



## A Little Princess

*Frances Hodgson Burnett , Tasha Tudor (Illustrations)*

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## **A Little Princess** Frances Hodgson Burnett , Tasha Tudor (Illustrations)

Sara Crewe seemed just like a real princess... When Sara Crewe arrives at Miss Minchin's London boarding school, she seems just like a real little princess. She wears beautiful clothes, has gracious manners, and tells the most wonderful stories. Then one day, Sara suddenly becomes penniless. Now she must wear rags, sleep in the school's dreary attic, and work for her living. Sara is all alone, but keeps telling herself that she can still be a princess *inside*, if only she tries hard enough.

## **A Little Princess Details**

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Author : Frances Hodgson Burnett , Tasha Tudor (Illustrations)

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## From Reader Review A Little Princess for online ebook

### Zeek says

The story begins with little Sara Crewe traveling from the life she's always known living in India with her beloved Father, Captain Crewe, to be schooled like all proper British girls in London. Her father is loathe to let her go but knows he must for her own good. Almost immediately upon arrival, Sara sees quite clearly with her wise beyond her years insight that Miss Minchin, the proprietor of the school, is not a fair lady, although she hides it well enough. Just as immediately, Sara gets the reputation of being a little princess as her father lavishly buys cloths, dolls and comfortable living quarters. But Sara is not the spoiled child you might think her to be, no- quite the opposite. She could have cared less for all the finery if only to stay with her Papa, but of course society says otherwise and far too quickly she is left behind.

Miss Minchin doesn't make it easy for Sara, of course, but because she values Sara's money, she plays along with Captain Crewe's desires of spoiling the child- even when Sara unintentionally repeatedly reveals with her calm spirit that she is far more clever than the mean-spirited proprietress of the boarding school. Then, on the very day of Sara's 11th birthday, news arrive that her father has passed away, and not only that- all of his money is lost as well.

Miss Minchin, feeling as if tricked into covering Sara's expenses- expenses assured to be covered by the wealthy Captain Crewe- Miss Minchin takes out her wrath on the grieving child and makes her the drudge of the school, a step only slighter higher than the scullery maid Becky, whom Sara has befriended.

For years Sara suffers under the control of Minchin, doing all the tasks the servants don't want to do, going to bed starving and cold each night.

But, try as she might, Miss Minchin couldn't bring the clever girl down to the lowered station she thought she deserved to be in. For Sara Crewe was an expert at bolstering herself with imaginations.

When Minchin was at her worst, Sara's proud spirit pretended she was soldier on a long and weary march. When given nothing but crumbs she shared it with her friend Mechezzidek, the rat who lived in the wall whom Sara pretended had a large family to take care of. No matter how hungry- she gave. She gave stories to a forlorn student whom the other students looked down upon for being fat and stupid and gave unheard of friendship to Becky, a mere scullery maid, who stayed in the room in the attic right next to her. She even gave away a boon she fell upon quite by accident one day while running errands- all because she believed a true Princess, like the one she imagined herself to be, is not one to complain or take things for herself when aid is needed for the populace.

One day the school becomes abuzz with the news that a wealthy man is moving next door and Sara in her clever mind quickly assigns a story to him to entertain herself in the hours after her drudgery is over, to keep her mind off her hunger. Her curiosity is even more aroused when she meets the wealthy man's native Indian man servant and his pet monkey one evening when the monkey escapes into her attic window.

Ram Dass, the man servant, is struck by the bright child, and from that moment on, watches with silent eyes and ears every kind thing Sara does and eventually brings it to the wealthy man's attention. Sensing they can help her, The wealthy neighbor and Ram Dass determine to bless the girl who gives so much yet is treated so poorly- Ram Dass because he knows exactly what's going on, the wealthy man because the child reminds him of another young girl he lost and is desperate to find.

