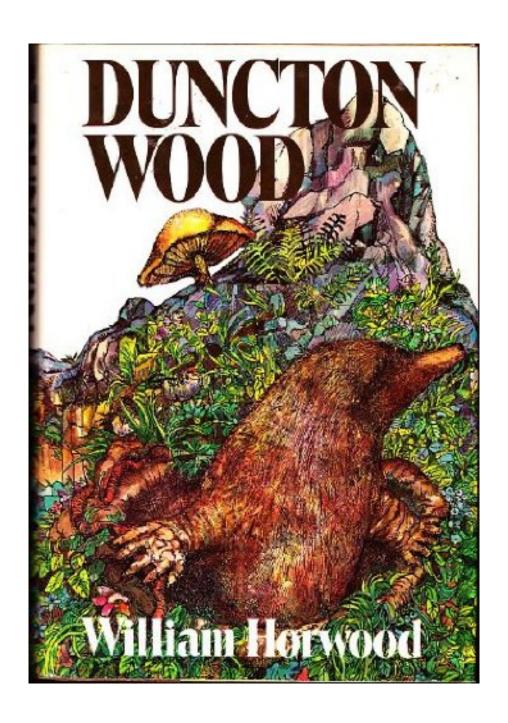


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Duncton Wood and the subsequent novels in the series revolve around the moles that inhabit the United Kingdom. The mole communities (referred to as "Moledom") are anthropomorphically portrayed as intelligent societies with their own social organization, history and written form of communication. The extent of animal personification is not unlike that of Richard Adams' Watership Down, to which Horwood's series is often favourably compared[citation needed], in that the moles are limited to the physical behaviours of their real-world burrow-dwelling counterparts, and neither wear clothing nor exhibit any special technological aptitude. The central focus of the Duncton series is the Stone, a fictitious mole religion based on the standing stones and stone circles of Britain. As such, the novels are predominantly set in and around locales known for their megaliths, such as Avebury and Rollright. The titular wood itself is fictional, inspired by Wittenham Clumps and Wytham Woods (both near Oxford where the author was living when he wrote the first book) and borrowing its name from a village in West Sussex. In the course of the books, individual moles travel great distances quite quickly (Duncton Wood in Oxfordshire to Siabod in Wales and back again for example).

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• 585 pages

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A gem of a book!

By Crazy about Books.

I bought this book on a lark after somebody on the internet mentioned it and I found that the reviews on amazon were overwhelmingly positive. I'm so glad I took a chance on this book -- I absolutely loved it. It was a great story, jam-packed with love and adventure. Like other reviewers said, it's a bit of Watership Down meets LOTR. But this is selling the story short. It's the characters in this book that make it so captivating. I fell in love with the moles of Duncton Wood and I can't wait to read the sequels which I ordered before I ever finished this 500+ page book

I really can't recommend this book enough and I want to thank the other reviewers on here who made me decide to *risk* 23 cents plus shipping

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Duncton Wood Fantastic

By monopolylife

Duncton Wood is a Adventure-Love story like no other. It's the story of two Moles, Bracken and Rebecca,

and the adventures they have as they try to protect Duncton Wood from Mandrake an outsider and oddly enough, Rebecca's father. They must face the problems of mole life head on, while maintaining faith in the stone. It's unfortunate that this novel is being compared with Watership Down, due to the fact that Watership Down, a great novel on it's own, falls short when compared against Duncton Wood. The animal kingdom as shown in Duncton Wood is savage and the survival of the fittest is a fact of life and death. This book is classified as a childrens book, but in truth it is for adults. It is at times as dark as it is uplifting. I recently purchased the other five books in the Duncton series.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Better the Watership Down

By Mark DeBolt

This is undoubtedly the best animal fantasy there is. It is along the lines of Watership Down, but far greater. Its characters are moles that act much as moles really do, but with language, intelligence, purpose, religion, and above all spiritual depth. To lend authenticity, the author spent a year studying a colony of moles first hand, as well as educating himself with scientific studies of moles. But then comes imagination, and the imagination is great indeed. The moles (unlike, at least for most of us, real moles) move us and touch us deep in our psyches, deep in our spirits. It is both an earthy and a mystical masterpiece. It is also full of action (for instance, in the fights for leadership, territories, and mates) and adventure (especially in Bracken's journeys in the latter part of the book). If this book has a fault it is that it seems constantly to be ending, then continuing, like a sermon where the preacher is always saying "lastly" and lasts. But for its wisdom, beauty, and imagination, this definately gets 5 stars.

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