

Ripping Reads No 30 August 2019



What Would You Choose? (I) by Anne Dawes

That is really quite a challenge from Kathleen Leach! To choose just twelve books out of all the books I learned to love as a child would be so difficult. However, let me give it a go!

My first love was Enid Blyton but although I still have my copy of *The Secret Seven* given to me on my seventh birthday back in 1955, and much as I loved *St. Clare's* and *Malory Towers*, the *Mysteries*, *The Faraway Tree* and probably an all-time favourite *The Sea of Adventure*, I don't think that any of hers would make the top dozen.

Probably the first book that would definitely be kept would be *Little Women*. My copy had an orange and blue board cover and had belonged to my mother. It is falling to bits but is still in my bookcase. I can still remember rushing home from school to get another fix of it. I think I was probably about eight years old. I tried calling my mother 'Marmee' for a while, not really realising that it was an Americanism. I know my mother put a sharp break on that one! I cried



buckets over the death of Beth and Jo's refusal of Laurie's proposal, of the engagement of Amy on the lake at Vevey and the poem, 'Four Little Boxes' so maybe I should also keep *Good Wives*. I do love *Plumfield* but that would take up too many of my choices! They are certainly books I have read and reread.

What Katy Did is worth a thought even if it is only for the memory of having mumps. It's hard to imagine now but in those days when we were ill, we were put to bed and stayed there without phones or iPad or even TV. Just books and time to read! I read *Katy* and became delighted with the idea of the grand "Coming downstairs" that I was going to have. I made presents for

