



Beautiful Girlhood

Karen Andreola (Revised by), Mabel Hale

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This revised 1922 classic offers gentle guidance for preteen and teenage girls on how to become a godly woman. Full of charm and sentiment, it will help mother and daughter establish a comfortable rapport for discussions about building character, friendships, obedience, high ideals, a cheerful spirit, modest dress, a pure heart, and a consecrated life.

Beautiful Girlhood Details

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Jodi says

This was an enjoyable yet convicting study aimed at adolescent girls. It's an older book, written in a classic style with old-fashioned speech and has a quaint and appealing effect. As I read it I was somewhat shamed, as I lack or struggle with many of the characteristics laid out for girls to cultivate in preparation for womanhood. It's very Victorian, so while it feels old-fashioned as far as its relevance present-day, it's also extraordinarily timeless and its bygone era in no way diminishes the importance of the character qualities it promotes.

I found that grown-up ladies can benefit just as greatly from the message of this book as young ladies can, and that it's never too late to become what one should have been, in the matter of character. This would be a great book for moms and their girls to study together; I'm assuming it would be most effective with girls who have been exposed to and enjoy classic literature and quaint speech. I plan to read this with my own daughter a few years hence.

In the meantime, I feel encouraged in my own daily grind to become nobler and gentler, and pursue more actively the qualities that I lack.

junia says

Susan bought this for me for my 20th birthday.

As I read it, I am not only carried away by the beautiful prose and lyrical instruction, but I am also thankful for the wisdom that age carries and passes down to its young.

"I would not chill the warmth and ardor of happy girlhood. What if I do know that the clouds and storms of life are just ahead and that its cares will bend her back and break her heart! Would they be any less if she knew? Soon enough the sorrows and pain will come. Laugh and play now, for this is your day. Dream your bright and happy dreams, and aspire to your lofty heights. I should be a pessimist indeed if I saw evil in the radiant dreams and fair hopes that now brighten your skies and make your path light." (13-14)

Certain parts, i disagreed with, yet I had to check myself to see if what I disagreed with was due to the cultural disparities or because it checked at my conscience. There were quite a few times of conscience pricks, yet there were also times where I felt the claims she made were too large and unsupported (ie// (second to being a wife and mother) "there is no nobler profession for any girl to choose than that of a teacher").

Overall, I am charmed by the optimism and love in this book, there were many times i wrinkled my nose at it, but I definitely have to check myself and see if what I protest at is due to the counter cultural claims or because it is wrong.

Bambi Moore says

Read this aloud with my 13-year-old. We read the original version, maybe the revised version is better. Some timeless wisdom but much is law with no gospel. One chapter mentions Christ and some chapters mention a vague "God" and he is depicted only as judge. It's a useful book for young ladies (and interesting to note how much culture has changed since it was written!) but we followed most chapters up with more discussion on law and grace.

Morgan says

I wish I'd read this when I was around 11. Even though I'm past the target age, I did still get a lot of worth out of it, and now I'm prepared to use it with my own future daughters.

Jessica says

I'm sure this book would have been very helpful to girls in the early 20th century, but not now. I'm a 14 year old girl and I would feel really silly acting the way this book suggests. It's not really Biblical like it claims it's just old fashioned. I mean who honestly would expect girls these days to dress and act like girls from 100 years ago? This book may be helpful to some people, but definitely not me.

Lisa says

Emma and I are reading this together....so far, so good. This is a much easier read than Raising Maidens of Virtue.

Stephanie says

Read this to the kids at lunchtime. This book was kind of all over the place for me, but overall I appreciated how it brought up many different areas to talk about and train my children in -- some that I hadn't thought much about yet. It covers friendship, modesty, industriousness, choosing a job, and lots of chapters about what it means to be a woman of virtue. Often the chapters were beautifully put, and I had to choke back a few tears. Many times I had to paraphrase the antiquated language because I could tell it was flying right over their heads. My biggest letdown, however, was that although this is a Christian book, I cannot think of a single occurrence when it mentioned Jesus Christ. A lot of the chapters were 100% legalistic moralism and did not take into account the fact that my children are depraved sinners. So I was again left to paraphrase and add in the gospel.

Dixie Lee says

"None of us can afford to be anything but what is good and pure and true!" A great book to read with your growing daughter to help her understand the changes in her body and spirit. Beautifully written.

Bookworm says

Had some good points and lessons; I found it best reading two to three chapters only at a time.

Carolyn Page says

This book has been touted among the conservative Christian homeschool cum-patriarchal movement as a great book to make your daughters study. Eh! It's just a nice book, a good little book of manners from the 1920s (written, I'm sure, with the thought of dissuading would-be flappers before they hit high school). I liked it, I've read better, but it's a good book of its type (vintage manners).

Sarah says

While this book provides an interesting study of early 20th Century ideals, I would definitely take its advice with a grain of salt. Beautiful Girlhood, first published in the 1920's and then edited in the 1990's is popular among homeschool and Christian school girls. I've had a copy since about 1999 and never read it until now. For a book on Christian character for pre-teen and early teen girls, it falls flat, in my opinion. This is mainly due to the fact that scripture references are sparse, often taken out of context, and the advice given is 99% the authoress' own option rather than the Bible-based council it is presented to be. As such, it is very much a product of the time in which it was written. Some of what the authoress has to say is good advice, for instances her focus on purposeful character building. Other advice is extremely dated, such as the discussions on dress, going out, and preparing for a life's work. Most modern girls in the target age group will tend to throw the baby out with the bathwater and reject the entire book as nonsense, so I think the book is best left for group settings where the positives and negatives can be thoughtfully discussed. That said, there are much better books out there for this age group.

Susan Callahan says

You think this book is for young ladies. I am 53 and wanted to read this along with my 18 year old daughter. I learned so much. I was not raised in a Christian home and learned so much from this book. You are never too old to learn.

Nickie says

This little treasure is just what I'm needing. I have a desire to start a group for girls and I am finding ideas left and right.

This is a small treasure. Yet I have had ideas for a momschool club come to my mind and I think it's a little early yet for my girls or maybe not. As I prepare myself I'll probably find the times has passed quickly and my girls are ready.

Every character of personality and the development of girlhood into young womanhood is covered.

I wish I could give a copy to all women.

Katelyn Buxton says

I read this a long, long time ago with my mom and sister for school, and let's just say, a lot of what I read was lost on me. (I was 7, 8, 9... somewhere in there.) It kind of disgusted me at the time, when I was really rather a tomboy. xD But what I do remember now was some great advice, and I'm glad I read it, even if it was torture to my younger self. :P

Justine says

this book is really good and its great for bible stuy too!! I love it!!
