



[Home](#) > Raspberries on the Yangtze

---

# Raspberries on the Yangtze

Books Reviewed:

[Raspberries on the Yangtze](#) [1]

Issue:

[124](#) [2]

Reviewer:

[Adrian Jackson](#) [3]

Editor's Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

4

From the opening sentence ('It all began the day my brother and I decided to poison our mother') this novel takes us into a childhood summer past where high drama is mostly the stuff of children's fantasy. Nancy, her older brother Andrew and friends, play in a backwater of the Gatineau River in Quebec, enacting fantasies and swinging on the squeaky, sagging wire fence with wild raspberries on the other side, the fence making its 'Yang' sound - the Yangtze of the title. The misunderstandings, which begin with the opening line, extend into untangling the puzzles of adults and their world. Nancy has already deciphered the facts of life from careful observation and sells a booklet to the less knowing - 'Sexual intercourse takes place in cupboards. That's why all bedrooms have them. That's what cupboards are there for.' The mystery of sexuality surrounds Nancy in cleverly woven strands of plot neatly balanced against the richness of childhood play. A book to hang around with.

Running Order:

70

---

**Source URL (retrieved on Nov '19):** <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/124/childrens-books/reviews/raspberries-on-the-yangtze>

**Links:**

[1] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/childrens-books/raspberries-on-the-yangtze>

[2] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/issue/124>

[3] <http://typo3.booksforkeeps.co.uk/member/adrian-jackson>