One evening Sara, possibly at her coldest and hungriest, welcomes her friend Ermengarde into her room. Ermengarde finally realizing how the kindest person in her world is being treated, promptly decides to share a basket sent to her from home, stuffed with treats and food. Delighted Sara arranges the room as a secret surprise for Ermengarde and Becky, while Ermengarde leaves to retrieve the food. When the girls gather together, Sara transports the little group as if by magic to a grand ballroom prepared for a feast, all the while staying in their drab little room. It's a wondrous time for all the girls, trying with all the might to imagine the beautiful room right along with Sara.

Of course the evil Miss Minchin ruins it.

But perhaps she wouldn't have been so adamant in putting the little princess in her place if she knew that her actions would become the catalyst for Sara to be blessed beyond her own very vivid imagination.

I would have loved this story as a kid, but I love it even more now. I've always loved a heroine I can root for and a villain I can despise- and this story delivers them! Sara is exactly the kind of girl I admired growing up and one I longed to be. Clever, pretty, just a bit odd but oh so noble. Yeah I never quite attained such nobility nor cleverness and prettiness, but I wanted to and that's saying something I guess. :)

I was totally engaged while listening to this story and I can't wait to share it with my nieces! I highly recommend it as an entertaining read but also as a good reminder for every child- if we imagine ourselves as noble princesses- even though the world sees us as beggars- one day we may become one... in spirit if not in truth!

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### **Maureen says**

Book #3 for #booktubeathon is DONE!

I finished this audiobook on the way to work this morning and MAN do I love this story. I've loved the movie for a long time and I loved this book just as much, although the endings and elements of the story were different. Sarah is such a fantastically beautiful character with such a big heart for others. I loved reading about her adventures and how she continued to have the attitude of a princess, regardless of her circumstances.

JUST A GREAT CHILDREN'S BOOK, ERYONE READ IT.

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### **Manybooks says**

As much as A Little Princess is and remains both a childhood and adulthood favourite, in some ways, Sara Crewe and her entire demeanour do at times appear as being almost a bit too good to be true. I have always liked this story tremendously, but have never loved it as much as, say, The Secret Garden (also, of course, by Frances Hodgson Burnett) or the Anne of Green Gables and the Emily of New Moon series (Lucy Maud Montgomery). In all of these novels, the main characters have their share of faults (and at times even seriously problematic ones), while Sara seemingly has little or no such peccadilloes (except perhaps that she does at times appear almost patronising in her goodness and her feelings for *the populace*, but I think that the author actually does not mean this to be considered as a fault, and it is just our more modern sensibilities

which tend to make us consider this kind of *noblesse oblige* feeling to be not entirely, not altogether praiseworthy).

One thing to keep in mind is that A Little Princess was published quite a few years before The Secret Garden (the former was published in 1905, I believe, and I think The Secret Garden was not published until 1911 or so, and the novella on which A Little Princess is based, Sara Crewe, Or What Happened At Miss Minchin's was actually published even earlier, around 1888). And thus, perhaps Frances Hodgson Burnett's attitude towards children had matured by the time she penned The Secret Garden, and she might have by then realised that it would be better to have main characters who are not perfect, but also have their share of not so stellar character traits.

On the other hand, I also have to wonder whether the author might not have deliberately portrayed Sara as a faultless princess-like character because she wanted to portray her as some kind of magical, fairy tale like entity (a child-goddess of compassion, helpful, patient, accepting, but ultimately too good to be true, a bit like the type of character Dickon represents in The Secret Garden, similarly godlike and unrealistic, but then, Dickon is a supporting character and not the main character, like Sara is in A Little Princess).

Still, A Little Princess truly is and always will be a lovely and sweet tale (somewhat of an upside down fairy tale, a riches to rags and then back to riches story) and a novel that although written more than a century ago, is still enjoyable, readable and for most children, approachable (and I bet many adults are like me, having not just fond childhood memories of A Little Princess, but also of repeated rereads).

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### **Lisa says**

"Whatever comes," she said, "cannot alter one thing. If I am a princess in rags and tatters, I can be a princess inside. It would be easy to be a princess if I were dressed in cloth of gold, but it is a great deal more of a triumph to be one all the time when no one knows it."

Much can be said about the improbabilities in the plot, about the desperate sentimentality and caricature of Victorian England's boarding school system. It doesn't matter.

