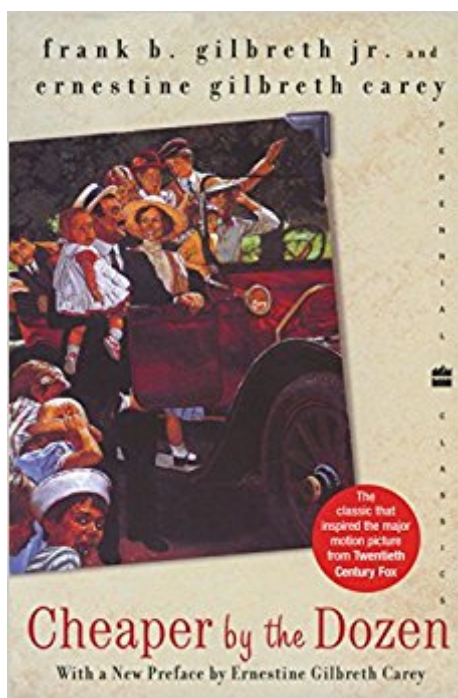


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Cheaper By The Dozen (Perennial Classics)



Synopsis

What do you get when you put twelve lively kids together with a father -- a famous efficiency expert -- who believes families can run like factories, and a mother who is his partner in everything except discipline? You get a hilarious tale of growing up that has made generations of kids and adults alike laugh along with the Gilbreths in *Cheaper by the Dozen*. Translated into more than fifty-three languages and made into a classic film starring Clifton Webb and Myrna Loy, *Cheaper by the Dozen* is a delightfully enduring story of family life at the turn of the 20th century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Gay and lighthearted...One of the most amusing books.” (The Chicago Sun-Times)
“Always entertaining, occasionally hilarious, occasionally touching....Sound Americana.” (Saturday Review of Literature)
“Instructive, funny, and very readable.” (School Library Journal)

No growing pains have ever been more hilarious than those suffered loudly by the riotous Gilbreth clan. First, there are a dozen red-haired, freckle-faced kids to contend with. Then there's Dad, a famous efficiency expert who believes a family can be run just like a factory. And there's Mother, his partner in everything except discipline. How they all survive such escapades as forgetting Frank, Jr., in a roadside restaurant or going on a first date with Dad in the backseat or having their tonsils removed en masse will keep you in stitches. You can be sure they're not only cheaper, they're funnier by the dozen. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

If there's one thing that irks me (and there are many) it's that wonderful old books like this one have been dumped in the "kiddie lit" pile and are considered unsuitable for adults. Good God, must we have violence, graphic sex, and non-stop profanity in every paragraph in order for a book to be worthy of our attention? This is the story of a family (a big one) and of the two fascinating, unusual people who created it. It's also a look at the early years of the 20th century and how they changed life for all time. We think of it as a lazy, nostalgic time when people were rooted in tradition. In reality, it was a time of rapid change when Americans were excited about the future and their growing importance in the world. Industries were waking up to new ways of doing things that increased productivity. Increased productivity meant lower costs, which meant that the average citizen could enjoy products (like automobiles) that had been rich men's toys only a few years before. It was a time of prosperity and optimism. Frank and Lillian Gilbreth were efficiency engineers who were at the forefront of this movement. And like all engineers, they tended to run their home by the same principles that guided their profession. As their oldest daughter points out in her humorous-but-incisive introduction, a great deal of "regimentation" is absolutely necessary in a large family or chaos reigns. Not that there wasn't plenty of chaos anyway, and most of it is hilarious. Lillian Gilbreth was of the generation called the "New Woman." Feminism wasn't born in the 1960's, but had its roots in the era when women were fighting for the right to attend college, to be professionals, and to vote. With her proud husband supporting her, this gentle but strong woman took her place in a profession that even today is still largely male-dominated. And she raised a houseful of children while she was doing it! It's also the story of a successful marriage which tragically ended too soon. I love the contrast between the bombastic self-made man and the quiet girl from the wealthy California family. Each brought strengths into the partnership and they respected and supported each other both personally and professionally. Yes, this is a book that would not (as we used to say) raise a blush on the cheek of a modest young lady (assuming you could find one) but it's also a down-to-earth telling of family life in an era when there were no "experts" telling people how to raise their children. The story of two very different people and how they loved and taught their large brood is not just entertaining, but educational. I loved this book as a child and I enjoyed reading it again. I can't really imagine anyone who WOULDN'T. It's a true classic.

The first time I read *Cheaper by the Dozen*, I was in about sixth grade--and the eldest of five sisters. The stories of life in a large family were familiar and fun. Fifty-some-odd years later, they still are.

What a joy to read (for the fourth or fifth time) a book about a functional family! And in language that is appropriate for all ages. Not mentioned in the text is the fact that Lillian Gilbreth went on to be a well-regarded expert in the field of efficiency studies, and invented several work-saving devices now taken for granted (such as the pedal trash can). I encourage the reader to spend time with the Gilbreths, and to enjoy their delightful family life.

Just a technical product note. The Audible book currently DOES NOT match the content of the Kindle version. The first chapter is the same, and then it diverges. I returned the Audible book for a refund without difficulty. I've purchased other Audible books that did not have an "eBook companion," but still matched the content exactly. This is the first book I've encountered with major differences.

Okay you just have to get past the minstrel show section, the one xenophobia of its day. The story is sweet and the values and teamwork are moving. I couldn't put it down.

This is one of the funniest books I have ever read. My daughters (ages 15 and 17) have adored it for years. I was recently asking them for audiobook recommendations for a middle school boy, and Cheaper by the Dozen was the first book they thought of. When I am going to visit someone in the hospital, I buy a copy of Cheaper by the Dozen (that is why I am buying this copy). I read a chapter or two at each visit, and finally give them the book. I think of the book often. I was just realizing that this week I thought of it three different times. I have read it at least 1/2 dozen times and love it every time. I cannot recommend it highly enough -- one of my all-time favorites

Cheaper by the Dozen is one of my favorite books. I have a hard back copy in my library, but I wanted one for my Kindle. The story is a deligor full classic, portraying great love in this large family. It is filled with humor and all sorts of wonderful family activities that I actually implemented with my own children when they were growing up. There were many, many typographical errors in this ebook. I would have preferred that since I paid money for the book, it would be well edited. In spite of multiple typographical errors on every page, the humor and engaging family experience still shines through. I would recommend this book for people of all ages and in all stages of life. I would have given the book 5 stars, except for the many typos in this volume.

I have loved this book since I was a child. Though I don't think I would have loved being in that

family. The patriarchal father is not to my liking.

Such a wonderful book from a time when life was much simpler even in a family as big as the Gilbreth's. Although I doubt that any family lives such an idyllic life as is described in the book--nostalgia has a way of smoothing the rough edges--the Gilbreth family was clearly blessed. There is no sappy sentimentality here although clearly there is a lot of love. As in every life, there is sadness, but the Gilbreths are more given to hilarity. If you have only seen the 2003 remake of the movie, you haven't experienced "Cheaper by the Dozen." Do yourself a favor and read the delightful book then hunt out the original 1950 movie starring Clifton Webb. I'm guessing you will be eager to follow up with the sequel "Belles on Their Toes."

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