



The Betsy-Tacy Companion: A Biography of Maud Hart Lovelace

Sharla Scannell Whalen

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Covers each of the Betsy-Tacy books and the autobiographical events from the series. Includes over 400 photos of Lovelace and friends and family members who appear as characters in these books.

The Betsy-Tacy Companion: A Biography of Maud Hart Lovelace Details

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From Reader Review The Betsy-Tacy Companion: A Biography of Maud Hart Lovelace for online ebook

Bethany says

Augh! I really would love to read this, but so far the most affordable price I've found on the internet is about \$80. Which is pretty good, sadly, considering the prices are generally somewhere between \$100 and \$200.

incredibly long sigh

I'm adding this to my list whose title is simply: "Books I Shall Continue to Scour the Net for Continuously as the Years March On".

I really need my own publishing company. And a couple million dollars to buy publishing rights &c.

Courtney says

Never has a better biography been written. The author did some hardcore thorough research and boy did it pay off. I haven't even read it in quite a while but it does my heart good just thinking about it. Oh Sharla Whalen, if only I could be like you. I am forever thankful.

Sarah Moore says

The pictures are neat, but the writing is tons of boring blah. I wish there was a better MHL bio out there.

Priscilla says

This is one of the best biographies I have ever read. The author's research is so thorough and it was so fun to read about the real people behind the Betsy-Tacy series.

Lily says

So Sharla is crazy, and a borderline stalker, but this was really fun to read. I think I'm the only person to really appreciate this. A lot of good information (Winona was actually modeled on a few different people, but Maud Hart Lovelace decided to cut down on her characters. Or maybe it was Irma...I should reread it) and a lot of stupid information (dates were recorded wrong! Silly Maud Hart Lovelace!) But it was SUCH a great present (thanks Soph!)

Kathleen Garlock says

I love all the Betsy-Tacy books. I always have and I always will. As a young girl growing up in Minnesota in the 1970's, I wanted nothing more in the world than to find a way to go back in time and change the immortal trio of Betsy, Tacy and Tib into a quartet.

As I grew older, I realized that Maud Hart Lovelace, with her warmth, generosity and writing talent, had given thousands of girls, and maybe some boys too, the opportunity of being that unseen, but very welcome and important fourth member. And when I was young, I believed the stories I was reading, because they felt so real and were filled with such love; were Maud Hart's life as she had actually lived it. With only the names having been changed to protect those truly innocent characters.

To my delight, after reading Ms Whalen's meticulously researched book I learned while much of the novels were based on real life and events, much had been changed and evolved to create a richer reading experience. Being as familiar as I was with the stories and the characters, I found the photos and stories; maps and memorabilia contained inside The Betsy-Tacy Companion as delightful and precious as if they were truly a part of my girlhood.

Like any greedy girl, I wish more information had been available to Ms Whalen, but I can whole-heartedly recommend this book to anyone who has enjoyed the Betsy-Tacy books and wishes to learn more about the family and the friends upon whom this series is lovingly based.

Thank you Ms Whalen, for letting me see the true faces and names of the characters I've loved for so long. And most of all; thank you Maud Hart Lovelace for sharing them with us. See you in Deep Valley!

P.S. I still want to change that immortal trio to a quartet. Maudie, Bick, Midge and Kathy. Has kind of a ring to it, don't you think?

Sab says

Have read all the volume-related excerpts attached to each book in the series; the full BT Companion is winging its way to me from Amazon as we speak. Expect full and totally uncritical review slash Mankato travelogue posthaste.

Elizabeth Buckner says

So I've read this more than once and it was still interesting again. Definitely for the diehard Betsy fan. We just visited Mankato to see Betsy's house and now I want to read the whole series again!?

Michelle says

Well. I'm certainly not surprised that I LOVED this book. It was five hundred pages of details and visits about "old friends" of mine, about whom I read in the Betsy-Tacy books. Since the books so closely

paralleled MHL's own life, author Sharla Scannell Whalen pointed out the similarities and differences and, deliciously, filled out "the rest of the story" I simply couldn't put this book down--I inhaled it over the weekend. The author is a true Betsy-Tacy fan--one of the very fortunate little girls whose library had a set of Betsy-Tacy books. I feel great pity for all the little girls whose library did not. (My own family library now has a full set, but I can't convince my sons to read them! sigh)

If I had to rate the "series" that I read obsessively as a little girl (Little House, Betsy-Tacy, Little Women, Nancy Drew, Anne of Green Gables) Betsy-Tacy would probably come very very close to tying Little House for first place. I reread this series at least once a year for years. I wanted to be more like Betsy--more outgoing, less afraid. I too used a small trunk as a writing desk (although I never had the courage to send a story or poem out to anyone)

The characters from Betsy-Tacy are almost as real to me as my own friends were. I find it interesting that of the above series, three were at least partially autobiographical, and all three of those had characters who set up permanent residence in my imagination and heart. So did Anne. While I loved Nancy Drew books, I rarely imagined Nancy as a friend.

Anyway. Loved this book. Any Betsy-Tacy fan ought to.

Chiara says

I had to go to the library for this out-of-print book, but it was worth it. Just like, a 500 page wikipedia entry for the Betsy-Tacy books (with pictures!!!), which is just what I wanted. Separately, it was fun/interesting to look up all the old-houses on Google Earth....

June Geiger says

I will be *currently re-reading* this book for as long as I live. For the Betsy-Tacy obsessed only. Others will shake their heads at all the "needless" details and "random" information:)

Dawn says

Every true Maud Hart Lovelace fan should own a copy of this book and take it with you when you visit Mankato, Minnesota!

Wendy says

Honestly, I think the Companion is a little bit embarrassing. There are also times when I disagree with Whalen's interpretation of events (within the text, that is)--which is fine, we know from group reads that we all read the text differently at times--but Whalen puts it forward as the only way to read it.

Back when the Companion was only a rumored future-project we were all excited, and it was exciting to find out some "what really happened" stuff when it first came out, but now I realize how much more interesting it is just to read the books, as-is. The editing is REALLY bad, and I found that once I got over the feeling of

"it's so interesting to know what happened to people!", there wasn't much left of interest. There's an inordinate amount of text on things I couldn't care less about (not that I remember any examples, really... the houses of minor characters, stuff like that) and some interesting things that go unexplored. I would be more interested in a thoughtful analysis of the books, with SOME "what's real/what's not", than what's practically a laundry list of "really were" and "really did".

Linda says

I love Maud Hart Lovelace and Betsy-Tacy. Maud is a great author who wrote such a wonderful series of book that unfortunately not enough people have read. I loved learning more about Maud and her family and friends. LOVED IT!

Jan says

Ultimately interesting to Maudophiles. I would have rated it higher if she hadn't dissed Aunt Dolly.
