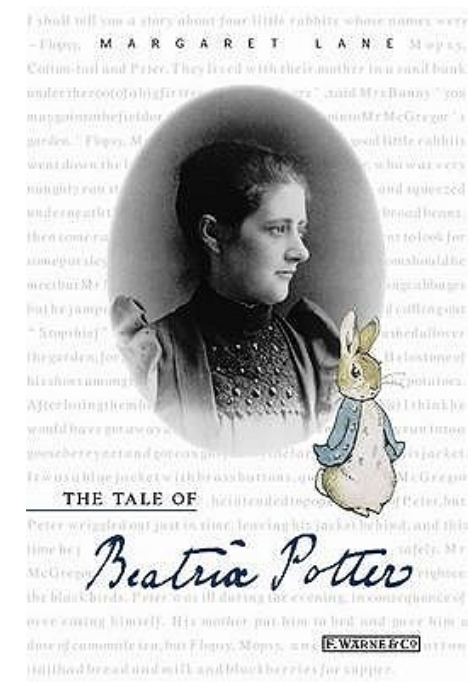




The Tale of Beatrix Potter: A Biography

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The Tale of Beatrix Potter: A Biography Details

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From Reader Review The Tale of Beatrix Potter: A Biography for online ebook

Kathryn says

The second biography I had read about Beatrix Potter, so no new huge revelations. This one was much less comprehensive and detailed, but I think I liked that it gave an intimate but broad view of her life. Lots of direct quotes of hers, excerpts of letters, and interviews with those who actually knew her as it was written not too long after her death, and published by the company who did her books. I highly recommend this to anyone wanting to know more about her without tons and tons of details.

Terry Crawford Palardy says

This is a lovely story written by a lovely English Lady, wife of an Earl, and biography to many other authors, and a novelist herself as well.

I particularly enjoyed the portions covering Beatrix Potter's childhood summers spent in Scotland, and her time enjoyed with her "grandmama" who allowed her to read in the family's literary collections.

That this biography was published by the Warne company, the same company that published Beatrix's "little books," just adds to the delight in owning this book. It is one that I will save for my own grandchildren, and their children.

Ape says

2007 bookcrossing journal:

I picked up quite an old paperback copy of this one second hand about six months ago. I saw the film "Miss Potter" last weekend and was spurred on to read her biography. The film was great, incidentally, although they did use a bit of artistic license on a few details of her life.

This was a great biography, but I'm only giving it an eight. Because I do think it's going to have limited appeal. You've either got to be interested in Beatrix or enjoy reading biographies. The only major criticism I have of it (which might not even be relevant now as I have a very old edition), is that it needs more photographs, more of her illustrations, a time-line/chronology, and I think some maps would have been great too.

I read her books when I was younger and I've visited Hill top farm twice - once when I was little (so I don't remember much about it!) and the second time was the summer 06. She is like a national treasure - her books are wonderful, and her later work and support of the National Trust has preserved so much that we can see today.

I thought it was also interesting that even back then they were worried about developers buying up sections of land in order to build on them. A problem older than you might have thought.

Janet says

A sweet book with many color illustrations and black and white photos. But just a sketch really of Potter's life. The basic facts, an idea of her personality, and a chronology of her works. Still, worth the time and, having just visited Hilltop Farm and the Lake District, I enjoyed the descriptions of that area.

Lina Slavova says

"I have long held that the secret of the successful children's book is that it is not written for children. ... Outside appreciation of any kind is of secondary importance to the true children's writer. For him the first and ultimate requirement is that the book should please himself. For he is the one for whom the book is written. With it he puts to sleep his wakeful youth and tells the story of the hidden child within him. Such works are more often than not the results of an imaginative mind playing its light over lonely childhoods. What the child lacked in those tender years the imagination gives back to it. " Pamela L. Travers

This is what Pamela L. Travers wrote, under the pen name of Milo Reve, in her review of Beatrix Potter's biography "The Tale of Beatrix Potter" written by Margaret Lane.

