

Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill

By Maud Hart Lovelace

Chapter One: Getting to Be Ten

Betsy, Tacy, and Tib were nine years old, and they were very anxious to be ten.

"You have two numbers in your age when you are ten. It's the beginning of growing up," Betsy would say.

Then the three of them felt solemn and important and pleased. They could hardly wait for their birthdays.

It was strange that Betsy and Tacy and Tib were in such a hurry to grow up, for they had so much fun being children. Betsy and Tacy lived on Hill Street which ran straight up into a green hill and stopped. The small yellow cottage where Betsy Ray lived was the last house on that side of the street, and the rambling white house opposite where Tacy Kelly lived was the last house on that side. They had the whole hill for a playground. And not just that one green slope. There were hills all around them. Hills like a half-opened fan rose in the east behind Betsy's house. Beyond the town and across the river where the sun set there were more hills. The name of the town was Deep Valley.

Tib didn't live on Hill Street. To get to Tib's house from the place where Betsy and Tacy lived, you went one block down and one block over. (The second block was through a vacant lot.) But Tib lived near enough to come to play with Betsy and Tacy. She came every day.

"They certainly have fun, those three," Betsy's mother used to say to Betsy's father.

They did, too.

Betsy's big sister Julia played with Tacy's sister Katie, but they didn't have so much fun as Betsy and Tacy and Tib had. They were too grown-up. They were twelve.

Betsy's little sister Margaret, Tacy's younger brother Paul, and Tib's yellow-headed brothers, Freddie and Hobbie, had fun all right, but not so much fun as Betsy and Tacy and Tib had. They were too little.

Going on ten seemed to be exactly the right age for having fun. But just the same Betsy and Tacy and Tib wanted to be ten years old.

They were getting near it now. Betsy and Tacy were growing tall, so that their mothers were kept busy lengthening their dresses. Tib wasn't as tiny as she used to be, but she was still tiny. She still looked like a picture-book fairy. The three girls had cut their hair when they were eight years old and didn't know any better, but it had grown out. Tib's curls once more made a yellow fluff around her little face. Tacy had her long red ringlets and Betsy had her braids again.

"When I'm ten," said Betsy, "I'm going to cross my braids in back and tie them with ribbons."

"I'm going to tie my hair at my neck with a big blue bow," Tacy replied.

"We can't put it up in pugs quite yet, I suppose," Betsy said.

"But pretty soon we can," said Tacy. "On top of our heads."

Tib did not make plans like that. She never did.

"I only hope," she said, "that when I get to be ten years old people will stop taking me for a baby."

For people always thought that Tib was younger than she was. And she didn't like it a bit.

Tacy got to be ten first because her birthday came in January. They didn't have many birthday parties at Tacy's house. There were too many children in the family. Mrs. Kelly would have been giving birthday parties every month in the year, almost, if every child at the Kelly house had had a party every birthday. But when Tacy was ten, Betsy and Tib were invited to supper. There was a cake with candles on it.

Tacy didn't look any different or feel any different.

But she knew why that was. Betsy and Tib weren't ten yet.

"We'll all have to get to be ten before it really counts, I suppose," Tacy said.

Tib got to be ten next because her birthday came in March. Tib didn't have a birthday party; she had the grippe instead. But she was given a bicycle, and her mother sent pieces of birthday cake over to Betsy and Tacy.

And Tib didn't look any different or feel any different. But she didn't expect much change until Betsy got to be ten. And Betsy's birthday didn't come until April.

Tacy and Tib didn't say very much about being ten. They were too polite. They talked about presents and birthday cakes, but they didn't mention having two numbers in their age. They didn't talk about beginning to grow up until the afternoon before Betsy's birthday.

That afternoon after school they all went up on the Big Hill hunting for violets. It was one of those April days on which it seemed that summer had already come, although the ground was still muddy and brown. The sun was shining so warmly that Betsy, Tacy, and Tib pulled off their stocking caps and unbuttoned their coats. Birds in the bare trees were singing with all their might, and Betsy, Tacy, and Tib sang too as they climbed the Big Hill.

They sang to the tune of "Mine eyes have seen the glory," but they made up the words themselves:

*"Oh, Betsy's ten tomorrow,
And then all of us are ten,
We will all grow up tomorrow,
We will all be ladies then..."*

