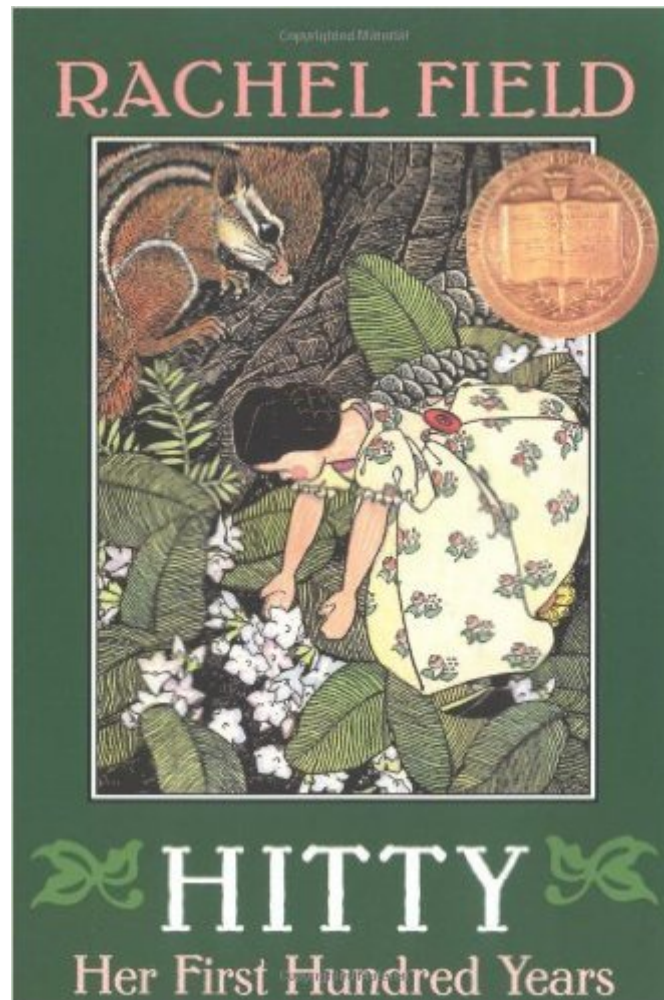


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# Hitty Her First Hundred Years



## Synopsis

Hitty is a doll of great charm and character. It is indeed a privilege to publish her memoirs, which, besides being full of the most thrilling adventures on land and sea, also reveal her delightful personality. One glance at her portrait will show that she is no ordinary doll. Hitty, or Mehitable as she was really named, was made in the early 1800s for Phoebe Preble, a little girl from Maine. Young Phoebe was very proud of her beautiful doll and took her everywhere, even on a long sailing trip in a whaler. This is the story of Hitty's years with Phoebe, and the many that follow in the life of a well-loved doll.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1180 (What's this?)

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Aladdin; Reissued edition (September 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689822847

ISBN-13: 978-0689822841

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (66 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #113,399 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reference > Citizenship](#) #1157 in [Books > Children's Books > Classics](#) #3529 in [Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Fantasy & Magic](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Some confusion is probably created by .com's policy of repeating staff and reader reviews in the listings for every version of a book--even when the versions are substantially different from each other, as in this case. sells one version of "Hitty: Her First Hundred Years" that is an unchanged reprint of the original 1929 book. The reprint, like the original, has an orange-and-tan patterned cover. But also sells a newer, substantially revised, version of "Hitty." The same reviews appear with both versions, although they are essentially different books. (They share a title, but their texts and illustrations are different.) I wanted to clarify this point for customers who, like me, are looking for the original version of this book.

My mother passed her copy onto me and now it has passed to my daughter. I buy copies for all my nieces. It's a real treasure. The text is marvelous and the illustrations are never to be forgotten. I understand there's a new version out, but I can't imagine it holding a candle to the original (I haven't heard good things). I have so many wonderful memories of that book: Hitty stuck in the horsehair couch, life with the little Quaker girl, weeks spent in a crow's nest. It brought my own traditional dolls (not Barbie!) alive for me. It also presents a vivid historical portrait of the lives of American girls. Don't let this one go out of print!

After reading some of the other reviews, I feel myself fortunate to have read Hitty in the original. I was unaware it had been edited. I can't think of anything offensive, other than one passage of dialogue spoken by a black family, which might sound stereotypical to modern ears. But, similar dialogue occurs in Huckleberry Finn. Has that been "scrubbed"? I don't think so. Anyhow, what a beautiful story. It's really interesting to see the world from her point of view. She spent years hidden away in a couch, among other places, which was like a time machine for her. I had fun answering this question: Did Hitty know that by the time she was sold at auction in the Preble house, that she had outlived Phoebe? That Phoebe had grown up, married, had children and died? She never says so, but I think she does know. She has the strength and maturity not to have to be explicit. I really hope Hitty had warm, fond memories of her first owner, Phoebe.

Hitty is a very small wooden doll carved out of mountain-ash (for good luck) in Maine by a kindly pedlar, in gratitude for winter hospitality, then given to the young daughter of the New England sea captain. This charming story is told in the first person by a modest and pleasantly-philosophical doll with a perpetual smile. During her first century as a toy she survives an incredible catalog of dangers, countless owners (not all little girls, either) and numerous narrow escapes. Hitty is privileged to travel the world from Bombay to New Orleans, although in her heart she yearns for her native Maine. She also meets many famous personalities of the 19th century: the opera singer Adellina Patti, novelist Charles Dickens, and poet John Greenleaf Whittier. Her fortunes range from being worshipped as a goddess by pagan islanders, to posing as doll of fashion. She endures trials by water, fire, and plain neglect. Poor patient Hitty is lost, stolen, borrowed, displayed, auctioned, abused, and hidden. But she endures her fate with gentle stoicism and ends by writing a journal about her adventures. The only pride she allows herself is for the fact that her name, HITTY, is still visible on the hem of her petticoat, in red cross stitches. We follow each detail of her story and keep

hoping: yes, now she will have a good owner, the last one who will care for her properly and give her the love and respect which she deserves. But no one can write the final chapter on an antique--especially who charms by her stature and smile. This is a delightful book with many historical details which will touch the reader.

This book was extraordinary. I usually don't trust the library's choice of books, but in this I was mistaken. I completed the book in two days--and one was a school day! In parts I almost cried, but in the next instant, I could rejoice and cheer for the brave, spirited little Hitty. Some of the characters I wish I knew more about -Andy, my favorite character, as a start- but it made it more realistic-Hitty would concentrate most on her current owner, I suppose. That's really its only flaw that I could find. Good reading!

This book was interesting and fun to read. Ride along with, the doll, as she tells her life story. Watch as she goes from one owner to the next. This book is an adventure to read. Hitty has seen so much you forget she is a doll. This book pulls you in like a vacuum cleaner. You'll love it when she travels to New York. You'll jump out of your seat when she goes whale hunting or when she gets stuck in a tree. There is a couple of settings but it doesn't jump around. The message that I got out of the story is live life to its fullest I would recommend this book to preteen girls that like history and fiction. This book was fantabouls!!!!!!!!!!!!

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