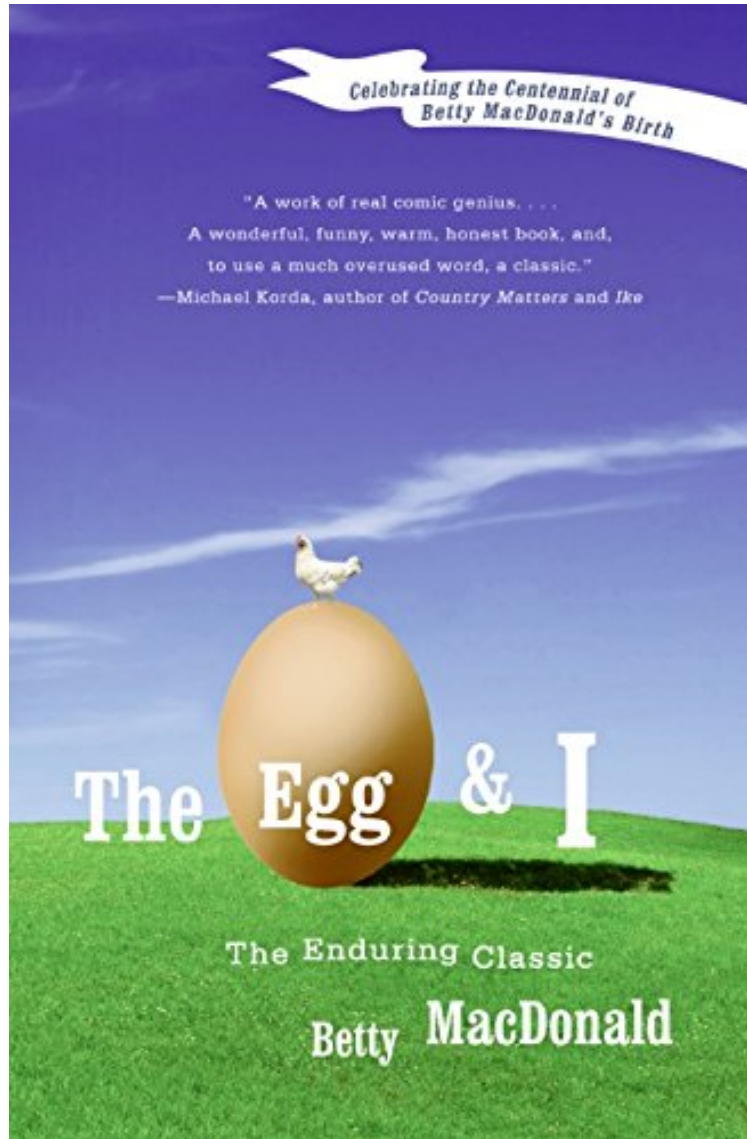


[FREE] The Egg and I

The Egg and I

Betty MacDonald

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#48616 in Books Betty Macdonald 2008-06-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .65 x 5.311, .49
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Betty MacDonald : The Egg and I before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Egg and I:

21 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Hilarious and crazy story about farm life.By B. WolinskyThere's a scene in this book where some hens fly up into the apple trees and won't come down. Frantic about the fate of these domestic homebody birds, the author eventually gives up and says "they made their bed, they'd have to lie in it." The hens end up as dinner for the weasels, raccoons, hawks, and other creatures indigenous to the farm. She describes her

chickens as boneheads who have 365 days to learn to recognize their masters and still screech every time they're brought their lunch. She can't figure out why the chickens never have canine loyalty. If you think the chickens are silly, you'll love their neighbors, the Kettle family. For those of you that loved the "Ma and Pa Kettle" films of the 1950's, here's where they started, right here in the Pacific Northwest, the silliest farmers in the USA. MacDonald wrote about them based on her neighbors, the Bishops, who sued the MacDonalds for defamation (and lost) after the movie came out. The Ma and Pa Kettle movies are long since forgotten, but they're a hilarious bunch in this book. Though this book is comedy, there is a very dark and disturbing chapter, reserved for the Native Americans. Raised on the Hiawatha poem to believe that all natives were noble savages, she's shocked to discover their level of degeneracy. The men, women, and children are all alcoholics, and kids as young as 12 are drinking moonshine. Old men are having sex with the children in public, and babies are allowed to eat garbage they find on the beach. It's as though they've become worse than the inbred white trash of South Carolina, and though it wasn't diagnosed then, I bet the children all had fetal alcohol syndrome. I'm not sure how much value this book has today, except maybe to those of us contemplating a career in organic farming. If you're wondering why I read this book in the first place, the answer is that I looked up the author of the Mrs. Pigglewiggles series and found that she wrote this before she got into children's books. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An intriguing and humorous story of a woman's struggle with ... By R. Peters An intriguing and humorous story of a woman's struggle with life in rural Washington on a chicken farm. Filled with memorable characters and passionate descriptions of the country and life, this book draws you in and keeps you amused. While there are gross generalizations and old stereotypes heartily used, it is the voice of its time and place. Betty shared her life in a natural and unapologetic manner. She was critical not only of others but also herself. This pleasant and rarely mean spirited narration provides a story worth reading. You'll find yourself laughing in spite of yourself control and shock. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Just like the movie By MikeyBI thought this was a great book, I was laughing all the way through it. The description of Ma Pa Kettle was right on with what you will see in the movie. And the rest of the characters were pretty close to what I have seen in the movies. This was great, and I will read it again and again.

When Betty MacDonald married a marine and moved to a small chicken farm on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State, she was largely unprepared for the rigors of life in the wild. With no running water, no electricity, a house in need of constant repair, and days that ran from four in the morning to nine at night, the MacDonalds had barely a moment to put their feet up and relax. And then came the children. Yet through every trial and pitfall—through chaos and catastrophe—this indomitable family somehow, mercifully, never lost its sense of humor. A beloved literary treasure for more than half a century, Betty MacDonald's *The Egg and I* is a heartwarming and uproarious account of adventure and survival on an American frontier.

"Anyone who has ever struggled with a farm or even with a small garden will especially enjoy this breezy autobiography, But everyone will find its hilarious reminiscences of an unconventional childhood and of unique experiences in the Northwest Pacific sprightly, diverting, and excellent entertainment. The whole book crackles with the innocent deviltry of acorns hitting the roof-tops." -- "Saturday of Literature" "For all the allegedly gloomy moments, *The Egg and I* is an astoundingly light-hearted book. The MacDonalds, one gathers, had both youth and gumption on their side, to say nothing of an abounding humor that bounced them over the direst crises." -- New York Times "About the Author A longtime resident of Washington State, Betty MacDonald (1908-1958) authored four humorous, autobiographical bestsellers and several children's books, including the popular Mrs. Piggle-Wiggles books.