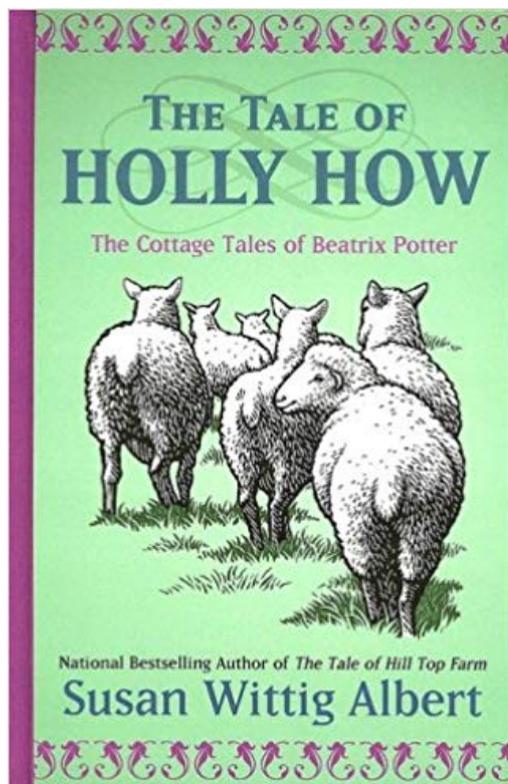


## The Tale of Holly How by Susan Wittig Albert



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Book 2 in *The Cottage Tales of Beatrix Potter*

Everyone in the sleepy village of Sawrey, Beatrix Potter's new home, has a good word to say about local shepherd Ben Hornby. Unfortunately, old Ben has had nothing but trouble this year. His barn burnt down and his cows died. Then Beatrix finds him dead in the meadow and suspects foul play. But there's no evidence, and anyway, who would have done such a thing?



## Reviews of the *The Tale of Holly How* by Susan Wittig Albert

**Arar**

As a child, I was a huge Beatrix Potter fan. I even nagged my mother to change my name to Beatrix (she refused). I still remember the corner of our huge old public library where the "little books" were kept and I borrowed them again and again and again. As an adult, I've read numerous books about Beatrix Potter and introduced her and her books to my 3 children.

When I learned that there was a series of mystery books featuring BP as a character, I was thrilled. First, I gave a few of the books to a relative who had visited Hill Top. Then I received the first book, the Tale of Hill Top Farm, as a gift from my husband. Since then, I've been addictively reading my way through the whole series.

Susan Wittig Albert has achieved a really remarkable feat. Her Beatrix Potter character is exactly as I would have imagined her, along with the Lake District scenery and inhabitants. She manages to convey the world, thoughts, and conversations of the animals, who have their own society existing in parallel to that of the Big Folk, in a most Beatrix Potter-like way.

For Beatrix Potter fans who thought adulthood meant leaving their favorite author behind, these books will be a delight. Thank goodness there are a lot of them, because I don't want them to end!!

### **Ice\_One\_Guys**

This series is such fun! Incredibly imaginative and delightful, but with twists of mystery in a small town in England. The most wonderful thing about these books, besides being a fictional tale, leaning on fact, of Beatrix Potter's life in the countryside, and the mysteries that accompany her daily experiences and those of her townspeople, there is a dual society of animals that live within the same borders. The assorted critters, both domestic and wild, have their own issues and mysteries to solve, and provide their commentary of the goings on in the town as they assist an unseen helping paw to untangle the problems and return village life to its trouble-free, bucolic rhythm.

Albert's writing is water-tight and maintains a steady pace. Her characters stay true to themselves and end happily as all of Beatrix Potter's books do. I'm currently working my way through Albert's China Bayles mystery series. And while the tone is quite different, the author's love of flora and her depth of knowledge, as well as her innate ability to weave an intriguing mystery entice and draw in her readers, much like a vine of Ivy, gently at first, but once the tendrils have wrapped themselves around, they pull tight and keep you in its suspenseful clutches.

### **Oparae**

I love Beatrix Potter's art. After watching Miss Potter, the movie, I wanted to read more about her. While this isn't biographical in the strictest sense, it is a sort of historical fiction. If you love Pride and Prejudice and other such novels, this will likely appeal to you. It also has elements of Watership Down with all the animal conversations. No, it isn't great lit, but it is enjoyable to read with NO SMUT. I like it so much I'm sending the series one by one to my 97-year-old grandmother, who will then pass them on to my mother and aunts. Because it gives us more to talk about and keeps us close, we do that with books we love.

### **Gavinranara**

THE TALE OF HOLLY HOW by Susan Wittig Albert is set after Beatrix Potter purchases Hill Top Farm. Few in the village understand that this quiet shy woman can manage her own affairs without a gentleman controlling her action.

Beatrix buys two ewes with their kids and goes to look them over before bring them to the farm, but while searching for the missing sheep she discovers the body of the old shepherd lying at the foot of a cliff.

Ben Hornby was not well like, but he was fair and well respected. It is soon evident that this death was no accident.

Though the villagers have their doubts about her, she manages to secure their cooperation to solve this terrible crime, while aiding the recovery of missing badgers that were kidnapped for a deadly game.

Nash Black, author of SINS OF THE FATHERS.

### **Qutalan**

The Cottage Tales, all three to date, are wonderful, beautifully researched, exciting, detailed, well-written, and a pure JOY to read. I have been familiar since childhood with all of Beatrix Potter's

books, her home, her biography, have visited her farms in the UK, and own first editions of the actual Tales and the accompanying figurines. The Cottage Tales by Albert complement these books perfectly in every way. Susan Wittig Albert has struck the perfect tone in creating this magical and satisfying series. The animals are so fun! The characters speak the dialects so well. Everything is PERFECT. I love these three books and am recommending them to everyone I know. I cannot wait to see the new one!

### **Conjuril**

The cottage tales are a cozy escape to a simpler time, when neighbors had time to stop and chat, evenings were spent in conversation or reading, fireplaces and candle light warmed and illuminated homes...just a sweet, slow-paced time. I enjoy escaping into this series of books. They are soothing and warm hearted.

Curl up and enjoy these fine people and their animals.

### **Silver Globol**

This title was only mediocre. The plot seemed forced and I felt that the inclusion of the Animals plot was not very well done. It seemed to me that the Author wrote the book and then added the animal's story and dialogue. Others in series seemed to flow better.

Love this book series!

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