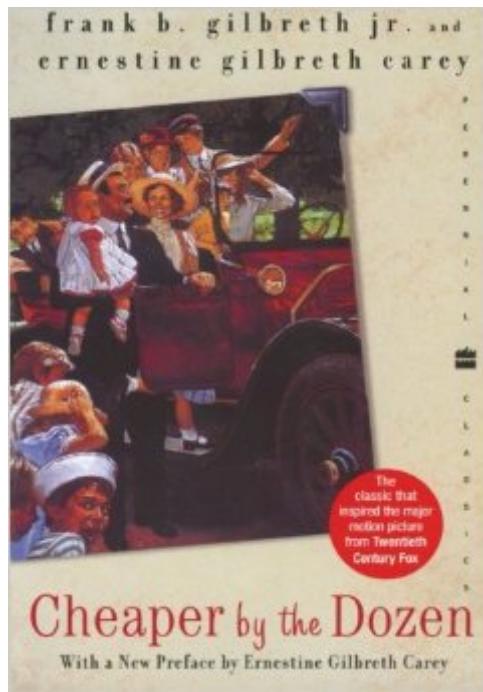


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# Cheaper By The Dozen (Perennial Classics)



## 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

I used to giggle over this book as a kid. It was a huge hit amongst my classmates, and we wore through several copies of *Cheaper By the Dozen*. The Gilbreth family of 12 kids, parented by efficiency experts Lillian and Frank, were a bit eccentric and very funny. I still can remember the line one of the kids rapped out to a guest at dinner "Please, we are NOT in the mood for an organ recital." This was the standard reprimand for belching in the family and never intended for public airing. The Gilbreths were actually serious innovators of efficiency for the new factory assembly lines, figuring out the number of movements needed to complete a task and establishing a unit of work movement called the Therblig. They were also warm, funny, loving parents and their story is a good one to read out loud to kids, who invariably love this book.

Has a story been so good that it made you laugh out loud? Well Frank B. Gilbreth and Ernestine

Gilbreth Carry wrote an excellent biography of their childhood titled, "Cheaper by the Dozen." It is a very funny book. It is full of all the adventures the Gilbreth family went through in the first two decades of the 20th century. Can you imagine having to take care of 12 kids and a dog? That would be a pretty hard job. I love reading this book especially when their father (Mr. Gilbreth) was teaching the kids Morse code. All over the house on every wall was Morse code. The kids had to find out what they said. Some would say, "Go to my room and under my bed is a deck of cards." I encourage any one who loves non-fiction biography to read this book. I am sure you will like it too. If you don't like it in the beginning you should stick with it because it gets extremely good at the end.

The low rating is for this particular "transcription" of the book to Kindle - it's by far the worst I've ever read - there has been no read-through, no editing, and the "illustrated" tag is a laugh - apparently a teenager attached public clip-art based on a word in each chapter title without knowing the context (e.g., a chapter about learning to type in the 19-teens to 1920s is illustrated by clip-art of a computer). Every screen/page has several errors - punctuation, wrong words, whole sentences. I quail at what someone reading this for the first time thinks it is about. This deserves a lawsuit by the Gilbreth family.

The first thing I have to say about this book is that it's funny and will make the reader understand how a super large family really can make it financially. I read this book the first time because it was required in junior high (now known as middle school). I just read it again with my teenage daughters to maybe bring some understanding to them about saving time and money and that time is money. This father is the king of creative spending and overlapping chores to save time. A very enjoyable book to read. This is an excellent book to co-read with your children of any age and might help you get a few frugal points across to them. It's a comical read laced with some very necessary ideas of financial knowledge. This is a quick book to read, and in my case a shared time of family financial understanding. Don't pass up reading this fun book. It'll make you laugh and think..."That's a good idea." reading about dad's fanatical penny pinching ways. A great story that everyone should read.

Non-fiction is a category with very few books I would recommend that everyone read. Usually, the topics are tied too closely to interests. I think that this is one of the few books that is actually of general interest. Frank Gilbreth Sr. was the sort of over-the-top character you could imagine would invent a new field, and so he did. Motion study, and industrial engineering owe him a lot. His wife and he were an excellent team who innovated the way people work. The book takes great pains to

explain the factors that made their family unique, from size to father and mother. All sorts of bizarre and funny moments are recorded within. Personality of the players is excellently displayed in the various events. If you want a peep into another era and culture, or just some humorous anecdotes, this book is excellent. If you are entering the workforce, you might find some excellent time-saving tips in there as well. This is simply one of my favorite books.

My mother used to read me this book when I was growing up in the 60's and 70's - but when we lost our copy we could never find another one - they were as rare as Hen's teeth - and we definitely wanted another copy. What a relief to see it is reprinted, and to find that the stories are just as funny and wonderful as they ever were. This is a book about the Gilbreth family; Father, mother and twelve (yes 12!) children. Most especially this is the story of the Father, and his time-motion studies which he applied in work and in life. He was a time and motion expert in the first couple of decades of the twentieth century - travelling internationally and showing the new factories how to improve their production by increasing their efficiency. This book has been written, with great affection and humour, by two of his children - Frank and Ernestine. I find it truly amazing that not only did the family boast twelve children but they all learned to speak foreign languages, touch typing, mental maths and even morse code - all because their father worked out dozens of ingenious ways to motivate them - although often it was quite reluctantly on their part. Their father was a truly larger than life character who dominates the book with his booming pronouncements and occasionally humbling mistakes - but you can almost see his eyes twinkling with a ready laugh. This isn't just a book for adults, kids love having the stories read to them. If nothing else there are wonderful tips about how to get your children to want to learn!

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