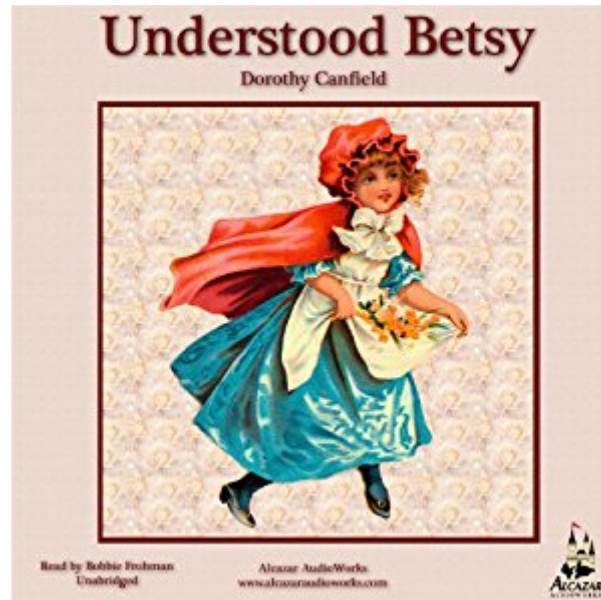




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# Understood Betsy



## Synopsis

Elizabeth Ann was orphaned at an early age and raised by her maiden aunts in the busy city. Sudden illness forces the aunts to send Betsy to other relatives, The Putnams, who live in the country on a farm. Betsy learns all about the farm and making butter and applesauce and dearly loves her new life. When one of the aunts comes back and wants to take Betsy back to the city. . . such a dilemma! Children can readily relate to Betsy who is a real girl in a real world where fortune seems to direct her life. She so loves being on the farm and doing all the things a farm girl does, including going to school. When fate again intervenes and tries to take her away from the life she loves, some manner of common sense hitcomes into play and Betsy, though torn, bounds into another day of farmlife, full of caring love for all she comes in contact with, and grows into a beautiful young lady. Table of Contents: Chapter 01. Aunt Harriet Has a Cough Chapter 02. Betsy Holds the Reins Chapter 03. A Short Morning Chapter 04. Betsy Goes to School Chapter 05. What Grade is Betsy? Chapter 06. If You Don't Like Conversation in a Book Skip this Chapter! Chapter 07. Elizabeth Ann Fails in an Examination Chapter 08. Betsy Starts a Sewing Society Chapter 09. The New Clothes Fail Chapter 10. Betsy Has a Birthday Chapter 11. "Understood Aunt Frances"

Dorothy Canfield Dorothea Frances Canfield (1879-1958) was an American author and both an child and adult educational activist. Canfield worked closely with Maria Monterssori in Italy, and was greatly influential in promoting education in the United States. Dorothy Canfield was born in Kansas, but her family traveled as her father's academic career progressed, he eventually became president of Ohio State University. Canfield settled in Vermont with her husband and children, and continued writing professionally.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My mother read it to us when we were children and I've read it to my children and I'm sure they will read it to their children. I still read it as a comfort book just to myself and have been delighted to pass it on to my grandchildren. The life issues a very young girl must face and grow through are heart wrenching and heart warming. I love stories about magnificent changes people grow through, and in this book it isn't just about the changes and growth of understanding Elizabeth Ann goes through, but the changes she brings to the lives of others around her.

Understood Betsy by Dorothy Cranfield Fisher is not only a wonderful story, it is an excellent example of superior fiction writing for adults and children alike. The story of a little orphan girl's experiences when moving from her overprotective aunts in the city to her very practical cousins in the country is not only a feel good tale; it is also very helpful for the beginner in child rearing. Betsy's adventures also introduce the inexperienced to the importance of self reliance and this is important because sometimes in life there is no one there to help you and not enough people ever learn this when they are young and some don't get old because they didn't. The cadence of the writing makes this a wonderful book to read out loud to younger children and its simplicity makes it a great gift for older children who can read it by themselves. It is a great story that adults can enjoy right along with the children. The literary quality of the writing made me realize how much I miss it in most modern literature.

This book, written in 1917 I believe, first off was written by a very astute woman that was revolutionary in the US Montessori educational movement. I found that out the second time I read the book. She write of a young girl loved, but very coddled by her over protective aunts who are raising her because she is orphaned. Something happened where she winds up with her cousins in Vermont, people who her aunts frown upon for they seem "cold" in their views of raising children. Well nothing could be further from the truth. Betsy's Vermont experience teaches her how to use her brain to problem solve, how to make decisions, how to think for herself... And for the first time ever Betsy no longer fears life from her aunts fearful perspective, but she is happy and finds the true meaning of love. She really finds herself and likes who she is. I highly recommend this book!!

I find myself reading this book once a year or so. It has lost none of the charm I found in it as a child and I am moved every time I visit. I remember seeing the small moments of Elizabeth Ann's "waking" as a child and understanding them for myself. I remember from those learning what learning really was. I still love these characters.

I first read this book when I was a small child and loved it; I couldn't count the times I've read it since then, and I still love it. It is the story of Elizabeth Ann, orphaned as an infant, who is raised by various kind and well-meaning family members, and the ways their different methods of child-rearing affect the girl's development into young adulthood. While the book was written soon after the dawn of the 20th century and some of the narrative reflects that era, the modern reader should still find the story engaging, and be able to understand the author's thoughtful views on the education (both formal and familial) of young children. A young reader will join Betsy in her journey as she works through the various fears and experiences of childhood, while a parent or teacher will learn much about their roles in helping or guiding that child through them - how much help is enough, and how much help is too much. It is interesting to note that the author was a devotee of Maria Montessori, who based her famous school on the belief that a child's true education flourishes in environments that encourage freedom and opportunity for self-direction. I would recommend this book to anyone.

First of all the edition that shows a wall with pictures on is abridged! I tried really hard to get one unabridged. I didn't even realize till i went to use it with another child.I bought another one that is unabridged and it has a wax seal on the front cover and looks like a page was torn on the front.This is a very gentle read about an overprotected girl who moves from the city to a small town farm. Its delightful watching Betsy really come into her own and there were some parts where I was moved to tears.Wonderful read and like stepping back in time.

A lovely book. One of my favorites as a child and now my daughter's favorite. Heartwarming, funny and gentle, it celebrates a young girl's emotional growth through love of family. A classic.

This was one of my favorite books when I was a child. It's lost none of its charm in the last 40 years. Elizabeth Ann is the foster daughter of her aunt and her cousin in an unspecified Midwestern city. Aunt and cousin dote on her, and are more than a little overprotective -- the cousin is what we would call nowadays a "helicopter mother". When the aunt becomes ill and must move to the desert to

recuperate, Elizabeth Ann is forced to go to "the Putney cousins", who live on a farm in Vermont. The taciturn but kindly Putneys gently but firmly force Elizabeth Ann to stand on her own two feet, and become the strong and self-reliant Betsy. As a 21st century urban mom, I am more than a little amused to see that the debate over the best way and place to raise children hasn't really changed in the last century. This is a book I strongly recommend to pre-teen girls. This Kindle version does have a few problems: illustrations are referred to, but aren't present, and there are several mis-spellings. Otherwise, two thumbs, way up.

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