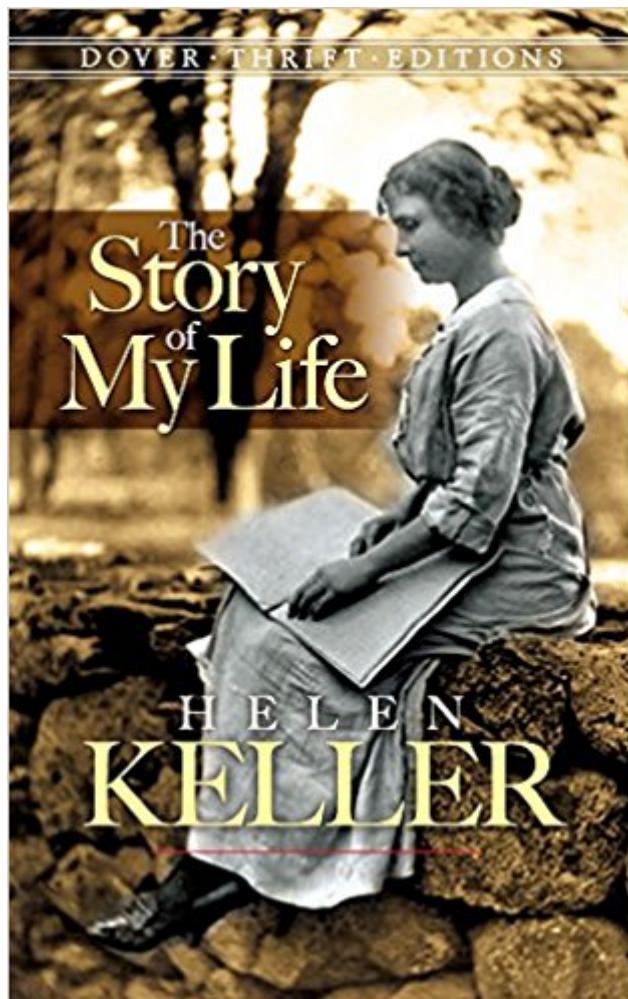


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The Story Of My Life



Synopsis

When she was 19 months old, Helen Keller (1880–1968) suffered a severe illness that left her blind and deaf. Not long after, she also became mute. Her tenacious struggle to overcome these handicaps-with the help of her inspired teacher, Anne Sullivan-is one of the great stories of human courage and dedication. In this classic autobiography, first published in 1903, Miss Keller recounts the first 22 years of her life, including the magical moment at the water pump when, recognizing the connection between the word "water" and the cold liquid flowing over her hand, she realized that objects had names. Subsequent experiences were equally noteworthy: her joy at eventually learning to speak, her friendships with Oliver Wendell Holmes, Edward Everett Hale and other notables, her education at Radcliffe (from which she graduated cum laude), and-underlying all-her extraordinary relationship with Miss Sullivan, who showed a remarkable genius for communicating with her eager and quick-to-learn pupil. These and many other aspects of Helen Keller's life are presented here in clear, straightforward prose full of wonderful descriptions and imagery that would do credit to a sighted writer. Completely devoid of self-pity, yet full of love and compassion for others, this deeply moving memoir offers an unforgettable portrait of one of the outstanding women of the twentieth century.

