



Sara Crewe, Or What Happened At Miss Minchin's

Frances Hodgson Burnett

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1888. Burnett, began as a novelist, but she is now best remembered for her children's books including *Sara Crewe* (which was later rewritten to become *The Little Princess*).

It begins: In the first place, Miss Minchin lived in London. Her home was a large, dull, tall one, in a large, dull square, where all the houses were alike, and all the sparrows were alike, and where all the door-knockers made the same heavy sound, and on still days-and nearly all the days were still-seemed to resound through the entire row in which the knock was knocked. On Miss Minchin's door there was a brass plate. On the brass plate there was described in black letters, Miss Minchin's Select Seminary for Young Ladies.

Sara Crewe, Or What Happened At Miss Minchin's Details

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Author : Frances Hodgson Burnett

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From Reader Review *Sara Crewe, Or What Happened At Miss Minchin's* for online ebook

classic reverie says

When reading Olive Higgins Prouty's "Now Voyager" last year, I first learned of *Sara Crewe*. "I'll enlighten you then. Did you ever read a book when you were a child called *Sara Crewe*?" "I don't think so, but the name sounds familiar." "Well, *Sara Crewe*," she began, picking her words slowly the better to express her self-contempt, "was a poor, pathetic creature who had no friends, and only a few ugly clothes. She lived a dreary existence on a bare garret until a nice, rich, old gentleman came along one day, and took pity on the poor thing."

I placed the book on my "to read" list not knowing that I had seen bits and pieces of Shirley Temple's Little Princess movie based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's story. This last weekend I watched the whole movie and saw it was based on her novel. Finding out that this was the short story that was expanded into the book "The Little Princess", I decided to read this first and than the book. The long and short is described in Prouty's book and not wanting to say more but it was different than the movie yet the same in the sense. It was a wonderful read and this Kindle edition had no errors and very easy to read as any Kindle. When I saw the Kindle description, I was not sure if this was going to be photocopied, which it was not. The last part of the Kindle from 66% on had book advertisements from 1891 or the time of this publishing. I will come back and comment after reading the book.

After reading "A Little Princess" I see how well Frances Hodgson Burnett had stayed true to this novelette and how the movie differed. See my review of " A Little Princess ", if interested.

Anastasya Harahap says

I really love to read this novel. I love how strong *Sara* is and how kind *Sara* is. Because *Sara* still kind-hearted although she knows that she is a rich girl. Burnett made me hate Miss Minchin's, evil chef, Lavinia and her friends. But, in the other side the story made us (reader) knew about the means of friendship with *Sara*'s relationship with Becky, Lottie and other kind-friends. If there is *Sara* in this world. I will be the first person who fall in love with her. YOU MUST READ THIS NOVEL, FOR SURE.

Aubrey Hansen says

After enjoying "A Little Princess" for many years, I was surprised to discover it had originally been published serially as a novella in a magazine. It was very interesting to read the original novella and see the story that inspired my favorite novel. Not surprisingly, the novella isn't as charming or complete as the novel, but it is still a fun read.

An older review salvaged from my blog archives:

As the predecessor to *A Little Princess*, the novella *Sara Crewe* is a simplified shadow of the novel it would later inspire. It relates the brief version of *Sara*'s journey from wealthy to poor and back again, scratching only the surface of the rich characters. Lovers of Burnett's full-length novel will enjoy comparing the

differences between the two versions, but in and of itself the novella has little literary value. The story does not have as much charm as the novel, nor is Sara as likable of a heroine. The moral implications, which are handled better in the longer version, are all-but nonexistent in the novella. Overall, it is less lovable and engrossing than the extended tale.

Elaine says

A Little Princess is one of my all-time favorite books, but I had never read the original story, *Sara Crewe*. (*A Little Princess* was a rewrite of *Sara Crewe*.) I enjoy the rewrite so much that this book wasn't as entertaining, I missed some of my favorite characters, yet the basic part of the story was there and that I did enjoy. I wish I would have read this first, then *A Little Princess*. If you've read neither, I recommend starting with this book.

