



# Souls Raised from the Dead

*Doris Betts*

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## **Souls Raised from the Dead** Doris Betts

In her first novel in more than ten years, Betts brings her narrative gifts to bear on the powerful and moving story of a Southern family in crisis. Armed with courage, humor, and a shaky faith in God, the family and their friends face a most devastating event--the slow death of a beloved child.

## **Souls Raised from the Dead Details**

Date : Published February 9th 1995 by Touchstone Books (first published 1994)

ISBN : 9780684801049

Author : Doris Betts

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## **From Reader Review Souls Raised from the Dead for online ebook**

### **Vicki Mollenauer says**

Very sad. Not my favorite book, but I did love the little girl. The ending left me feeling kind of lost.

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### **LeAnne says**

Full of surprises. Very interesting North Carolina cultural tidbits

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### **Moira Crone says**

What I learned from this book is a new way for my heart to break. The little girl is wonderful, her family strange and real, and the lessons of the book have never left me. I read it ten years ago, still think about it.

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### **Martha says**

Don't know why it took me so long to get around to reading Doris Betts, but she is a keeper. This book is about the loss of a child to an incurable illness. She has a family that loves her very much, in particular her father, a highway patrolman. She has two sets of grandparents and a mother who is way too self-absorbed to be a mother.

The book is set right here in the triangle, another thing that I liked about it.

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### **Ann says**

It took a little while to get into this book, but once I did, I couldn't put it down.

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### **MB Shakespeare says**

A sad read, but one of hope. Fave quote: "...how if women-strangers had five minutes together they would become either enemies or bosom friends."

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### **Debbie Maskus says**

The book's opening scene provides fun and excitement that soon changes to boredom. The book contains no chapters, just one long and wordy descent into the chasm. The books description predicted the death of the main character, and that death was long in arriving. I expected a better novel. I am sure that Doris Betts

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thought she was emulating James Joyce when she wrote this stream on consciousness, but the method deteriorated the story.

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### **Tony says**

Betts is a wonderful (and overlooked) author from North Carolina. In this novel, like all her work she creates power with understatement, emotion without sentimentality.

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### **Althea May says**

This book was really amazing. Though it was very sad, the characters were easy to relate to (or be really frustrated at) and it was a very well-thought out book, accurate in my opinion both medically and psychologically. Leominster Library has a copy.

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### **Marisa says**

3.5/5 stars

There were some parts of this book that I loved and others I hated. The whole thing is very character driven, and everyone is extremely well developed. All of the main characters whose narration is told are complex and interesting, and it was their interactions and growth I was interested in and what kept me reading.

As for things I didn't like, I personally didn't care for how there aren't any chapters. It's not like the lack of chapters ruined the book for me, and I know it's such a petty thing to criticize, but it's not my favorite thing to deal with in a book because it makes it feel like one giant, long, and never ending story, and really...that's what it felt like. The novel is actually pretty short, but it took me almost a week to read it, and that's a long time for me when I usually take three days max on a book of this size. It just felt tedious and sometimes like I had to complete a chore, and I found that that meant I didn't really want to pick it up and get back to the story.

I cared very much for the characters, and the themes of the novel are beautiful and touching all throughout. However, it can be a difficult read that feels like it drags on much longer than it should. Also, it's horrifically sad. In a way, I appreciate it because I know that life is often sad, and we can't always have the happy endings we see in fiction, and so sometimes it's necessary for fiction to mirror real life, but still. The last 30ish pages or so broke me.

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### **Pastor Pam Estes says**

Similar to Jodi Picoult's books on troubled families with sick children. Powerful perspective on the effects of violence

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### **Jessica says**

Ugh. I really wish I hadn't wasted my time with this one! This was for my book club and I'd really like to know who recommended it and why. The story is set in Chapel Hill, NC and follows Mary and her father Frank, three years before the story starts Mary's mother walks out on their family and it's just been Mary and her father ever since. Right before Mary turns 13 she is diagnosed with a serious kidney disease and the rest of the book is her dealing with the disease and her father basically freaking out all the time. None of the characters are memorable or really likable - even Mary. Plus, there are often weird sexual comments/thoughts/whatever thrown randomly into the story and it really stands out in a bad way. I read the first half and then skimmed the rest. It was a pretty terrible story with no redeeming parts that I could see.

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### **Sarah says**

I love love love this book. I cried a lot reading it but it was beautiful!

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### **Kelly says**

Feeling unsure about reading this one. Love the fact that it's a Southern novel that includes horses (what could be better than that?!?), but not so sure I can handle the terminal illness thing.

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### **Caitlyn says**

Ok this was seriously depressing. They let you become attached to a 12 year old girl, watch her get sick, watch her deteriorate while her jerk of a mother does nothing for her, and then... the girl dies. That is right I ruined it for you. Don't worry I did you a favor. It was well written I guess, but there did not seem to be any redeeming value to outweigh how sad it was.

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