When Beatrix Potter died in 1943, few knew the full story of her life and the "Tale of Beatrix Potter", published in 1946, was the first account of her life. I wish I could ask Pamela if she was assigned to read and review the book or was she the one who chose the subject of her article. Anyhow, the tales of Beatrix Potter were part of Pamela L. Travers's childhood reads, so in either case I believe she must have enjoyed the task.

Pamela L. Travers's book review was entitled "The Hidden Child" and was published in The New English Weekly on April 10, 1947 and luckily for me, it was reproduced in its entirety as an Appendix in Patricia Demers's book "P.L. Travers", a scholarly book I purchased some time ago on Amazon.

The apparent intensity of Pamela's deep understanding of the essence of the children's writer is worthy of attention since all who knew her unanimously attest that she was quite self-absorbed and somewhat alienated from others. Pamela L. Travers was not particularly empathetic and her intimate relationships seem to have been quite tumultuous and complicated. Then, probably, any insight that she might have had of another human being's experience must have been a resonance of an experience of her own.

After reading the "Hidden Child" I decided to read the "Tale of Beatrix Potter" and see if I could find some evidence supporting my perception of the emotional connection that Pamela L. Travers must have felt when reading the "Tale of Beatrix Potter". And indeed, reading the book, I realized that there were some obvious similarities between the early emotional experiences of both writers.

As children, they were both kept fed and sheltered, but other than that they were pretty much ignored by their parents and were left to their own devices. Both girls experienced the neglect of their emotional needs and their budding talents were disregarded. Both loved and felt a deep connection with nature. Both were destined to take care of their parents and both desperately wanted to find and did find their way out. As young adults they both suffered from bouts of depression and both ended up writing stories that appealed to children.

But I believe that Beatrix Potter's transformation in the second half of her life, from a timid and lonely child

to a farmer, conservationist and a business woman caused Pamela L. Travers's admiration. Once Potter married, she lost all interest in writing and devoted herself to her husband and her true love, nature. Beatrix Potter became Mrs. Heelis, a sheep farmer, nature conservationist and an estate owner.

Pamela L. Travers's interpretation of Potter's metamorphosis gives a glimpse of her own inner yearning:

"And this retrospective (the story of the child within) my go on for book after book until the time comes when the child is appeased and freed. That the tales cease then is not necessarily a sign of failing imagination but rather that the writer has set himself free to find his fate in the grown-up world. ...Beatrix Potter's life is a perfect example of this pattern. ... Full and rich with immediate life she had no overspill for the hidden child; indeed, because of that late fullness the child no longer needed her. She became what she had instinctively longed to be..."

Pamela L. Travers

Here it says it all...for those who listen...and do not judge...

Nisah Haron says

Terasa seperti mengenali seorang sahabat, bermesra, mendapat beberapa tip penulisan, kemudian terasa juga kehilangannya pada akhir bab. Buku ini ditulis dengan laras bahasa fiksi dengan lengkok yang baik, tidak seperti buku-buku bukan fiksi yang agak 'kering' gaya penceritaan. Tiba-tiba saya jadi rindu pada wanita hebat ini dan terasa ingin kembali ke Lake District untuk 'bertemu' dengannya sekali lagi.

Lori says

Absolutely lovely. I had the advantage of being able to consult our collection of Beatrix Potter's books while I was reading through her biography. Seeing the artwork and reading some of the stories at the same time they were being described in the book made it so enjoyable. I learned a ton, and Beatrix Potter certainly led an interesting life.

A fun read.

Jennifer says

Having grown up with Beatrix Potter's books, it was very interesting to learn more about her life and her personality. She was a person of quiet creativity, shy reserve, unpredictableness, deep love of animals, bluntness, love of the country, and great artistic gifts - just a person I would love to meet. Thankfully, although I will not be able to meet her in this life, this well-written biography by Margaret Lane gave me lots of glimpses into her intriguing life. It is not a comprehensive sketch of Beatrix, but still covers the main points well and is a pleasant read.

