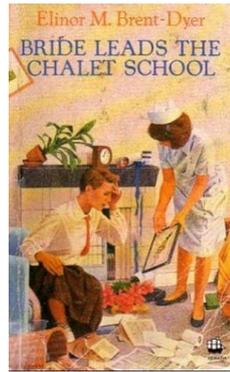
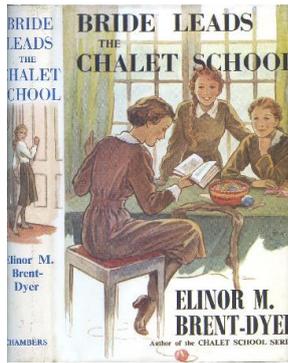
Spoilers:

While ostracised by the Middles for swearing at Mary-Lou, Emerence takes it upon herself to dam up the newly-uncovered pond and bridge area, thereby causing a minor flood. As the term draws to a close the Prefects lay on a memorable party for the Staff in which, among other things, they lay on an obstacle race for them.

Mollie Bettany is gravely ill and Madge Russell makes a surprise return to be on hand in case things go wrong and Dick needs her. An operation is a success and Mollie slowly recovers.

Although at the beginning of term Elfie Woodward has left due to the death of her stepmother (she is needed at home), she does return for the second half, a distant cousin having turned up to housekeep for her father and two small brothers.

Despite a hand-written note to the school declaring she has a fourth son, Jo in fact gives birth to twins, Felix Nicholas and Felicity Josephine, in Canada. She turns up with the twins at the school in the last paragraph of the book, at the finale of the Christmas Play.



Bride Leads the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Amanda Crawford, England — working from a hardback edition

The Bettany family have spent a quiet Christmas at home after the operation on Mrs Bettany the previous November (see SHOCKS FOR THE CHALET SCHOOL). Mrs Bettany is recuperating but it will be a long time before she is fully recovered.

It has almost been decided that Peggy would give up her final year at the Oberland branch to look after her Mother. However, fate lends a hand and a letter arrives from their Aunt Bridgie offering to come and be housekeeper for a year before she departs to live with her daughter and son-in-law in Kenya.

Bride is then shocked by the arrival of Miss Annersley who drops a bombshell in that Loveday Perowne has had to go to South America with her parents and has left the Chalet School. Therefore a new Head Girl must be appointed and it is to be Bride.

Bride hopes to have a peaceful two terms but it is not to be. The school is shocked to find that the other Chalet School, the one at Tanswick (see WRONG CHALET SCHOOL), has joined them, as it had closed down and most of its pupils transferred to the Island.

One major change is the creation of a new form, Upper IVB, which means promotions for several pupils. Two new girls look like being trouble: Diana Skelton and Marion Tovey, both have been influenced by the Tanswick regime. Marion cheeks the prefects and mistresses while Diana puts on airs and also has run-ins with the prefects.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Peggy Bettany is at the finishing branch at the Oberland

Bride Bettany is Head Girl

Biddy O'Ryan is teaching history

Jo Maynard and the triplets are in Canada

Julie Lucy is a member of the Upper VI and a prefect

Mary-Lou Trelawney is a member of Upper IVA

Emerence Hope is a member of Lower IV

Spoilers:

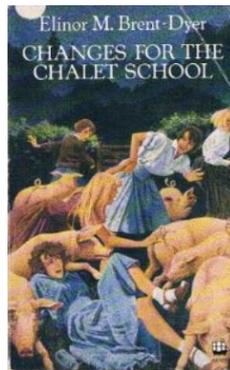
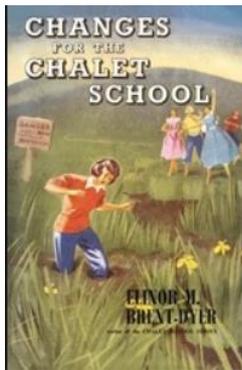
Throughout the term, Diana continues to play up, infecting the younger juniors with her disrespect of the prefect system, although, for once, the Dawburn Twins, Primrose Trevoase and other easily-led juniors are out of it.

Bride, unsure of how to deal with her, writes to Jo Maynard for advice. On that advice a prefects meeting is called and Diana is dealt with. However the consequences of this turn out to be disastrous.

It is discovered that Bride's study has been ransacked. The guilty party turns out to be Diana with the help of Marion Tovey. Diana is made to apologise to Bride but told that she is to be allowed to remain at the school for the rest of the year.

Julie Lucy gives everyone a scare by collapsing one night and is taken to hospital gravely ill with peritonitis, but she recovers slowly at home and hopes to be back for the summer term.

Once the Diana affair is over, plans are made for the sale. This year it is to be based on A.L.O.E.'s *Crown of Success*, an old book one of the prefects remembers reading in San once, and is therefore a Sale of Learning. Tom Gay outdid her usual effort and made a village that was won by Sir James Talbot.



Changes for the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by 'Kookycreature', Malaysia — working from a paperback edition

The Sanatorium is in for another remove, this time to Switzerland, and the Chalet School is going to follow it. A small part of the school is to remain as Glendower House in England, while the major portion prepares to go to the Gornetz Platz in the Oberland. Needless to state, the entire school is excited at the thought of leaving the Big House. Joey and her whole family are also going to Switzerland, as Jack Maynard has to take charge of the San.

The changes pour in fast and furious. One that wasn't too popular required extra time given to French and German conversation. There were library books as well as gym and games apparatus to sort through and divide between the two portions of the school.

In the meantime, the school welcomes Josette Russell and the Maynard triplets who are back from Canada. Emerence Hope, one of the schools naughtiest girls, strikes up a friendship with Margot Maynard. Margot herself, a mischievous sprite, is in for a sharp pull-up from Miss Annersley.

The school carries on much as usual, with their concerns with tennis, cricket, public exams, expeditions and trips. Priscilla Dawbarn manages to distinguish herself on a trip to Vendell. However, it doesn't seem to have calmed her down much, for Priscilla's clan try to liven things up. The consequences however, were more far-reaching than they had ever imagined. The school finally ends their last term in England with a Regatta.

The school is to move to Switzerland after this term

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Peggy Bettany - At Welsen
Bride Bettany - Head Girl of the Chalet School
Biddy O'Ryan - The history mistress at the Chalet School
Jo Maynard - Has returned from Canada and is in Carnbach
Len Maynard - In Upper IVB
Con Maynard - In Lower IVA
Margot Maynard - In Upper IIIA
Julie Lucy - A prefect
Mary-Lou Trelawney - In Upper IVA
Emerence Hope - In Lower IVA

Spoilers:

Margot Maynard, who is two forms below her sister Len, is warned by Miss Annersley that if she doesn't pull up, she would be left behind at the English branch at Glendower House. Lower IVA will be the lowest form in the school when it goes to Switzerland, and Margot will have to win her promotion to that form before she is allowed to go with her sisters.

This horrifies not only Margot, but the other two triplets as well. To rub it in, Joey Maynard backs up Miss Annersley as Margot finds out when she appeals to her mother.

The Junior Middles are taken on a trip to Vendell. Priscilla Dawbarn falls into the marsh, due to her own heedlessness. She escapes, mercifully unhurt. Clothing then becomes a problem as she does not have a spare change of clothes with her.

Nothing loath, the Dawbarn twins, Primrose Trevoase and several others plan a 'midnight' in the old orchard, where some pigs were kept, after everyone had gone to bed. Everything goes well until someone trips over a pigling whereby the whole party turns into a fiasco and the whole school is roused. Their punishment as well as all the excitement, makes them do badly in their exams the next day.



Joey Goes to the Oberland

Synopsis:

Contributed by Evie Stevens, England – working from a hardback edition

This story takes place outside of the Chalet School itself, revolving mainly around the Maynard family, during the summer holidays. Jack Maynard is to be Head of a new Sanatorium opening on the Görnetz Platz in Switzerland and the Maynard family must move out there with him. The Chalet School is to open a branch there in the September.

Daisy Venables marries Laurence Rosomon from Plas Gwyn, Jack and Joey's home, as Madge is still in quarantine following a bout of German Measles. The wedding takes place in the church in Howells' village, and the reception in the village hall next door. Primula joins the Maynards when they move out to the Görnetz Platz.

Plas Gwyn is to be partially let to Gwensi Howells' stepbrother, and Robin Humphries leaves for Toronto where, at the Feast of the Assumption, she is received as a postulant in the convent of La Sagesse.

Joey and family set off for Switzerland, breaking their journey in Paris, where they stay with Joey's old school friend Simone de Bersac. With the help of other old friends they eventually reach their new home, next door to the school, but the stress of moving tells on everyone as they strive to get settled and organised in time for Daisy to visit just before the start of the school term.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Robin Humphries - leaving for La Sagesse in Toronto
Peggy Bettany - is to stay at home to help her mother, Mollie.
Daisy Venables - marries Laurence Rosomon (Laurie).
Jo Maynard - moving to the Oberland, has eight children at this point in time.
Len Maynard - 10 years old.
Con Maynard - 10 years old.
Margot Maynard - 10 years old.
Beth Chester. - has agreed to go to the Maynards as a governess.
Gwensi Howells - is to keep house for her step-brother at Plas Gwyn

Spoilers:

Reaching the coast of France Joey unexpectedly bumps into Evadne Lannis and her father, who are living in France for the summer.

Simone's husband, André, has inherited a thriving business (manufacturing soaps and cosmetics) and the Château Blanchefleur, a huge place fifty miles outside of Paris. Joey is introduced to Simone's second child, Pierre.

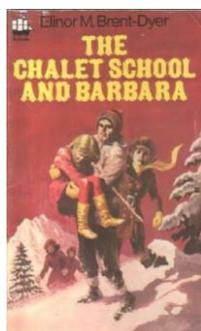
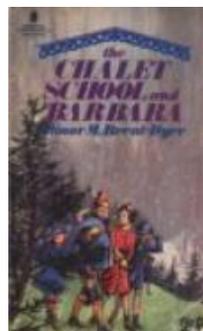
On reaching Basle, Joey is surprised when she finds Jack has arranged for her to stay with Frieda for a few days, until the furniture reaches their new home. Here she catches up with her old friend, meeting Frieda's youngest, Carlotta, for the first time and finding the eldest, Gretchen, to be very frail following an attack of measles.

Arriving at the Görnetz Platz they find the furniture has arrived early, forcing them to decide on the rooms in the new house, formerly a pension, very quickly.

Con starts sleep-walking again, and ends up on the roof over the front door, causing Jo a great deal of difficulty when it comes to getting the terrified girl down. An insecure ladder results in Joey ending up in a thorn bush whilst Con rolls off the roof onto the ever faithful Anna.

Phil and Hilary Graves (once Hilary Burn) are at the Platz as Phil is to work at the San.

The new house is to be called "Freudesheim", which roughly means "Happy Home".



The Chalet School And Barbara

Synopsis:

Contributed by Christina Erskine, England — working from a paperback edition

Barbara Chester, younger sister of Nancy and Beth, has been so frail all her life that only now at 14 years of age is she deemed strong enough to go to school. As big sister Beth will be working for the Maynards as governess and mother's help, it has been decided that Barbara can start at the Chalet School as a day girl from the Maynard's home.

The Chalet School has moved again, this time to the Gornetz Platz in the Swiss Oberland, leaving a small branch on the Welsh mainand. The School will be able to

re-establish its traditional links with the Sanatorium, which has reopened three miles further along the Platz, with Jack Maynard as its head. So the girls are delighted to hear that Joey Maynard is already established at the Platz in her new home Freudesheim, just a stone's throw away from the school itself.

Not that they see much of her when term begins. As Barbara and Beth discover when they arrive at the Gornetz Platz, three of the Maynard children have gone down with German measles, and Barbara must begin at the School as a boarder straightaway. Her cousin Vi Lucy has promised to look after her and Barbara soon finds herself part of Mary-Lou and Vi's gang - which leads to jealousy among some of the lesser lights of Upper IV.

The term is mainly spent with mistresses and girls getting to know their new surroundings: there are trips to Interlaken, to Unterhofen and to Berne, and when the first snows of winter come, the girls try out skiing for the first time. Lady Russell writes a charming Christmas play, *Strangers At The Inn*, which is performed at the end of term.

Miss Annersley is the headmistress of the main School, which is now at the Gornetz Platz in the Bernese Oberland while Miss Wilson the headmistress at Welsen, the finishing branch a few miles down the valley.

Location:

This is the first term in Switzerland for the main branch of the Chalet School, although the Welsen branch has been open for a year.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Jo Maynard is settling into her new home, Freudesheim, next door to the School. Robin Humphries has entered the convent at La Sagesse, Toronto, as a postulant. Peggy Bettany has been granted another year at Welsen, now that her mother is making such a good recovery from her throat operation.

Bride Bettany is at the finishing branch of the School at Welsen.

Biddy O'Ryan is the History mistress at the newly opened Swiss branch of the School.

Len Maynard begins the term with German measles

Con Maynard is a fellow German measles sufferer

Margot Maynard also gets German measles

Beth Chester has been engaged by the Maynards as a nursery governess to the Maynard youngsters and mother's help to Joey.