Sara says

Thank goodness for Goodreads recommendations! I had this paperback but I got it used so 1/2 the cover was torn off but I remembered the psychedelic coloring. I remembered a book about a girl named Sara who was forced to live in the attic. I liked the book but unfortunately I don't remember much about it.

Brian Collins says

Another telling of "A Little Princess." The story is still worth reading and still has lessons to learn.

Natashio says

I love to read but am not much of a writer so I know I'll follow short in describing how much this book means to me.

I don't remember when or how I got the book, but I do remember when I read it for the first time. There's something about this little novella that absolutely makes time and space stop. The reader is instantly transported to another time and place where Sara Crewe, a once privileged and spoiled child is left destitute and at the hands of Miss Minchin. I haven't read the book in years and still vividly the description of her black mourning dress after her father passes and even more vividly of Miss Minchin's cold, clammy hands. I would read and reread the descriptions and lose myself in that world.

I can't recommend this book highly enough. I can't give it credit for my initial love of reading, but I can for it cementing that love in place.

Kikat says

I preferred "a little princess" more.

Emily says

Sara Crewe, or What Happened at Miss Minchin's, the original version of The Little Princess. Sara Crewe was written in 1888 and FHB didn't revise it into A Little Princess until 1905. All those years and people only had this small novella about a girl whose fortunes are double-reversed. It's an interesting read and an astute reader with a love of A Little Princess would pick up thousands more little tweaks than I did. An angry Sara knocks Emily to the ground. In ALP, Sara is so dedicated to her pretensions that she maintains her steadfastness through the deepest privations. An angry Sara is a more human Sara, although she's less appealing as the friends who sustain her in her isolation are not here. No Becky, no Lottie. Ermengarde has a chapter, but her only characteristic is "stupid," and I'm not just saying that. FHB calls her stupid eight or nine times. The bakery episode is almost untouched; characters keep mentioning the French Revolution; and FHB coasts through the end, where all the best parts are. An interesting insight into a work in its middle state.

<http://surfeitofbooks.blogspot.com/20...>

Sarah Crawford says

This is an absolutely wonderful book.

The story takes place in London at a place called Miss Minchin's Seminary for Young Ladies. Sara was placed into the school when she was eight. Her mother was dead and her father had been in India and felt it was not a good climate for her. Later her father dies but not before he had lost all his money. The head of the school will allow Sara to stay there, though.

However, Sara cannot room with the regular students any more but is put in the attic. She can't even attend classes with the other students and has to run errands and basically learn her subjects on her own. She has no friends at all except her doll.

A good quote: "There's nothing so strong as rage, except what makes you hold it in—that's stronger."

Sara loves to read and is very good at telling people things in a way that they will understand them. She is also a wonderful person and one time when she is very hungry finds a girl in worse shape than her. She finds a coin and buys some buns and gives almost all of them to the girl.

One night she is horribly worn out from being worked to hard and being mistreated by virtually everyone at the school. She gets to her room and finds it totally transformed into a warm, comfortable place instead of the cold, harsh room it had been. Good things continue to happen to her room and to her

Matters change incredibly for Sara, though, and she doesn't forget the poor child outside the bun shop that she helped feed.

Jukka says

Sara Crewe - Frances Hodgson Burnett

Really loved this. It's novella size, and more fairy-tale than realism in style though i'm not sure that was entirely the author's intent. There are a few rough spots, perhaps from dated perspectives -- for instance referring to Lascar as a slave, actually the whole Lascar character, but all together this is really an emotional sort of book with heart.

I'd say more but that would spoil the story, go ahead and find this for yourself.

You probably already know, but if not, Frances Hodgson Burnett is known for her book **The Secret Garden**. **Sara Crewe** has some prominent autobiographical connections.

Marti says

My favorite book as a child, and the first book I ever read more than once.

Joanne G. says

Although I usually despise abridged versions, I read this as a child and was unaware of the full version of *A Little Princess*. In this case, however, it is the author who first presented *Sara Crewe* as the novella and then later fleshed it out into a complete novel, so it isn't as if a stranger stripped an author's words and intentions out of a story. This is a perfect version for the younger child to take on.

