



When the Dolls Woke

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Long neglected dolls come awake and help their new owner and her elderly aunt find a treasure hidden in their dollhouse years ago.

When the Dolls Woke Details

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Linda says

The dollhouse was built in 1890 by Captain Vance for his lame sister. It's current owner, 90 year-old Abby, decides to give it to her namesake, her great great niece Gail (both were named Abigail). The dolls who live in the dollhouse can think and hear. Abby has no money to move to a retirement home. The doll, Sir Gregory, has a vague memory of Captain Vance long ago telling him to keep a secret until a time when his daughter Abby is in trouble. And Gail is certain that there is a fortune hidden in the dollhouse. This is a nice imaginative story for middle grade readers.

JoAryn says

I don't remember quite what age I was when I read this book, but I think I was about ten or so. The fact that my father actually had built a dollhouse for my sister and me back when I was four or five probably helped seal my interest in the story. Even now, nearly 30 years later, I remember the inscription that helped solve the mystery of the dollhouse:

"Build stone by stone" our motto dear;
Keep faith and seek thy fortune here.

Since it's been a while, I can't really speak to how well the story may stand up to modern sensibilities, but I remember it as having good pacing and feeling relatively imaginative and original.

Marama says

As a kid, I found this to be a lovely book to read. Intriguing, and I found each of the doll's characters to be very interesting (particularly Martinique).
A good children's book.

Bunny says

This feels extremely familiar, but I can't say 100% I read this as a child. *Midnight in the Dollhouse*, the other book by Marjorie Filley Stover, sounds extremely familiar. If I recall correctly, the girl had one leg longer than the other because of her accident. There can't be more than one series involving the plot, right?

I do know I read a book about a dollhouse come to life, and it made me want a dollhouse with miniature furniture SO BAD. I've never quite gotten over that.

Jenna says

The Dolls Come To Life plot was a literary...lodestar of my youth. If there was a book in which any

humanoid-shaped toys became reanimated, you can bet I fucking read it. And fortunately there were a shit ton of them.

Micaela says

The only thing i did not like about this book was the voodoo they tried to incorporate into the book. Otherwise, the plot, characters, settings, and conflict were both interesting and believable (for being about dolls, of course ;))

Shelley says

Jennie and I got to talking about books we'd loved as kids and we both remembered this one - although all we could recall was a doll family, one of which was from Martinique. A few google searches later and we had the title. A few days later, I had a copy - thanks ILL! I loved this book SO MUCH - and I still do. Come on, Christmas, history, family trees and lore, dolls and adventure. It's still stuff I love. I was so jealous of this dollhouse and Aunt Abby and how they decorated everything. Not to mention the dolls that could think for themselves, live their own lives outside and inside the parameters set by whatever little girl owned them, and go on adventures like getting their own Christmas tree and solving a century long mystery of a treasure in the dollhouse. <3

What I don't like is that the original owner was called "Lame Melissa" all the time, and the resolution for Martinique sucked. But still...pretty doll house. Christmas. Adventure.

Originally read 1989.

Hilary says

Following on from Midnight in the dollhouse this story skips forward in time about 100 years to a time when the doll's house is passed on to a descendant of the original owner. A mystery is solved again and treasure is found.

A 3.5 star book, my daughter said that this was an okay book, but I think it would appeal more to younger children, under 8 yrs perhaps. We did find it annoying how many times the author used the term 'vapours', we are not really sure what this means other than feelings ? Papa's vapours rose merrily, dipped and swirled, churned, frothed, and many other actions on nearly every page, it did become tiring, although we have had fun the last few days slipping the word 'vapours' into conversation!

This is an enjoyable book for young children who like dolls, doll's houses and treasure hunting.

Alicia says

I have a nice memory of reading this out loud to my Mom on a really long car trip. Very sweet story, and motivated me to get a dollhouse (although I never did much with it)!

Molly says

A young girl receives an antique dollhouse from her great aunt that may hold hidden treasure. The dolls come awake and help her find it.

I remember loving this book as kid and so I decided to reread it. I loved my dollhouse as a child and I remember being enchanted by the idea that the dolls would come awake when people weren't looking. I still find the story charming, but now as an adult I can see that there are things that could be considered problematic. There is a disabled person referred to as "lame Melissa," which wouldn't exactly be PC today. There is also a doll who is from the french Islands with dark skin who practices Voodoo and is portrayed as mysterious and scary to start. As I did not pick up on these as a kid and just remembered the charming aspects, I think these can be forgiven or just maybe have a conversation about them.

Adriana Bosma says

A great and easy to read book!

Ashley says

I read this book, and the prequel, *Midnight in the Dollhouse* over and over when I was younger. I hadn't thought about them in years, and I found this one on accident in a used book store and was estatic! Now, I just need the other one... But I loved them!

Read more about my thoughts, feelings and memories of this book on my blog, [Books from Bleh to Basically Amazing](#).

Stephanie A. says

Wish fulfillment at its finest for any age: a young girl inherits an antique dollhouse passed down through generations, which just may happen to contain a treasure, and definitely contains a family of dolls who can move about when no one is looking and have long memories of the house's history and all its former owners. Along with the treasure mystery, there are nothing short of exquisite descriptions of the dollhouse's magnificent and intricately detailed furnishings. I haven't read this since elementary school, but the minute I saw the title it stirred up a rush of giddy nostalgia, and I'm pleased to discover upon rereading it that it is every bit as wonderful and cherished as I remember.

Hannah says

I am pretty sure that reading this book as a kid started my obsession with miniatures and dollhouses! I loved reading about the dolls' history and Abigail and Gail's family tree. The description of the antique dollhouse

and its details is purely magical! This is one of my favorite childhood books.

Rea K says

I read it, adored it. cannot remember if it's in the boxes yet or not. *wrinkles nose* egads. books. shelve thyselfes.