To me, Sarah Crewe will always remain a symbol for inner strength, perseverance and values winning over greed, sadism and abusive power. I can't recall how many times I read my hardcover copy as a young girl, shivering with anger and fear when the young heiress thinks she has lost everything and is turned into an unpaid maid at the school where she used to be a shining star.

Quite often, I think of her when I enter a bakery on a cold day, the smell of fresh bread making me instantly hungry. I think of the hungry girl, and how much she must have craved the buns she bought for a coin she found. And I know it is a simple show-effect on the part of Frances Hodgson Burnett to make Sarah hand over the buns to a starving girl sitting outside the bakery. It is not realistic! We are human beings. We are greedy, egotistical, trained and constructed to guarantee our own selfish survival first of all. We don't give away our bread. We hoard it until it gets moldy and can't be eaten by anyone!

And yet - Sarah Crewe, the fictional perfect human being, clever, kind, using her power to help, rather than to destroy others, makes my heart feel a tiny bit better each time I think of her. She is not realistic, and nor is the poetical justice in the novel, giving back the wealth she had thought she lost as some kind of divine reward for being a good sport when she lost it.

Does it really matter whether this story is exaggerated? If I can choose to give my children one of the countless bestselling young adult novels that show humanity in its worst egomania, or this tale of friendship, genuine care and power of imagination, I won't have to think twice. I like to imagine that people loving Sarah Crewe might start seeing those around themselves that are "hungrier than she was herself", and that they might feel that they can offer a bun or two from their bakery basket as a result of their reading. If reading inspires, I like to think this one inspires more than a dire account of teenage violence and crime...

Try being a princess no matter what - that's what I believe in, loving my fairy tales still!

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### **Catherine says**

My heart is so full after reading this. Years ago, I got the movie *A Little Princess* for my birthday. I had never heard anything about it before, but little did I know that I would break the DVD player watching it so many times. Like the movie, the book is beautiful. There really is no other word that can accurately describe it.

I've never felt as connected to a protagonist as I did to Sara. This little girl had the biggest, most generous heart and no matter how bad her situation got, her character remained pure; even when she had nothing to her name she still put others before herself and never wanted pity. When she was grieving the loss of her father and went from being treated like a princess to being treated like a slave, I wanted so badly to save her. It made me want to find a way into the pages to take all her sadness and pain away because she deserved none of it.

This is one of those books that you should encourage your kids to read when they are young. Not to say that it isn't a book for adults, because it is, but I think children especially would benefit from reading it as they are most impressionable. As I was reading, I was overcome with a compelling desire to adopt Sara's open-heartedness—it just made me want to be a better person which I think is a really special reaction to a book. Honestly every time my heart cracked and pieced back together was worth it and I would suffer a million times over if it meant that I had the honor of being touched by this story forever.

My favourite quote in the whole book:

*"If nature has made you for a giver, your hands are born open, and so is your heart; and though there may be times when your hands are empty, your heart is always full, and you can give things out of that—warm things, kind things, sweet things—help and comfort and laughter—and sometimes gay, kind laughter is the best help of all."*

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### **Dannii Elle says**

The movie adaptation of this book was my beloved, childhood favourite, yet, for some reason, I had never read the book. I was pleasantly surprised to find how accurate my favourite film was to the classic text it originated from.

I find it odd how I adored this story so, when my favourite childhood read was Frances Hodgson Burnett's

The Secret Garden. I loved the former for the pure-hearted and eternally kind protagonist and adored the latter for the unlikable, cross and bad-tempered one. The two differing protagonists dually delighted me, however dissimilar they appeared, and I believe the author has a powerful gift in creating characters children (and adults, too!) can find all sides of themselves in.

Asides from the lovable characters, this book also has a poignant story-line that completely enraptured me. Sara Crewe's riches-to-rags-to-riches story was a charming one, but what completely captivated me was in how she dealt with her fate. She remained eternally optimistic and often used fairy tale and stories created inside her own head as a brief escape from her plight. She was gifted with a pure character and a generous soul and instead of appearing as a two-dimensional 'goody good' character, she instilled in me a yearning to be a better individual and to channel some of her spirit.

