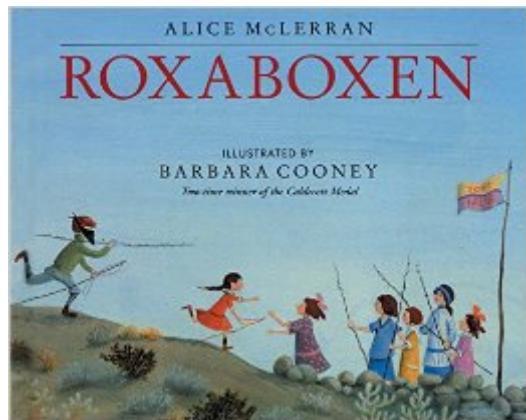


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# Roxaboxen



## **Synopsis**

Marian called it Roxaboxen. (She always knew the name of everything.) There across the road, it looked like any rocky hill -- nothing but sand and rocks, some old wooden boxes, cactus and greasewood and thorny ocotillo -- but it was a special place: a sparkling world of jeweled homes, streets edged with the whitest stones, and two ice cream shops. Come with us there, where all you need to gallop fast and free is a long stick and a soaring imagination. In glowing desert hues, artist Barbara Cooney has caught the magic of Alice McLellan's treasured land of Roxaboxen -- a place that really was, and, once you've been there, always is.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: AD710L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins (April 13, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060526335

ISBN-13: 978-0060526337

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (127 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #16,761 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life #472 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Activity Books #556 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

I love this book! It reminds me of summer, when mom had to beg us kids to come inside after a long day of imaginary play in our 'pine-tree village'. What fun we had creating homes, shops, schools, using rocks, pinecones and anything else we could find to make our little village like home. This book is so similar I could just eat it up! It tells the tale (a true one at that) of a group of children who create their own village with rocks and boxes (get it? Roxaboxen?). The thing I love about this book are the illustrations--simple, yet beautiful, and of course the wonderful story of how the children used their imagination and creativity to create a timeless adventure. In this day of gameboys and

computer games, this book is a refreshing change of pace. My four year old loves this book as much as I do, and we can't wait to create our own Roxaboxen this summer. Buy this book for your kids...or yourself! You won't regret it!

This was my absolute favorite book as a child: I loved imagining the world of Roxaboxen as the children who 'lived' there did and I loved creating my own Roxaboxens in my world. Alice McLellan's kids taught me how to make my own places and times and adventures in my own universe. The entire book was so beautiful that I still smile whenever I see kid's books and remember my favorite or when someone asks me what my favorite book from childhood was.

There are eight characters in this story; Marian, Anna May, Frances, Jean, Charles, Eleanor, Jamie, and Paul. Marian, who likes to take charge, named a rocky hill, Roxaboxen. It was really just stones and sand with some wooden boxes, but the children made it their special place. That had round black pebbles that they used for money. They made a street called Main Street first. Everyone made their houses out of white stones. They used the wooden boxes for tables or anything else you wanted. They would also try to find pottery to use as dishes. As time went by, they made a town hall. Marian named herself the mayor, which no one minded, just as long as they were having fun. They also added more streets as time went on. With bits of sea-green, amber, and amethyst, Frances made herself a new house. The children decided to have a bakery and ice cream stands. Jean and Anna May ran the bakery and Paul and Eleanor had ice cream stands. They also have a jail if you are caught speeding with your car. If you had a horse, you could go as fast as you wanted. They had a war; boys against the girls. If you reached your fort, you were safe. Roxaboxen also had a cemetery. They only had one animal in it, which was a lizard. Roxaboxen was always there for them, even if it was the winter when nobody went. Then they got older and moved away. Did anyone come back to visit Roxaboxen? Is Roxaboxen still there? Read the book to find out. I love this book because when I was younger I loved to imagine things like this. My friends and I did things similar to this book.

Roxaboxen is a lovely story about a childhood playground created by the author's mother, her mother's siblings and her mother's friends. While children will enjoy the pictures and may get some great ideas for building their own Roxaboxen "town", adult readers are the ones who will truly treasure this story. Its sweet nostalgic look at childhood is a catalyst for our own stories and memories to return. Cooney's pictures are appropriate and enjoyable but subdued. Overall, a nice

memorial to the real Roxaboxen and its residents.

Roxaboxen will allow adults to relive their childhood experiences, while allowing children to expand their imagination. Children will realize that their imaginary friend or place is a wonderful memory.

A lot of fun. A book about a little imaginary town the children of a neighborhood make using the stones, sticks and odds and ends they find in the lot near their homes. Reminiscent of watching my children play over the years with all kinds of nature, making imaginary games as children do.

My daughter and I did not like this book. It reads like a forced narrative with no empathy or connection to the characters. I also did not like the details about a "war" and free money. I wish I had read the reviews before ordering. I usually do read them but Marian is my daughter's name and I was hooked.

I checked this book out of the library for my oldest daughter for an assignment. She didn't like the story initially, probably because she resented doing a book report. One day, I saw her reading it on her own and she told me she really likes the book. When I read it, it brought back memories of when I was a child, playing with my cousins and we built our little town and ran things. It's a requested bedtime story.

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