



Before Scarlett: Girlhood Writings of Margaret Mitchell

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These journal entries and fiction pieces paint a picture of a precocious, imaginative young girl growing up in early twentieth century Atlanta, a member of a family that was considered part of the city's 'old guard'. The Mitchell family lived in a sprawling, two-story Victorian home with a deep, cool porch where Margaret liked to sit and read. When she was 12, Margaret's family moved to a Colonial Revival-style mansion situated on a fashionable stretch of Peachtree Street. The budding writer made fast friends with a tight-knit group of boys and girls in her new neighbourhood and school, and many of her writings were about the exploits of her gang. Later, at the Washington Seminary, school for girls, Mitchell was president of the literary society, literary editor of the yearbook, and acted in several drama club productions. 'It's really amazing, the way Margaret could write without making corrections, even at such a young age.' says Eskridge. 'She was just a wonderful storyteller, and this collection fleshes in parts of her life that nobody has ever had access to before. I think it will inspire many people to go back and read 'Gone With the Wind', and learn more about Mitchell as a person. I especially hope young adults enjoy the book, too and draw inspiration from Margaret's early frustrations vis-a-vis the ultimate success she enjoyed. Hopefully, this collection will inspire the next Margaret Mitchell.'

Before Scarlett: Girlhood Writings of Margaret Mitchell Details

Date : Published May 1st 2000 by Hill Street Press (first published 2000)

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Elizabeth says

Before Scarlett: Girlhood Writings of Margaret Mitchell (Hardcover)
by Margaret Mitchell

Sarah Bierle says

An insightful book sharing the early writings and imagination of Margaret Mitchell. Some the stories reveal some common literary threads which appeared in her award-winning novel "Gone With The Wind." There's good commentary from the editors to help readers understand Margaret's youth, education, and familial influences.

Candice says

I love Gone With the Wind, so this book was a great choice for me. Liked it a lot, except it was excerpts from her writings so some were incomplete, frustrating because they are great stories. A must read for Gone With the Wind fans.

June Geiger says

This has become one of my eternal beach books, because MY beach was actually one of MM's summer haunts as a teenager. I'm a distracted beach reader so these letters, journal entries, essays and stories make perfect light reading to snack on every summer. Just a lot of fun.

rinabeana says

Many of the stories and journal entries are incomplete, so just when I was getting interested the story would end abruptly. It was really interesting to see how she evolved as a writer. I subsequently reread *Gone with the Wind* and she's definitely refined her writing style!

Lia says

Delightful and charming though I can't help but feel a bit guilty reading these stories knowing she wished to have them destroyed. But they show a young girl's innate creativity and talent, and ambition "to become someone famous" as she always wanted as a child. The collection also shows her gift for fleshing out

characters against historical backdrops which was perfected in "Gone With The Wind".

Quirkyreader says

"Before Scarlet" was a wonderful piece of juvenilia by Margaret Mitchell. It showed the origins of her writing style, that developed in to the full blown epic known as "Gone With The Wind". One of the most enjoyable aspects of this work was reading the historical notes that were in the front of each writing vignette. As well as seeing pictures of Mitchell in her youth.

This book is a good introduction to Mitchell's work and should be read before diving into GWTW.

Jessica says

This wasn't quite as interesting as I expected. I liked reading about her childhood and early life, but the stories have never been fully restored and much was missing out of many of them.

Kris - My Novelesque Life says

Review to come

Ali says

My mom wrote this book, but it's actually interesting! Her hubbie (my stepdad)'s family was friends with Margaret Mitchell and these are the only early writings to survive b/c she burned everything else...

Nancy says

It was fun to see that Margaret had been writing since a child. So glad these little stories were saved for posterity. As an Atlantan, this needs to be on your reading list - if only to show you know the place Margaret holds in our history.
