



Betty Doll

By Patricia Polacco

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Patricia Polacco shares a never-before-told story about her mother's favorite doll.

"My Darlin Trisha, my mother wrote..." So begins the story of Patricia Polacco's mother's favorite doll.

Whenever Mary Ellen needed Betty Doll, she was there. She survived blizzards and thunderstorms, attended parties and weddings, and helped mourn the deaths of old friends. From the day Trisha's mother first sewed Betty Doll together stitch by stitch, to the day, many years later, when she discovered she had cancer, her soft, sweet Betty Doll was there. Now Betty Doll lives on in Patricia Polacco's soft, beautiful artwork as Trisha shares the warm and poignant moments of her mother's favorite doll with readers of all ages.

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Betty Doll By Patricia Polacco Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Young Mary Ellen is heartbroken when her family's farmhouse burns to the ground, taking all five of her dolls with it. So when her mother announces that they are going to make her a new doll, she is overjoyed. But little does she know that Betty Doll will travel with her as her closest confidant through her whole life, watching as first Mary Ellen grows up, then her children, and her grandchildren. Along the way, Betty is privy to family events big and small: a devastating blizzard, tea parties, weddings, floods, illness, births, deaths, and war. When a much older Mary Ellen discovers she has cancer, she writes a letter to her grown daughter, Tricia, telling her the story of Betty Doll, and passing on her own abiding love for Tricia.

Tricia, or Patricia Polacco, has shared the words of the letter in this touching tribute to her mother, with black and white (with splashes of color) sketches that reflect the time span from the early 1900s to the present. Polacco often plumbs the depths of her family history for picture book ideas. She is the author of *Chicken Sunday*, *The Butterfly*, and many other warm tales. (Ages 5 to 9) --*Emilie Coulter*

From Publishers Weekly

Polacco (Thank You, Mr. Falker) again elegantly embroiders a patch from the fabric of her own life in a moving tale that demonstrates the importance of family legacies. "I know that someday you'll read this when your heart is aching," reads the note that the author finds attached to Betty Doll after her mother's [Mary Ellen's] death. Mary Ellen's letter goes on to explain how, as a girl, she and her mother made the doll from scraps of cloth after her other dolls perished in the fire that destroyed their home. Readers will happily tumble back in time as the fluid, conversational narrative reveals anecdotes underscoring Betty Doll's importance in Mary Ellen's life. For instance, the sight of Betty Doll who had fallen out of her owner's book bag alerts the child's father to her whereabouts during a blizzard; and when the girl is bedridden with a fever, Betty keeps her company. Over the years, the author and then her own children find solace in the beloved doll, who "kissed away tears, soothed hurt knees and was a guest at hundreds of tea parties and slumber nights." In an effective graphic manipulation, the doll alone appears in color against Polacco's finely detailed black-and-white art, which smoothly incorporates framed family photos arranged on tabletops. Together, text and illustrations credibly and poignantly capture the powerful bond among four generations of a loving family. All ages.

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From School Library Journal

Gr 2-4-Many of Polacco's books draw on her family memories and experiences, and this one is no exception. Using a letter from her mother that she discovered after the woman's death, she has created a special intergenerational book. Six-year-old Mary Ellen (Polacco's mother) made Betty Doll when her family's belongings were destroyed in a fire, and the doll accompanied her to her first day at a new school, saved her life during a blizzard, traveled with her to visit her relatives in Chicago, and was always there to offer comfort when things got tough. When Mary Ellen grew up and had children of her own, Betty was there to comfort Patricia and her brother, eventually becoming a symbol of family love and warmth, a focus for family history and a link with the past. The distinctive illustrations, done in pencil with soft muted grays, blacks, and pale yellows, emphasize the importance of "Betty Doll," the one bright spot of color on each page. The effect is reminiscent of old photographs and adds the perfect touch.-Judith Constantinides,

formerly at East Baton Rouge Parish Main Library, LA

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joey Leigh:

Here thing why this Betty Doll are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all studying a book is good nonetheless it depends in the content from it which is the content is as delicious as food or not. Betty Doll giving you information deeper and in different ways, you can find any reserve out there but there is no e-book that similar with Betty Doll. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your current eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your means home by train. For anyone who is having difficulties in bringing the paper book maybe the form of Betty Doll in e-book can be your substitute.

Gregory McCormick:

Reading a guide tends to be new life style with this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Having book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire all their reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyplot that share in the publications. But also they write about advantage about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some analysis before they write to their book. One of them is this Betty Doll.

Edward Trotta:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a e-book. The book Betty Doll it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore effortlessly to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book offers high quality.

Joseph Langley:

Why? Because this Betty Doll is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will zap you with the secret that inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such amazing way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining approach

but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of gains than the other book possess such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to postpone having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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