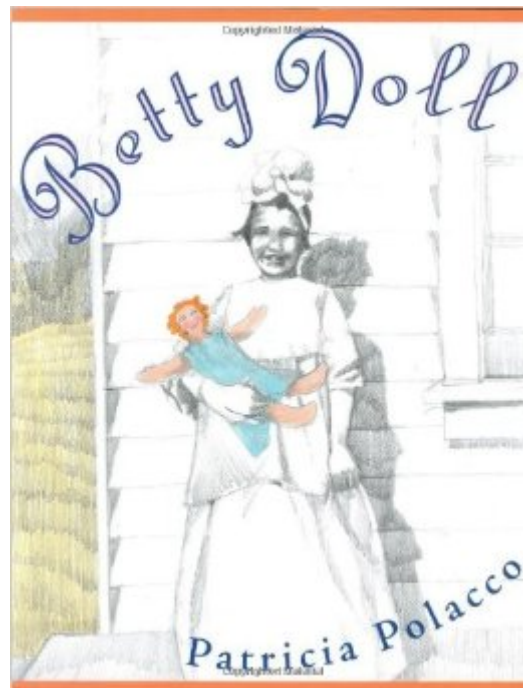


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# Betty Doll



## Synopsis

Patricia Polacco shares a never-before-told story about her mother's favorite doll. "My Darlin Trisha, my mother wrote..." So begins the story of Patricia Polacco's mother's favorite doll. Whenever Mary Ellen needed Betty Doll, she was there. She survived blizzards and thunderstorms, attended parties and weddings, and helped mourn the deaths of old friends. From the day Trisha's mother first sewed Betty Doll together stitch by stitch, to the day, many years later, when she discovered she had cancer, her soft, sweet Betty Doll was there. Now Betty Doll lives on in Patricia Polacco's soft, beautiful artwork as Trisha shares the warm and poignant moments of her mother's favorite doll with readers of all ages.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD540L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Philomel Books; First Edition edition (April 2, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399236384

ISBN-13: 978-0399236389

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,510,646 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #35 in [Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Crafts & Hobbies > Antiques & Collectibles](#) #2457 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#) #7847 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Patricia Polacco has, once again, gone to her family for a story around which to hang her usual marvelous illustrations. "Betty Doll" doesn't disappoint. Polacco opens the book by telling the reader about her mother dying and about packing up her belongings and then finally going through them a year later. In some of the boxes Polacco packed up, she finds her mother's old, handmade cloth doll. Wrapped around it is the letter her mother wrote while dying of cancer. Now before you decide that this is NOT a book for children, you should know that the book overall has a joyous, shimmering

quality. The story concentrates on Betty Doll's travels and adventures, with Polacco deftly portraying Betty Doll in color while all else is in handsome but quiet black-and-white tones. This brings Betty's story to the fore visually, but as far as the story itself goes, she serves as a backdrop for different generations of Polacco's family. The story is true, and it rings true. A little girl's love of her doll and the happiness she finds while playing with the doll come to the fore, as does the stability of Betty Doll throughout the changes of the little girl's life as she grows up, marries, and so on. This is a fine way to gently ease into discussing the cancer of a family member with any young child, but it is also an absorbing tale in its own right and stands ably on its own, aided by Polacco's usual impeccable illustrations.

I am a huge fan of Patricia Polacco. I love this story as my mom died of breast cancer and this story really hit home. The illustrations were spot on and it is a story I can read over and over. Keep the great stories coming, Patricia.

As with many of Patricia's books, her stories touch the hearts of adults as well as children. I believe that this book, along with *Pink and Say* and others, is more of an intermediate to adult level book but is often marketed for young children because it is a picture book. Children could certainly grow up hearing this story and having it develop new meaning as they have their own life experiences. *Betty Doll* would make a wonderful gift to celebrate the love between mothers and daughters. I gave this book to my nine year old and she understood and enjoyed it very much. I think it will gain new meaning for her as she grows up. Remember, we are never too old for picture books, especially Patricia Polacco stories.

I've always loved how Patricia Polacco writes. Her books are perfect for *Author's Craft*, vivid descriptions, feelings... This is a new book added to my collection. I read her to my 5th grade students all year long.

I like *Betty Doll* because it is a true story and it has pictures of real people on stands. It is also good because *Betty Doll* stands out in color because she is the main character and also the people are black with some color for the clothes. This book is about this little girl who makes a doll with her grandmother. The little girl named her *Betty Doll*. The little girl grew up and had children she gave her little girl *Betty Doll*. When her little girl was about 10 her great grandmother got cancer and the little girl who grew up and had *Betty Doll* was really sad. They remembered all these memories

about Betty Doll and also how they made her and what they did with her. I recommend that you read Betty Doll because it is a true story and it is also very good

This is the first book by Patricia Polacco I have read. It was recommended to me because it is about a cloth doll made by the author's mother and I am a cloth dollmaker. The story is very touching and speaks about the love of mother and daughter with the cloth doll, "Betty Doll", being the thread to hold the story together. Patricia Polacco illustrates her own books and does a beautiful job. Her words are very simple, but very moving. This book is appropriate for all ages. But---let me warn you---it is a tear jerker for adults! Susan Daniel, Dallas

I disagree with the other reviews that say this is not a story for children. My daughter will be four next month. This book is one that we both enjoy:I enjoy reading it and she enjoys listening. She understands this is the story of someones life. The book has made it easier for me to approach the subjects of growing old and death of a loved one. I believe we should never shy away from exposing our children to such beautiful literature, which has serious issues to share. It is great to read a book that all family members can enjoy. Rather than parents having to say, "not that one again."

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