Sara is placed in a boarding school in London when her father becomes concerned for her health while living in India, as he is stationed there as a Captain in the English army. Sara is coddled and catered to as the wealthiest student in the school until her father dies and she is left penniless, friendless, and at the mercy of Miss Minchin, the mistress of the school.

Emelie says

Sweet precursor to the book, a little princess.
I detested the pictures in this book tho!!

Librarianista11 says

Sara Crewe: Or What Happened at Miss Minchin's is the original telling of Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Little Princess*. The story of Sara, the extremely bright young daughter of Captain Crewe, who was placed in a boarding school only to become orphaned and then treated as a servant by Miss Minchin, was originally published as a serial novella in *St. Nicholas Magazine* in 1888. It was republished in 1988 by G. P. Putnam's Sons and featured the artwork of Margot Tomes.

This shorter version of the well-loved story combined with Tomes's watercolor and pen and ink illustrations lends itself to being read aloud to the elementary school audience. While the story contains some archaic words and features British spellings, it would be a most interesting way to introduce the young reader to vocabulary words that might not otherwise occur in today's chapter books. Burnett's way of teaching children that how others treat them is not how one should view oneself, and that strength of character wins is subtly powerful. Sara tells her wax and sawdust best friend Emily, "They know you are stronger than they are because you are strong enough to hold in your rage and they are not, and they say stupid things they wish they hadn't said. There's nothing so strong as rage, except what makes you hold it in--that's stronger." This theme is repeated throughout the story, combined with the theme that imagining a better life can make the reality of the current situation seem less daunting.

I would recommend that this story be read aloud, in bite-sized episodes, to young readers so that the stilted style of a past generation be explained as the story progresses. The style is too rich and the words too important to be lost in translation.

emily says

I can't help but think I am Sara Crewe.

Austen to Zafón says

I have my grandmother's tattered copy printed in 1890-something and I remember poring over the detailed engravings in the book as a kid. I loved the story and the way in which Sara used her imagination to hep her cope with the sadness and cruelty she encountered. As an adult, I read the longer version that Burnett cranked out later, "A Little Princess," and I didn't think that it had the same punch as the original did. and I love Birch's illustrations. This version is no longer under copyright and you can read it for free as a digital version on the Kindle and suchlike. The movie, with Shirley Temple, is an abomination and the newer remake isn't much better.

Paula says

I'm pretty sure I read the novella of this story (the one selected here), rather than the novel (The Little Princess), mainly because I know the title was Sara Crewe. Furthermore, the extended storyline of the novel

doesn't sound familiar. I remember being utterly entranced by this story. It fed my long-imagined fantasy of a secret life where I had lots of amusements and comforts and pretty much everything I wanted. (I grew up with all that I needed, but not much else.) Speaking of feeding, I specifically remember all the references to nourishing food, particularly the buns. (I was always hungry as a child. Not because I was destitute, but because I was a very picky eater with a high metabolism.) So for the duration of Sara's time in the attic where she was cared for by her mysterious benefactor, I lived that life with her. It was more meaningful to me than when she was enjoying her status as the daughter of a rich father.

PurplyCookie says

The same basic heartwarming story as "**A Little Princess**" with fewer details and some character changes. There is no Becky, Capt. Crewe's friend is old and fat, plus there were different interactions with neighbor families. There are contradictions; first Sara cries for several days after her father leaves and a few pages later, it says that Sara never cries.

Quite interesting to see the author's storyline in another version.

More of Purplycookie's Reviews @: <http://www.goodreads.com/purplycookie>

Book Details:

Title Sara Crewe, Or What Happened At Miss Minchin's
Author Frances Hodgson Burnett
Reviewed By Purplycookie

Heather says

I love this book and it probably has a lot to do with the copy that I read. It belonged to my Great Grandmother. She got the book the Christmas after she graduated high school in 1900. I think book began my love of period literature. Although to my great grandmother this would have been contemporary literature. Sara is an orphan who lives at Miss Minchin's. The story tells her adventure and hope of finding a new family after the loss parents. I think there was something magical for me, as a young girl, reading about a young girl in a book that had been around for more than 80 years at the time. My great grandmother was a school teacher and my imagination of the hands that must have held that same book made this probably more amazing to me than the story actually was.
