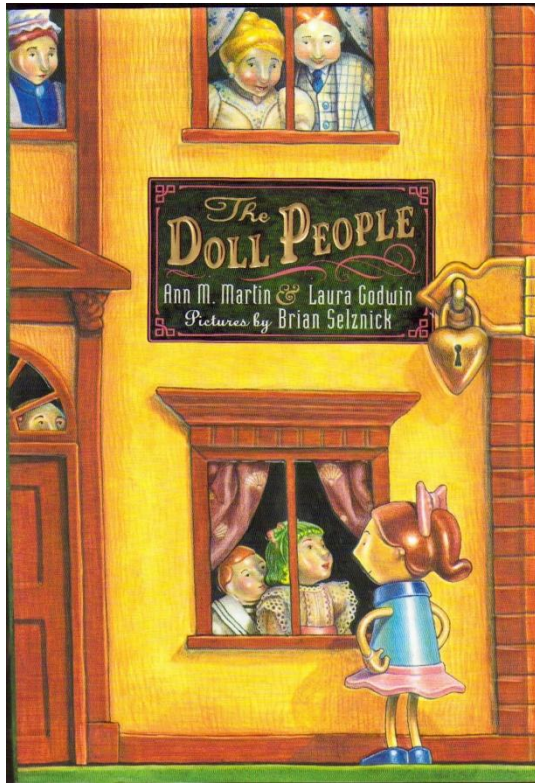


## About the book...



*Annabelle Doll is 8 years old - -and has been for over 100 years. Nothing much has changed in the dollhouse during that time, except for the fact that 45 years ago, Annabelle's Auntie Sarah disappeared from the dollhouse without a trace. After all this time, restless Annabelle is becoming more and more curious about her aunt's fate. And when she discovers Auntie Sarah's old diary, she becomes positively driven. Her cautious family tries to discourage her, but Annabelle won't be stopped, even though she risks Permanent Doll State, in which she could turn into a regular, nonliving doll. And when the "Real Pink Plastic" Funcraft family moves in next door, the Doll family's world is turned upside down--in more ways than one!*

## About the Author...



Ann Matthews Martin grew up in Princeton, New Jersey, with her parents and her younger sister, Jane. After graduating from Smith College, Ann became a teacher and then an editor of children's books. She's now a full-time writer.

Ann gets the ideas for her books from many different places. Some are based on personal experiences, while others are based on childhood memories and feelings. Many are written about contemporary problems or events. All of Ann's characters, even the members of the Baby-sitters Club, are made up. But many of her characters are based on real people. Sometimes Ann names her characters after people she knows, and other times she simply chooses names that she likes.

Ann has always enjoyed writing. Even before she

was old enough to write, she would dictate stories to her mother to write down for her. Some of her favorite authors at that time were Lewis Carroll, P. L. Travers, Hugh Lofting, Astrid Lindgren, and Roald Dahl. They inspired her to become a writer herself.

Since ending the *Baby-sitters Club* series in 2000, Ann's writing has concentrated on single novels, many of which are set in the 1960s.

After living in New York City for many years, Ann moved to the Hudson Valley in upstate New York where she now lives with her dog, Sadie, and her cats, Gussie, Pippen and Woody. Her hobbies are reading, sewing, and needlework. Her favorite thing to do is to make clothes for children.

For more about the author visit: <http://www.scholastic.com/annmartin/>

## Writings

- [\*A Corner of the Universe\*](#), Scholastic Press (New York), 2002.
- [\*Belle Teal\*](#), Scholastic Press (New York), 2001.
- [\*Everything For A Dog\*](#), Feiwel and Friends (New York), 2009.
- [\*Here Today\*](#), Scholastic Press (New York), 2004.
- [\*Main Street Series\*](#), Scholastic Press (New York).
- [\*The Babysitter's Club Series\*](#), Scholastic Press (New York).
- [\*The Meanest Doll in the World\*](#), Hyperion Books for Children (New York), 2003.
- [\*The Runaway Dolls\*](#), Hyperion Books for Children (New York), 2008.

## Awards

- *A Corner of the Universe*: Newbery Honor 2003

## Reviews

### *Publishers Weekly*

Passed down from one generation to the next, the Doll family has lived in the same dollhouse, located in the same room of the Palmer family's house, for 100 years. While the world outside has changed, their own lives have not, with two significant exceptions. First, Auntie Sarah Doll suddenly and mysteriously disappeared 45 years ago, when the Doll family belonged to Kate Palmer's grandmother. More recently, the modern, plastic Funcraft family has moved into Kate's little sister's room. Following the time-honored traditions of such well-loved works as Rumer Godden's [\*The Doll's House\*](#), *The Mennynms* by Sylvia Waugh and Pam Conrad's and Richard Egielski's [\*The Tub People\*](#), Martin and Godwin inventively spin out their own variation on the perennially popular theme of toys who secretly come to life. By focusing on Annabelle's and Tiffany Funcraft's risky mission to find Auntie Sarah, the authors provide plenty of action and suspense, yet it is their skillfully crafted details about the dolls' personalities and daily routines that prove most memorable. Selznick's pencil illustrations cleverly capture the spark of life inhabiting the dolls' seemingly inanimate bodies. The contemporary

draftsmanship frees the art from nostalgia even while the layout, which presents the illustrations as standalone compositions as well as imaginatively integrated borders and vignettes, reinforces the old-fashioned mood of the doll theme. Doll lovers may well approach their imaginative play with renewed enthusiasm and a sense of wonder after reading this fun-filled adventure.