Julie Lucy is head girl of the Chalet School in Switzerland

Mary-Lou Trelawney is a leading light of Upper IV.

Emerence Hope is in Lower IV A

Frieda von Ahlen is living with her family of four in Basle, where husband Bruno works for a bank.

Hilary Burn now Hilary Graves, and resident with her doctor husband at the Platz, gives birth to a daughter, Marjorie Edith, midway through the term.

Daisy Venables is newly married: her wedding to fellow doctor Laurie Rosomon took place during the summer.

Spoilers:

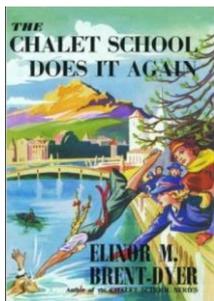
Barbara is delighted to learn that she can start as a boarder from the first day of term; she has been yearning to stand on her own two feet at last. Her cousin, Vi Lucy, dutifully looks after her at first and soon finds this becomes a pleasure as real friendship grows between the cousins for the first time.

Another girl in their form, who harbours a secret liking for Vi, is jealous of their closeness, and contrives to get Barbara into trouble by taking a book from the lockers and leaving it on the Splashery floor, making it appear that it is Barbara who has removed the book. This is Barbara's only real brush with the nastier side of school life in her first term and it is soon sorted out after Vi refuses to believe her cousin would do anything so underhand.

As Miss Slater, the long-standing maths mistress, has elected not to come out to Switzerland, a new maths mistress has been appointed. It is Nancy Wilmot, old girl of the school from Tirol days. Nancy gets a shock when she meets the grown-up Peggy Bettany, when she takes a party down to Welsen. She remembers Peggy as a "leggy infant" at the Tiernsee!

A trip out to Unterhofen, a village further up the mountain from the Gornetz Platz, turns into an adventure when the girls get caught in a blizzard: both Barbara and Verity-Anne Carey are so tired from walking in the storm that they have to be carried back to school by two sturdy mountaineers.

Mary-Lou misses the trip to Berne and much of the fun from the winter sports by falling downstairs and twisting her ankle. She is able only to take a limited part in the games evening which the staff devise for the school, which includes such ingenious events as 'fishing' with magnets and key-rings, and a 'boat race' with mats and broomsticks.



The Chalet School Does It Again

Synopsis:

Contributed by Christina Erskine, England — working from a hardback edition

Chalet School staff and girls alike are bemused by one of the oddest new girls the school has ever had. Prunella Davidson "talks like her own great-granny", to quote Betsy Lucy. She is prim and prissy in the extreme, sprinkles her conversation with

proverbs and insists on calling her fellow pupils by their full names, which leads to a serious row between her and one 'Helena' Maynard.

February brings a severe flu epidemic which affects around half the girls and but leaves only four fit mistresses to look after them. In order to cope, Miss Annersley holds a stand-up class with a general knowledge quiz for all those still well enough to attend, and Con Maynard uses the occasion to add to the many legends of the Chalet School.

An expedition to Lake Lucerne is planned as soon as the weather permits. One group in the care of Miss O'Ryan nearly meets with tragedy when one of the School's naughtiest girls falls into the icy lake. Fortunately, rescue comes from a very unexpected source before any lasting harm is done.

The annual Sale takes place this term and this time the theme is The Story Of The Willow Pattern. The Sale is followed by a pantomime, also based on the Willow Pattern, and written and performed by the girls at Welsen, the Chalet School's finishing branch.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Peggy Bettany - is at Welsen and co-writes the Welsen pantomime, The Story Of The Willow Pattern

Bride Bettany - is also at Welsen

Biddy O'Ryan - is the history mistress at the Chalet School in Switzerland

Jo Maynard - is living next door to the school at Freudesheim

Len Maynard - is in Lower IV A

Con Maynard - is in Lower IV A

Margot Maynard - is in Lower IV A and firm friends with Emerence Hope (also in Lower IV A)

Beth Chester - is with the Maynards at Freudesheim as mother's help and nursery governess.

Julie Lucy - is head girl of the Chalet School in Switzerland

Mary-Lou Trelawney - has been appointed Head of the Middle School and is still leading her Gang by the nose.

Spoilers:

Prunella Davidson's behaviour has everyone at a loss, although one or two of the more perceptive folk (including Mary-Lou, of course) believe that her over-pious demeanour may be largely pretence. Her row with Len Maynard is resolved when Len is persuaded by her mother to apologise after she recovers from flu, and the pair begin a close friendship despite the three year difference in their ages.

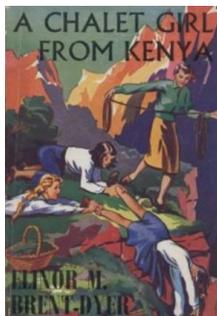
In the end, Prunella goes some way towards redeeming herself when she rescues Margot Maynard from Lake Lucerne, and an ensuing talk with Joey Maynard completes her transformation into an ordinary jolly schoolgirl.

Joey must also deal with her own daughter Margot, whose disobedience has led directly to her accident in the lake. Margot is struggling with 'her devil' as she calls

her naughtiness, and Joey points out to her that every time she gives in to her devil, the easier it becomes to be disobedient. Margot ends by vowing to try to be good, but fears her life will be "very dull" as a result.

The incident at Lucerne has other unexpected consequences as well: the injured girls are treated at the nearby Burgerspital by Herr Doktor Courvoisier, who knows Jack Maynard slightly. As Jack later remarks to Joey, it's curious that Dr Courvoisier should then express an interest in visiting the school, "not, mark you, the San, which you might expect from a doctor, but the school". But then, as Jack goes on to observe, Bridget O'Ryan "is a pretty lass".

For the traditional Sale in aid of the San, Tom Gay has made her usual magnificent doll's house, a chalet this time, and for the second time Con Maynard wins it, guessing correctly how many of the times within it actually worked. The whole school is delighted when Con elects to donate her prize to frail little Leila Elstob, a patient at the San who lives nearby.



A Chalet Girl From Kenya

Synopsis:

Contributed by Christina Erskine, England — working from a paperback edition

Joey Maynard is astonished when a letter from Maisie Gomm arrives out of the blue. Joey hasn't heard from Maisie since she was at St Scholastika's at the Tiernsee, and yet it transpires that not only has Maisie named her only daughter Josephine Mary after Joey herself, but she is sending her to the Chalet School this term. Maisie and her husband Paul Scott live on a coffee plantation in Nyeri, Kenya, and the political situation there makes it too dangerous to have 14 year old Jo with them any more.

Jo is used to boarding school ways and soon settles down, becoming firm friends with Joey's other namesake, Josette Russell, and being co-opted into Mary-Lou Trelawney's Gang. Apart from a brief but nasty altercation with Ruth Wilson, the most overbearing of the prefects, everything seems to be going well for her. Then Joey Maynard hears on the radio that her parents have gone missing from their plantation after reports of terrorist activity in the Nyeri area. Given her position as Jo's 'unofficial godmother', Joey feels she must be the one to break the news to the child and take responsibility for her.

The doctors at the San have decided that little Leila Elstob, who has tuberculosis, may now be strong enough for her operation. Leila undergoes extensive surgery on

her hip and comes through the operation but is left very ill. Although she is not a Chalet School pupil, the School at large has 'adopted' her and everyone is anxious to hear news of her.

As term wears on, the summer heat becomes intense and the girls are taken down to Lake Thun for regular bathing, much to their delight. Summer term also means traditionally an end of term show and after much discussion among the prefects, Barbara Chester's idea of floral tableaux, Jo Scott's 'girls of all nations' show and Mary-Lou's 'gymkhana' - without horses - are decided upon and make a delightful display for the School and its guests.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Peggy Bettany - will be leaving Welsen after this term to go home to help her mother, who is expecting another baby

Bride Bettany - is at Welsen, the finishing branch

Biddy O'Ryan - is history mistress at the Chalet School in Switzerland

Primula Venables - is at Welsen, the finishing branch

Jo Maynard - is living next door to the School at Freudesheim

Len, Con, Margot Maynard - are in Lower IV A

Julie Lucy - is head girl of the Chalet School in Switzerland

Mary-Lou Trelawney - is in Upper IV A and Head of the Middle School

Emerence Hope - is in Lower IV A

Gipsy Carson (old girl of St Scholastika's) bumps into Maisie Scott one day and is able to tell her that the Chalet School has relocated to Switzerland, while Beth Chester is with the Maynards at Freudesheim as mother's help and nursery governess.

Spoilers:

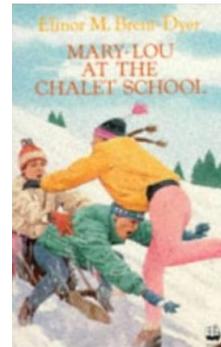
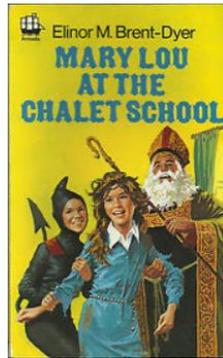
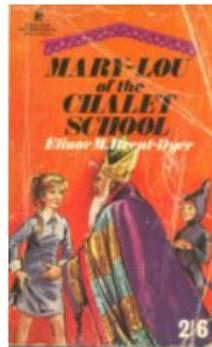
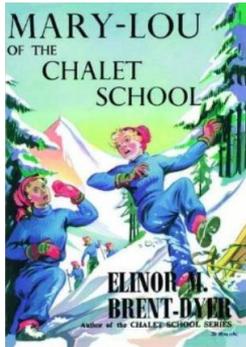
Leila Elstob is dangerously ill for some days after her operation. Eventually she rouses enough to ask that Con Maynard be allowed to visit her and Con's quiet chatter about the doll's houses that the Triplets and Leila share contribute greatly to Leila's recovery. When she is at last allowed to go home, the girls all send her get-well cards and notes, but the doctors privately believe Leila is unlikely to be able to walk again.

Jo Scott takes the news of her parents' disappearance very hard and Joey keeps her at Freudesheim until further news comes through. She enlists Jem Russell's help, since Jem has contacts in that part of the world and soon they hear that Maisie Scott has been badly wounded but is alive, while Jo's father Paul managed to escape with less serious injuries.

By the end of term, everyone's mind is on the floral display show and gymkhana. In order to keep the flowers in the tableaux fresh for the whole day, the girls decide to set them in moss and go on a moss-gathering expedition along the valley. Emerence Hope lunges for a piece of fat moss growing by the edge of the cliff, misses her footing and all but goes over the edge. Jo Scott grabs hold of Emerence's ankle just as she pitches over and it is only her quick action that breaks her fall. Jo is left hanging on like grim death until the mistresses come to her aid and Mary-Lou

produces an extra-long Guide cord, with which Nancy Wilmot successfully lassoes poor Emerence and hauls her up again.

Jo has badly wrenched her muscles and is distraught at missing out on the fun of the gymkhana and the rest of the show, but gets her reward when Lady Russell announces to the whole school that her heroism has earned her the Margot Venables Prize. This award was founded by Joey Maynard in honour of Daisy and Primula's mother and is only given out when a girl is truly considered to have merited it.



Mary-Lou Of The Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Christina Erskine, London — working from a hardback edition

Mary-Lou Trelawney is a week late starting the autumn term at the Chalet School, after the sudden illness and death of her grandmother. Mary-Lou was very close to her 'Gran', and her death marks the end of Mary-Lou's childhood: she is also now a senior at the school and her long-established Gang is breaking up now that its members are scattered across different forms.

Mary-Lou hopes that she can have a relatively quiet term, but then Joey Maynard puts her oar in and asks her to tackle new girl Jessica Wayne. Jessica's family circumstances have made her very unpleasant to live with, which is partly why she has been sent away to the Chalet School. Joey fears that she may prove too intransigent for the Chalet School authorities, but hopes that Mary-Lou's forthright brand of kindness will put Jessica straight in a way that her elders and betters have been unable to do.

Jessica's truculence leads to a furious row with 'Plato', the eccentric singing master Mr Denny. Both he and she lose their temper completely in one singing lesson and she is in severe danger of missing the form's expedition to the Falls of Rhine as a result. It is only thanks to Mary-Lou's intervention that Jessica calms down, and both parties apologise.

November brings with it torrential rain, flooding and landslides, which mean that food supplies cannot reach the Gornetz Platz. The whole school is put on a restricted diet until the railway is working again and the first train up can bring a load of meat, coffee and tea and other commodities which had been running very short.

The staff hold a Feast of St Nicholas evening to entertain the girls, but the school is disappointed to hear that there will be a carol concert this year instead of the traditional Christmas play.

