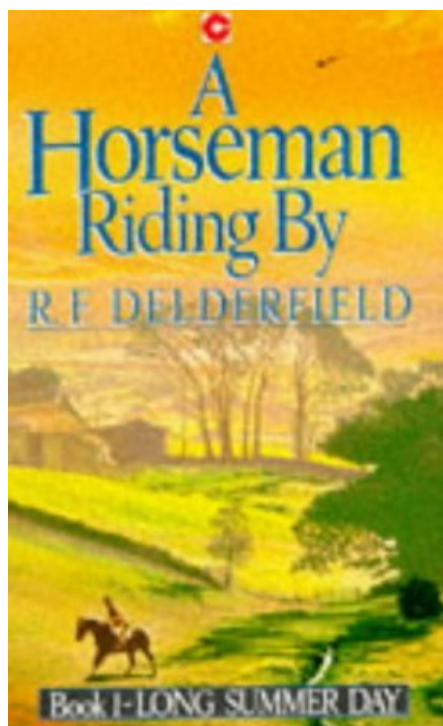




Long Summer Day

R.F. Delderfield

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Paul Craddock is still young when he is invalided out of the army after the Boer War and he discovers the neglected estate of Shallowford in a secluded corner of Devon. It seems remote from the march of progress. But as storm clouds gather over Europe, Paul learns that no part of England, however remote, can escape the challenge of the times.

Long Summer Day Details

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Author : R.F. Delderfield

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Classics

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From Reader Review Long Summer Day for online ebook

Judy simon says

Great!

I am adding this to my list of books I have enjoyed from first sentence to last. Discovery of a new favorite author.

Bree (AnotherLookBook) says

A historical saga about an Englishman who buys an estate and finds fulfillment in looking after the land and its tenants during the first half of the 20th century. 1966.

Full review (and recommendations!) at Another look book

I finally finished! And I decided I loved it.

Well, this is a bit of an odd one to review. I've officially made it through the first book of the series. In my copy, however, this means I'm only halfway through, as this early American printing combines book one and two of the trilogy. The ending was slightly altered to suit this combined edition, too--I cross-referenced its last few pages with the standalone text of Long Summer Day. I loved the story, even sped through it at a clip of roughly 150 pages a day, but I'm still undecided on whether or not to immediately jump into the second book, Post of Honor. It feels a bit strange to say I'm "done" with a book when my bookmark argues that I'm only halfway through. What to do, oh what to do?? I'm inclined to continue reading it almost solely because the book was superb but the ending (if that's what we're calling it) was lame, just this sort of trickle off into nothingness. After 600 hard-earned pages I feel like I deserve more!!

sslyb says

From the Boar War to the coronation of George V - one man's tale of recovery and rich life touching many. Quite a bit of sentimentality here but I didn't mind it. The Suffragette thread interested me the most. On to POST OF HONOR, book two in A Horseman Riding By.

Dorcas says

Oooh I really loved this. *hugs book close* It's going on my favorites shelf for sure.

Simply put, a young man, Paul Craddock, is invalided out of the Boer war, inherits some money and purchases a large estate in Devonshire, 'playing squire' to the laboring families in the valley.

If you think that sounds dry, it's not. Once the characters are all introduced (which takes some time so

consider yourself forewarned) the story gallops along without a lull. Aside from very absorbing family melodrama, there is madness, a grisly murder with a hay knife, a shipwreck, poaching gone wrong, suffragist action and romances aplenty.

Time covered is roughly twenty years and the characters are varied and three dimensional. I feel like I know them so personally that if I was to travel to Shallowford now, a hundred years later, there would be no "empty chairs at empty tables" but the fields would be alive, ringing with scythes and familiar laughter, the villagers I know putting down their burdens to wave or lend a hand.

Yes, I would be very sad to leave these folks but there's no need for tears yet as I've got two more books in the series to read :)

On to POST OF HONOR!

CONTENT:

SEX: A number of non-explicit, but frank encounters, mostly behind closed doors.

VIOLENCE: One murder, a few knock outs, suffragist violence.

PROFANITY: Mild, mostly Ds

PARANORMAL ELEMENTS: One character of gypsy background reads cards to herself

MY RATING: PG-13

RECOMMENDED READING AUDIENCE: Adult

Katrina says

This is a long book, but an enjoyable read beginning in 1901 and ending in 1911.

<https://piningforthewest.co.uk/2018/0...>

Lisa Reads & Reviews says

Reading this novel is like stepping into the setting's thirteen-hundred-acre estate in a neglected and antiquated corner of England in the early 1900s. The time is that following the death of Queen Victoria, when cars were beginning to rule the roads and radical women were fighting for the right to vote. Young Lieutenant Paul Craddock had been injured in the Boer War and instead of continuing with civilian life in London, he idealizes a gentler time during Victorian England. His love for two women and the people of Shallowford stretch and change him. The story is rich with a large cast of characters and lush descriptions of their lives.