Every page goes through several hundred of perfecting techniques; in live mode. Quite the same Wikipedia. Just better. The girls are competing with Betsy's and Tacy's older sisters about having a Queen of Summer. When they go out to collect votes, they find themselves making friends with a surprising little girl their own age in the Little Syria section of Deep Valley, Minnesota. Trivia. Betsy and Tacy first sing their "Cat Duet" at the school entertainment in this book. References. ^ "Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill (this is a blog)". www.100bookseverychildshouldreadbeforegrowingup.com. Retrieved 1 March 2015. ^ "Women of Minnesota: Selected Biographical Essays edited by Down Town: A Betsy-Tacy Story (or: Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown) [Maud Hart Lovelace, Lois Lenski] on Amazon.com. *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Down Town: A Betsy-Tacy Story (or: Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown). Classic Series Classic Books Reading At Home Old Flame Chronicles Of Narnia Book Nooks Wedding Book Here Comes The Bride Paperback Books. Betsy's Wedding (Betsy-Tacy). Letters. Over the Big Hill. Oct. 5, 2012. To the Editor: Perri Klass's essay "Growing Up Together" (Sept. 23) captures the delights of the Betsy-Tacy books but overlooks the tedious moralizing (be conscientious, be helpful, be loyal to old friends but open to new ones) that bogs down the stories and made me, as a child, feel manipulated. Why do so many writers of children's books have difficulty accepting that children read fiction for fun, not to be molded to adults' specifications? FELICIA NIMUE ACKERMAN Providence, R.I. The writer is a professor of philosophy at Brown University. To the E Betsy and Tacy lived on Hill Street which ran straight up into a green hill and stopped. The small yellow cottage where Betsy Ray lived was the last house on that side of the street, and the rambling white house opposite where Tacy Kelly lived was the last house on that side. They had the whole hill for a playground. And not just that one green slope. There were hills all around them. Hills like a half-opened fan rose in the east behind Betsy's house. That afternoon after school they all went up on the Big Hill hunting for violets. It was one of those April days on which it seemed that summer had already come, although the ground was still muddy and brown. The sun was shining so warmly that Betsy, Tacy, and Tib pulled off their stocking caps and unbuttoned their coats. Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown is the fourth volume in the Betsy-Tacy series by Maud Hart Lovelace. In this volume in the series, horseless carriages arrive in Deep Valley for the first time when Mr. Poppy, the owner of the Opera House, buys an automobile. Betsy's friend Tib is his first passenger along with his wife due to her having the boldness to ask for a ride. Although the girls' classmate Winona Root is jealous of Tib over this experience, she soon gets over it and invites Betsy and Tib to their first real theatrical experience, a dramatized version of Uncle Tom's Cabin

Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill begins just as the girls turn ten; Lovelace reminds us how momentous turning ten is for a child. Perhaps Lovelace's books are adored so much because she combines childish innocence and real-life situations. Big Hill involves the children exploring a neighborhood they've never been to before, Little Syria, where they befriend a girl who is a Syrian immigrant. I can't say that this book deals with immigration and race issues in a complex way, but it does address concerns about children teasing someone from another country, using racial slurs, and adults' general Betsy-Tacy and Tib. Read more. Over the Hill And Over the Dale. Read more. Over Hill and Dale. P E NGUIN B OOK S O V E R HILL A ND DA LE Gervas e P hinn is a teac her, freelanc e lec turer, author, poet, s c hool in Up the Hill and Over, Go BIG or Go HOME. Go BIG or Go HOME! How the next generation of startup companies think BIG, grow FAST, and dominate markets overnight W Go Big or Go Home. —. Report "Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill". Your name. Email. Betsy and Tacy Go Downtown is the fourth volume in the Betsy-Tacy series by Maud Hart Lovelace . In this volume in the series, horseless carriages arrive in Deep Valley for the first time when Mr. Poppy, the owner of the Opera House , buys an automobile. Betsy's friend Tib is his first passenger " along with his wife " due to her having the boldness to ask for a ride. Although the girls' classmate Winona Root is jealous of Tib over this experience, she soon gets over it and invites Betsy and Tib to their first real theatrical experience, a dramatized version of Uncle Tom's Cabin Betsy and Tacy lived on Hill Street which ran straight up into a green hill and stopped. The small yellow cottage where Betsy Ray lived was the last house on that side of the street, and the rambling white house opposite where Tacy Kelly lived was the last house on that side. They had the whole hill for a playground. And not just that one green slope. There were hills all around them. Hills like a half-opened fan rose in the east behind Betsy's house. That afternoon after school they all went up on the Big Hill hunting for violets. It was one of those April days on which it seemed that summer had already come, although the ground was still muddy and brown. The sun was shining so warmly that Betsy, Tacy, and Tib pulled off their stocking caps and unbuttoned their coats. Betsy and Tacy lived on Hill Street which ran straight up into a green hill and stopped. The small yellow cottage where Betsy Ray lived was the last house on that side of the street, and the rambling white house opposite where Tacy Kelly lived was the last house on that side. They had the whole hill for a playground. And not just that one green slope. There were hills all around them. Hills like a half-opened fan rose in the east behind Betsy's house. That afternoon after school they all went up on the Big Hill hunting for violets. It was one of those April days on which it seemed that summer had already come, although the ground was still muddy and brown. The sun was shining so warmly that Betsy, Tacy, and Tib pulled off their stocking caps and unbuttoned their coats.

Betsy's big sister Julia played with Tacy's sister Katie, but they didn't have so much fun as Betsy and Tacy and Tib had. They were too grown-up. They were twelve. The tone of *Betsy and Tacy Go Over the Big Hill* is slightly more somber yet realistic than the previous two books since it briefly touches on prejudice and unrequited first love. Even as an adult, I still like to pick up and re-read my Betsy-Tacy books for fun. Read more. Betsy and Tacy lived on Hill Street which ran straight up into a green hill and stopped. The small yellow cottage where Betsy Ray lived was the last house on that side of the street, and the rambling white house opposite where Tacy Kelly lived was the last house on that side. They had the whole hill for a playground. And not just that one green slope. There were hills all around them. Hills like a half-opened fan rose in the east behind Betsy's house. That afternoon after school they all went up on the Big Hill hunting for violets. It was one of those April days on which it seemed that summer had already come, although the ground was still muddy and brown. The sun was shining so warmly that Betsy, Tacy, and Tib pulled off their stocking caps and unbuttoned their coats. Betsy, Tacy, and Tib can't wait to be ten. After all, getting two numbers in your age is the beginning of growing up—exciting things are bound to happen. And they do! The girls fall in love with the King of Spain, perform in the School Entertainment, and for the first time, go all the way over the Big Hill to Little Syria by themselves. There Betsy, Tacy, and Tib make new friends and learn a thing or two. They learn that new Americans are sometimes the best Americans. And they learn that they themselves wouldn't want to be anything else. Ever since their first publication in the 1940