Towards the end of term the weather improves enough to allow the girls out for the usual winter sports. Emerence Hope deliberately disobeys orders and takes her toboggan right to the top of the slope, above where a submerged pine tree has fallen. Emerence's panic as she careers down the hill very nearly results in a tragedy for the School.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Jo Maynard - is living next door to the school at Freudesheim

Betsy Lucy - is head girl of the Chalet School

Mary-Lou Trelawney - is now a Senior girl, in Vb

Len Maynard - is in Upper IV B

Con Maynard - is in Upper IV B

Margot Maynard - is in Lower IV A and is beginning to win her struggles with her "devil"

Beth Chester.- is working as a nursery governess and mother's help to Joey Maynard.

Emerence Hope - is in Upper IV B

Biddy O'Ryan - is history mistress at the Chalet School.

Sir James and Lady Russell plan to move from the Round House to a house nearer the Sanatorium in the Welsh mountains.

Dick and Mollie Bettany complete their family. Theresa Daphne Bettany is born early on in the term.

[Spoilers:](#)

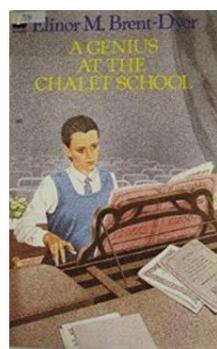
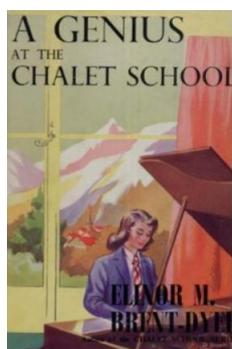
Mary-Lou feels she should do something to signify her new senior status and accordingly abandons her 'Kenwigses', the two plaits which hung down either side of her face, tying her hair into a single plait at the back. As well as creating a minor sensation, she also starts a fashion among her peers for more 'grown-up' hairstyles.

She is extremely reluctant to take on the role of 'reformer' that Joey Maynard has earmarked for her with regard to Jessica Wayne. Joey takes Mary-Lou into her confidence and explains that Jessica is jealous of her disabled - and recently acquired - 'sister-by-marriage'. Joey hopes that Mary-Lou's mature outlook will help Jessica and besides, she herself is busy compiling an anthology at present. She also lets slip - accidentally on purpose, surely - that her time is also taken at the moment since she is expecting the ninth addition to the long Maynard family.

Mary-Lou's kindness - in the immediate aftermath of her row with Plato, for example - begins to draw Jessica slowly out of her shell. Jessica finally breaks down and confides in Mary-Lou on a School ramble after the trip to the Falls Of Rhine. Plain-speaking Mary-Lou is able to show Jessica where she has been going wrong and she improves markedly after this.

Mary-Lou's next act of 'butting in' nearly proves to be her last in this world as she intervenes to stop Emerence from careering into a submerged pine tree when she toboggans from the top of the slope - having been expressly forbidden to do so. Emerence parts company with her sled, only to canon into Mary-Lou, who in turn is sent flying into a tree.

For some days, as Mary-Lou lies unconscious in the San. There are real fears that she has suffered brain damage, or permanently injured her spine. When she comes round, however, it transpires that deep bruising is her worst injury - that, and the indignity of having her head shaved. And even that turns out all right, when she realises that when the hair grows again, it will be curly. "Think of all the money I'll be saved, not having to have perms!" she tells Miss Wilson triumphantly.



A Genius At The Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Christina Erskine, England — working from a paperback edition

Nina Rutherford's comfortable world comes to an abrupt end when her father is drowned. Her cousin, Sir Guy Rutherford, comes from England to collect the newly orphaned 15 year old, and is perplexed at what to do with his new charge. Nina has a talent for music that is touched by genius and is in other respects also a difficult child: she is missing her father badly, she has never known the company of other girls, she has never been to school ...

A chance meeting on the train back through Europe with some jolly girls from the Chalet School in Switzerland gives both Nina and her guardian some room for hope on the last point. After Nina fails to settle down at the Rutherford's home in England, plans are made for Nina to go to the Chalet School.

Right from the start, the authorities at the Chalet School show that they understand the needs of the talented musician and Nina also gradually learns how to live with other people and accommodate her single-mindedness over her music.

This is the spring term, so the girls at St Mildred's, the Chalet School's finishing branch, perform their usual pantomime. This time it is a riotous rendition of Beauty And The Beast, which has the whole audience in fits of laughter. Even Nina,

normally so reticent, tells Mary-Lou how much she has enjoyed it and how glad she is now that she came to the Chalet School.

Trivia

The paperback of GENIUS is unique in the CS paperback editions in that it has an extra chapter! The final chapter is basically a summary of the key points of the paperback edition of CHALET SCHOOL FETE where the second half of the hardback edition of GENIUS is told.

Characters Whereabouts:

Joey Maynard - is living at Freudesheim next door to the school

Len and Con Maynard - are in Upper IV B

Margot Maynard - is in Lower IV A

Emerence Hope - is in Upper IV B

Biddy O'Ryan - is History mistress at the Chalet School

Bride Bettany - is at St Mildred's

Mary-Lou Trelawney - has been promoted to Va this term.

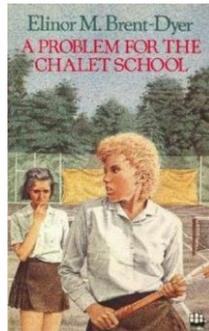
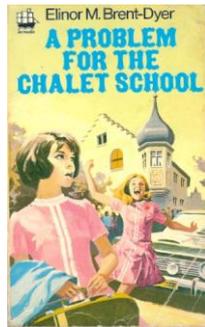
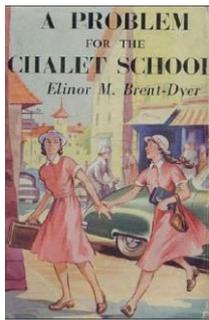
Barbara Henschell returns to the School as Matron of St Agnes house.

Spoilers:

Unhappy at Brettenham Park, where the Rutherfords, however well-meaning, simply cannot understand the depth of Nina's musical talents, Nina is relieved to go to the Chalet School. Her initial meeting with Rosalie Dene over her timetable convinces her that the School really does understand her needs.

However, she hits a major setback when heedless Hilda Jukes causes her wrist to be injured in the gym which means she must miss several days practice. Nina is utterly unforgiving towards Hilda, despite all attempts by her peers and the authorities to make her soften her attitude and Hilda is made deeply unhappy as a result.

Finally a long talk with Joey Maynard over 'English tea', in which Joey explicitly points out how unhappy Hilda has been, sees Nina return to School to apologise to Hilda.



A Problem for the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Joyce Wong, Hong Kong — working from a paperback edition

Rosamund Lilley is horrified to learn that she has won a scholarship to the Chalet School given by Tom Gay's parents. She doesn't want to leave her friends and family in a south of England town and go to Switzerland. But her mother feels that Rosamund was being influenced by the wrong girls, especially Joan Baker, their next-door neighbour, and accepts for her.

Once she arrives she is introduced to the Maynard triplets and quickly becomes friends with Len, making the transition into school life easier. She also discovers that it isn't as scary as she had feared.

Then Joan turns up at the school, a few weeks into the term, after her father wins the "pools", and sets about trying to destroy Rosamund's school life.

Joan has trouble fitting in at school because her ideas are so different. Mary-Lou butts in and tries to help her fit in. As part of this, Joan is invited to stay with Mary-Lou during half-term but she runs away, creating problems all around.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Jo Maynard is living next door to the school at Freudesheim

Betsy Lucy is head girl of the Chalet School

Mary-Lou Trelawney is in Upper V

Len Maynard is in Upper IV A

Con Maynard is in Upper IV A

Margot Maynard is in Upper IV B

Emerence Hope is in Upper IV A

Biddy O'Ryan is the school's history mistress

Simone de Bersac has a second son and the school has an extra day at half term in his honour.

A very old girl, Maria Marani, goes to Joey as a mother's help and also teaches junior language at the school.

News comes that Gisela (the school's first head girl) and Gottfried Mensch are planning on moving up to the Gornetz Platz and that Gottfried is to join the San.

Spoilers:

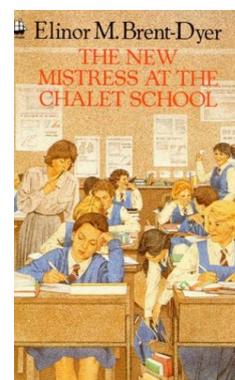
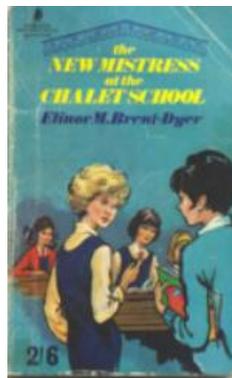
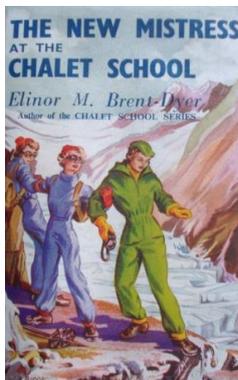
Joan turns up after her father has a win at the "pools" and threatens to tell everyone that Rosamund's family is working class if she doesn't get her an invitation to Freudesheim. Fortunately, Jo Maynard steps in and makes Rosamund understand that no one at the school would look down on her because of her family.

Joan has difficulty fitting in to the Chalet School because she has, as Mary-Lou puts it, "cheap ideas". She creates trouble during classes and is rude to both the prefects and teachers. It comes to a head when she is caught swearing at another girl and Mary-Lou worries about what would happen if the younger girls start imitating her.

Mary-Lou goes to Jack Maynard for help and he persuades her to take Joan under her wing to teach her about the Chalet School's way of thinking.

Joan is invited to Mary-Lou's home for the half term weekend while Rosamund goes on an expedition to Basle. But Joan runs away and is seen by Rosamund who had miss sightseeing due to toothache. With her is a prefect, Hilary Wilson, and between them they convince Joan to stay with them. Back at the school Joan confesses everything to Miss Annersley and promises better behaviour.

The second half of the term is better for her but it is not until the end that she confesses to Mary-Lou and Katherine Gordon that she deliberately eavesdropped on their conversation discussing her, which caused her to run away.



New Mistress at the Chalet School

Synopsis

Contributed by Miranda Cummings, Australia — working from a paperback edition

Kathie Ferrars is delighted to be chosen to work at the Chalet School - what a fantastic first job!! Her aunt gives her some advice about teaching and Kathie is eager to start work. She meets Bidy O'Ryan on the way to the Chalet School and they become firm friends. Kathie is amazed at the friendliness of everyone at the Chalet School and is quickly made to feel welcome. She is to be form mistress of a new form, Intermediate V, and will also teach maths and geography through the school.

This is not as easy as it seems - she has the vain Yseult, the mischievous Margot and the naughty Francie in her form, and in the early weeks of the term she can't keep them in order. After her first meeting with Mary-Lou, Kathie dislikes her because she feels that Mary Lou treats the staff as equal to herself.

This changes slightly when the prefects entertain the staff one Saturday night but Kathie is still cool to Mary-Lou until Mary-Lou saves her from a perilous death.

An unexpected and entertaining visitor shows up one day to give the staff some excitement but there is also a near tragedy due to the greediness of one girl.

The term finishes with Kathie and Mary-Lou sorting out their differences.

Series Characters whereabouts:

Joey Maynard lives next door at Freudesheim

Mary-Lou Trelawney is Library Prefect

Elinor Pennell is Head-Girl

Sybil Russell is a prefect

Len, Con and Margot Maynard are in Inter V

Julie Lucy is Head of St. Mildred's

[Spoilers](#)

When Kathie is accepted to teach at the Chalet School, her aunt reminds her that she must become more dignified. This is the prime source of trouble between her and Mary-Lou when Mary-Lou is too 'familiar' with the mistress and Kathie thinks that the girl is being cheeky.

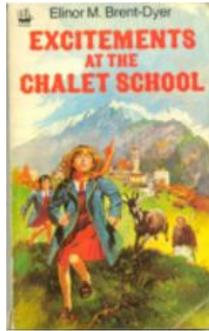
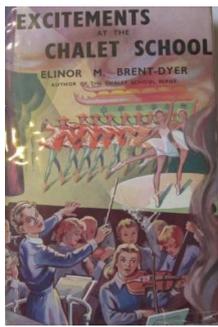
However, when the prefects entertain the staff one night she discovers that the mistresses relax their dignity when around the prefects. This all comes to head when, on a trip to Wahlstein, Mary-Lou saves Kathie from being swept down with an avalanche.

Kathie also has some trouble with Yseult, who is very self-assured and is also ungrateful when the mistresses try to boost her standard of work. Yseult's mother comes to visit the staff and annoys them all greatly.

During the end of term play Yseult is given a very small part but believes that she should have a better one because she did some training. The part that she wants was given to Mary-Lou and Yseult goes to various members of staff trying to get them to give it to her.

She is finally made the understudy for the part she wants and tries to smash into Mary-Lou while they are skiing so Mary-Lou will be out of the play. Unfortunately this goes wrong and it is Yseult who is injured and out of the play.

At the end of the term, Kathie and Mary-Lou have a talk and resolve their differences.