This novel was originally published around 1966. The author, R. F. Delderfield (1912–1972), achieved fame as a novelist for his portrayal of English life. With this novel, he became one of Britain's most popular authors, and his novels have been adapted as TV series.

Janice says

Unexpected gem of a find. Slow start, as character development needed to happen but wonderful book, particularly if you are an Anglophile.

Nancy Ellis says

I am a great fan of Delderfield and read all of his books back in the '60s and '70s. I was curious to see if I would enjoy them as much so many years later, and I am happy to say I enjoyed this one even more the second time around! His style is similar to Michener, but I think he's a much better writer. Lt. Paul Craddock is home from the Boer War having been seriously injured. Since he can no longer pursue a military career, he buys a "fixer upper" estate in the West Country and makes his life there. There are wonderful characters and a tremendous variety of story lines that draw you right in and take you back to England at the beginning of the 20th Century. This is only the first volume in a three-volume epic, so there's lots more to come as we follow the Craddock family and all their neighbors!

Ron Wroblewski says

This is the first book of a Trilogy - "Long Summer Day". The entire Trilogy is called "Horseman Riding By". There was a British mini-series based on this series which I bought and watched and for the most part reflects the book. Not sure the mini-series will go as far as the Trilogy in time.

As a typical British author, Delderfield does drag at times, but I do enjoy reading him and watching the movie has helped me put a picture in my mind of what the characters look like. Basically it is about a wounded British soldier from the Boer War who buys a large estate made up of several large farms and how he transfers it from a losing proposition to an estate that is profitable. It also covers the woman's suffrage movement in Britain. Book one goes from 1902-1911. Book 2 will be covering the first World War.

Helen says

Long Summer Day was a long summer read, but I enjoyed every minute of it! First published in 1966, this is the first part of RF Delderfield's *A Horseman Riding By* trilogy (originally just two books rather than three, as this one and *Post of Honour* were intended to form one huge volume; the final book, *The Green Gauntlet*, came a few years later).

Long Summer Day begins in 1902, early in the reign of King Edward VII, and ends in 1911, shortly after the coronation of his successor, George V. The novel takes its title from the fact that this period of history, coming just before the horrors of the First World War, came to be looked back on with nostalgia and described as the 'Long Edwardian Summer'. Set in rural Devon, it follows the story of Paul Craddock, a young man who is injured during the Boer War and, with his military career at an end, decides to use his inheritance from his father to buy an estate in the countryside.

At first the inhabitants of the Sorrel Valley are suspicious of their new Squire, but through his efforts to befriend and understand them, Paul quickly earns their respect and acceptance. As he gets to know each of the families who live in and around the valley, we, the reader, have a chance to get to know them all too. It's

a very large cast and at first it's hard to keep track of who's who, but eventually each character, however minor, becomes a fully formed human being and is given a storyline of his or her own.

I can't mention all of the characters here, but some that I found particularly memorable include Ikey Palfrey, the stableboy Paul informally adopts and sends to school; Will Codsall and Elinor Willoughby, a young couple whose marriage forms one of the novel's first small dramas; the agent John Rudd who manages the estate and provides Paul with both advice and friendship; and Hazel Potter, the wild youngest daughter of one of the valley's most notorious families. In such a tight-knit community, the stories of each of these characters and many more are closely intertwined so that the actions of one may have repercussions on the lives of the others.

As an eligible young bachelor, Paul attracts the attention of several of his female neighbours almost from the moment he arrives in Devon, but only two come to play an important role in his life. One of them is Claire Derwent, daughter of one of his tenant farmers, and the other is Grace Lovell, a cousin of the family who previously owned Shallowford, Paul's estate. Grace is a fiercely independent person, a feminist who believes passionately in women's suffrage. I felt that I should like her, but although I did admire her strength and courage, her prickly nature made it difficult for me to warm to her. Claire, though, I loved from the start – and my opinion of her never changed. Although she has little interest in politics and keeps herself busy with more domestic tasks, it's clear that she is happy with this and that it's her choice. I found her sensible, down-to-earth, kind-hearted and a strong person too, although not in the same way as Grace. To discover which of these women Paul chooses, you'll have to read the book for yourself!

The personal stories of the characters are played out against a backdrop of events from Edwardian history: Edward VII's illness and delayed coronation, the political conflict between the Conservative and Liberal parties (it's plain to see where the author's own political sympathies lie) and the beginnings of the suffragette movement. We also find out how the characters react when change and progress finally makes its way to the Devon countryside and they see their first 'horseless carriage'.

