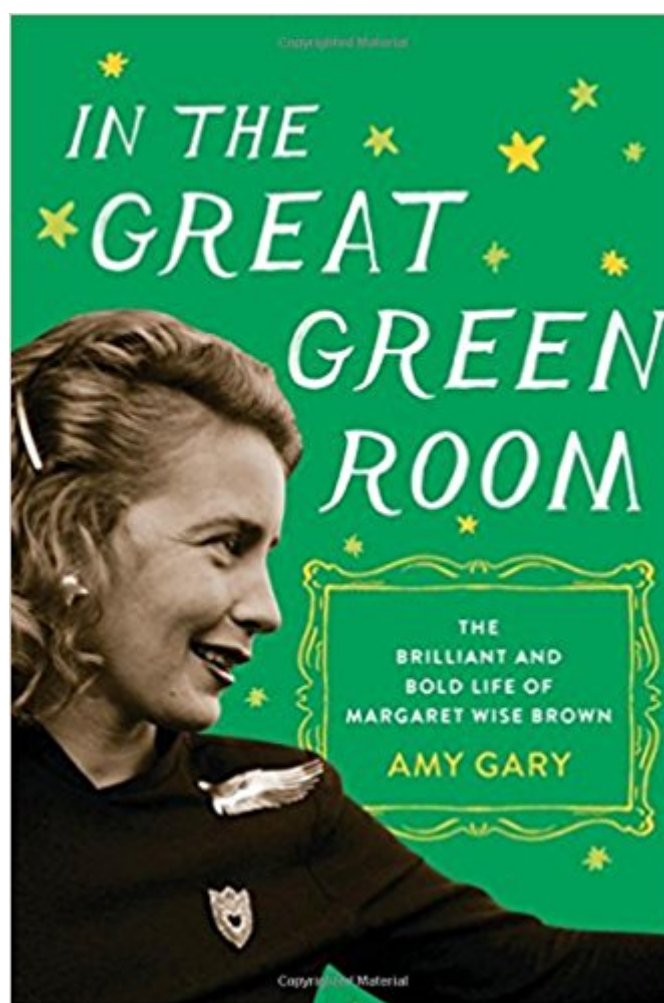


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# In The Great Green Room: The Brilliant And Bold Life Of Margaret Wise Brown



## Synopsis

The extraordinary life of the woman behind the beloved children's classics *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny* comes alive in this fascinating biography of Margaret Wise Brown. Margaret's books have sold millions of copies all over the world, but few people know that she was at the center of a children's book publishing revolution. Her whimsy and imagination fueled a steady stream of stories, book ideas, songs, and poems and she was renowned for her prolific writing and business savvy, as well as her stunning beauty and endless thirst for adventure. Margaret started her writing career by helping to shape the curriculum for the Bank Street School for children, making it her mission to create stories that would rise above traditional fairy tales and allowed girls to see themselves as equal to boys. At the same time, she also experimented endlessly with her own writing. Margaret would spend days researching subjects, picking daisies, cloud gazing, and observing nature, all in an effort to precisely capture a child's sense of awe and wonder as they discovered the world. Clever, quirky, and incredibly talented, Margaret embraced life with passion, lived extravagantly off of her royalties, went on rabbit hunts, and carried on long and troubled love affairs with both men and women. Among them were two great loves in Margaret's life. One was a gender-bending poet and the ex-wife of John Barrymore. She went by the stage name of Michael Strange and she and Margaret had a tempestuous yet secret relationship, at one point living next door to each other so that they could be together. After the dissolution of their relationship and Michael's death, Margaret became engaged to a younger man, who also happened to be the son of a Rockefeller and a Carnegie. But before they could marry Margaret died unexpectedly at the age of forty-two, leaving behind a cache of unpublished work and a timeless collection of books that would go on become classics in children's literature. In *In the Great Green Room*, author Amy Gary captures the eccentric and exceptional life of Margaret Wise Brown, and drawing on newly-discovered personal letters and diaries, reveals an intimate portrait of a creative genius whose unrivaled talent breathed new life in to the literary world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

An Best Book of January 2017: Goodnight Moon is an icon of childhood, a book still given for baby showers and first birthdays even though it's over half a century old. Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny may be the stories she's most known for, but Margaret Wise Brown wrote scores of books. And poems. And led a remarkable life that was totally unlike the quiet, simple pages of her most famous work. Brown was passionate about children's book publishing, and she was a visionary of interactive formats. A successful career in writing did not come easy to her, and Brown found inspiration in Gertrude Stein that completely changed how she approached her craft. Thanks to Amy Gary's insightful biography, *In the Great Green Room*, Margaret Wise Brown has become much more to me than simply the familiar author of much-loved children's books. Now I see a colorful, vibrant woman who had complicated love affairs, a unique ability to see the world through a child's eyes, and who was constantly recreating life on her own terms.