Excitements at the Chalet School

Synopsis

Contributed by Jennifer Parr, England — working from a hardback edition

The term opens with complaints about Inter V, who have the reputation of being one of the worst forms in the school. However, they soon have something different to occupy their time as Jo Maynard realises that it is 21 years since Madge founded the Chalet School. The school is asked for ideas to celebrate the event.

Inter V have plenty of ideas, one of which is accepted by the staff, together with several other suggestions. Matron experiences tragedy and is comforted by Jo Maynard. Several amusing incidents occur which help to occupy her mind occur; one is caused by Inter V and the second by one of the mistresses.

Illness results in a problem for the St. Mildred's pantomime, but one of the Chalet girls steps in to help out; in doing so she helps to avert a serious catastrophe.

As the time passes, it is clear that it will not be a quiet term; an old acquaintance arrives, causing some consternation amongst the staff, and Jo. Inter V have expeditions to Solothern and St. Lorenz, when one of the girls has a shock!

The term ends with Spot Supper, a new event introduced by Miss Ferrars.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Jo Maynard: lives next door at Freudesheim

Mary-Lou Trelawney: is Library Prefect

Elinor Pennell: is Head-Girl

Sybil Russell: is a prefect

Len, Con and Margot Maynard: are in Inter V

Julie Lucy: is Head of St. Mildred's

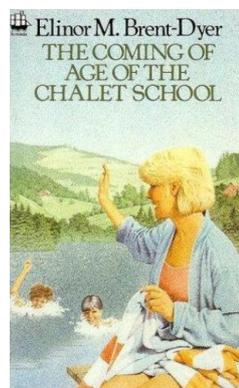
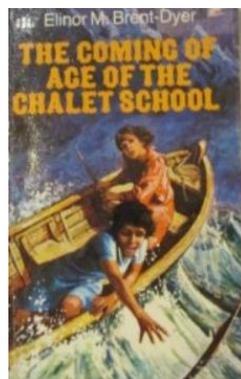
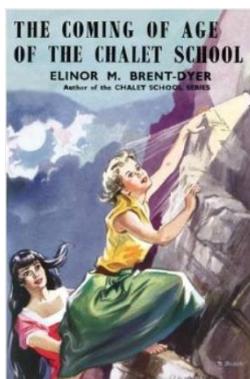
[Spoilers](#)

Some members of Inter V decide to teach one of the seniors a lesson, but during the winter sports, the senior manages to embarrass herself with no help from the younger girls.

A trip to the Tyrol is planned as part of the celebrations; Inter V's suggestion is to begin the building of the school chapels. Con is asked to write the play that they will perform, to Yseult's disappointment.

Nina is forced to conduct the music for the St. Mildred's pantomime, Aladdin, due to Mr. Denny's illness, and is a great success. Vi Lucy hears some news that could benefit her. A suggestion to award medals for bravery benefits Mary-Lou and Hilary Bennet. Jo announces that the Margot Venables prize will be awarded next term.

Yseult Pertwee is brought down to earth on a school expedition, and begins to settle in better at school as a result. Mary-Lou hears that her mother is well enough to return to England. The term ends with Spot Supper which is hailed as a great success.



The Coming of Age of the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by 'Kookycreature', Malaysia — working from a paperback edition

It is the Chalet School's 21st anniversary, and the whole school is excited at the thought of all the celebrations that were to take place, not to mention their reunion with a good many acquaintances. The school is also to take it in turn to visit the Tyrol, and here Prudence Dawbarn misbehaves herself and comes within an inch of missing this great treat.

There is still the Sale to prepare for, and indeed the school tries to make it a record one. As the St. Mildred's crew is also present, they are co-opted into helping out not only in the Sale but also in games challenges. Their Sale is a huge success.

The prefects are thrilled to find that Joey Maynard and her three chums, Frieda von Ahlen, Simone de Bersac and Marie von und zu Wertheim, are to escort them to the Tiernsee. A pleasant time of reminiscing followed. The girls were shown the site of the original school building, the Dripping Rock, the Sonnalpe as well as lesser places. Mary-Lou and Joey fall headlong into a wild adventure that scares everybody.

Mary-Lou Trelawney gets a pleasant surprise from the Head and the term ends with Sports Day, where the Josephine Maynard Prize is awarded.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Biddy O'Ryan - History mistress.
Len, Con and Margot Maynard - In Inter V
Julie Lucy - At St. Mildred's
Mary-Lou Trelawney - A prefect
Emerence Hope - In Inter V
Elinor Pennell - Head Girl

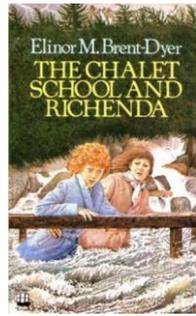
Spoilers:

Prudence Dawbarn tries to hold up their French lesson, unsuccessfully, and in the end plays up during prep. She elects to tilt her chair and ends up hurting herself badly. She doesn't seem to have learnt her lesson yet, for a few weeks later, she plays up in prep again. She contrives to set the class sneezing when she discretely releases powdered ginger into the air, and drives several people to distraction by monkeying around with a puppet. Caught at last by the prefect on duty and the severe Miss Wilson, she is relegated to Junior status and nearly loses out on the Senior's trip to the Tiensee.

The Chalet School decides on a Shakespeare Sale this term. Tom Gay outdoes all her previous efforts in making a model house. The entertainment consists of a cantata, a series of tableaux, clock-golf and a gymnastics display. It was here that the idea of having a school museum was born.

Nearing the end of the prefect's trip to Tyrol, Joey invites Mary-Lou out on the lake. Alone in a boat, the two lose an oar and are caught in a current at the one of the deepest parts of the lake. The current headed them towards a steep, deserted cliff. The two are forced to climb the rock wall with a thunderstorm in the offing. Having thoroughly frightened the others - it was nearly twenty-three o'clock when they got back - they arrived with the news that Herr Helfen, the former music master, has agreed to sell his chalet to Joey who is determined to secure a place for a summer home.

Jessica Wayne is summoned home as her sister-by-marriage, Rosamund Sefton lies dying. Mary-Lou helps her through this difficult time and escorts her as far as Basle. Mary-Lou Trelawney is elected Head Girl for the next term. The term ends with the announcement that she is the winner of the Josephine Maynard Prize.



The Chalet School And Richenda

Synopsis:

Contributed by Christina Erskine, London — working from a paperback edition

Richenda Fry has been sent to the Chalet School as a punishment. Her father is a specialist in historic porcelain and Richenda cannot resist handling the beautiful items, especially the rare Khang-he vase, even though she has been expressly forbidden to go near his valuable collection.

She arrives at the School sulky and determined to hate everything about it. This lasts about a day and a half, after which she decides to enjoy life to the full in order to render the punishment null and void. She teams up with the Maynard triplets, particularly Len and Con, and it is at their behest that she agrees to have her name shortened to the more friendly 'Ricki'.

As a new girl, Ricki is invited to tea at Freudesheim, and Joey Maynard quickly senses that all is not well between Ricki and her father. Being Joey, she determines to get to the bottom of the matter before Ricki goes home to England again.

Out on a ramble to the village of St Cecillie, the girls of Vb are caught in a thunderstorm while still six miles away from the school. They shelter in a hay barn until the worst of the storm is over, but then find that the way back is blocked. The rainstorm has swollen the stream into a raging torrent which has burst its banks and the girls must wade across somehow.

Uncharacteristically, Joey has been unwell. She is to go for a consultation with Sir James Talbot in England, and so wants to have the triplets at home over half term. But when Joey hears that Ricki's father expects Ricki to stay on her own at school as part of her 'punishment', Joey insists that Ricki should join the Freudesheim half-term party.

A talk with Joey over that half-term makes Ricki begin to change her attitude towards her father, but their reconciliation is only really effected by a near-tragedy when Ricki is the victim of an attack by a small boy in a dentists' waiting room.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Biddy O'Ryan - was married to Dr Eugen Courvoisier during the summer, but returns to teach for this term, since the school has been unable to find a replacement for her. She learns that she is expecting a baby the following May.

Jo Maynard - is living at Freudenheim
Len Maynard - is in Form Vb and in Pansy dormitory with Ricki.
Con Maynard - is in Form Vb
Margot Maynard - is in Form Inter V
Mary-Lou Trelawney - is made Head Girl this term.
Emerence Hope - is in Form Vb

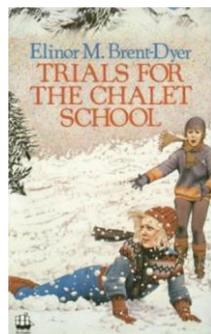
Spoilers:

Richenda finds it impossible to be unhappy at the Chalet School. As well as making friends quickly in her own form, she soon feels the friendly influence of the School's new head girl, Mary-Lou Trelawney, and goes to her for help when she is unable to comfort the desperately homesick Odette Mercier. Later she and Len help to bring Odette out of her shell.

After examining Joey Maynard, Sir James Talbot diagnoses a 'displaced organ', for which she must have an operation followed by a short rest in a nursing home. Joey sails through the operation and recovers quickly to take a holiday on her own with her husband - a second honeymoon, as she calls it.

While visiting the dentist, a very nasty small boy squirts something corrosive into Ricki's eyes. Ricki is rushed to the Augenklinik in agony, and for some hours there is concern that her sight will be permanently affected. Ricki is relieved to discover that she has not been blinded, but she will need glasses until she is twenty or twenty-one.

Her father is sent for at once, and there is a reconciliation between the two at her bedside. Showing that he understands that his daughter has inherited his love of porcelain, he tells her she can have the Khang-he vase for her own at Christmas. It later turns out, of course, that it is Joey Maynard who has seen to this: no sooner had she returned from her second honeymoon than she went to discuss the matter with Professor Fry in person.



Trials For The Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Christina Erskine, England — working from a paperback edition

It is not the fact that Naomi Elton "has been left slightly deformed as a result of an accident some years before" that worries the staff at the Chalet School; it is more the

warning note from her guardian that her disability "has warped her mind". After some discussion the mistresses decide they can do no better than to turn Naomi over to head girl Mary-Lou Trelawney for guidance. But even Mary-Lou makes little headway at first.

Margot Maynard goes down with scarlet fever, and soon the school is in the grip of an epidemic. Matey has to turn the school san into an isolation hospital for the invalids. Rosalie Dene, in particular, is very poorly with it, and is borne off to the South of France by Old Girl Evadne Lannis to convalesce.

While Naomi's bitterness cuts across everyone who tries to be friendly, she cannot hold out against Mary-Lou's persistence. At half-term, she confides to the head girl that she has made a deal with God: if she can be cured or made better, she will believe in Him again.

Gradually, Naomi begins to integrate more with the other girls. She displays a hitherto-unsuspected sense of mischief after the naughty girls of Lower IV are discovered taking an over-zealous attitude to the rules regarding Lost Property. Naomi's imaginative punishment for the sinners ensures that this incident becomes one of the Chalet School's many legends.

Naomi has to be taken home early from the St Mildred's pantomime (*Puss In Boots* this year, written by Betsy Lucy). Speeding over a treacherous stretch of the road, she is flung out of the sidecar in which she is travelling. Luckily Jack Maynard is in the car behind and is able to take her straight to the San, where a major operation must be performed immediately.

Naomi comes through the operation, but she is very weak and even as the girls break up for Easter, her life is still in danger.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Len and Con Maynard - is in Vb

Margot Maynard - goes down with Scarlet Fever, bringing an epidemic to the school

Mary-Lou Trelawney - is Head Girl

Emerence Hope - Margot's great friend, alerts Matron when Margot is clearly sickening for something.

Peggy Bettany - returns to act in the St Mildred's pantomime

Bride Bettany - returns to act in the St Mildred's pantomime

Biddy O'Ryan - now Mme Courvoisier, has given up teaching but is living in a chalet near the school.

Evadne Lannis is engaged - to Sir Edgar Watson, a widower with three children. Her previous wartime engagement ended when her fiance was shot down.

[Spoilers:](#)

Early in the term, Naomi takes a bad fall during an outdoor art lesson because she has mistakenly brought out her indoor walking stick. Herr Laubach, the irascible art master, and one of the School's 'foundation stones', blames himself for losing his

temper and angering Naomi, and tries to resign his post on the spot. Miss Annersley persuades him to soften this to retirement at the end of the school year.

Naomi falls again during a dramatic escape from an avalanche when the girls are out tobogganing. The party has just reached a hut where can shelter when Naomi stumbles and has to be dragged inside. The girls are snowed in at the hut overnight and it is night-time the next day by the time two local men manage to rescue them.

Having discovered that the Lower IV form room cupboard key will fit the Lost Property cupboard, the leading lights of Lower IV, including Ailie Russell, Janice Chester, and Judy Willoughby, decide to see to it that the Lost Property cupboard is kept filled to the brim by sweeping up everything in their path. Once they are found out, Naomi's suggestion that they should return each item individually to its owner with an apology is greeted with dismay.

After her very dangerous operation, the girls are concerned that they cannot get news of Naomi's progress during the Easter holiday. Resourceful Mary-Lou suggests that Joey Maynard, who will be able to visit Naomi regularly during the holidays, should place a notice in the Personal column of the Times twice a week to notify everyone of her recovery during the holidays.