Long Summer Day is one of my books of the year so far, without a doubt. It's written in the sort of warm, comforting, old-fashioned style that I love, and despite its length I felt that the pages were going by very quickly because I was so absorbed in the lives of Paul and his friends – it's one of those books where you truly feel as though you've escaped into another world for a little while!

Andrew says

I first read a shortened version of the Horseman Riding By trilogy many years ago when a serialisation was shown on television.

This is the first book in the trilogy and covers the first decade of the century (1902-1911)

I really enjoyed the sense of history and the pressures for change on this Devon Estate.

Although many of the places are fictional, there are enough pointers in the descriptions to still give a real sense of the geography.

It is so long since I first read any R. F. Delderfield books that it is like reading something completely new.

I'm looking forward to continuing the trilogy as my first books for 2017.

LemonLinda says

This is one that truly turned around for me. It started so slowly as I was not well connected with any of the many characters and the descriptions of the English countryside, although beautifully written, interrupted the flow of the book for me. However, as I read more deeply into the story, all of those feelings fell away. I was transported back to the turn of the century English countryside where a unlikely candidate to buy a vast country holding with many tenants did so and the new squire becomes solidly entrenched in his new position taking to the land as if he has grown up as heir and successor. Those who come into and out of his life and his work there add so much and together they make the story seem so real as England struggles with modernization, new technologies, the suffragette movement and the rise of German militarism. A really good HF story and I will definitely continue on with the other two of the trilogy.

Susanna - Censored by GoodReads says

My ARC courtesy of NetGalley and Open Road Media - much thanks!

Sarah says

A very long but very interesting historical novel, set around a small Devonshire valley with its squire and farms in the beginning of the 20th century. The political situation of the era is described in detail too, with all its upheavals and the tremendous suffering of the Suffragettes. I look forward to reading the sequel.

Claude says

A very interesting historical novel, with several themes. I really liked the suffragettes theme. Some long descriptive passages kept me from giving it 5 stars. An excellent read.

Bettie? says

1966: A Horseman Riding By (published in the USA as two novels, Long Summer Day and Post of Honor)

Description: *Paul Craddock is still young when he is invalided out of the army after the Boer War and he discovers the neglected estate of Shallowford in a secluded corner of Devon. It seems remote from the march of progress. But as storm clouds gather over Europe, Paul learns that no part of England, however remote, can escape the challenge of the times.*

Opening: **He left the carriage, ascended the short flight of steps and walked briskly past the dozing porter sitting in the deep shade of the portico; a small neat man, in dark, well-cut city clothes and glossy topper.**

It's mid-summer, hailstones ricocheting around, so what better time to crack this open...

Total reboot summer 2015 and am pleased to say it was worth the effort of getting through the front-loaded introductions. This turned into an enjoyable sweeping saga and I look forward to the next episode, 'Post of Honour'.

TR God Is an Englishman (Swann Saga, #1)

3* To Serve Them All My Days

3* Diana

3.5* Long Summer Day

TR Post of Honour

TR The Green Gauntlet

Charlie says

This was a wonderful examination of Edwardian England, with the majority of the story taking place in Shallowford, a rural valley in Devon, but with the forces from the Suffragette Movement and the looming war with Germany impacting even this protected valley.

The story centres around Paul Craddock, a city-bred Lieutenant invalided out of the Boer War with a near fatal injury, who takes his inheritance from a scrap metal yard and buys a thirteen-hundred-acre estate in rural Devon that has been allowed to run down and become rather derelict. As the new squire, he knows nothing of farming, but through hard work, and the generous application of cash where (long) needed, turns around both the estate and the lives of his tenant farmers.

While the principal story revolves around rural England, Craddock and Shallowford aren't divorced from the forces shaping England and the world in the Edwardian Era. It essentially starts with the coronation of Edward VII (1902), and ends with the coronation of George V (1911), and encompasses the rise of the Women's Suffrage movement, substantial changes to the tax code by the Liberals, and the increasing naval might and militancy of Germany.

This is a wonderful example of R. F. Delderfield's ability to tell a story about people, places and times. The writing is elegant without being frothy, and always a delight. As Books and Bookmen says: "It is always a pleasure to read R F Delderfield, because he never seems to be ashamed of writing well". This was an absolute delight, and goes right up near the very top of books I've read this year. Highly recommended.

Eustacia Tan says

I was approached to review this book because I had read (and loved) Fall of Giants by Ken Follett. Are these two books similar? Well, they're both really long, and they tell a story of a period of a time rather than any one character.