The parts that brought me to tears, both then and now, was Sara's belief that every female was a princess at heart, and so it is only fitting to end this review with a quote that sums up exactly what is so endearing about this book:

*"Whatever comes," she said, "cannot alter one thing. If I am a princess in rags and tatters, I can be a princess inside. It would be easy to be a princess if I were dressed in cloth of gold, but it is a great deal more of a triumph to be one all the time when no one knows it."*

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### **Holly says**

I really enjoyed this one! I thought it was very uplifting, and I loved the message behind it. I would definitely recommend this book to people of all ages.

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### **Magrat Ajostiernos says**

Casi parece un retelling de 'La cenicienta' y sin duda tiene todo ese halo de cuento de hadas ambientado en la Inglaterra victoriana, no puedo pedir más.... ♥

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### **Piya says**

*"If I am a princess in rags and tatters, I can be a princess inside. It would be easy to be a princess if I were dressed in cloth of gold, but it is a great deal more of a triumph to be one all the time when no one knows it."*

What an adorable, heartwarming little book !! I believe this is the second classic that I have read ever( yeah, not a huge fan of classics :-)). The plot is a very simple one .But, as an old wise man once stated “Mysteries and complexities have their own charm but sometimes the simplest stories are the nicest”. Best way to sum it up!

It is the story of a little girl named Sara. She is remarkable...an intelligent, kind girl...a bit strange at times...but overall remarkable. She is super rich and her father spares no expenses to fulfill any of her

wishes. But she doesn't let it go to her head.

Will she be the same person if the circumstances were to change?? What determines what kind of a person you are? Well, no suspense here ...we find out soon enough . Something really horrible happens ...and she turns from princess to a servant overnight. What stands out though, is her unique way of dealing with these extraordinarily horrible circumstances .She uses make-beliefs to draw strength and cooks up stories to stay positive.

Well, every story needs a villain. And Oh yes ...we get the cruelest of them all- Ms. Minchin. I hated her with all my heart!

Overall, a wonderful story with a beautiful theme/ message. But I felt there were some repetitiveness and the plot was too simple. If I had been younger , probably it would have been a 5-star read . But, still it's a great book for everyone. And if you are in need for a little pick-me-up ...it's the perfect one ! ;)

***"There's nothing so strong as rage, except what makes you hold it in – that's stronger."***

Thank u Mr. Grumpy for the awesome rec and BR ! :)

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### **Jo (An Unexpected Bookish Geek) says**

This was just what I needed. This book was beautifully heart-warming, and I must confess, my heart is most certainly warmed. I remember loving the film of "A little Princess" many years ago, and it has remained a firm favourite with me. Even though the story in the film is slightly different to the original book, I enjoyed both, in a similar way. Actually, I now have a distinct urge to go and watch the film!

"If I am a princess in rags and tatters, I can be a princess inside. It would be easy to be a princess if I were dressed in cloth of gold, but it is a great deal more of a triumph to be one all the time when no one knows it."

I enjoyed the first half of the book more, in comparison to the second. Maybe this is because I feel it follows the film more, plus, there are some beautiful and incredible quotes, that really touched me. It also became apparent rather quickly, that there are many more villains in the book, which really, I think is slightly strange for a children's book. But damn, I have to say, I despised Ms Minchin. She really was such a terrible person, and each time she abused Sara, I felt quite angry inside. (Yes, some books have a profound effect on me.)

Overall, this is a wonderful story, with a prominent message, and I think I could definitely enjoy this again, at some point in the future.

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## **Yulia says**

My mother thought it completely foolish of me to buy a hardcover book and then finish it in one night (these were the days before Harry Potter and, besides, we had enough books in our house, in her opinion). But I loved owning this edition with its gorgeous images and, when I gave it to my younger cousins in Singapore, believing myself ready to part with my childhood attachment to a book I wouldn't ever forget, I did mourn its loss, though I was a teenager by then and studying the dead white male canon. I'm an awful person, I know, but when I visited my family in Singapore the year before I graduated from college, I noticed the book on their shelf and asked to see it, and my aunt, noticing how my face lit up, asked if I wanted it back.