Theodora And The Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Christina Erskine, England — working from a hardback edition

It seems as though Theodora Grantley is going to be one of the Chalet School's more troublesome new pupils. Her own mother writes to Rosalie Dene to warn her that Theodora has been expelled from three schools already "for bad behaviour and insubordination". Then Miss Carthew, the much-beloved 'Carty' from Tirol days, writes to Joey Maynard to admit that it was she who recommended the Chalet School to Myra Grantley for her wayward daughter.

Joey suggests that Theodora should be assured that at the Chalet School the slate will be wiped clean for her; she is particularly insistent that Theodora should be given a new name, Ted, to go with her new start. Luckily for Joey, 'Ted' agrees readily to this.

Ted's schoolwork proves to be so patchy that she is placed in Inter V to start with in the hope that she can be promoted to Vb at half-term. In fact, she settles down comparatively well, making friends with Rosamund Lilley and Len Maynard. Many of the girls attend the May procession and Vespers at the little Catholic chapel beyond the school. After the service the chapel is invaded by a large swarm of cockchafers which get entangled in people's hair and headgear, and the chapel has to be evacuated immediately.

Trouble for Ted comes from an unexpected quarter. Margot Maynard is intensely jealous of Ted's friendship with the other triplets, and in an especially underhand way, she discovers the truth of Ted's background and sees it as a way to torment the new girl.

Margot is also troubled by her conscience; she has accepted the gift of a clock from her great friend Emerence Hope, knowing that it's too expensive to be considered a trifle. Her uneasy state leads to a violent quarrel with her sisters and Ted in the course of which she lets slip Ted's secret. In the end, it is the indomitable head girl, Mary-Lou Trelawney, who takes it upon herself to 'butt in' and resolve the trouble between the triplets and Ted.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Len and Con Maynard - is in Vb

Margot Maynard - is in Vb, and still struggling with her devil.

Mary-Lou Trelawney - is Head Girl

Emerence Hope - has been told that this will be her last term at the Chalet School

Miss Carthew - has moved back to Dorset after the death of her husband, Bob Walton

Biddy O'Ryan - now Mme Courvoisier, gives birth to twins, Marie and Pat.

Herr Helfen - is teaching violin in the school on a part-time basis again as he did in Tirolean days

Spoilers:

Ted begins to make real progress when she, Len and Rosamund spend weeks in the isolation ward at the San because they have been exposed to smallpox. Ted gets extra coaching from Len in Latin, German and algebra while they are in quarantine, which helps her studies enormously. She quickly finds her days are too full and too interesting to spend plotting disobedience and evil deeds.

After the evening of the cockchafer swarm, Ted wakes up in the middle of the night and discovers Con Maynard sleepwalking. Ted gets a further shock when she tries to rouse Len to help her calm Con and then finds the sleepwalker has settled in Ted's own bed.

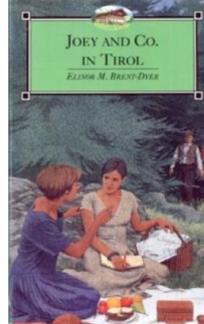
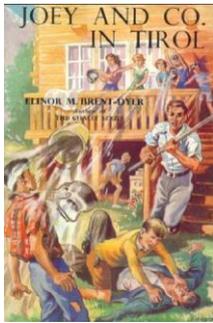
Then her appearance is taken in hand when she submits to a most unlikely hairdresser - Miss Annersley! The head has sent for Ted to tell her that she has indeed earned her remove to Vb by half-term. One look at Ted's bushy locks has Miss Annersley reaching for the brush and comb to tie it back off her face.

Margot eavesdrops on her mother and Rosalie Dene discussing Ted's past history in the garden at Freudenheim. The triplets quarrel badly during a trip to Zermatt over Emerence Hope's giving Margot such an expensive clock, with the result that a raging Margot tells her sisters and Rosamund Lilley that Ted has been expelled from three schools. Indeed, Margot is in such a fury that Len has to slap her face to cut her short. Mary-Lou overhears most of the worst of it and intervenes.

When her father hears about the clock and the row, he is deeply disgusted by Margot's conduct; indeed, by refusing to have anything to do with her for a full fortnight, he nearly breaks her heart. But since the girls have largely resolved the trouble themselves, it is decided that Joey will be spared the details of the quarrel

and its causes. Joey, in any case has her hands full with the two new arrivals in the long Maynard family: twins Geoffrey and Philippa.

Interesting note: Some very oblique hints about Margot's plans for the future are given in a 'flash forward' passage when Margot is talking to Miss Annersley towards the end of the book.



Joey and Co in Tirol

Synopsis

Contributed by Nicky Wade, England — working from a hardback edition

An unexpected escapade by Mike Maynard results in a much needed holiday at the Tiernsee for Jack, Joey, the Triplets, Steve and Charles.

An accident on the lake shore leads to a friendship with the 'Three Rs' - Roger, Ruey and Roddy Richardson. Their father, a Professor with an unusual scientific obsession, has rented a hut for them up the Tiern Pass and is away for days at a time. The Maynards are horrified at the bareness of the hut and set to turn it into a home.

Jack and Joey, however, are appalled at the children being left alone and insist on taking them back to Die Blumen. Here, under the influence of the Maynard tribe, Ruey begins to wake up to the things which interest most girls of her age. The triplets wish that she could go to the Chalet School.

A picnic to 'Joey's Cave' provides a pleasant interlude but ends suddenly when the mists come down and threaten the safety of the party.

Meeting Jack and Joey, the Professor announces that he is going away for a year or two and outlines vague plans for the children in the meantime; Joey shares Ruey's anger at this casual treatment and arranges legal guardianship. Ruey will be a Chalet Girl after all.

When the Maynard and Richardson children decide to spend a day cleaning out the hut on the Pass, they hear from a party of hikers that armed robbers may be heading over the Pass after a bank raid in Germany and imaginations run wild, with uncomfortable results all round.

Finally, a visit from Daisy Rosomon (nee Venables) brings exciting news for the Richardsons and we leave Ruey largely content with her lot, although wondering just how she will like the confines of boarding school.

Back in the Oberland, Joey reflects "I love this place, but the Tiernsee will always be my own special place."

Spoilers

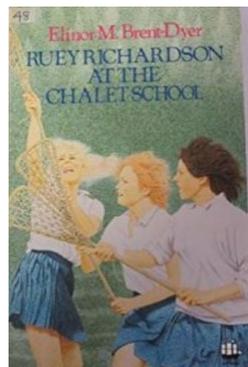
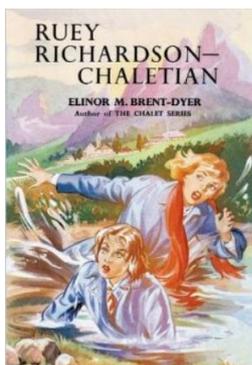
Professor Richardson is officially an astronomer but he is obsessed with space travel. When he leaves to 'go away for a year or two' his children believe that he is going to join the first manned space mission with a known destination.

The collision on the lake shore where the Richardsons and Maynards first meet results in Roger Richardson being confined to bed for some time with a fever as a result of a very bad gash in his leg.

Shortly after the hikers tell the story of the bank robbers, Steve and Charles come racing back to the hut with the news that the robbers are on their way. The result is that a "pair of guileless youths from Birmingham" who had been inadvisedly climbing the Pass were attacked by the Maynard / Richardson party in full force. Jack Maynard does not see the funny side of it.

Synopsis writer's note:

When this book was printed in 1960, it was almost ten years before the first landings on the moon, and the US space program was very much in its infancy. It is therefore possible to presume (with the benefit of historical hindsight) that the country Prof Richardson had heard of that was about to make a flight was old Soviet Union (now Russia).



Ruey Richardson - Chaletian (hardback)

Ruey Richardson at the Chalet School (paperback)

Synopsis:

Contributed by Susan Vass, Scotland — working from a hardback edition

Having been adopted as a ward by the Maynards, Ruey begins her first term at the Chalet school. She is unsure whether she will be able to come to terms with a level of discipline and supervision, which have been lacking in her life until now.

However she finds many aspects of school life enjoyable and is responsible for the resurrection of a sport which was dropped sometime earlier at the school. She makes many new friends but unwittingly earns the enmity of one of the girls due to her connections with the Maynards.

The new chapels are dedicated and a new uniform is chosen for the school. Half term brings the wedding of one of the school's former head girls and is attended by a number of girls including Ruey. This leads to an unexpected meeting between Joey and a former pupil who has some happy news.

After Ruey has been at the school for a some time she is surprised to find herself concerned about the health of a girl she has never met, and the Maynard triplets seek Mary-Lou's help in explaining why this is. Ruey is on her way to becoming a proper Chalet girl. The process is continued when she manages to gain the friendship and understanding of her former enemy.

Towards the end of term Ruey is given some worrying news about her father by her brother, but after a talk with Joey she manages to put her worries aside and concentrate on her part in the Christmas play.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Mary-Lou Trelawney - is at St Mildred's

Len and Con Maynard - are in Va

Margot Maynard - is in Vb

Peggy Bettany - is living at her parents' home The Quadrant until her wedding at half-term and then goes to Canada

Bride Bettany - is also living at The Quadrant

Emerence Hope - left school the previous term and is touring the USA with her parents

Theodora (Ted Grantley) - is in Va

Daisy Venables (Mrs Rosomon) - is living on the Gornetz Platz

Biddy O'Ryan (Mrs Courvoisier) - is living on the Gornetz Platz

Spoilers

Early in the new term Francie Wilford takes a dislike to Ruey. Francie has hopes of gaining Margot's friendship following the departure of Emmy Hope at the end of the previous term, and she sees Ruey as a threat to this, especially when Ruey is placed in the same form as Francie and Margot.

Ruey hears that Lacrosse is not played at the school currently, and is instrumental in having it resurrected.

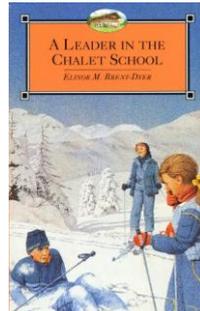
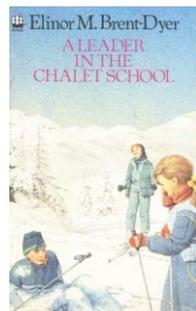
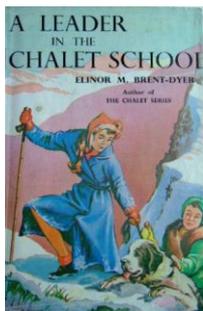
The new chapels are dedicated and the girls have a busy time decorating them for the occasion.

At half term the Maynard, Russell and Bettany girls travel to England for the wedding of Peggy Bettany, the first in the immediate family. Ruey goes too and is delighted to find her brothers have been invited. On the way there the party bumps into Evadne Lannis, now Lady Watson, who confides to Joey that she is expecting a baby the following spring.

Having chosen the new uniform the staff give first showing of it to the Seniors at the Staff evening and it is received with acclaim.

Naomi Elton undergoes a major operation and her life is placed in danger. Ruey joins in the prayers of the other girls for her recovery and learns about the spirit of caring for others in the school. Later she tries to help Francie Wilford who has become very unhappy as the term has progressed and Margot has rebuffed her rather tactless overtures. Although Ruey fails at first, she and Francie reach an understanding and become real friends.

Ruey receives a letter from her brother telling her that her father has taken off in his attempt to reach the moon. Joey helps her to see that his behaviour is not rejection but single mindedness, and Ruey manages to look forward to the future with hope.



A Leader in the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Susannah Tiller, Australia — working from a paperback edition

Jacynth Lambert, niece of Gay Lambert, arrives at the Chalet School with her older sister Anne. Jacynth, who prefers to be known as Jack, is generally popular, although one member of her form takes an instant dislike to her. Jack enjoys the outdoor activities of the Chalet school, although she is frustrated by the winter blizzards. This leads to several practical jokes, and Jack soon finds herself in trouble with the staff and prefects.

Len Maynard is Jack's dormitory prefect. She feels responsible for her behaviour, and tries to help Jack stay out of trouble, but is not always successful. Jack is blamed when a trick goes wrong, and many of her form turns against her. With Len's intervention, the misunderstanding is sorted out, and Jack learns a serious lesson about the difficulty of shaking off a bad reputation.

Throughout this book, Len's leadership qualities are beginning to emerge. She help Jack out of trouble several times, and is also able to help Margot when things seem bleak.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Mary-Lou Trelawney - is in her second term at St Mildred's
Len Maynard - is in Va and is dormitory prefect for Pansy.
Con Maynard - is in Va
Margot Maynard - is in Vb
Theodora (Ted Grantley) - is in Va
Jack Lambert - is in Lower IIIA.

