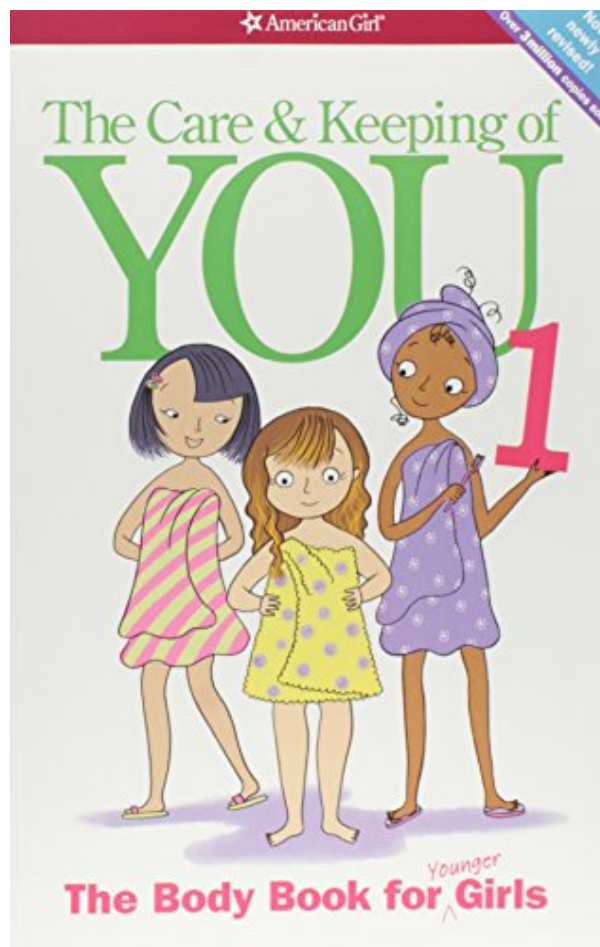


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BODY BOOK FOR YOUNGER GIRLS,
REVISED EDITION BY VALORIE SCHAEFER**



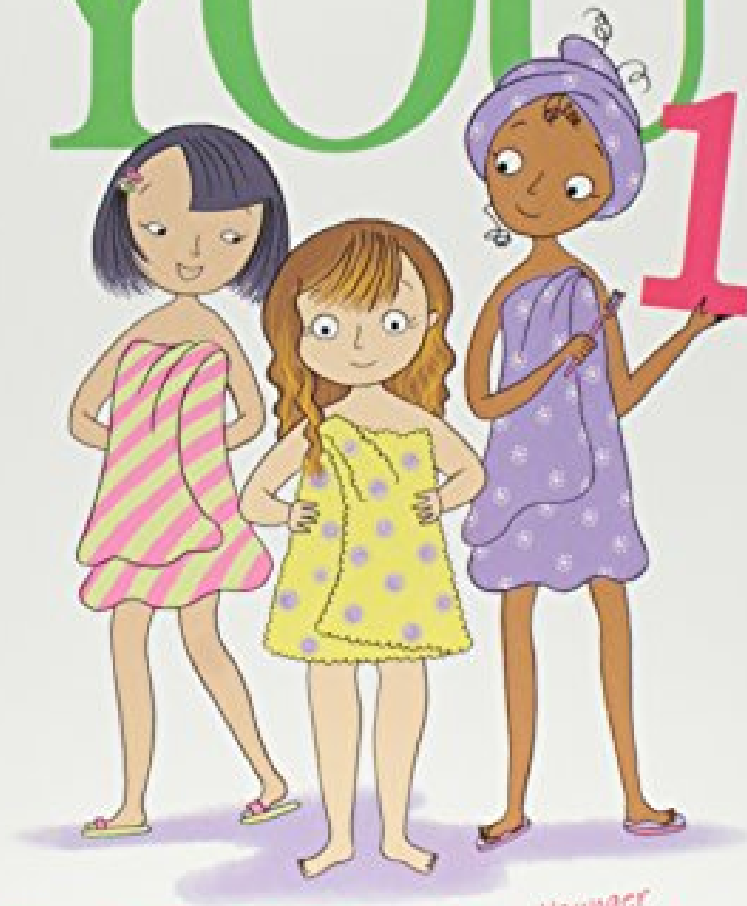
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Our best-selling body book for girls just got even better! With all-new illustrations and updated content for girls ages 8 and up, it features tips, how-tos, and facts from the experts. (Medical consultant: Cara Natterson, MD.) You'll find answers to questions about your changing body, from hair care to healthy eating, bad breath to bras, periods to pimples, and everything in between. Once you feel comfortable with what's happening, you'll be ready to move on to the *The Care & Keeping of You 2!*

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- Binding: Paperback
- 104 pages

Most helpful customer reviews

546 of 559 people found the following review helpful.

Read the book first to see if it is a good fit for your child

By sunny_peach

I bought this for my daughter who currently is seven with the thought I would have it stored away until I felt like she was ready to start talking in more detail about puberty, maybe sometime in the next year or when she is eight. I developed on the earlier side, as did my mother, so I am anticipating she may start pre-puberty in the next year or so. I am so glad I decided to read through the book before showing it to her because I have decided to return it and look for something else. As another reviewer mentioned, this book has a lot of content that could actually CAUSE insecurities about her body rather than prevent them.

What I like about the book:

It is simply written and easy for a younger girl to understand. It talks about puberty in a mostly positive way. It has fun illustrations that would appeal to my daughter and does talk about all bodies being different and so on, BUT...