Book Information

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Age Range: 11 and up

Grade Level: 6 and up

Customer Reviews

Helen Keller would not be bound by conditions. Rendered deaf and blind at 19 months by scarlet fever, she learned to read (in several languages) and even speak, eventually graduating with honors from Radcliffe College in 1904, where as a student she wrote *The Story of My Life*. That she accomplished all of this in an age when few women attended college and the disabled were often relegated to the background, spoken of only in hushed tones, is remarkable. But Keller's many other achievements are impressive by any standard: she authored 13 books, wrote countless articles, and devoted her life to social reform. An active and effective suffragist, pacifist, and socialist (the latter association earned her an FBI file), she lectured on behalf of disabled people everywhere. She also helped start several foundations that continue to improve the lives of the deaf and blind around the world. As a young girl Keller was obstinate, prone to fits of violence, and seething with rage at her inability to express herself. But at the age of 7 this wild child was transformed when, at the urging of Alexander Graham Bell, Anne Sullivan became her teacher, an event she declares "the most important day I remember in all my life." (Sullivan herself had once been blind, but partially recovered her sight after a series of operations.) In a memorable passage, Keller writes of the day "Teacher" led her to a stream and repeatedly spelled out the letters w-a-t-e-r on one of her hands while pouring water over the other. This method proved a revelation: "That living world awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free! There were barriers still, it is true, but barriers that could in time be swept away." And, indeed, most of them were. In her lovingly crafted and deeply perceptive autobiography, Keller's joyous spirit is most vividly expressed in her connection to nature: Indeed, everything that could hum, or buzz, or sing, or bloom, had a part in my education.... Few know what joy it is to feel the roses pressing softly into the hand, or the beautiful motion of the lilies as they sway in the morning breeze. Sometimes I caught an insect in the flower I was plucking, and I felt the faint noise of a pair of wings rubbed together in a sudden terror.... The idea of feeling rather than hearing a sound, or of admiring a flower's motion rather than its color, evokes a strong visceral sensation in the reader, giving *The Story of My Life* a subtle power and beauty. Keller's celebration of discovery becomes our own. In the end, this blind and deaf woman succeeds in sharpening our eyes and ears to the beauty of the world. --Shawn Carkonen --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

More than a 100th-anniversary reprint, this book was reedited by literary scholar Roger Shattuck and Keller biographer Dorothy Hermann to include excised material. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Very well written and very inspiring. I wish awesome wasn't the only word I can come up with. It moved my soul.

The second book of the Mitford series doesn't disappoint. Instead, we get to further become a part of this wonderful town and the beautifully crafted characters created by Jan Karon. I highly recommend it.

Jan Karon somehow manages to take readers into a different world, a gracious world of charm and great beauty. Mitford is a wonderful town, in a gorgeous location. The seasons, the foods, the flowers and the weather are almost like characters in themselves. This is not a book about physically perfect people, but real people with weaknesses and strengths who are willing to engage in and better each others lives. To some, the town may be idealistic, but there is actually significant complexity when it combines to the emotions of uncertainty and excitement that often come with romantic love.

Helen and her teacher, Anne Sullivan, must have both been blessed by God with incredible intelligence. Ms. Sullivan, without any formal teaching training, found ways to teach Helen that were unknown before that time. Helen's grasp of intangible concepts leave me shaking my head in awe. The book combines third party accounts, along with Ms. Sullivan's reports, her personal letters, Helen's autobiography, and her letters, in a way that takes the reader through all the phases of Helen's lifelong learning experience. I have shared stories from this book with friends in casual conversation more than any other book I have read in recent years, because the tale is just so extraordinary. I highly recommend "The Story of My Life" for anyone who has a fascination with learning.

Great book. You want to know more about each character. You grow to love them and their town. Can't put it down once you start.

If you've read the first one in this series, then you know that this is a continuation of the saga of Father Timothy (a bachelor until in his sixties), his dog, his young charge, Dooley, and his next door neighbor/love, Cynthia. It's a sweet, feel good, lull you to sleep read. There's also a lot of good advice and life lessons within Father Tim's way of handling life's little upsets. Reading these books

kinda makes me wish I lived in Mitford. FYI, my usual fare is Robert B. Parker, Patterson, John Connolly, Anita Shreve and the like. The Mitford series is total opposite of these authors' stories, but good for reducing stress levels. :-)

I have read this book before and no doubt will read again. Jan Karon has a way of capturing your heart with the characters . They become your holesome friends, with whom you want to spend time .

A brief but fairly complete synopsis of the life and times of Helen Keller.

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