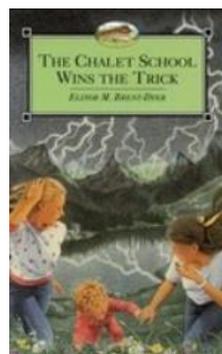
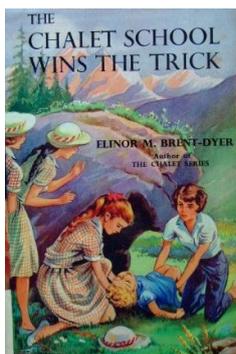
Spoilers:

When Jack arrives at the Chalther School, she makes friends with Wanda von Eschenau. Margaret Twiss is jealous, as she wanted Wanda's friendship. This leads to conflict between Margaret and Jack, made worse when Jack sticks Margaret to her chair using cobbler's wax.

Jack also puts bubble-bath in Miss Burnett's bath, and fills Gwen Parry's boots with water. Len tries to teach her about responsibility but is not completely successful.

Len also tackles Miss Annersly over her threat to demote all of Vb unless their work improves.

Miss Bertram finds a toy snake in her desk drawer, and faints. Lower IIIA blame Jack for the trick, but she refuses to own up. The form is placed in silence until the truth emerges. Len Maynard then helps Jack patch things up with Margaret and the rest of the form. It is suggested that Len will eventually be Head Girl.



The Chalet School Wins the Trick

Synopsis:

Contributed by Susannah Tiller, Australia — working from a paperback edition

Audrey, Solange, Val, Celia and Winifred (usually called Win) are schoolgirls staying on the Platz to be near sick relatives. Bored, and trying to entertain themselves, they decide to build a Campfire. Unfortunately, they do it within the grounds of the Chalet School, and are scolded by Miss Dene.

After this, and an encounter with Len Maynard, the group declares war on the Chalet School. Their tricks try the patience of staff and students alike.

The girls play a variety of tricks on the Chalet School including blocking the path during a school walk, throwing stinkbombs at the prefects and spreading pepper on the food in the Speisesaal.

Over time, the girls come into contact with pupils, ex-pupils and school events. This helps change their attitude towards the Chalet School. And when Win goes missing, it's the Chalet School that saves the day.

Meanwhile, the Fifth Form sits GCE exams, and an ex-Chalet schoolgirl faces an uncertain future.

Series Character Whereabouts:

Len Maynard - is in Va and is dormitory prefect for Pansy.

Con Maynard - is in Va. According to her cousin, she has stopped writing poetry in favour of short stories.

Margot Maynard - is in Vb. She is close friends with Ruey Richardson and Francie Wilford.

Theodora Grantly - is in the Fifth Form and studying Latin at GCE level.

Jack Lambert - is in her second term at the Chalet School. She is in IIIa.

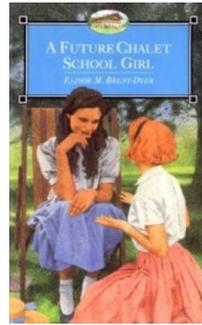
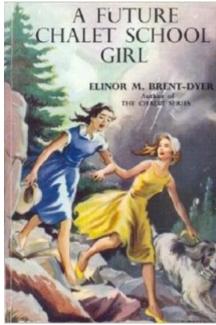
Spoilers:

Roland Carey, the father of Verity and step-father of Mary-Lou, dies after an operation. Mary-Lou is ready to give up her career to look after her mother, but Joey Maynard intervenes.

Mary-Lou is able to help Audrey cope with the realisation that her father is sicker than she had been told. This, coupled with the knowledge that she will be attending the Chalet School next term, helps change Audrey's attitude.

Audrey becomes ashamed of her behaviour, especially when the Chalet School girls help find Win. At the end of the book she looks forward to becoming a pupil of the School.

The triplets and other students face their GCE exams. Although initially nervous, by the end of exams they are confident that years of hard work at the Chalet School will pay off.



A Future Chalet School Girl

Synopsis

Contributed by Jennifer Parr, England — working from a hardback edition

Melanie Lucas is upset at having to leave her school and go and live in Switzerland with her Aunt and Uncle. Illness prevents her from finishing the term, and she arrives in Geneva worn out. However, matters look up when her Aunt meets Jo Maynard, better known to Melanie as Josephine M. Bettany, one of her favourite authors.

Jo invites Melanie to spend the rest of the holidays with the Maynard family in the Tiernsee. Melanie is shy with the large family at first, but a number of incidents make her feel more at home. An accident occurs whilst they are in the new minibus, but everyone escapes without injury.

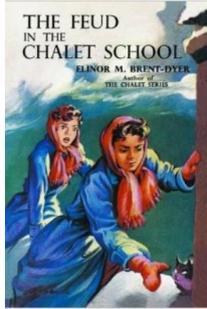
At the Tiernsee, Jo meets a very old friend who will ultimately give Melanie some exciting news. The three Richardsons', the Maynards' wards, arrive, but this causes some problems for Ruey and Melanie. Melanie's resentment and subsequent disobedience results in a bad experience for her and Len. Several expeditions take place, including a picnic to the Zillerthal. Ruey talks to Melanie and reveals something that brings the feud between them to an end. The book ends with exciting news for both Felicity and Melanie, and the news that she will attend the Chalet School next term.

[Spoilers](#)

Jo meets Irma von Rothenfels, now Irma Ancocksy, who lives in the original site of the Chalet School. Irma feels sure that Melanie must be related to Jeanne le Cadoulec, also an old girl.

Len follows Melanie when she disappears with Bruno, and the pair are nearly injured in a storm. Ruey reveals that her father is missing after he tried to fly into space, and Melanie's sympathy ends the feud that has occurred due to Melanie's jealousy.

Len appeals to Jo to ask Miss Annersley not to make her a sub-prefect, as she doesn't want responsibility yet and Con has an amusing mishap whilst visiting Irma. A further accident occurs in the minibus due to someone else's careless driving, but no-one is hurt. Jo finds out that three old girls are engaged and that Robin is being transferred to a convent in the South of France. The book ends when Melanie is happy to discover she will be a Chalet School girl next term.



The Feud in the Chalet School

Synopsis

Contributed by Sindhu Menon, India — working from a paperback edition

A new English school, St.Hilda's, is started in the Oberland, quite near to the Chalet School, but in a tragic incident, the school buildings burn down the day before the students were due to arrive. The headmistress is seriously injured while saving Minette, the school cat and Miriam Ashley, the only other staff member present also suffers minor burns. The head has to be hospitalized, and when the rest of the St Hilda's staff and pupils arrive, they find themselves refugees!

The Chalet School steps in and offers to house them till the buildings are rebuilt. All goes well at first, though there are grumblings among the St. Hilda girls regarding the Languages rules among other things. But real trouble begins with the middles. Jack Lambert & Co get into fierce fights with Gillie Garstin and her gang from St. Hilda's. Despite all efforts from the prefects of both schools to put an end to this ill feeling it soon escalates to the proportions of a feud.

To make matters worse, Miriam Ashley possesses a domineering and impulsive nature which makes her resent the fact that instead of being second in command at St.Hilda's, she is one of the most junior mistresses among the Chalet staff. Her obsession with getting St. Hilda's into separate quarters lead her into some really grave indiscretions which make for a chilliness among the staff.

Altogether, things are in very bad state when Minette takes a hand! By the time the Minette adventure, which included Jack and Gillie climbing up the roof at night to the horror of a few mistresses, including Miss Ashley who can only watch in shared anxiety, is over, the last traces of the feud vanish.

The girls then start to settle in comfortably and even Miss Ashley feels that till they are re-established in their own quarters, she too belonged to the Chalet school. The term ends with a very successful nativity play in which both schools take active part.

[Spoilers:](#)

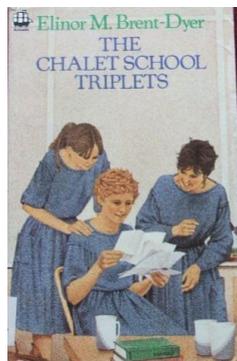
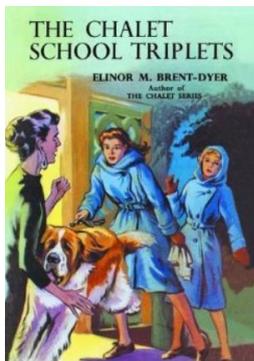
[A tragic incident which occurs during the term is the death of Herr Laubach, the old Art Master. It is on this occasion that Miss Ashley commits her worst indiscretion.](#)

Margot happens to overhear some of Miss Ashley's unkind remarks and thoughtlessly repeats them and the feud spreads to the seniors also with the St. Hilda girls feeling honour bound to support their own mistress

There is also the affair of the two Minettes in which two virtually undistinguishable cats turn up and indulge in violent scrimmage.

When they are not fighting with each other, the Middles are up to their usual pranks, the most hilarious episode being one where they decide to "help" Gaudnez the handy man and end up painting the doors with golden syrup instead of varnish!

By the end of the book Jack and Gillie become good friends, and even after St Hilda's move back to their own school buildings, we see in the later books that they maintain close and cordial relations with the Chalet School.



The Chalet School Triplets

Synopsis:

Contributed by Julie Robertson, Scotland — working from a paperback edition

The Spring term starts with an exciting invitation for Margot, but soon all three triplets are involved in adventures of one kind or another.

During an afternoon's skiing, Len & Con are caught in a fierce and unexpected blizzard, while helping a junior back to the school, and have a desperate struggle to reach safety. Con suffers as a result.

Jack Lambert & Co. are restless and Len promises to take them with her when she goes to deliver parcels to some elderly residents on the Platz. Len is unable to get permission however and takes Maeve instead. When Jack spots her, she decides that as Len has broken her promise, she and her friends can break a rule, thus causing all kinds of trouble.

Margot has toothache and lets her temper fly, with near tragic results for another girl; Len goes with the rest of the prefects to Lausanne at half-term and has a really frightening experience whilst shopping and Con is catapulted into a starring role in the St Mildred's pantomime.

Joey has to go to the help of a favourite old girl, but decides to have the triplets home for the week to help Anna with the babies. After a day-trip with their father, the triplets go home to find Cecil has been kidnapped and they must do their best to find her until help can reach them.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Len Maynard - in VIb and a prefect

Con and Margot Maynard plus Ted Grantly - in VIb

Madge Russell - in Australia, with daughters Sybil and Josette

Maeve Bettany - a prefect

Peggy Bettany - married with a 5 month old son

Bride Bettany - engaged to be married

Barbara Chester - at St Mildred's

Biddy O'Ryan (Madame Courvoisier) - gives birth to another son, unnamed.

Mary-Lou Trelawney - studying at Oxford

Emerence Hope - back home in Australia, hopes to visit the school in the Summer

Jack Lambert - in Lower IVb

Spoilers

Margot gets a letter from Emerence, inviting her to go back to Australia with them for the Summer.

Len & Con's furious struggle against the blizzard - and Con's last gasp effort to get help for her sister - causes Con to sleepwalk again.

Jack Lambert decides to leave their form's walk and join Len & Maeve. She and her friends try to cut through the pines and reach the path further down, but end up getting lost and going round in circles instead.

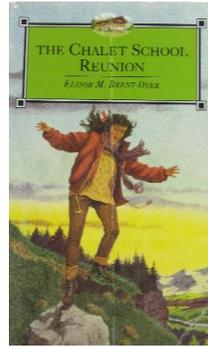
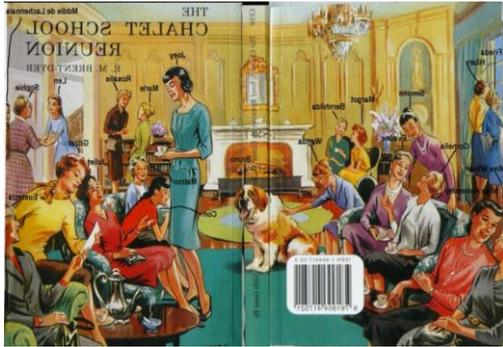
Margot, in pain with her toothache, lets fly at Len and Betty Landon butts in. Margot is too blind with rage to see what she's doing and picks up one of her bookends and throws it at Betty, hitting her on the head and knocking her unconscious.

During an afternoon shopping in a big department store in Lausanne, Len is made a victim of a professional shoplifter and is accused of being an accomplice.

Con gets the part of the Fairy Queen in the St Mildred's *Beauty & The Beast* pantomime, when two girls have to go home quickly. Clem Barrass comes back to play Nettlesing.

Mary-Lou's mother is chronically ill and has to go to the San as soon as possible. Mary-Lou writes to Joey, asking for help in getting her mother prepared for the journey and closing Carn Beg.

When Cecil goes missing, Jack has gone straight to San and they cannot get in contact with him as the phones are down. The three triplets therefore, set off in search of Cecil with Bruno, and have to outwit a woman who believes Cecil is her long-lost daughter.



The Chalet School Reunion

Synopsis

Contributed by Miranda Cummings, Australia — working from a paperback edition

The book begins with Joey discussing with Rosalie Dene the possibility of having a reunion of 'foundation stones'. This comes about after Jo received a letter from Grizel Cochrane (living in New Zealand) saying that she will come to Freudesheim for a week or two. Grizel seems to be unhappy but cheers up after arriving at Freudesheim.