What I DON'T like about the book:

As of now my daughter has a very positive self/body image. She is very comfortable in the skin she is in. From my observations, most girls in the target age of this book, 8-11, haven't quite gotten the message yet that they should be looking critically at their own bodies or judge others for how they look. If they read this book, though, they WILL be exposed to these concepts. While my daughter does have a positive self-image at the moment and we have worked hard to cultivate that, I also know (and remember) how fragile that can be at the tween stage and the power of suggestion is huge at this age.

Here are some examples:

My daughter has a beautiful speckling of freckles across her nose. Most people around her have commented that they love them. SHE loves them. She said to me a few months ago that she wished she had MORE freckles. In this book, on page 36: "I have freckles. I hate them and wish I could get some lotion that would make my freckles go away. I need help!" While she loves her freckles, I could see reading this she may start to question how she feels about them. I could imagine her thinking, "Wait, are freckles considered to be ugly?"

Page 50-51, three questions are about girls' insecurities of having a flat chest, then this one: "I have bigger boobs than all of my friends. Because of this, my friends are embarrassed to be around me because they think I'm very ugly and fat. I used to be very popular, but now I find myself dorky and lonely." Yikes! Really?? I developed breasts earlier than my friends and was definitely insecure about them, wearing large shirts, etc., but NEVER did I ever think my friends wouldn't like me because of them. The message that people may not like you because of anything having to do with your physical appearance is horrible. I know it is rampant in our culture, but I really would like to keep my young daughter from being exposed to this idea as long as I can. I realize the book is trying to prevent these kinds of thoughts, but the question in itself may get girls wondering and thinking about these things, not to mention re-enforcing the message that if you are fat, you are unlikable.

In the same vain, pages 62-63, titled Body Talk, all four questions from girls are about how other girls are thinner; how to stay thin; how to get thinner; and comparing your own body to your friends'. Talk about re-enforcing the idea that thin is ideal! I know the answers talk about all bodies being different and not to compare yourself, but these questions themselves might get our daughters thinking about whether they are thin enough and that it is normal to compare their bodies to their friends'. Yes, I realize she will face these issues at some point. I just feel there is no need to get these thoughts going at such an early age.

This is getting so long, but just know there are other parts in the book talking about comparing yourself to others physically; calling someone pizza face because of acne; insecurities if you haven't gotten your period yet and are not considered a "woman" like your friends, etc. Again, I know that these are presented as questions and the book is telling the girls not to do those things or feel these ways, but the power of suggestion is so strong.

I wish there was a simple book about bodily changes/puberty which I could read to an eight year old girl without going in to explicit details about sex. This book would be much better if it just stuck to the facts about physical changes during puberty, how to take care of yourself, etc. and left out the question/answer section. The questions seem more appropriate for the second book for older girls (if even), not the target age of this book. I saw one recommendation in another review for "Reaching for the Moon," by Lucy H. Pearce. I will try that and then leave an update here.

529 of 551 people found the following review helpful.

Revised Edition for Younger Girls

By Joy

I got this book for my 8-year-old for Christmas. Sensitive issues about body changes are becoming a hot topic around here as we begin to deal with pre-puberty. Because she is such a huge bookworm I thought this would be a great starting off point for her to learn about body changes. I think that this is one subject where you really have to take into consideration your own child's personality and decide how to approach these sensitive topics. With that being said I asked her to read the book on her own time and then we could talk about any questions that she has, leaving the ball in her court and leaving the door to conversation WIDE open.

The book has definitely given her the courage to talk about something she was very unsure about. She understands her body now and is actually excited about the changes taking place (I was NOT as a child BUT no one gave me a book like this or talked to me about anything!). I think the book has given her courage to ask questions and even given her vocabulary about the issues she otherwise wasn't sure how to articulate, if that makes sense. I think it also made her aware of other changes that she was not even aware about. No matter how you decide to use this book or other material it is imperative that you not embarrass or belittle your child. It is also imperative that you are there for them and answer questions appropriately and honestly. If I ever feel that something is inappropriate to talk about then I honestly tell them, "This isn't something that is appropriate right now but we will talk about it soon!" And then don't go back on your promise.

Some pretty funny "kids say the darndest things" moments have also happened because of the book. She knows that these are private topics that stay at home so she's very comfortable saying things to us that might make others blush or stutter. I won't go into that here but I'm chuckling right now as I type this, thinking of the things she's said!

Finally I want to mention that we're a super conservative Christian family. I found nothing in this book that I felt was perverse or misguided or inappropriate. It is merely an anatomical book about changes that happen in early puberty. God created these wonderful bodies of ours and it's important to understand the changes *before* they happen. If there's something in ANY book that we don't exactly agree with then we use it as a teaching moment and explain that some people think dealing with emotions or friends "this way" is okay but this is how our family chooses to do it. If I am made aware of a serious problem in a book or one that is most definitely not Godly then we discard it but this book was well written and we've been pleased in how it has helped build our daughter's confidence in an uncertain and sometimes scary time in a young girl's life! We will be getting the version for older girls when she's a little older.

496 of 517 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent - For Younger Girls!

By Erika

I just bought this for my 9 year old and was so happy to see that had edited the previous version making a version for younger and older girls. It is excellent! First of all, it's branded American Girl which made my daughter love it without even opening the cover. It's like she knew she could trust everything it said.

I love how nicely it is organized and how it all leads up to the section on your body changing and getting your period. I thought that it simply described what is happening to her body and not to be afraid of it. I like how much time it devotes to the seemingly frivolous things such as pads, tampons, buying them, and how to be prepared. While yes, girls need to understand the biological facts what they really care about at this age is how to deal with it which this book does beautifully.

I wouldn't recommend giving this to your younger daughter without talking to her first, but it's a great guide and conversation starter - exactly why I purchased it.

I also loved how it devotes whole sections to overall health and putting the responsibility on her to get enough sleep, keep clean, get exercise, and make healthy food choices. Well done, AG!!

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