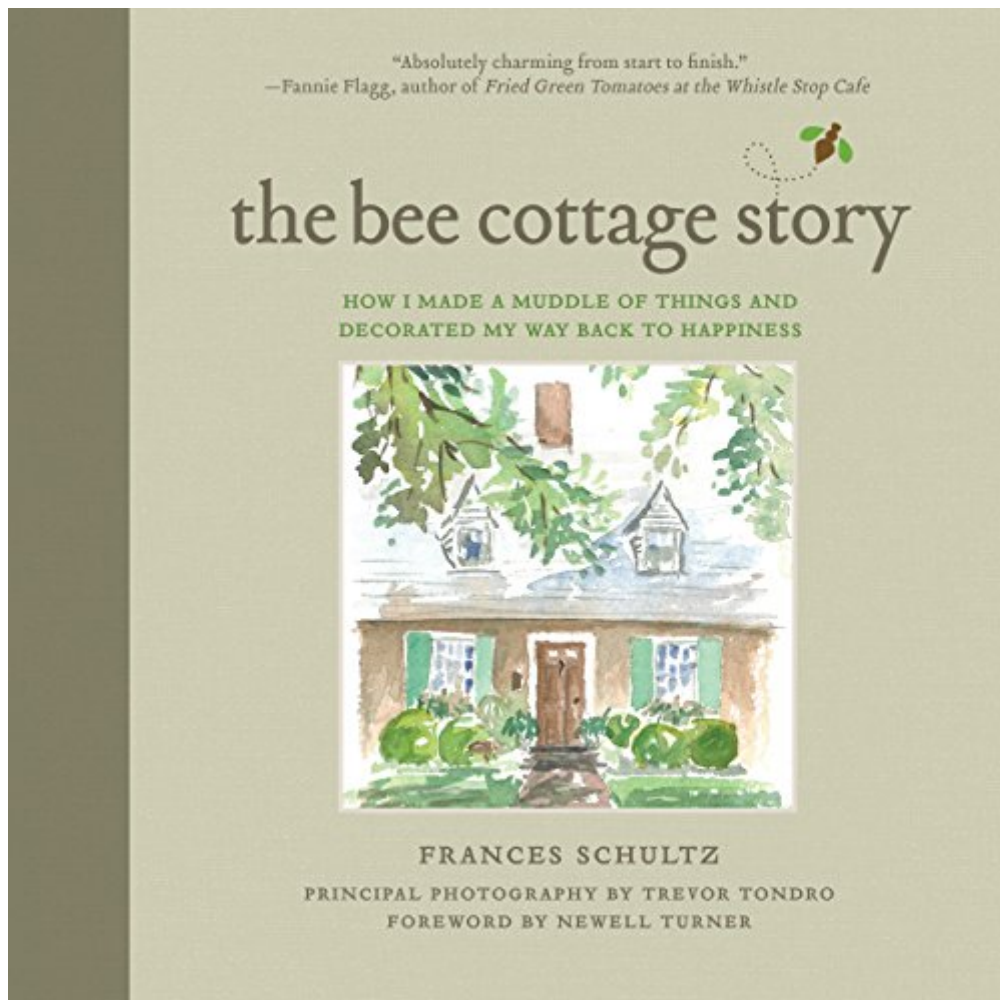




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# The Bee Cottage Story: How I Made A Muddle Of Things And Decorated My Way Back To Happiness