"Really? You mean it? Is that OK?"

"Of course, why wouldn't it be?"

"Are you sure? Oh, but I'm awful. I guess I didn't know how much it meant to me. You're so wonderful. What can I give you?"

I forget what I gave them in exchange, but it certainly held no value compared to this book. Not to be too psychoanalytical, but I suppose my reclaiming the book was a silent protest against my mother (and my unconsciously wanting to reconnect with my father, from whom I'd inherited my love of books). I haven't changed much in all these years.

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## **Khadidja says**

A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett is the story of a little girl "Sara" whose father's bankruptcy and death leave her impoverished, alone, and at the mercy of the evil Miss Minchin, i didn't read the book when i was a child but i loved the animation adaptation of Burnett's book. when I did read it! Meeting the real Sara for the first time it was a completely different experience for me, It makes me feel really old :(

"Never did she find anything so difficult as to keep herself from losing her temper when she was suddenly disturbed while absorbed in a book. People who are fond of books know the feeling of irritation which sweeps over them at such a moment. The temptation to be unreasonable and snappish is one not easy to manage.

"It makes me feel as if something had hit me," Sara had told Ermengarde once in confidence. "And as if I want to hit back. I have to remember things quickly to keep from saying something ill-tempered."

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## **Carol says**

**The Hook** - My GR friend Stephanie loved this story as a child. Stephanie owns many editions of her beloved book and her re-reads of this have not disappointed her. Honestly I had never heard of it. I have read A Secret Garden and wondered why A Little Princess never made my childhood reading. I would have loved to have this read out loud to me at that age. Stephanie did suggest an audio version available on Hoopla. I may listen to a bit of this but decided to just take the plunge and found an edition on my library's

subscription to Freading.

**The Line(s)** - *"Sara often thought afterward that the house was somehow exactly like Miss Minchin. It was respectable and well furnished, but everything in it was ugly; and the very armchairs seemed to have hard bones in them."*

**The Sinker** - A Little Princess was published in 1905 by author Frances Hodgson Burnett and is suggested for audiences of 10-13 year olds. At this time of my life I was probably just leaving behind series books like Nancy Drew and Cherry Ames, just on the cusp of rolling over to more adult novels. If I had read this rags to riches story a few years earlier I am certain I would have found the imagery delightful and would have been fascinated by Sara's world, one in which she wears such beautiful clothing so descriptively described in all its finery.

Sara Crewe is quite young when the story begins. Her father, Captain Crewe, a wealthy Englishman living in India brings Sara to England for her formal schooling, leaving her in the hands of the owner, Miss Minchin. Sara's status and privilege really get under Minchin's skin and though Minchin is known to be cruel, Sara gets more than her share of her nasty disposition. But Sara remains kind, always trying to look at the bright side of life, making lemonade out of lemons so to speak. Sara's gift of storytelling, her ability to empathize with the girls who are bullied by their peers and her willingness to do what must be done, endear her to most but not all. How she becomes called Princess is key part of the story. There are marvelous characters throughout these pages, including a doll, with her divine garments and accoutrements, an attic girl named Becky, and even Melchisedec; oh, I'm not telling you who he is.

The parting of Sara and her father is very hard to witness. As the time for him to return to India grows closer it's decided that Sara will be given a new doll, but not just any doll. Her name is to be Emily and she will be Sara's friend.

"I want her to look as if she wasn't a doll really", Sara said. "I want her to look as if *she listens* when I talk to her. The trouble with dolls, papa" –and she put her head on one side and reflected as she said it—"the trouble with dolls is that they never seem to *hear*."

When Sara's father diamond mine deal fails and he suddenly dies leaving Sara penniless, her life spirals from wealth to poverty quite quickly. The change in her life and its resolution has the fairytale appeal that makes this story charming.

I'm not certain how children of today would enjoy this book. The language is old fashioned and the story doesn't have the modern zing of today's movies, TV, games or books. It is simplistic and offers much that is black or white, yet still has themes of goodness and evil to challenge discussion. And yet, given the right child, the right person to share the story with, I could see it being a beloved tale.

