

"Denis Judd has done a superb job of paring down 39 volumes of Uttley's journals into a selection in which the flavour of each period is captured..The book will fascinate anyone interested in this well-known author and serves as a social commentary on 40 years of social and economic upheaval..With Judd's skilled editing, Uttley's diaries are a compelling read.

History Today

The book reveals not merely the creative inner world of a gifted and productive writer .but also charts the highs and lows of her personal life, as well as providing a wonderful record of nearly forty years of British history.

Best of British

'Unquestionably gifted as a writer, her edited diaries bear witness to her prodigious literary output, her appreciation of nature lyrically described and her heart-warming nostalgia for her idyllic rural childhood in the Derbyshire Peak District.'

Daily Mail

For many of us, Alison Uttley is the greatly loved and revered author of childhood classics such as *Little Grey Rabbit*, *A Traveller in Time* and *Sam Pig*, as well as her popular country-based books for adults, including *The Country Child*. But her private diaries from 1932-71 reveal a darker, more complex side to the famous storyteller. Alison Uttley's biographer, Denis Judd, has skilfully edited her six million words to record an almost 40-year period in one volume, retaining their true spirit in an entrancing but often surprising read. Alison Uttley's diary entries are beautifully written and revealing, often returning to her fondly remembered childhood in rural Derbyshire. Showing at first her excitement when, as a grieving widow following her husband's suicide, she supported her only child, John, with her royalties from her new role as an author, the story ends with her as a *grande dame* of literature, acclaimed but never entirely content. She also wrote about her dreams and her belief in her psychic abilities, as well as expressing a deep, almost unnatural love for her son. In the pages of the diaries, Alison's self-obsession and delusions mingle with her stout belief in her characters and books. She records her frustration with publishers, writes beautiful descriptions of the world outside her windows, especially the countryside, expresses her idiosyncratic views on life and culture, and spells out the realities of her early financial struggles.

One of the most fascinating features of the diaries is her relationship with fellow authors and with her main illustrator, Margaret Tempest whom she detested. Whilst Alison adored Walter de la Mare and other father figures, including her old professor at Manchester University, she abhorred many females, including her near neighbour, Enid Blyton, whom she called a 'vulgar, curled woman' and whose success provoked her envy and dislike.

This is a must-read book for anyone interested in Alison Uttley, her writings, the complexities of her life and the tumultuous times in which she lived.

£14.99



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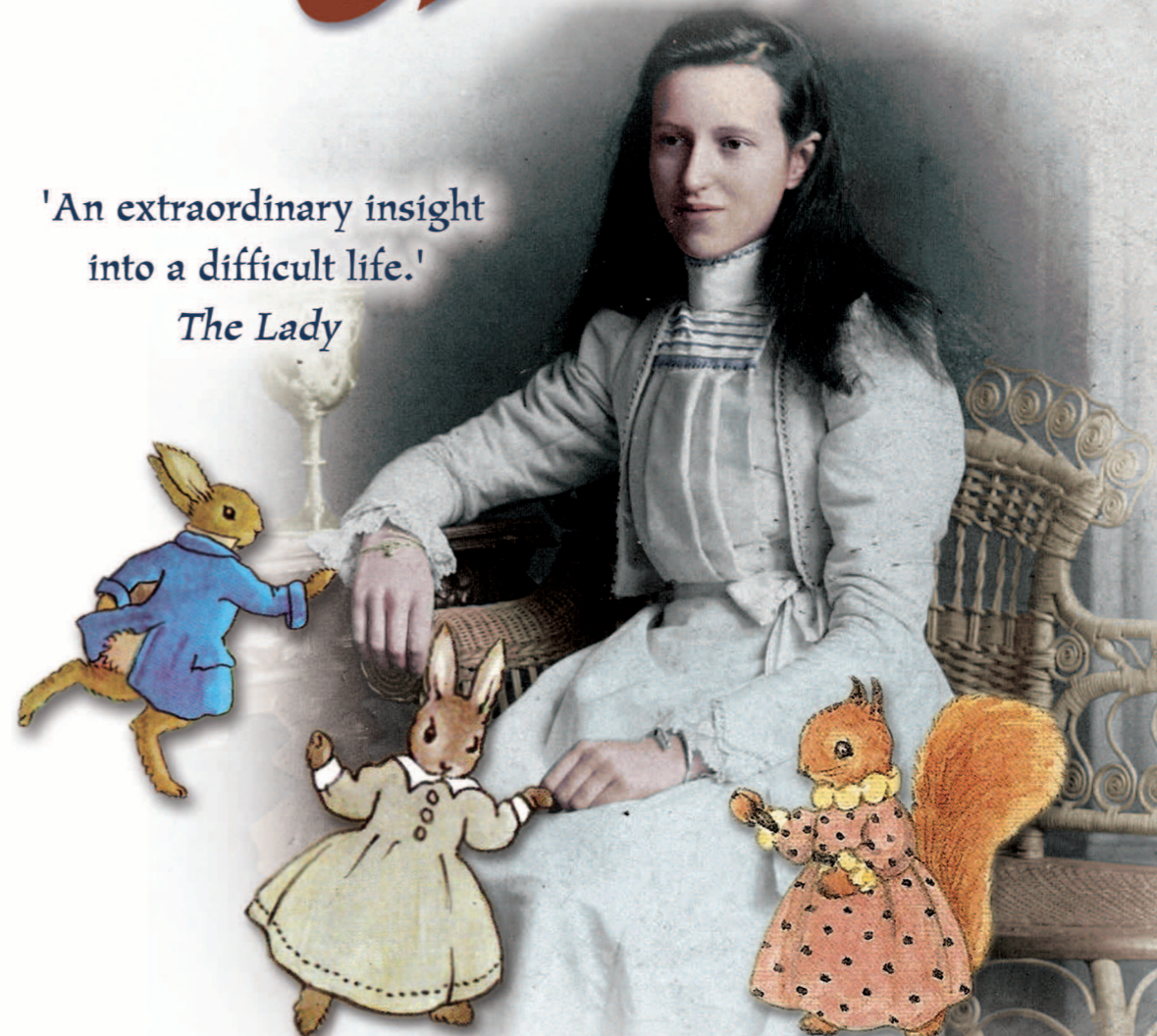
THE PRIVATE DIARIES OF
ALISON UTTLEY
1932 - 1971



THE PRIVATE DIARIES OF
ALISON UTTLEY 1932 - 1971
Author of *Little Grey Rabbit*
and *Sam Pig*

'An extraordinary insight
into a difficult life.'

The Lady



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