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The 7 professors of the far north

Laura Wadley

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Fardell, John. *The 7 professors of the far north*. Illustrated by John Fardell. G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2005. ISBN 039924381X. \$14.99. 217 pp.

Reviewer: Laura Wadley

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Adventure stories;

Subject: Adventure and adventurers--Juvenile fiction; Arctic regions--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Eleven year old Sam Carnabie is not looking forward to staying with his Great-Aunt Roberta while his parents are away at a nutrition conference, so he is delighted when Professor Ampersand, a friend of his parents, pulls up in a bright yellow motorcycle with a bullet-shaped sidecar with two children inside. The professor invites Sam to join him, Zara, and Ben for the week in Edinburgh. That very night an exhausted traveler stumbles into the professor's house with dreadful news: "Professor Murdo has returned to Nordbergen." What follows is the adventure of a lifetime for the three children, as Professor Ampersand and his colleagues are kidnapped by minions of the evil Murdo and taken to an isolated island in the Arctic Circle. The children are their only hope, and they come through after many adventures on a secret underground transit system, sailing the ice-covered water in a badly damaged ski-boat, and entering Professor Murdo's secret lair in five-person submarine.

Readers who miss the Tom Swift books will love *The 7 Professors of the Far North*. Eccentric characters and courageous, resourceful children fill these pages with non-stop action as the fate of humankind hangs in the balance. Though the children's characters are a bit flat - it's not always easy to tell them apart - their wild adventures and unyielding determination to save the professors makes this a book designed to engage even the most reluctant young reader.