--Seira Wilson, *The Book Review*

"In a biography full of lively anecdotes, this one stands out for the way it encapsulates what must have made Margaret Wise Brown so enchanting to her friends and colleagues.... If the measure of a good life story is the longing it leaves in the reader to have known the subject, this one more than succeeds." •The Wall Street Journal "Margaret Wise Brown's story reads as a stirring evocation of a woman who insisted on freedom in her art and in her love life." •USA Today "In the Great Green Room brings renewed attention to the contrast between Margaret Wise Brown's private life and her status as a celebrated children's author. Drawing on personal letters and diaries, author Amy Gary draws a colorful portrait." •The Washington Post "[In the Great Green Room] offers compelling insights into this remarkable woman." •Los Angeles Review of Books

If you are an adult avid reader, it may be because someone read to you when you were very young.

Do you remember your favorite author? Probably not. However, the book you loved may have been "Goodnight Moon", authored by Margaret Wise Brown the subject of this wonderful biography by Amy Gary. Margaret never lost the ability to see the world through a child's eyes. That's what made her books so successful and what made her life so interesting. She was "quirky" and usually followed her own instincts rather than be swayed by others. I wish I could have known her!

We all remember the effect that Margaret's books had on our childhoods. Now, as an adult, I feel the same way about this book. It's a fantastic look at Margaret Wise Brown's life. The author really takes you inside her head and makes you feel as if you are right there as she is going through her life. The descriptions are vivid and it keeps you wanting to read more. The book has the information of a biography but is page turning like a novel, which is great. A legend like Margaret Wise Brown is really defined by some of her most popular works like Goodnight Moon, but In the Great Green Room really went beyond those and revealed fascinating information about her life and the often tragic love affairs she was involved in. The book is well worth reading as an interesting portrait of a fascinating person, even if you did not grow up reading her children's books. If you've made it this far in my review, quit thinking and just buy this book.

Margaret Wise Brown was a fascinating and complicated woman. Interesting biography of the author of Good Night Moon.

The book captured Margaret Wise Brown's unique personality and way of looking at the world. She was a free spirit who understood children's perceptions so well. I was interested in her life because I loved her books as a child as well as for my own children. Her interest in nature was what gave her books their special touch. The writing was excellent and sensitive.

This book was delightful and likeable. It was easy to read and introduced me to the author of a favorite bedtime story book - Goodnight Moon. Margaret's spirit of adventure was impressive. As the subtitle states she was brilliant and bold! Her ability to see the world through a childlike lens is something to be admired and it was the key to her success as a children's author. This book brought home the importance of positive parent to child relationships. I loved the fact that Margaret was loyal and selfless when it came to her illustrators. She ensured that the illustrators of her books could make a living wage for their craft. Read this book and be inspired to live life as your true self. Note: The book includes several pages of photographs (not sure if they can

be seen in the ebook version). These photos are the icing on the cake of Margaret's story.

Loved the way it was written. Felt like really knew and identified with Margaret Wise Brown. It was amazing what she accomplished as a writer and producer of childrens' books!

We have had Goodnight Moon in the family for years. I knew nothing about Margaret Wise Brown. This book was fascinating. You had Rockefellers, Carnegies, Barrymores, a Governor, a Senator, and many other interesting characters involved in her life. I look at Goodnight Moon with little more knowledge and understanding now.

Amy has done a brilliant job of bringing Margaret Wise Browns life alive for contemporary readers. She has been able to enhance our understanding of this remarkable woman. This is a great addition to the knowledge and experience of Margaret and combined with Leonard Marcus's biography, we can fully experience and admire this talented, sensitive, eccentric and beautiful person.

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