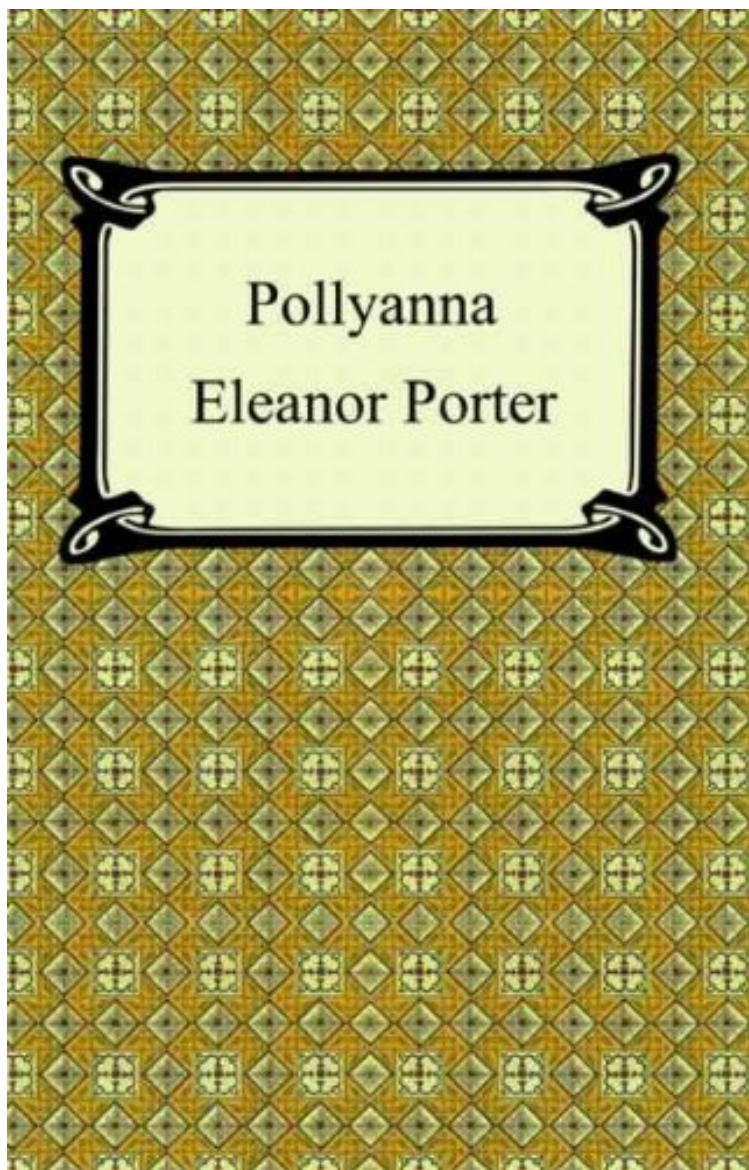


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# Pollyanna [with Biographical Introduction]



*Par Eleanor Porter*  
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**Description :** Description du produit Pollyanna knows the secret to finding a smile--even when really bad things happen. From the moment she arrives in Beldingsville, she shares her Glad Game with everyone around her. But the person who needs Pollyanna's help the most doesn't want it.

Prsentation de l'diteur "Pollyanna", the children's classic, is the story of its title character, a young orphaned girl who moves to Beldingsville to live with her strict maiden aunt. Pollyanna is a girl of great enthusiasm and eternal optimism. Her cheer and gladness infects all that she comes in contact with. However when tragedy strikes she is challenged to regain her sunny disposition. First published in 1913, "Pollyanna" is Eleanor Porter's classic tale of youthful exuberance that has been cherished by young readers for decades.Extrait Pollyanna Eleanor H. Porter 1MISS POLLYMiss Polly Harrington entered her kitchen a little