The reunion starts as a great success with people catching up with each other all over the place. The first excursion is with everyone to the Auberge where Bruno gives everyone a fright and then they split into parties. Con's group narrowly avoid a brush with death and Grizel then meets up with a former student who brings bad news but makes her feel better.

An amusing incident occurs and Margot's party have an adventure. This is followed by a foggy day although Joey, as usual, manages to find something fun for everyone to do. Unfortunately, the next day, Len's party have a misadventure, with Len herself being rescued by Grizel, who in turn gets quite seriously injured.

This turns out to be a blessing in disguise as Grizel was verging on a nervous breakdown, owing to the recent death of a friend's daughter and the subsequent marriage of a man she was fancying. Grizel is confined to the San but Joey manages to create a sensation during one of her frequent visits. Grizel begins to fall in love with one of the doctors and then leaves the San to live in Freudesheim, where she becomes engaged. The book ends with Grizel's realisation that things do get better.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Len, Con, and Margot Maynard: are sixteen.

Grizel Cochrane: is living in New Zealand but currently visiting Joey

Cornelia van Alden (was Cornelia Flower): is living in Berne but currently visiting Joey.

Mollie Mackenzie (was Miss Maynard): is living in New Zealand but currently visiting Joey.

Stacie Benson: is living in Oxford (U.K.) but will be moving into Freudesheim.

Spoilers:

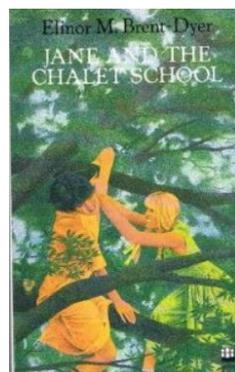
Grizel is unhappy, but on the boat over she meets a very nice young man named Neil Sheppard. He cheers her up a bit and she cheers up still more at Freudesheim. The first adventure of the reunion party is at the Auberge where Bruno gets infuriated by the echoes and nearly goes over the edge. It takes the whole group to save him. Con's group narrowly avoid a brush with death when the path they had been standing on only a minute before avalanches down the valley.

Early one morning Grizel meets Mary-Lou Trelawney, whose mother had just died, but is still prepared to meet the world with a bright face, and this leads her to realise that her problems are not as big and therefore can be overcome more easily.

The next morning Sophie Hamel upsets the whole table when she accidentally pulls the tablecloth off and Margot's party has an adventure when they are trapped in the lift at the Trummelbach Falls.

The next day turns out to be foggy, but Joey amuses everyone by going through the history of the school by Kodak, playing paper games and charades. Len's party go to Wetterdorf where Cornelia has a dip in a stream and Len falls halfway down the mountainside. She is rescued by Grizel, who cracks her spine and ricks her ankle in the process. The ambulance arrives and Grizel is taken to the San where she is to remain for some months. During one of her many visits, Joey creates a sensation by arriving in a horse and cart, in order that Grizel can see Bruno.

After several months in the San, Grizel gets slowly better and is finally allowed to move into Freudesheim with Joey. It is there that Neil Sheppard proposes to her and she consents. The book finishes on this very happy note.



Jane and the Chalet School

Synopsis

Contributed by Jennifer Parr, England — working from a hardback edition

Jane Carew arrives at the Chalet School having never been to school before. Unfortunately, she soon runs into trouble in the shape of Jack Lambert, who strongly resents Jane. Jack bullies Jane and ensures that her life is not easy at school, until Len Maynard stops the bullying.

Jane makes other friends and becomes popular after she is asked at short notice to take the lead role in a play performed by Va for their Evening. She is a great success and reveals that her parents are famous actors. However, the calm is soon shattered again after an argument with Jack escalates into a fight, which is stopped by the Head-Girl.

Jane helps Jack out of a sticky predicament during the half-term expedition, and their arguments stop, although Jack finds it hard to be friendly to Jane. A tragic accident draws them together, and, with Len's intervention, the feud is ended.

The term ends with the Sale and a second performance for Jane, as well as some happier news.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Daisy Rosomon: is staying at Freudesheim

Madge Russell: is in Tasmania

Maeve Bettany: is Head-Girl

Len, Con and Margot Maynard and Ted Grantley: are prefects

Ruey Richardson: is in Va

Tom Gay: is working in London with disadvantaged boys

Spoilers:

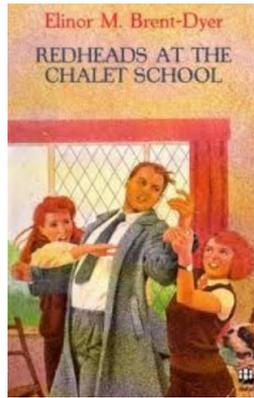
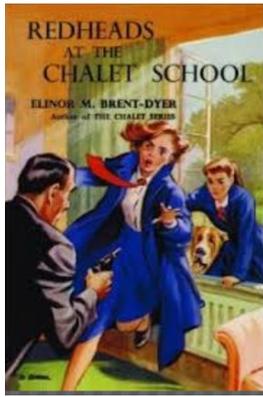
Jack resents Jane because she is moved out of her dormitory (and 'her' prefect, Len Maynard), to make room for Jane. Jane is a great success in Va's play, *The Little Germaine*, and reveals that her parents are famous Shakespearian actors. She is friends with Jose Helston, daughter of Elisaveta, Jo's great friend, and Jose tells Jane that her family were once the monarchy of Belsornia.

The fight between Jane and Jack takes place after Jack discovers Jane washing Miss Ferrars' car, a job she believed to be hers alone.

A smallpox epidemic confines the school for half-term. Janice Chester becomes ill - much to her disgust - but doesn't have smallpox. Jack gets dangerously stuck up a tree during a game of hide and seek and is rescued by Jane, of all people.

Jo Maynard invents a game for half-term, to help while away the confinement due to the smallpox, which is greatly enjoyed by everyone, and Jack wins a prize.

The Spanish Sale at the end of term is a great success with Va performing their play to a larger audience.



Redheads at the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Susan Vass, Scotland — working from a hardback edition

Flavia Ansell (nicknamed Copper because of her bright red hair) arrives at the Chalet School under a veil of secrecy having had her name changed from her stepfather's name of Letton, to Ansell, her birth name.

Having arrived at school she is placed in Upper IVa and swiftly makes friends with Jack Lambert and Wanda Von Eschenau. She settles in quickly, despite finding it difficult speaking in French and German, and particularly enjoys games and hobbies.

However Copper is in danger, due to her stepfather's work, and Miss Annersley is forced to reveal to her the reason for the subterfuge. Following some curious events Len Maynard guesses that all is not as it seems with Copper, and Miss Annersley confides in her and asks her to look out for Copper.

This Len does, in more dramatic circumstances than are expected by everyone, before everything is resolved and the mystery is fully revealed.

Copper and her stepfather then have a well-deserved break together over half term and Copper returns to school able to settle in and enjoy the more traditional festivities of the Christmas term.

[Spoilers](#)

The first ramble of the term is filled with incident when Len Maynard disposes of a viper. Then a meeting between an inquisitive American woman and Len during the ramble causes concern when Len mentions it to the staff. This concern leads Miss Annersley to revoke her promise to Copper's stepfather, and to reveal to Copper that she may be in danger, as she is being threatened by the criminal associates of a man her stepfather, a police inspector, apprehended.

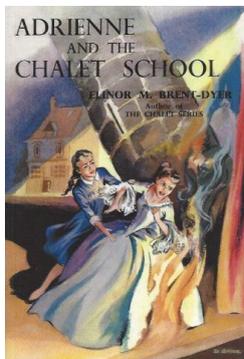
The American woman reappears at a restaurant following a visit to the dentist and questions Len again about redheads at the school.

Following this, whilst in the Library, Len witnesses the American woman being intercepted by Gaudenz. Miss Annersley has already decided to confide in Len and asks her to keep an eye on Copper.

Another red-haired pupil is kidnapped instead of Copper, but is released unharmed when the kidnapper realises his mistake. The kidnapper and his wife, the American woman, are later found shot and it is hoped by everyone that Copper's trouble may be over. However there is concern about how the kidnapper learned of Copper's whereabouts.

During half term a further attempt is made to kidnap Copper and a desperate struggle involving Len and Copper takes place in Miss Annersley's office. The source of the leak regarding Copper's whereabouts becomes apparent during the struggle and the mystery is unravelled.

The term culminates in the performance of the Christmas play.



Adrienne and the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Julie Robertson, Scotland — working from a paperback edition

Adrienne Desmoines is a recently orphaned 15 year old French girl. She is struggling to survive since the death of her father three weeks previously and her plight has come to the attention of the nuns from the convent at Arles. Robin Humphries - now Soeur Cecile - and another nun are dispatched to help her, where they are just in time to save her from a unspeakable fate.

Arriving at the Chalet School, she makes friends with Ailie Russell & Co and she is determined to do her best and work hard as a 'thank you' to Soeur Cecile. With a knowledge of English from her mother, she proceeds to slog at all her lessons and she is soon tied top of the class. However, this causes unexpected ructions when another girl is jealous.

She also has plenty of time for play, enjoying a riotous Half Term Treasure Hunt, and a Senior party at Freudeshiem. Her "new girl" party at Joey's throws up a mystery however - who does she remind them of? Her form also presents tableaux - the theme being Historical Catastrophes - but they nearly have a catastrophe of their

own! It does prove fortuitous for more than one of the casualties, however. But it is the arrival of a favourite old girl that finally solves the riddle of Adrienne's identity.

Series Characters Whereabouts:

Robin Humphries - nun (Soeur Cécile) at La Sagesse. She starts the book in Arles, France but gets called back to Toronto.

Len Maynard - Head Girl

Con Maynard - a prefect

Ted Grantly - Second Prefect

Madge Russell - in Australia, with daughters Sybil and Josette, who are both engaged.

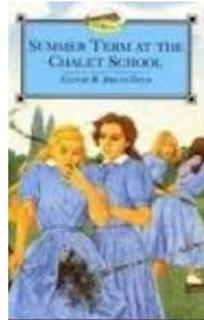
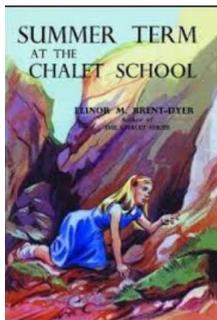
Spoilers

Adrienne is living in a less than reputable area of the town and when the nuns go to get her and bring her back to the convent, the concierge of the building is threatening and abusive towards Adrienne. Soeur Cecile steps in and the concierge backs down. We discover later that Simone - not gifted with imagination - gave Joey a lurid account of the arrest of the concierge and other tenants in the building. Adrienne is ill for a long time after this, due to the shock of her father's death and the escape from the concierge.

Upon arriving at the school, Adrienne gains joint-top of the form with Janet Henderson. Janet has always been top of the form up until this point and resents Adrienne for tying with her. She is nasty to Adrienne and tries to hint that she lies and cheats. Thankfully, Ailie, Janice & Judy are scornful of such suggestions and advise Adrienne to just ignore her.

During the half-term, Adrienne participates in a Treasure Hunt in the school - where Prudence Dawburn manages to drench herself by pulling the shower cord by mistake, a sheets & pillowcase party at Freudenheim for the whole Senior school, and a "new girls" party on the Sunday. Joey starts to wonder about Adrienne's family as she feels that Adrienne's habits and movements remind her of someone she knows very well.

Later in the term, the form's tableaux evening ends in Janet's dress going on fire and Adrienne saves her. They both end the term in the San and Len, also slightly hurt in the fire, decides what to do about her future. While in San, Janet has a chance to think about her recent behaviour and Adrienne has her long pigtail cut off, giving her curls. It is this that helps Mary-Lou - who has come to pay a visit to Joey - to identify who Adrienne reminds them of.



Summer Term At The Chalet School

Synopsis

Contributed by Lorraine O'Donnell, Sligo, Ireland— working from a paperback edition

There is great excitement when Miss Annersley announces that it is the school's silver anniversary. Various plans are made and voted upon. The selected ideas include a portrait of Lady Russell to be painted by Peter Young, a history of the school to be compiled by Dr Eustacia Benson, a painting of the original Chalet painted by Clem Barras, a swimming-pool to be built in the school grounds and a library paid for by Old Girls.

Victoria's attitude towards Erica causes tension in the form. Victoria is jealous that Erica slipped so easily into 'The Gang', unlike herself. When Erica falls, Victoria calls her a coward for crying. We later discover that Erica has actually fractured a bone in her foot. Outside in the garden, some scent-spray is spilled all over Erica's dress, attracting bees. Erica cannot move, due to her foot, and is about to collapse when Victoria moves in to support her, deliberately putting herself in danger. After this incident, the feud ends, and Erica and Victoria later become friends of a sort.

Marie-Claire's relations are found, but are not too keen on keeping the girl themselves. As a result, she is left with Joey and Jack who plan to adopt her.