It is amazing to me that Beatrix Potter sent Peter Rabbit to six (I believe) different publishing companies and all turned her down. She ended up publishing privately with modest success and finally convinced a publishing company to take the story on. Little did she know then how great a success her tales would be and

would continue to be for many, many generations to come. And they're still going strong!

Justine says

One could write a very creepy version of Potter's life: the lonely child upstairs with her little animals, the lonely woman living with her parents until age 47, writing strange and surprising violent children's stories about rabbits and rats. The true story is amazing, however. She was kept close to home by her Victorian parents but found supporters for her publishing and scientific ventures. She invested her earnings wisely by buying farmland in the Lake District. When she finally found freedom and love in her marriage to the lawyer who helped her buy property, she devoted herself to the preservation of the Lake District landscape and to farming and sheep-raising. Smart woman, dedicated, self-possessed.

I preferred this older book to the more modern *Beatrix Potter: A Life in Nature*, by Linda Lear (2007). Lane's book is old-fashioned but lively. Lear has done more current research but has the writing style of a fifth-grader writing a school report. I couldn't finish it.

The Mole says

Informative, but horribly dry and dull. I probably would have preferred a wikipedia page to this book.

It tries to blend pure information with a somewhat artistic style, but both fall flat. The artistic style comes across more like mere listings of plants or places instead of giving the reader a real feel for the subject matter.

Perhaps this was a popular writing style in the 1940s (as this was first published in 1946). Though considering the works of Tolkien and Lewis are also of this era, it's hard to completely think it's just "an older style of writing".

Elizabeth says

After watching the wonderful movie "Miss Potter" starring Renee Zellweger, I had to read this 1946 biography of Beatrix Potter written right after her death at age 77. It was published by the same company -- Frederick Warne & Co., Inc. -- that published her famous children's books. I was pleased to discover that the movie was fairly true to real life, especially in the romance with Norman Warne, though their engagement and his death took place later in their lives than in the movie -- they were both almost 40.

The book also reveals the amount of detail that went into her drawings, and she was meticulous about authenticity of detail and color. In "The Tailor of Gloucester," for instance, she sketched from clothing at the Victoria and Albert museum and was allowed to take models out of their cases such as the embroidered waistcoat. "She drew like a naturalist."

Sue says

I have been reading a series of fictional tales, based on fact, about Potter and decided I wanted to read a bio to get her real story. Thanks to my small library's access to InterLibrary Loan, I had my choice of bios. I chose this one, written soon after her death and published by Warnes, her own publishers. I thought a later bio would be full of literary criticism of her writing and I just wanted a straightforward story of her life. This is what I got with this bio published in 1946. There was one chapter about her books and their impact, and the rest was just about her life. It had a strange and solitary beginning, but a happy ending and this story was told with the help of her husband, William Heelis, and many contemporaries.

Emily says

This biography of Beatrix Potter came into my hands serendipitously, so I was happy to give it a try, without knowing if it's the most completely researched one out there (I still don't know). Either way, it's an absorbing read. Margaret Lane writes engagingly, and the story of Potter's life really is far more interesting than anyone would expect. The book was first published in the 40s, shortly after Potter's death. My edition is the revised one from 1968, which takes into account the journal written in cipher that was only decoded in the 50s, so anyone looking to acquire the book should get the later edition.

Rena Phung says

I love biographies of writers in general. I enjoyed this one. I loved the background info about Miss Potter's ancestry acknowledging the imprint of those that go before. I loved that despite Miss Potter's aristocratic upbringing she embraced and lived who she really was and became a sheep farmer! Her stories arose from her imagination as a result of being pent up in the city. Her soul wandered where her body could not yet go. (The recent movie "Miss Potter" based on this and other biographies is also well done--I enjoyed it)

Susan says

A simple read for fans of Beatrix Potter and Peter Rabbit. It gave me good insight into her life.
