



Elsie's Holidays at Roseland

Martha Finley

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In this second volume in The Original Elsie Dinsmore Series, Elsie is forced into an awful choice between loyalty to her savior and her father's affection. The turmoil of this conflict contributes to a life-threatening illness for Elsie.

Elsie's Holidays at Roselands Details

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Author : Martha Finley

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Ariel says

The second book of the Elsie series was another great success! it especially touched my emotions much more deeply then the first. So much so that I found myself for the first time ever, while reading a book, on the verge of tears. It was a wonderful read and I'm very excited for the next one: Elsie's Girlhood.

Rachel says

This series is a bit Calvinistic in its theology, and it's also a bit uber-Christian; i.e., the Christians are really, really good and the non-Christians are really, really bad.

Faith says

Fantastic, classic writing, however I feel that the storyline was drawn out a bit too much perhaps. Martha Finley repeatedly used a few situations, and tho it fit her character, I feel that Elsie's crying and dramatic anguish was worked too much. It seemed as though she was always in a turmoil, and while she was, and she was young, I tired of hearing the same thing happening over and over. But that wasn't a big deal, and I really did like the book a lot. If you ever get sick of modern writing, take a look at this book, it has the old-style classical style of writing which you never see anymore.

Briana says

I don't think it's a good sign that I started hoping desperately for Elsie's death...but at least then she could go to heaven, I would feel satisfied, and this series could end at 2 books, instead of 2,000!!! Seriously...there's almost no point to this whole series...

Rachel says

My 2 daughters have loved all of the Elsie books that they have read. The 17 yo says it's the saddest of the books, but she still couldn't put it down. She has learned a lot from Elsie's attitude and wants to have a stronger Christian testimony as a result. I'm very glad we own all of these books. I read somewhere that Martha Finley was a contemporary of Louise May Alcott, and sold nearly twice as many books as Alcott, but the strong Christian influence of these books allowed them to become lost over time - so glad that my girls have had a chance to read them.

Nicole G. says

Still more didacticism. And some anti-Catholicism, too! Her dad is still a crazy person. However, I have to finish this series now, to see how much more wacky it gets . . .

Leash says

This was definitely the best out of the series.

Britt-goodie of newsierness says

I've read as much of this as I'm going to. I never want to read this again. It was awful. And boring. And horrible. And no food either.

Shoshana says

Same old Elsie, same old dad. This picks up exactly where Book 1 left off (apparently they were originally published together), and the differences are small. My fervor against the books remains intact, as does my fervor against Elsie's father. Elsie, though? Now that I've had over a year to get used to her existence (and continued publication and popularity, which is what's always worried me more), I mostly just feel sorry for her.

Partridge Public says

Finley, Martha

Esther Filbrun says

This is my most favorite book out of all the Elsie stories. Highly recommended. (Full review coming soon.)

Holly says

ELSIE'S HOLIDAYS AT ROSELANDS is the sequel to ELSIE DINSMORE. It brings our heroine, sugar-sweet Elsie, into direct conflict with her godless, domineering Papa. Elsie, as introduced in the first volume, is picture-perfect, a little Southern belle living in Virginia in the 1840's. Elsie seems the ideal Christian child...except for her owning slaves, who are referred to throughout the book as inferior beings. (Even Aunt Chloe, Elsie's beloved mammy, is called a "creature.") Elsie doesn't object to slavery but she DOES balk at

reading a secular book on the Sabbath, which Papa orders her to do. As a good Calvinist, of course she must refuse. Papa huffs and puffs but can't make Elsie "disobey God." Papa becomes so displeased with her that he finally leaves home for an indefinite period. In his absence the little martyr sinks into deep depression, has the Victorian "vapours," and nearly dies!

Pure melodrama. Young readers of the nineteenth century probably liked the Elsie books for being the nearest thing to a soap opera they could find. Author Martha Finley seems to have poured out her own sexual frustrations into writing, hence the semi-incestuous love affair between "good" Elsie and "bad" Papa. When Elsie and her father are finally reconciled, the scene is described in passionate, even lurid terms. Many kisses, fondlings and "pettings" will ensue. Not much hope left for Mr. Travilla, grown-up family friend who's besotted with Elsie himself. But then, Travilla is waiting for Elsie to grow up because---as he puts it---"I have learned that ladies, both little and large, very often change their minds, so I shall still live in hope!"

A fascinating read. ELSIE'S HOLIDAYS is social Americana---one little girl in the story actually gets smelling salts as a Christmas present!---and Finley's purple prose can be laugh-out-loud funny. I wouldn't give this book to any child under thirteen though. Today's kids are sophisticated and too much aware of Freudian overtones. Reading Elsie books might have a very dangerous effect!

Anna Grace says

A beautiful story!

Mecque says

Being a Catholic myself, the climax of this book made me laugh hysterically. Amusingly melodramatic, and a good set up for the next book.

Mary Beth says

Good read except for the strong antiCatholicism.