### *Booklist*

It's not easy to write a good book about dolls. There are so many things to work out. Are the dolls "alive"? Is there consistency to their existence? How do they navigate outside their home? Martin and Godwin not only set up a realistic doll world but also provide a credible mystery. Annabelle and her Doll family have lived in the dollhouse, now owned by Kate, since it came from England several generations before. In 1955, Aunt Sarah Doll disappeared, and Annabelle, with the help of Sarah's journal, is determined to find her. The authors add a wickedly funny touch with the introduction of the Funcrafts, a dollhouse family meant to placate Kate's little sister, who's always messing with the Dolls. The Funcrafts are a brash, breezy family of plastic dolls who can't believe the Dolls don't have a microwave. Still, Annabelle and Tiffany Funcraft become friends and are soon taking great risks to find out what happened to Aunt Sarah. The story gets a wonderful boost from Brian Selznick's pencil drawings, which include charming endpapers. He catches every bit of humor, especially when he's drawing those Funcrafts.

### *School Library Journal*

A lighthearted touch and a dash of drama make this a satisfying read. When Annabelle Doll finds her Aunt Sarah's journal, she hopes it offers a clue to the whereabouts of her aunt, who has been missing for 45 years. Annabelle is forever eight years old-the same age as Kate, the current owner of the Victorian dollhouse in which she and her family have lived for the past century. Their new neighbors, the all-plastic Funcrafts, who arrive for Kate's younger sister's birthday, are modern and brashly confident. Their pink plastic house has a barbecue, a computer, and a VCR. Tiffany, the Funcraft doll-girl, is just the right age to be a first real friend for Annabelle, and her daring spirit inspires the child's quest for her aunt. Determined and brave, she persuades her cautious parents to let her venture out of the dollhouse in search of her relative. Along with the usual perils of moving about in the real world, there is the risk of being seen by a human and succumbing to "doll state" or even worse, "permanent doll state." Selznick's illustrations are perfectly suited to the innocent charm of the dolls and do much to draw readers into their world. The delightful endpapers, which resemble pages from toy catalogs past and present, tell their own tale about the characters. A light and uncomplicated fantasy/adventure in the tradition of Rumer Godden's doll stories or even Pam Conrad's *The Tub People* (HarperCollins, 1989).

## Discussion Questions (<https://multcolib.org/doll-people>)

1. Why do you think Annabelle is so bored? What does she want to happen?
2. Explain the Doll Code of Honor. What is it? Could you follow it if you had to?
3. What happened to Aunt Sarah? Would you have gone off exploring too if you were a doll?
4. What do you think it feels like to go into Doll State? When does this happen?
5. How did Kate come to own the dollhouse?
6. What is your first impression of the Funcrafts? Did it change at all as you read the book?
7. What information does Annabelle find in Aunt Sarah's diary?
8. What kind of a cat is the Captain? Is he a threat to the family?
9. *The Doll People* is a book that has pictures mixed in with the story. Did you like having the pictures included? What did they tell you about the story that you didn't get from the words?
10. What is it that causes Annabelle to not feel restless in the world anymore? Who comes into her life?
11. What do you predict for the future for the Doll People and the Funcrafts?

## Read-Alikes

Rumer Godden, [\*The Dolls' House\*](#) (1947)

Tottie is a loving little wooden doll who lives with her family in a shoebox. The doll family is owned by two sisters, Emily and Charlotte, and are very happy, except for one thing: they long for a proper home. To their delight, their wish comes true when Emily and Charlotte fix up a Victorian dolls' house - just for them. It's perfect. But then a new arrival starts to wreak havoc in the dolls' house. For Marchpane might be a wonderfully beautiful doll, but she is also terribly cruel. And she always gets her own way.

Francesca Lia Block, [\*House of Dolls\*](#) (2010)

*House of Dolls* is a chilling novel for young readers from bestselling author, Francesca Lia Block. Wildflower, Rockstar, and Miss Selene enjoy a quaint and charming life inside the beautiful antique dollhouse they call home. Previously owned by Madison Blackberry's grandmother, the dolls have been passed down to Madison. Madison lives

in a dull penthouse apartment with her grandma who pays more attention to the dolls than to her own granddaughter. Filled with jealousy and bitterness, Madison begins to take out her anger on Wildflower, Rockstar, and Miss Selene in a desperate attempt to win her grandmother's attention and affection.

Julie Andrews Edwards, [\*The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles\*](#) (1974)

The Whangdoodle was once the wisest, the kindest, and the most extraordinary creature in the world. Then he disappeared and created a wonderful land for himself and all the other remarkable animals -- the ten-legged Sidewinders, the little furry Flukes, the friendly Whiffle Bird, and the treacherous, "oily" Prock. It was an almost perfect place where the last of the really great Whangdoodles could rule his kingdom with "peace, love and a sense of fun"-- apart from and forgotten by people. But not completely forgotten. Professor Savant believed in the Whangdoodle. And when he told the three Potter children of his search for the spectacular creature, Lindy, Tom, and Ben were eager to reach Whangdoodleland. With the Professor's help, they discovered the secret way. But waiting for them was the scheming Prock, who would use almost any means to keep them away from his beloved king. Only by skill and determination were the four travelers able to discover the last of the really great Whangdoodles and grant him his heart's desire.

Roald Dahl, [\*Matilda\*](#) (1988)

Matilda is a sweet, exceptional young girl, but her parents think she's just a nuisance. She expects school to be different but there she has to face Miss Trunchbull, a menacing, kid-hating headmistress. When Matilda is attacked by the Trunchbull she suddenly discovers she has a remarkable power with which to fight back. It'll take a superhuman genius to give Miss Trunchbull what she deserves and Matilda may be just the one to do it!



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