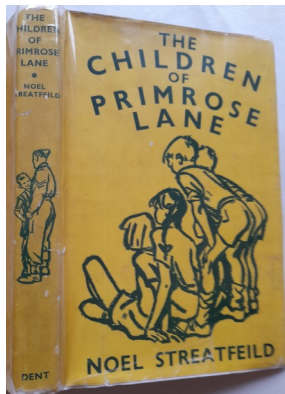


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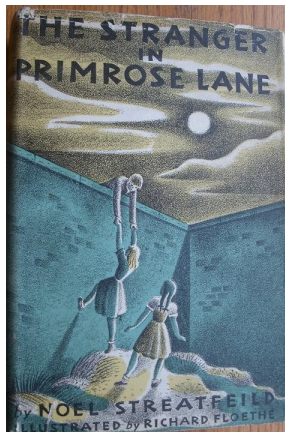
The Children of Primrose Lane: Noel Streatfeild by Rachel Linkens

This was the book that introduced me to Noel Streatfeild's books – a Collins Seagull Library version that belonged to my mum when she was a child.

The Children of Primrose Lane is set during the Second World War, before the D-Day landings, and follows three families who live on Primrose Lane, in a small town just outside London. “In spite of its nice name, Primrose Lane was what was called condemned.” “But the war came and the houses in the Lane were allowed to go on standing up.” The six children who live there, Sally, Dave and Marge Brown, twins Dickie and Freda Smith, and Millie Evans, decide to adopt Number Four Primrose Lane, which stood empty, for themselves, and christen it “Somewhere”.

Dave found the way in, through the hole in Millie's garden fence, through the tangle of overgrown bushes, and in through the scullery window. “Each one saw a dream coming true.” And each adopt a room to fulfil that dream – Freda the kitchen, Marge and Millie the front room for tea parties and pretend games, Dave a bedroom upstairs for his maps (who in his own home has to sleep on the sofa downstairs), Dickie the scullery “because he was messy with his carpentering” and Sally, a room of her own to sit in and read, and to feel “satisfied all over”. So they were set for their summer holidays, “See you in Somewhere.”

The second impression, 1942. This had pale blue boards, but otherwise was the same as the first below right



The 1941 US edition,
Random House

