



# The Biography Of A Prairie Girl

*Eleanor Gates*

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## **The Biography Of A Prairie Girl** Eleanor Gates

Eleanor Gates (1875-1951) was born in Shakopee, Minnesota. She attended both the University of California and Stanford University. Her first husband was Richard Walton Tully and later she married Frederick Ferdinand Moore. Her works, both novels and plays, include: The Biography of a Prairie Girl (1902), The Plow Woman (1907), Good Night (1907), Cupid: The Cow Punch (1907), The Poor Little Rich Girl (1912), "Swat the fly ": A One-Act Fantasy (1915), Apron Strings (1917), Piggie (1919) and The Rich Little Poor Boy (1922).

## **The Biography Of A Prairie Girl Details**

Date : Published (first published 1902)

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Author : Eleanor Gates

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Nonfiction, Biography, Classics

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## **From Reader Review The Biography Of A Prairie Girl for online ebook**

### **lc says**

#### **The Biography of a Prairie Girl**

A delightful book about the life of a real girl without the tv or Hollywood additions. It was a wonderful read.

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### **Anna Mussmann says**

Officially a novel, this story--or rather, this series of chronological incidents--is based on the author's own upbringing on a prairie farm in the late-Nineteenth Century. It's a look at frontier life through the eyes of a child who was far less sheltered than, say, Laura Ingalls (The Ingalls parents would never have sent one of their daughters out to herd cattle at the tender age of four!).

To a modern reader, some aspects of the narrative feel unsatisfying. For instance, the author goes to great lengths to describe the difficulty the protagonist's family had in agreeing on a name for her, yet never tells us what the name was. We are left with only "the little girl" (just as none of the other characters are ever named). Other incidents are also left purposefully vague. In addition, references to the local Sioux and other Indians are, unsurprisingly, couched in language that feels racist today.

Historically, though, this is an interesting read. It made me wonder if my own children need to be assigned a lot more chores.

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### **JMills516 says**

found this difficult to get through...a bit awkward in style....may try to revisit....

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### **Patsy says**

The birth of a prairie girl begins when the stork reaches a lonely family in Dakota one frozen December day. The same day her father left, leaving her mother with three boys and a new born baby girl. The story is entertaining, interesting, and has a good history of our country in the 1800's.

The family starts out with almost nothing but through keeping the family together and hard work they make a blessed and good life for themselves. Ms Gates writes an unusual story using no names of the people In the entire book, but because of her skills as a writer she is able to make each character come to life.

With Ms. Gates you experience happiness, hardships, joys, and some disappointments that the whole family feels. You will see the family's life from the time the baby girl is born until she becomes a young lady. The story is well written, I really enjoyed it. This book was copyrighted in 1902. If you like American History

around 1800, I would recommend this book but remember it does not read like a history book. It's a great read it tells about home life through the eyes of the little girl. This is a Free Domain book on Amazon.com.

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### **Julia says**

A delightful read about a little girl growing up on a prairie homestead, with many more of the deeply dangerous aspects portrayed than you will find in the wonderful Little House books.

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### **Debbie Zapata says**

One of my personal reading lists from last year that I have had to carry over and hope to finish up this year is called Spinners' Wheel, a collection of works by various authors that contributed pieces to a book I read a couple of years ago called The Spinners Book Of Fiction. It was a fund raiser from a group of California authors and I enjoyed it all enough to make my Spinners' Wheel list to sample more of their work.

Eleanor Gates was born in 1874 in Minnesota. According to wiki, this novel describes her early life. The book starts with the arrival of a baby girl on Christmas in a blizzard. Her arrival coincides with the death of her father, who had apparently tried to go for the doctor. Right from the first sentence, I was transfixed, completely caught up in the story, and still feel as though I am out on the prairie with the little girl, her mother and the three brothers who argued for so long over what to name the baby that she was nearly three before she was ever baptized. And in the entire book, we only know her as the little girl, even in the final chapter when she was fifteen or sixteen.

I think our little girl was wonderful and I very much enjoyed every adventure she managed to get herself into and out of (although sometimes she needed help for that part). I could see her world through her eyes, and I still feel that I am out on the prairie with her. It was a privilege to watch her grow up. She lived a busy, physical life, but she also had a deep (if slightly naive) side:

*The little girl had often complained of the stork's bringing her at Christmas-time, and had been promised by the biggest brother that, when they should all agree that she was very good and deserving—because she had cheerfully done everything she had been told—she should have her birthday changed to June! But so far the promise had never been fulfilled, for the little girl did not hold, as they did, that the compact included the washing of potatoes or the scraping of the mush-kettle. Now, June was almost at hand again, and, as she waited on the bluff for the cow-horn to sound the call for dinner, she wondered if the treasured change in dates would ever be made.*

There are five other titles by Gates at Gutenberg and they have gone onto a certain list I keep for Someday reading. I can't wait to find out if they are anywhere near as captivating as this book was!

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### **ruth marchetti says**

#### **Loved this..**

Interesting story about life on the prairie ..loved the way she wrote..I imagine it was like that when your grandmother was a little girl..

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### **Kathleen V. Genelly says**

#### **Great read. Very authentically done.**

It was very descriptive with an honest narrative! You could really understand how difficult and hard life was just to survive and prosper. Great depiction of what life must have really been like for early settlers, especially for the women!

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### **christy whiddon says**

#### **Beautiful**

I wish I knew more about the author, but I will definitely be reading this to my kids! Exciting, actual and we'll told story of how life was as a settler on the Dakota plains...

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### **Cheryl says**

This was a very strange book, first the book had nothing on the back cover or inside the front cover telling you anything about the book or the author, then when you opened it, there was a page the the title and author and nothing else. the next page started the book, there were no chapters, and the print was the smallest I have ever seen. There were no names used, just little girl, oldest brother etc.

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### **Deborah F Leise says**

#### **Wonderful read!**

Captivating peek into prairie life. This account was written in such a different way that I could not put it down. It is very descriptive, I could picture the beauty of the sunrise and sunset as if I were there. The characters are well developed and likeable. I didn't want it to end. Being a history lover I loved this book. Thank you Ms Gates!

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### **Faith Brown says**

Not the most entertaining of all the books in the land, but it was still surprisingly enjoyable and incredibly well-written. I thought it was going to be a children's book, but it's much too advanced for children I would say. But, there are still some enjoyable childish themes.

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## Ron says

This autobiographical novel begins with one of the finest pieces of writing I've found in more than 100 books of early frontier fiction. Eleanor Gates begins her story with the birth of her central character on a remote Dakota homestead during a raging blizzard. The family waits with growing dread the return of the newborn girl's father, who has ventured into the storm for help.

The man's remains are not found until the spring thaw, only a short distance from the family's cabin. Told from the distance of a few childhood years, the girl thinks of her birth as the time she was brought by the stork—which chose the same day to take away her father. The raw realities of frontier life are thus embedded early on in a story of growing up on the prairie...

Read my review at my blog.

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