## Synopsis

Inspired by Frances Schultz's popular House Beautiful magazine series on the makeover of her East Hampton house, Bee Cottage, what began as a decorating book evolved into a memoir combining the best elements of both: beautiful photos and a compelling personal story. Schultz taps into what she learned during her renovations of Bee Cottage; determining how each area in the house and garden would be used and furnished; to unravel the question of how a mature, intelligent, successful woman could have made such a mess of her personal life. As she figures out each room over a period of years, Frances finds a new path in life, also a continual process. She comes to learn that, like decorating a home, our lives must adapt to who we are and what we need at different points along the way. The Bee Cottage Story is part memoir, part home decorating guide. Frances discusses the kinds of useful, commonsense design issues that professionals take for granted and the rest of us just may not think of, prompting the reader to examine and discover her own truth in decorating; and in her life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I received this book yesterday, and took a quick glance through it before starting dinner. My quick glance turned into full immersion; I could not put it down. My bookshelves house numerous Interior Design books, but this is the first one I have acquired that combines a captivating personal story, alongside terrific design tips. The design suggestions will work for real people, with real rooms, living real lives in those rooms. While clearly France's Schultz has beautiful things; some purchased by her, and some inherited from her lovely mother, the rooms pictured here suggest comfort, warmth and a welcoming sense of ease. The rooms are not perfect, just perfect for her, which is the best someone can hope for when decorating a home. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys creating a comfortable, gracious nest.

I followed the Bee Cottage Story series in House Beautiful and loved the series. I was delighted when at long last the book arrived. Little did I know, I would devour it in one gulp over 12 hours. It is simply charming. Full of witty, delicious advice on decorating and life. I highly recommend the hard cover version for all "decorating enthusiasts" so that The Bee Cottage Story can join your collection of decorating books.

This is a light hearted summer read. Parts of it are very well written and other parts seems to have been missed by the editor. All in all, I do recommend it to those who are interested in home decor and are willing to overlook rooms which may not be the best in decoration for some very good decorating advice. (The asides and lists of what to consider are very worthwhile.) I also like that Ms. Schultz validates personal decorating. It's a heartwarming story, but does feel a bit contrived at times. I don't mean to be hard on Frances Shultz. She has a charming personality (and needs to stop dissing her sketchbook paintings). I am giving this book as a gift to a friend who has been through similar hard times.

So disappointing. I was a big fan of the Bee Cottage column in House Beautiful and certainly can appreciate and respect the impact a home has on a person going through sadness, confusion and struggle. I love stories about a home that can ground someone, that can comfort you within its walls, this book unfortunately missed the mark for me in several ways. The story feels empty and unfortunately the author presents herself as self important and a bit pretentious. The editing is all over, I agree with other reviews that the e-version is terrible! Thought it wouldn't matter, but really felt unprofessional and incomplete. While the house is beautiful and adorable, in a bit of an old lady

kind of way, the pictures appear to have been taken with a phone camera and an opportunity was once again missed for a compelling decorating/memoir project. Retread the old columns, skip the book.

I am not sure why this book has received as many negative reviews as it has. I guess if you were expecting a straight decorating book it would be a let down, as I found it to be more of a memoir, with some decorating thrown in. That said, I really enjoyed this book and I loved seeing the progression of the author's decorating style through the years. It was nice to see that even someone with access to great things and a seemingly healthy bank account still had to make compromises. I found the book to be a charming read.

I expected the blending of personal bio and interior design to be a treat, but could not warm up to this story. The silly-me tone of voice irritated me. On the positive side, it gave me several decorating ideas I will use, and the photos of a real cottage with normal height ceilings like my own home was a good change from most decorating books. Her garden/yard photos are so pretty. She must have spent a FORTUNE on the place.

Frances is a terrific writer and I am in love with her cottage. I am also older and started over again, not in a big house, or even in a cottage with a big yard to take care of, but in a one bedroom condo that has a cottage feel and some pretty views. I am taking my time with it. The Bee Cottage Story is on my bedside table. It is a charming, relaxing read that I enjoy going back to look over.

So disappointing. A self-absorbed memoir by a person I couldn't relate to at all. I thought it was going to be about a run-down cottage that she brought back to life with hard work and talent. Instead it was just a lot of bragging and name-dropping. It seemed like things were being done by one professional after another, not with sweat equity. And to be honest, the results weren't all that good. Except for the garden which does look pretty nice, but she didn't design it or do the work. I'm sorry I purchased this book. It was really a waste of money.

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