

FARMER, Penelope (*1939), England

Snakes and Ladders (1993)

Keine Übersetzung nachgewiesen

Ein von einem Baseler Unternehmen finanziertes Forschungsprojekt über die Epidemiologie und Verbesserung der medikamentösen Epilepsiebehandlung in Entwicklungsländern spielt eine große Rolle in diesem Roman der damals mit Simon Shorvon verheirateten Autorin. Beide waren Projektteilnehmer. Ein wichtiges Parallelthema ist, dass die Hauptperson Anna ihrem Mann, dem Epileptologen, nicht erzählen kann, dass ihr Sohn aus erster Ehe als kleineres Kind epileptische Anfälle hatte.

Zur Autorin (Wiki 1.1.25):

„**Penelope Jane Farmer** (born 1939) is an English fiction writer well known for children's fantasy novels. Her best-known novel is *Charlotte Sometimes* (1969), a boarding-school story that features a multiple time slip.

Farmer was born a fraternal twin in Westerham, Kent, on 14 June 1939, as the third child of Hugh Robert MacDonald (died 26 May 2004) and Penelope Boothby Farmer. Her parents and hospital staff were unaware of her existence until some 25 minutes after the birth of her twin sister Judith. Throughout Farmer's life, twinship has been a defining element in her understanding of her identity. The importance of Farmer's relationship with her twin sister Judith was reflected in her books, having published *Two, or: The Book of Twins and Doubles* in 1996, and *Sisters: An Anthology* in 1999. The twins have an older brother, Tim, and a younger sister, Sally.



After attending a boarding school, she read history at St Anne's College, Oxford and did postgraduate work at Bedford College, University of London. She visited South Africa in 1994, talking with people about their views on the election. She later wrote an article about this, published in the *Index on Censorship*. In 2000, Farmer published an article about the challenges facing the Hong Kong Chinese community in the UK.

According to Penelope Farmer's personal blog site, she was in 2012 living on Lanzarote in the Canary Islands. She there described herself as "a writer – published for many years, now struggling", and listed "her grandchildren" among those she loved and missed. Other relations were mentioned: the departure of her daughter and a granddaughter (23 April 2004). The 22 April 2010 entry states that her son was among those staying with her, with his daughters aged eight and twelve.

Writing career

Farmer's first publication was *The China People*, a collection of literary fairy tales for young people, in 1960. One story written for this collection was judged too long to include. This was re-written as the first chapter of her first novel for children, *The Summer Birds*. In 1963, this received a Carnegie Medal commendation and was cited as an American Library Association Notable Book. *The Summer Birds* was soon followed by its sequels, *Emma in Winter* (1966) and *Charlotte Sometimes* (1969), and by *A Castle of Bone* (1972), *Year King* (1977), *Thicker than Water* (1989), *Penelope: A Novel* (1993), and *Granny and Me* (1998).

Farmer stated that she, while writing *Emma in Winter*, did not realize that identity was such a predominant theme in the novel until she encountered Margery Fisher's comments on the book. She had a similar realization, this time on her own, while writing *Charlotte Sometimes*."

Buchinformation 1994: "PF was born in Kent in 1939, and attended St. Anne's College, Oxford, where she graduated with a BA in modern history. She taught for a while , then trained as a social worker, but, since the birth of her first child in 1964, she has concentrated on her writing. She is married to a doctor and lives near Hammersmith in London."

Literatur