Thank you Stephanie. Better late than never. A Little Princess was an enchanting read.

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**Celeste says**

## **Full review now posted!**

A buddy read with my friend Missy!

Some books don't hold up well over time. Others improve with every reading. This is a book that is firmly in the latter category for me. I liked this book a lot when I was a child. I love it as an adult. Maybe I've grown to adore this book because, as I age, the premise of the book and the lessons it teaches strike my heart harder. I've never experienced highs quite as high as those Sara Crewe experiences, and I've never suffered through lows quite as low as Sara is forced to endure. But, like everyone, I have experienced triumphs and tragedies. The more I go through in my life, the more I respect little Sara Crewe, a little princess if ever there was one, and how she handled everything both happy or horrific that life threw her way. She always carried herself as the little princess she pretended to be, whether dressed in tattered rags or extravagant riches. She shared what she had with those less fortunate, even when she didn't really have enough for herself. Sara endured. And if Sara can endure, so can I. My story can be her story in the guise of my times, hidden within the setting of my life.

“Everything's a story - You are a story - I am a story.”

I don't want to say much about the story, though I know it's a classic and thus the plot is probably already known to anyone who reads this review. If you haven't read this book, please do. It's short and it's lovely and it reminds readers that the way we view ourselves and the actions spawned from that view truly matters. It also reminds us to see others as people, no matter their station in life, and to give freely. Is there any better way to wrap yourself in Christmas spirit than by remembering to give unto others as Christ gave to us? That's what Sara Crewe's story does for me.

“If nature has made you for a giver, your hands are born open, and so is your heart. And though there may be times when your hands are empty, your heart is always full, and you can give things out of that—warm things, kind things, sweet things—help and comfort and laughter—and sometimes gay, kind laughter is the best help of all.”

Merry Christmas. May you remember the true reason for the season. And if your memory should fail, let little Sara Crewe remind you.

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## **Leore Joanne Green says**

Downloaded this one in audio form from **Librivox** as well.

This is one of my all time favourite books. I first read it when I was thirteen years old and a bit of an outcast at my school and it gave me strength to move on. Her way of pretending things was very familiar to me and I got so sucked into the magic of the story.

Hearing it now, I was afraid it would prove childish, as childhood favourites often do. But to my delight it didn't. Sarah was a bit naive at times, which doesn't conflict with the fact that she's a little girl, and the story

was as charming as I remembered it.

There's a lot of moral and reproach in the book, but the author manages to keep it lighthearted, and to make you yourself wish to become a better person. This book and 'The secret garden' are much better in that way than 'Little Lord Fauntleroy', which is absolutely awful, and which I haven't even been able to finish. Here, the people are not perfect, but each is good in his own way.

And of course there's the magic transformation of the attic, which I'll always remember, but which has somehow made less of an impression on me this time than it did last.

The only thing which disturbed me was, as another person mentioned here, the hints of orientalism. But you have to remember that that was the way people thought in those times in England. You can compare in to the fact that in the 19th century most of the writers were vaguely antisemitic - you can find it in Dickens, in Verne. So just keep in mind that it was the norm at the time.

14.7.07

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### **Lee says**

*"she was always dreaming and thinking odd things and could not herself remember any time when she had not been thinking things about grown-up people and the world they belonged to. She felt as if she had lived a long, long time."*

I wished Frances Hodgson Burnett stopped explaining about Sara at this point. Because at this point, I like her already. Because at this point, I wish I read this book when I was a child. Because at this point, I start to think that Sara and I have similarities.

Sadly though, couple pages later turned my feelings to Sara 180 degrees. She is perfect. Far, far, far too perfect. Not as a child, as a human being. Whimsically pretty, kind, selfless, rich, adored, and different. Boringly perfect. Unlovable perfect.

The kind of perfect that leaves me with a feeling:

"okay, she got everything, everyone loves her, life will turn perfect for her yadda yadda yadda. So why should I give a damn about her?"

But of course, this is just temporary. I'm not even halfway reading it. Time will tell, hopefully.

