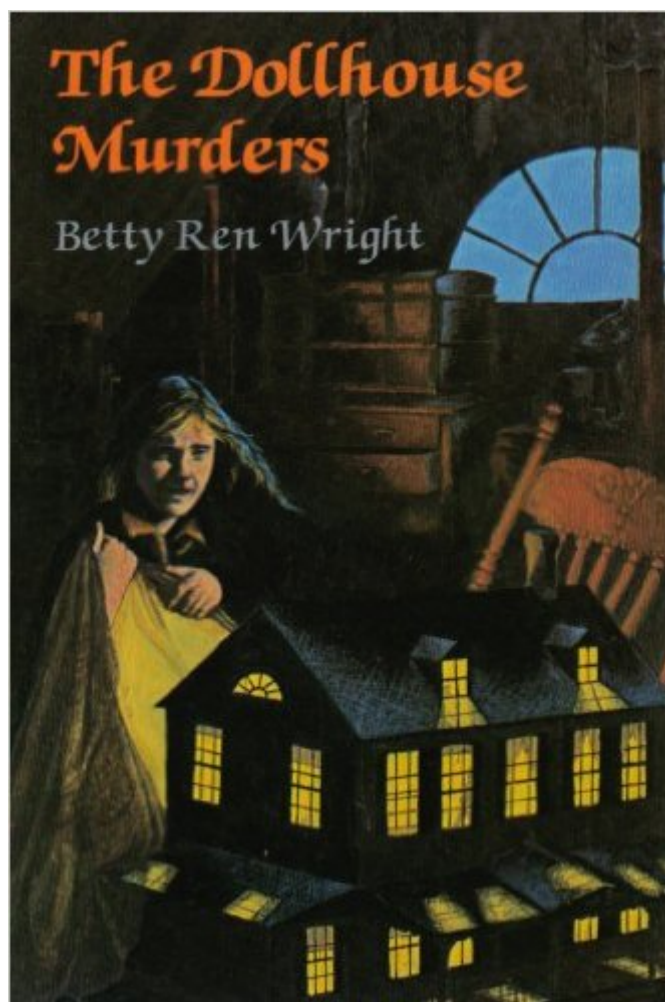


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# The Dollhouse Murders



## Synopsis

Best-selling author Betty Ren Wright earned eight state awards for this middle-grade mystery about a murder kept secret in a dollhouse. Amy is terrified. She hears scratching and scurrying noises coming from the dollhouse, and the dolls she was playing with are not where she left them. Dolls can't move by themselves, she tells herself. But every night when Amy goes into the attic to check on the dollhouse, it is filled with an eerie light and the dolls have moved again! Are the dolls trying to tell her something? Are their movements connected to grisly murders of her own great-grandparents?

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 670 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 160 pages

Publisher: Holiday House; 1st edition (September 1, 1983)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0823404978

ISBN-13: 978-0823404971

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 0.7 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (167 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,592,023 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Crafts & Hobbies > Toys & Models > Dollhouses](#) #2192 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Story Collections](#) #9329 in [Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives](#)

Age Range: 8 - 11 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

## Customer Reviews

When I was in the 4th grade, this book was one of the few "chapter" books at the library that would be passed around between friends. Now approaching 30, I wondered if this book was actually as frightening as I remembered, or if I had built it up in my head far more than it deserved. So I located my copy and gave it a read through. What blows me away about this book is that the story is haunting and frightening at any age, but is appropriate for a child. While it deals with murder and ghosts, it's handled with care and without gore. And still, this many years later, I had those spine tingles that I crave in a good book, and find so rarely.

Wright, Betty Ren. (1983). *The Dollhouse Murders*. New York: Holiday House. I like this book because it is a simple mystery children ages 9-12 can read and enjoy. The book is a very interesting realistic fiction book. While visiting Aunt Clare in her Great grandparent's old house, Amy discovered a wonderful dollhouse in the attic. It is the replica of her Great Granparent's house. Everytime Amy visits the attic eerie things happen. Strange noises come from the dollhouse, lights are on in it and the dolls have been moved from where she had left them. Amy is very frightened, but she wonders if the dollhouse is trying to tell her something about the murders of her Great Grandparents 30 years ago. Amy wants to solve the mystery. On a stormy night Amy and her sister make one more visit to the attic. They watch as the Grandmother doll gives them a clue about the murders. They tell Aunt Clare what the doll revealed to them. Together they solved the murder mystery of that fateful night 30 years ago.

Amy feels very alone because she has to always watch her brain damaged sister Luann. so amy runs away to live with her aunt clare in amy's great grandparents old house. while she is there aunt clare shows a dollhouse to amy that is an exact replica of the house they are living in now. The only thing amy does not know about the house is her great grandparents were murdered in it, but no one knew who killed them. and amy thinks that the dolls in the dollhouse are trying to tell her what happened the night of the murder. i read this book in 4th grade. and i read it twice in 6th grade. this is by far the best book i have ever read!

I read this book when I was in elementary school and it was GREAT!! Could not put it down. I'm so happy to find that this book still exists! Great story for young mystery lovers. I would read it again without a second thought. I thought it was written with the correct descriptions and details that needs to be present in a pre-teen novel, and this is why I liked it and remember it with such fondness. I highly recommend it!! The copy that I read was a paperback and I believe there are no illustrations (but I could be mistaken), what I am sure of is that it made me imagine every scene as I was getting deeper and deeper into the plot. Definitely not a boring book!

*The Dollhouse Murders* is an excellent book for upper elementary/early middle school readers that provides mystery, chills and some real life lessons. The book is a very fast easy read at about the fifth grade level and has characterizations, plot and atmosphere worthy of an adult book. There are wonderful subplots about dealing with a mentally disabled sibling as well as the burdens of guilt.

The title may turn off male readers but if they give the book a try they will be rewarded with a story more spine-chilling than anything a certain "Goosebumps" series offers.

After reading so many reviews by adults saying this was their favorite book in around the 5th grade I became intrigued and had to try it myself. My own children may have read it and I just didn't know but I wanted something short to read this afternoon. Great entertainment and if my girls were younger I would recommend it to them. Amy is just turning 13 and is annoyed with younger sister who is mentally challenged. It seems she is always responsible for her sister and her sister seems to cramp her style. She runs away to her great grandparents' old house to see her Aunt Clare who is there to clean it out and get it ready to sell. Aunt Clare understands Amy's frustration and suggests that maybe she and Louanne, her sister, need some space from each other. Amy discovers a magnificent dollhouse in the attic that is an exact replica of her great grandparents' house. There are mysterious goings on regarding the dollhouse which frighten Amy but also draw her to it when she believes it might be trying to show her something. A quick read, and even suspenseful and entertaining for a 64 year-old grandmother like me!

This is one of my FAVORITE books! I first read it as a child and now I am having my daughter read it. It is such a great book for preteen girls. The main character is sorting out family relationships while she uncovers a mystery within her aunt's dollhouse.

**\*\*Spoiler alert\*\***I wanted to re-read an old childhood read of mine, and this book is it. Amy goes to stay with her Aunt in a big country house that belonged to her great grandparents. She discovers a beautiful dollhouse that is the exact replica of the one she's staying in. She notices strange things going on with the dollhouse. She sets out to uncover the mystery surrounding the dollhouse...The one thing I didn't like about this book is the way Amy's mentally challenged sister is treated by Amy and the rest of her family. They treat her like she's a "retard" instead of just being mentally challenged. Kinda mean. The book did have a happy ending, and the family "sees" the error of their ways in the end. All clouds have silver linings. :)

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