Long Summer's Day follows Paul Craddock, who, after an injury, buys Shallowford and becomes Squire Craddock. The novel follows his life after becoming Squire, and how he impacts the tenants and inhabitants

of valley, and how they impact him. While Paul is undeniably the top dog, so to speak, other main characters include Claire, Ikey, Rudd, and ok, there are a lot and I'm not going to list them here. It's through the collective story of these people that you get a sense of England in the early 1900s, and how they were (resisting) change.

My favourite character of this book is probably Claire. Although she did not feature prominently in the first half of the book (apart from the first few chapters), I liked her because of her generous nature. She has a really loving spirit, and is unflinchingly honest.

Curiously, I didn't like Grace, the feminist and women's suffrage campaigner even though, when I think about it, the two of them are quite alike. They both know what they want, although they want different things. Perhaps it's because most of the novel is seen through Paul's eyes, and Grace hurts Paul quite badly emotionally. Or it could be because Grace was somehow too unique, and I didn't like her because I didn't understand her.

This is a long, winding read, and it's at its best when the author is just letting the story speak. At certain times, the author tries to give an overview of how all the character feels through a bird flying or something like that, and for that moment, it goes very close to the bother of pretentiousness. But thankfully, such moments are few, and the book is a lovely read because it manages to tell the tale of many people in a straightforward manner.

I would definitely recommend to fans of long reads like *Fall of Giants*. It's not a fast-paced adventure, but rather, follows the meandering road of a man's life.

Disclaimer: I got a free copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for a free and honest review.

This review was first posted at Inside the mind of a Bibliophile

Samantha says

I was immediately attracted to the cover of this book. Not initially realizing that this is a re-release of a 1972 novel, I quickly scooped it up (courtesy of NetGalley). *Long Summer Day* is the first installment in the *Horseman Riding By* trilogy by RF Delderfield. I have not read any of his other novels, so I cannot make a comparison.

This novel covers an interesting period of history, beginning with main character Paul Craddock arriving home from the Boar War. He is seriously injured and not expected to live until his benefactor, Franz Zorndorff, shows up. He blows in like a storm, paying for the very best care for young Paul and informing him of his recent inheritance.

The reader is frequently reminded that Paul would be more comfortable in an earlier century than the modern and innovative Edwardian era. Rather than take up the work his father left behind, Paul is determined to invest in a large estate of farms and horses. Along the way, he must choose between two very different lady loves.

Delderfield creates a large cast of well developed characters in this novel, though some do seem to have ideas and abilities beyond their years. The life of those on a large farming estate is described down to the most minute detail, with wonder expressed over the regions introduction to a horseless carriage and debates

over women's suffrage.

My first issue with this book was sloppy conventions in the form of thoughts in quotation marks and dialog between two people not separated into paragraphs. This made it unclear at times whether someone was thinking something or actually saying it...or who was saying it. This was not an insurmountable problem, but nothing could improve the drudgery of getting through this books long stretches of inactivity. If you are interested in everyday life in the first decade of the 1900s, you will love this book. I found myself skimming.

D.w. says

I've read a few Delderfield works at this point in life. To Serve Them All My Days, the God is an Englishman trilogy, Napoleon's Marshalls. But it has been a few years.

I don't remember if those works had two annoying things I found in this work that I wish to mention and then move on. Long Paragraphs, sometimes 3 pages long. This is hard on the eyes. And something the writer can't address any longer. The other was that a paragraph would start with dialogue from one speaker and end with dialogue from another. Please, break up the dialogue with paragraphs. (Perhaps if ever released again an editor would do their job and edit the work.)

Now to the meat of it. The story is good. The character development is good though sometimes a little to pat. We need a character as a plot device and so we have that trait emerge. We see the world of Pre Great War England and the skirmishing of Tory (Conservative) and Unionist (Labour)

We see the treatment of Suffragettes. The change of Motor and Phone beginning just as we saw Trains in God is an Englishman. Sometimes we spend unnecessary pages having the same rundown of what is happening to many characters in the book that we had a chapter before. Delderfield uses devices such as a gull flying in search of food all throughout the valley so we can see what each character is up to every few years and realize that we have read that a few dozen pages before.

So why read this book. One would think it is dated in the 21st century, but it addresses a time a century ago, and one that the writer is familiar enough with to give us a good insight into. One that has things we should take a peak at.

It is a historical, and certainly in some of the characterizations we see an older, male hand trying to write the mind of a teenager, which does not work (Delderfields worldly wise Grace is too worldly wise and her adult assumptions should be changed for simpler emotional and youthful ones IMO.) But as mentioned, worth a read, and perhaps one day worth a reread immediately following a reread of God is an Englishman.