\*shrugs\*

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### **emma says**

I managed to write an almost-full review of this book. It is here!: <https://emmareadstoomuch.wordpress.co...>

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I can't believe I'm saying this, but...the movie really was a better story.

Maybe I'll go watch that for the millionth time.

This book pales in comparison to The Secret Garden, but it was still good. Hard to make an über-wealthy seven-year-old seem great, but this book does it. (Burnett KILLS it with the unlikable characters!) I liked the first half better than the second, probably because, again, the movie version of the story is just a lot more entertaining.

There are also a lot more villains in the book. It's more like Sara in a sea of people who are average-to-bad, which is kind of a weird message for a children's book.

Anyway. I'm glad I finally read this, though. It was good, and if I'd read the book first I wouldn't be judging it so harshly.

Bottom line: Yeah, give it a try. Look at that goddamn cover!

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### **Hailey (HaileyinBookland) says**

Oh my goodness I absolutely adored this! This brought me right back to childhood since I loved the movie as a kid, so glad the book is just as good!!

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### **Charlotte May says**

This was actually really nice. An uplifting tale, where the heroine wins out and the villain fails (screw you Miss Minchen!)

Sara Crewe is a well off young lady, whose father sends her to a boarding school in London so she can be educated.

Despite her upbringing being given her every hearts desire, Sara doesn't act like a brat. She shares what she has with the other girls - apart from two awful jealous ones. (There's always a vindictive girl and her sidekick).

So when her father dies suddenly having lost their fortune Sara is reduced to a life of servitude and hunger. Despite this she pretends in her heart that she is a princess just going through hard times and that things will improve.

It's a wonderful story with an ending that everyone would love. It restores faith in karma and good triumphing over bad. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

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### **Lola says**

The movie based on this classic was the first one ever gifted to me and that when I was eight years old. I've always had a thing for princess stories. They're usually so beautiful and this is no exception.

Although, Sara is not really a princess. But, seeing the way she acts with others, you may possibly think she is. She is kind, generous, and very mature for her age. When I first saw the movie, I was shocked. It was

beautiful yet so sad and poignant and the little eight-year-old girl that I was did not understand everything. To be honest, the ending of the movie is quite abrupt and not very well-explained while in the book it is.

That said, reading the book was way better than watching the movie, as it usually is with classics and books in general. Everything is clear and explained and you get to see, even more, how Sara is one admirable girl and that she is someone people don't forget after crossing her path. The things she does are impressive and the fact that she thinks about others before herself even more. She's the kind of person I wish to become one day.

Every sort of character is included in this story from the kindest to the coldest one. Miss Minchin was quite something. I rarely see such a woman that can be so cruel and cold-hearted. It's very hard to like her but that doesn't mean that her character was a weakness to the story since we need villains. The world and people living in it aren't perfect and she, and some others, are the proof of it.

The story was wonderful and sad but it wasn't what you may call a masterpiece. It was a good one, even though the plot has some repetitiveness. That's why I can't bring myself to give it a five star rating. Have I read this book when I was younger, I probably would have loved it even more but the seventeen-year-old that I am has read many other classics and must admit that this wasn't comparable to Pride and Prejudice's or Of Mice and Men's plot quality for example (even though I know those are very different stories.) Although, the reason why I still liked this so much is because of all the beautiful themes that are included in the story. They can be heart-warming and at the same time heart-breaking but definitely *definitely* beautiful.

The writing was very good and the atmosphere powerful. I've also read, by this author, The Secret Garden which I enjoyed although not as much as this one. Still, I can tell that this author had such a talent in creating and writing stories. I wish she was still alive for someone that has written such a story sure must be a kind and intelligent person.

By the way, a reason why I don't hurry to read every classic existing is because I want to still have some to read when I'll be sixty years old for they are, each one of them, precious and there aren't that many of them, sadly.

A Little Princess deserves, in my opinion, to be read by every person in this world, boy or girl, man or woman. It is for everyone. If you're looking for another classic with similar themes, you might want to check out Little Women as well, which was *wonderful wonderful wonderful*.

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