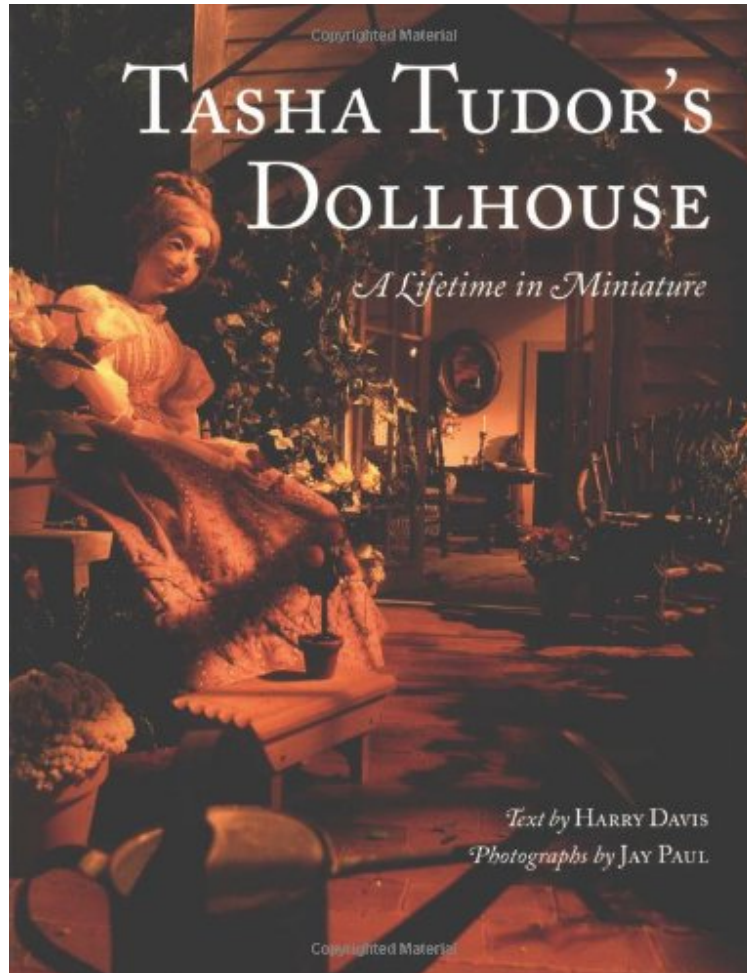


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## **Tasha Tudor's Dollhouse : A Lifetime in Miniature**

**Harry Davis, Jay Paul : Tasha Tudor's Dollhouse : A Lifetime in Miniature** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tasha Tudor's Dollhouse : A Lifetime in Miniature:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice book, but with reservations. By Cust#InfinityThensomePaper: Not acid-free. Binding: Perfect, i.e. signatures trimmed to single pages, then glued. Photographer Jay Paul has done a fine job capturing the moods of the two very expressive dolls made by Ms. Tudor, Captain Thaddeus Crane, (who looks like Henry David Thoreau), and Emma Birdwhistle. Also, atmospheric views of objects within the house, and, in a separate section, a selection from the collection in brightly lit photos. I like many aspects of the book design, but object to the diagram of the house with the room of the chapter shaded, useful as it is, taking a whole page at the beginning of each chapter. It could have been shrunk down to take the place of the four tiny unreadable photo details placed next to the restatement of each chapter title, leaving the facing page for another large picture or two. Also, I dont believe in double-page spreads. The gutter down the middle ruins ones ability to understand the picture. All of the full-room pictures are two-page spreads. But then, the rooms dont have much architectural distinction. They are a

group of restrained room boxes made to showcase the collection, not a model of a house that might draw away interest for itself. And being so large, already dominating the exhibition gallery as it reportedly did, it couldn't be given full depth. The title of the book is a bit of a misnomer. It is not really Tasha Tudor's dollhouse, but *The Tasha Tudor Dollhouse At The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Center, Williamsburg, Virginia*. The house was specially built, with her collaboration, to display Ms. Tudor's collection of miniatures, and, because the scale of the objects is one-fourth human size, not the usual dollhouse one-twelfth, (so the dolls must be nearly a foot and a half tall), the house was too large to go home with Ms. Tudor once the special exhibition *Take Joy! The World Of Tasha Tudor* closed, six months after the opening date Nov. 2, 1996. Harry Davis's text states, "...over the course of more than seventy-seven years...the dolls have changed residences many times...one doll or another has left...to go with a grown child, perhaps to start another miniature version of a life. Since building *Corgi Cottage* in 1971, Tasha had not had a dollhouse large enough to house the entire collection. She had room settings in built-in cases along a wall adjacent to her bedroom. Perhaps someday a book will come out detailing the history of Tasha Tudor's family's collections of miniatures, dolls, and the houses for them, past and present. The last four pages of the book are occupied by a chronological listing of Ms. Tudor's books, 1938 to 1999, (she died 2008). It's not the full biographers-researchers bibliography you'd find at the end of a biography, that would include her works outside of books, and articles about her in magazines and newspapers, but it is quite a nice thing to have. The text does mention a 1955 *LIFE* magazine article covering Thaddeus's first marriage, to Melissa Shakespeare, the doll that inspired the book *A Is For Annabelle*. It may be seen in GoogleBooks. It was in the Sept. 12th issue, four pages of black and white photos by Verner Reed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful book! By Janice Mitchell Absolutely beautiful book! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Purchased mainly because I had done many of the pottery ... By CNC Purchased mainly because I had done many of the pottery pieces in the book. I gave book to my son and family.

A one-quarter-human-scale version of Tudor's own 19th-century Victorian-style Vermont home, *Corgi Cottage*, in which she exhibits astonishing works of miniature art, from musical instruments and Shaker boxes to tiny printed books and cakes and cookies that look good enough to eat. 100 color photos.

About the Author Tasha Tudor has written, illustrated, or been the subject of more than 187 books. Her edition of *THE SECRET GARDEN* sold 2 million copies making it one of the bestselling children's books of all time. Harry Davis has studied Tasha's art for almost thirty years.