The profits from the Sale are much lower this year than usual due to the violent storm which broke half way through the day.

News of Old Girls

Dr Eugen Courvoisier - married to Bidy O'Ryan

Dr Neil Sheppard - married to Grizel Cochrane

Yseult Pertwee - married, has one child

Cornelia Flower - married, now Cornelia van Alden

Gillian Linton - married to Peter Young, has three boys and a girl

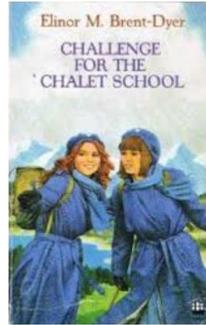
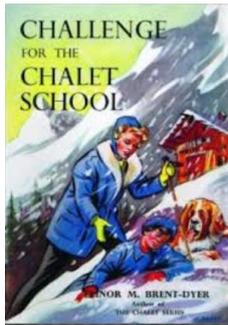
Clemency (Clem) Barras - famous artist, paints the original Chalet for the anniversary

Annis Lovell - married, living in Australia, farming with her husband

Tom Gay - a fully-trained carpenter, sends a dolls' house for the Sale

Sybil Russell - sends an embroidered afternoon tea-cloth and set of napkins

Dr Eustacia Benson - chosen to compile a history of the school



Challenge For The Chalet School

Synopsis

Contributed by Dawn Dottin, Barbados — working from a hardback edition

The book begins with Miss Annersley, the headmistress, breaking the news to the Maynard triplets that she will not be available to be Head of the school for the coming Christmas term. She has been chosen to take part in an educational tour of Europe and Miss Wilmot, an Old Girl, will be Head in her absence.

Evelyn Ross is a new girl come from England to attend the Chalet School while her mother receives treatment for tuberculosis at the nearby Sanatorium. Unrest is not soon in coming as Evelyn gets into trouble with Margot Maynard for laziness at games, and also with her form Va for threatening to tell tales about a form matter.

Another, younger, new girl, Jocelyn Marvell is also introduced. Described as a "demon" and "brimful of mischief", she has been sent to the Chalet School due to extreme misbehavior. She wastes no time in making her presence felt with a string of misdeeds.

Miss Ferrars is struck by a bout of appendicitis and Dr. Stacie Benson steps in to take her place while she is incapacitated.

An escapade of Jocelyn's, the return of Miss Annersley and the performance of the Nativity play bring the term to an end.

Miss Annersley is Headmistress on temporary leave
Miss Wilmot is Acting Head

Series Character Whereabouts

Miss Wilson is Head of the senior branch, St. Mildred's
Dr. Stacie Benson (Old Girl) is living with the Maynards
Len Maynard is Head Girl
Margot Maynard is Head of games
Con Maynard is editor of the Chaletian
Bidy O'Ryan (now Mme. Courvoisier) and Hilary Graves (nee Burn) are sharing a chalet together with their respective families.

Spoilers

Evelyn resents having to attend the Chalet School as she realises that she will not be looked up to and respected as she would have been had she gone to a smaller school in England.

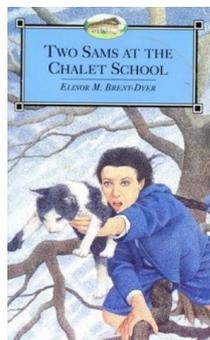
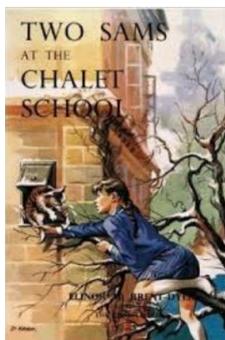
Her trouble with her form causes her to be ostracised which leads to her sleeping badly and eating little. This is noticed by Matron who passes on the news to the Acting Head who then straightens out matters.

Miss Ferrars collapses while teaching a class due to appendicitis and has to leave the School for treatment. This means that she will be unable to produce the Nativity play, which she customarily does at the end of the Christmas term. This problem is solved by the appointment of the prefects to the task, with Len Maynard as chief producer.

Dr. Benson, who arrives to take Miss Ferrars' place, soon makes an impact by thoroughly punishing Jocelyn and her partners in crime for a prank designed to test the new mistress.

Mary-Lou Trelawney pays a visit to the School bringing the news that Verity Carey, recently married, is expecting a baby. She also comforts Evelyn whose mother takes a turn for the worse.

Jocelyn attempts to run away, and is rescued by Mary-Lou and at the end of term determines to be a "really decent Chalet girl".



Two Sams at the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Dawn Dottin, Barbados — working from a hardback edition

The new term at the Chalet School begins with the arrival of two new girls with strikingly similar names. They are Samaris Davies (Sam), a 14 year old Welsh girl and a 15 year old American, Samantha van der Byl (Sammy). Despite the difference in their ages, Samantha being two years older than Samaris, the two girls become fast friends.

The term also begins with the news that Nina Rutherford, an Old Girl of the school is endowing a scholarship for musical girls. The school is then rocked by the news that

Nina and some of her relatives have been involved in a car crash just outside the school.

Sam and Sammy both fall into trouble with their respective forms, Upper IVb and Inter V. Sam's determination to work hard is met with disapproval by her rather lazy form. Sammy is blamed by her form for a skiing accident which results in a ban on all skiing except when supervised by a mistress.

Sam and Sammy then contrive to have an accident while out walking and the curtain is brought down at the end of the term with the pantomime and some very special news for the two Sams.

Spoilers:

Samaris Davies has joined the Chalet School due to her father's job move to Switzerland as well as the advice of an Old Girl, Sophy Hamel, who is friend of her mother's. Samantha's parents have sent her to the School as they believe that it is time for her to settle down in one place.

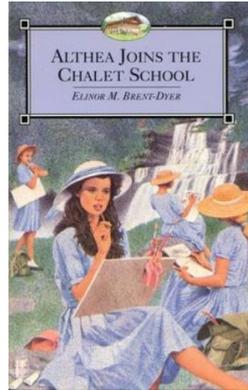
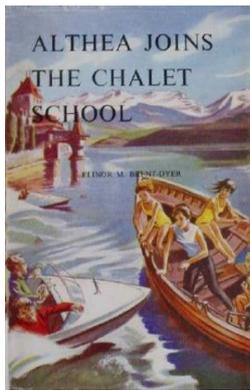
Nina's accident with her cousins, the Rutherfords is caused by a collision with a reckless driver. Lady Rutherford, Alix and Anthea suffer only cuts, bruises and sprains, but Nina, having struck her head on a stone, has to undergo an operation. This greatly upsets Samaris who has been to hear Nina play and admires her musical talent

The two Sams then visit Freudesheim where they meet Joey's second pair of twins, Geoffery and Phillipa. Phil, who is quite frail due to bouts with mastoid and polio, is quite taken with Samaris.

Samantha has a skiing accident due to her taking a chance on a dangerous run. The resulting ban on skiing without supervision brings down the wrath of her form upon her head. They already disapprove of her close friendship with the younger Samaris.

Jo's attempt to take Nina's mind off her accident by taking the two Sams for a visit inadvertently exacerbates this situation. Some members of Upper IVb and Inter V believe that they should have been the ones to visit Nina instead of the two new girls.

This feud however is eventually put aside as both forms try to think of a way to salvage the pantomime which has been put on hold due to a fire which has destroyed the costumes. In spite of this mishap however, the term ends happily with Nina leaving the hospital, the arrival of a flute for Samaris, the performance of the pantomime and the unravelling of the mystery of Sam and Sammy's family heritage.



Althea Joins The Chalet School

Synopsis

Contributed by Sindhu Menon, India — working from a paperback edition

Althea Glenyon, a delicate girl who has never been to boarding school before, is sent to the Chalet School because of family emergencies. Althea is thrilled as boarding school has always been her greatest wish.

The first few days find Althea very happy at the school, enjoying work, play and friendship. But she inadvertently makes an enemy in Val and the rivalry between them soon escalates, culminating in a skirmish which results in torn books and ink splattered floor. At this point Miss Annersly interferes and is able to clear up the trouble. By half term Althea and Val are on reasonably friendly terms.

During the half term trip, Althea is the chief mover in a midnight adventure involving the capture of a burglar. Con sums up affairs neatly by saying of Althea, "I call her a real addition to our numbers. In fact, she has made a real mark on the school for a new girl."

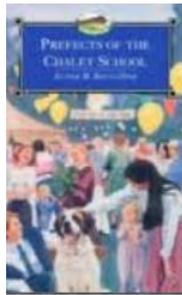
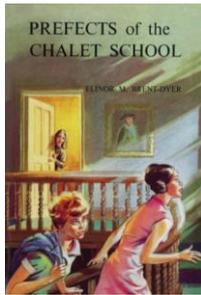
[Spoilers](#)

Althea stays with the Maynards for two or three days before term begins as her parents had to leave on an unexpected journey. She is a great fan of Jo's books and is delighted to meet her in person.

We are given the first hint of Margot's intention to become a nun in this book. There are also speculations among the girls about a possible romance between Reg and Len.

There is a motor boat incident, where the situation is saved only by Miss Ferrars' presence of mind. Len has an accident with oil paints and ends up looking like "a red Indian in war paint, rather than the headgirl of a decent school!"

Althea and Samaris form a close friendship and it is mainly jealousy over this that provokes Val's animosity. Sophie Hamel, a very early Old Girl turns up unexpectedly with a marvelous gift for the school.



Prefects of the Chalet School

Synopsis:

Contributed by Sandra Fitzgerald, Australia — working from a paperback edition

This story covers the final term of the Maynard triplets school-life commencing where ALTHEA JOINS THE CHALET SCHOOL finishes, after Half Term excursions.

The Prefects gather on the last day of Half Term to finalise details of the Sale, but are interrupted by Jocelyn Marvell, Althea Glenyon and Erica Standish. They have an idea for the Regatta (to be held for the first time since St. Brivael's) this term. The Prefects are very squashing about their proposal, and leave Jocelyn fuming. Jocelyn continues to try to find supporters for her idea but is firmly put in her place when the Head puts paid to it after Abendsen one day.

The Fourths have an adventure of sorts when they visit the Auberge and picnic further along by the stream under the pines. A thunderstorm arrives without much warning, and during the scramble to safety, Len is slightly injured.

The Regatta is cancelled when much of the school and the Platz area become infected with a mysterious disease. Public exams are this term, along with school exams. Some members of the Fourths decide to have a Midnight feast outside on the night prior to the exams, but this doesn't come off.

Preparations for the Sale continue after the Exams, including making dresses and confectionery, and rehearsing songs and dances. In the middle of the night prior to the Sale, the school is disturbed by gang of youths intent on kidnapping a millionaire's dying child from the San. Mary-Lou arrives in the midst of this and spends the night at Freudesheim.

Tom Gay's usual offering of an old country inn arrives, and is later won by someone who hasn't won many prizes before this.

The last few days of term are heralded in with a severe storm and flood, and loss of power for a time at the school. Reg Entwistle goes missing during the storm whilst returning from a case, and Len discovers what he means to her. The term finishes with the members of the Sixths' discussing the term and saying farewell to the School.

Character Whereabouts

Len Maynard is Head Girl, plans to attend Oxford studying Modern Languages.

Con Maynard is Magazine Prefect, plans to attend Oxford studying English.

Margot Maynard is Games Prefect, plans to study Medicine at Edinburgh.

Ted Grantley is Second Prefect.

Ruey Richardson is Prefect, going to Bedford to study PT next year.

Jack Lambert is in Inter V and Form Prefect.

Jocelyn Marvell is in Lower IVb.

Reg Entwistle is a young doctor at the San

Spoilers

Jocelyn, Althea and Erica's idea was for the school to have some motor boat races by hiring boats. Len and Co. informed them that there was no way the school would consent to the idea for safety and financial reasons.

Jack Lambert grows up mentally by realising and explaining to Jocelyn the reasons why the staff would not allow motor boat races and not taking things for granted. Several mistresses talk with Jo Maynard about the problem with several in the school becoming stirred up over the idea. She suggests a way in which Jocelyn and Co. can be calmed down but not squashed.

The triplets discuss their future plans, especially Margot and Con. Len is gently teased by them in regards to Reg and the position he would like in her life.

The picnic that never came off was a fiasco from the start. Carlotta von Eschenau received a parcel of goodies unbeknownst to Matron, and certain members of the Fourths decide to have a midnight feast in the school grounds. Jocelyn realises they need drinks, and goes to the bathroom to get a glass of water between them, and has a mishap with a door-handle and the 'prospective picnic-ers' goodies are found by Con.

The Sale is the 'Seasons Sale'. Great fun was had by all involved with making the confectionery with sundry accidents occurring. Lady Carew, Jane's mother, was to open the Sale, but an injured ankle two days previous prevented her from doing so.

The day after the Sale sees a storm develop rapidly, and Reg Entwistle becoming trapped and injured and found by Sir Jem Russell. Len visits him after the accident and they become engaged with the School proper not informed. She will complete her studies at Oxford while he waits for her.

