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Mandy (Julie Andrews Collection)
 Synopsis

The magic of finding a home Mandy, a ten-year-old orphan, dreams of a place to call her own.
Escaping over the orphanage wall to explore the outside world, Mandy discovers a tiny deserted cottage in the woods. All through the spring, summer, and fall, Mandy works to make it truly hers. Sometimes she "borrows" things she needs from the orphanage. Sometimes, to guard her secret, she even lies. Then, one stormy night at the cottage, Mandy gets sick, and no one knows how to find her except a special friend she didn't know she had.

 Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730 (What's this?)
Series: Julie Andrews Collection
Paperback: 320 pages
Publisher: HarperCollins; 2 Revised edition (August 15, 2006)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0061207071
Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches
Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars (See all reviews (223 customer reviews)
Age Range: 8 - 12 years
Grade Level: 2 - 7

 Customer Reviews

I received Mandy as a gift from a beloved aunt in 1975, for my 7th birthday, with the Judith Gwyn Brown illustrations, and it still has a place in my bookshelves as a favorite to be re-read. I can see why other reviewers compare it to The Little Princess - it has similar qualities, including an imaginative, sensitive heroine (though luckily Mandy's kindly and fair Mrs. Bridie is no Miss Minchin), not to mention the famous book about a little orphan girl, Anne of Green Gables. Though written in 1971, Mandy is really timeless: with the exception of a few minor details, it could be the 1920s, or 1900, or the present. I think most little girls, and little boys too, would really enjoy the
story. There's a little bit of mystery, and adventure, and fairy tale. I had been really interested in Mandy's cottage and the house since first reading the book (it may have sparked my interest in English country houses), so I was intrigued to read in Julie Andrews' introduction to the new edition that she got the idea for the story while on location for a film shoot at a big, old country estate that included a shell cottage. I looked into it and found that part of Andrews' 1970 film Darling Lili (by husband Blake Edwards) had been filmed near Dublin, Ireland and the estate in question was Carton House, ancestral home of the earls of Kildare (family name: Fitzgerald) for hundreds of years. The beautiful Georgian manor house described in Mandy was built about 1739 for the 20th earl (later 1st Duke of Leinster), and it was his wife Emily Lennox who decorated the shell cottage in 1766. It was named "Waterstone" and had formerly been a laborer's cottage.

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