hurriedly this June morning. Miss Polly did not usually make hurried movements; she specially prided herself on her repose of manner. But today she was hurrying actually hurrying. Nancy, washing dishes at the sink, looked up in surprise. Nancy had been working in Miss Pollys kitchen only two months, but already she new that her mistress did not usually hurry. Nancy! Yes, maam, Nancy answered cheerfully, but she still continued wiping the pitcher in her hand. Nancy Miss Pollys voice was very stern now when Im talking to you I wish you to stop your work and listen to what I have to say. Nancy flushed miserably. She set the pitcher down at once, with the cloth still about it, thereby nearly tipping it over which did not add to her composure. Yes maam; I will maam, she stammered, righting the pitcher, and turning hastily. I was only keepin on with my work cause you specially told me this mornin ter hurry with my dishes, ye know. Her mistress frowned. That will do, Nancy. I did not ask for your explanations. I asked for your attention. Yes maam. Nancy stifled a sigh. She was wondering if ever in any way she could please this woman. Nancy had never worked out before; but a sick mother, suddenly widowed and left with three younger children besides Nancy herself, had forced the girl into doing something towards their support, and she had been so pleased when she found a place in the kitchen of the great house on the hill Nancy had come from The Corners, six miles away, and she knew Miss Polly Harrington only as the mistress of the old Harrington homestead, and one of the wealthiest residents in the town. That was two months before. She knew Miss Polly now as a stern, severe-faced woman who frowned if a knife clattered to the floor, or if a door banged but who never thought to smile even when knives and doors were still. When youve finished your morning work, Nancy, Miss Polly was saying now, you may clear the little room at the head of the stairs in the attic, and make up the cot bed. Sweep the room and clean it, of course, after you clear out the trunks and boxes. Yes maam. And where shall I put the things, please, that I take out? In the front attic. Miss Polly hesitated, then went on: I suppose I may as well tell you now, Nancy. My niece, Miss Pollyanna Whittier is coming to live with me. She is eleven years old, and will sleep in that room. A little girl coming here, Miss Harrington? Oh, wont that be nice! cried Nancy, thinking of the sunshine her own little sisters made in the home at The Corners. Nice? Well, that isnt exactly the word I should use, rejoined Miss Polly stiffly. However, I intend to make the best of it, of course. I am a good woman, I hope; and I know my duty. Nancy coloured hotly. Of course, maam; it was only that I thought a little girl here might might brighten things up for you, she faltered. Thank you, rejoined the lady dryly. I cant say, however, that I see any immediate need for that. But, of course, you youd want her, your sisters child, ventured Nancy, vaguely feeling that somehow she must prepare a welcome for this lonely little stranger. Miss Polly lifted her chin haughtily. Well, really, Nancy, just because I happened to have a sister who was silly enough to marry and bring unnecessary children into a world that was already quite full enough, I cant see how I should particularly want to have the care of them myself. However, as I said before, I hope I know my duty. See that you clean the corners, Nancy, she finished sharply as she left the room. Yes maam, sighed Nancy, picking up the half dried pitcher now so cold it must be rinsed again. In her own room Miss Polly took out once more the letter which she had received two days before from the far-away Western town, and which had been so unpleasant a surprise to her. The letter was addressed to Miss Polly Harrington, Beldingsville, Vermont; and it read as follows: Dear Madam, I regret to inform you that the Rev. John Whittier died two days ago, leaving one child, a girl eleven years old. He left practically nothing else save a few books; for, as you doubtless know, he was the pastor of this small mission church, and had a very meagre salary. I believe he was your deceased sisters husband, but he gave me to understand that the families were not on the best terms. He thought, however, that for your sisters sake you might wish to take the child and bring her up among her own people in the East. Hence I am writing to you. The little girl will be all ready to start by the time you get this letter; and if you can take her, we would appreciate it very much if you would write that she might come at once, as there is a man and his wife here who are going East very soon, and they would take her with them to Boston, and put her on the Beldingsville train. Of course you would be notified what day and train to expect Pollyanna on. Hoping to hear favourably from you soon, I remain, Respectfully yours, Jeremiah O. White With a frown Miss Polly folded the letter and tucked it into its envelope. She had answered it the day before, and she had said she would take the child, of course. She hoped she knew her duty well enough for that! disagreeable as the task would be. As she sat now, with the letter in her hands, her thoughts went back to her sister Jennie, who had been this childs mother, and to the time when Jennie, as a girl of twenty, had insisted upon marrying the young minister, in spite of her familys remonstrances. There had been a man of wealth who had wanted her and the family had much preferred him to the minister but Jennie had not. The man of wealth had more years, as well as more money, to his credit, while the minister had only a young head full of youths ideals and enthusiasm, and a heart full of love.

Jennie had preferred these quite naturally, perhaps; so she had married the minister, and had gone south with him as a home missionary's wife. The break had come then. Miss Polly remembered it well, though she had been but a girl of fifteen, the youngest, at the time. The family had had little more to do with the missionary's wife. To be sure, Jennie herself had written, for a time, and had named her last baby Pollyanna, for her two sisters Polly and Anna the other babies had all died. This had been the last time that Jennie had written; and in a few years there had come the news of her death, told in a short but heart-broken note from the minister himself, dated at a little town in the West. Meanwhile, time had not stood still for the occupants of the great house on the hill. Miss Polly, looking out at the far-reaching valley below, thought of the changes those twenty-five years had brought to her. She was forty now, and quite alone in the world. Father, mother, sisters all were dead. For years now, she had been the sole mistress of the house and of the thousands left her by her father. There were people who had openly pitied her lonely life, and who had urged her to have some friend or companion to live with her; but she had not welcomed either their sympathy or their advice. She was not lonely, she said. She liked being by herself. She preferred quiet. But now Miss Polly rose with frowning face and closely shut lips. She was glad, of course, that she was a good woman, and that she not only knew her duty, but had sufficient strength of character to perform it. But - Pollyanna! what a ridiculous name! From School Library Journal Gr 7 Up - Unloved and unwanted, orphan Pollyanna Whittier boards an eastbound train to live with her Aunt Polly, a wealthy spinster. Aunt Polly treats the child insensitively, giving her a musty room in the attic and expecting her to keep quiet and stay out of the way. Pollyanna, with her optimistic outlook on life, turns all the lemons thrown her way into lemonade; punishments are viewed as rewards, unfriendly people in town are befriended. Pollyanna's "Glad Game" is soon played by all the people of the town. A terrible accident with a motor car as she is crossing the street finally breaks Pollyanna's spirit. When long-held secrets are finally revealed, even Aunt Polly comes around to warming up not only to her niece, but to a relationship she had long denied herself. This recording is based on the book by Eleanor H. Porter, originally published in 1913. It remains a charming, albeit old-fashioned, classic. Barbara Caruso's narration is faithful to the text, with a few minor changes sprinkled throughout. Caruso makes use of vocal inflections to differentiate characters. There is no background music or sound effects to distract listeners. Comparable in quality to Pollyanna read by S. Patricia Bailey (Blackstone Audiobooks, 1996), this recording is preferable to the same title available from Chivers (1995). -Stephanie Bange, Dayton Montgomery County Public Library, OH Copyright 1998 Cahners Business Information, Inc.