



At Home in Thrush Green

Miss Read

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It is spring in the village of Thrush Green. In neighboring Lulling, Charles Henstock admires the blooming garden of his new vicarage, glad that the squabbles with his parishoners in Affairs at Thrush Green are settled. And yet the good vicar wistfully recalls his former home - the ugly, old rectory of Thrush Green, which burned to the ground. Now, from the rectory's ruins, the villagers are building eight retirement homes for the older folks most in need. But how to choose who will live there? How will they get on together? And how will they accommodate the dogs, cats, and birds that must come along? The spring has brought a new crop of dilemmas, but Dr. Henstock and the villagers are determined to make the old people feel at home in Thrush Green.

In the end, harmony is restored to this tiny fictional world. With wit and grace, Miss Read has charmed numerous critics and won the loyalty of readers who will happily find themselves once more At Home in Thrush Green.

At Home in Thrush Green Details

Date : Published November 7th 2002 by Mariner Books (first published 1986)

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Author : Miss Read

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Joyce says

Public library copy. Another lovely year in the village of Thrush Green and environs. Special focus on the new dwellings for the less-than-wealthy elderly. The story focuses on a number of often overlooked characters, not much on the actual school children (as in the Fairacre series).

My favorite character in this book is Nellie Piggott. She's had such a rough go of things in earlier books. It's nice to see her bloom.

Catie says

#MissReadalong August 2018

Booksnpieces says

Enjoyed it so much I read it in a day !

Lori says

Another lovely visit to Thrush Green. The homes for the elderly that have been built on the ruins of the burned rectory are finally finished, the warden couple chosen, the inhabitants selected, and moved in. We welcome them as they gradually become comfortable in their new community. But we also spend time with our old friends. We rejoice in their successes and worry over the rift in a friendship. There are quiet moments of reflection and holidays to celebrate. This being a story by Miss Read, we know that all will come right in the end.

Michele says

I enjoyed this, my third, Miss Read very much. About 3/4 of the way through, one of the teachers mentions that the children are asking for computer games for Christmas. If it weren't for that, and the fact that one of the couples jets off to Venice for a holiday, you'd think the book was set in the 1940s. Thrush Green is the sort of place where people still make their own jam, the vicar comes to your house to check up on you, children play outside instead of watching television, no one goes around actively looking for excuses to take umbrage, and people genuinely care about one another. It makes for a peaceful and pleasant break from the way things are at present (I'm looking at you, Congress!!).

It's a little "busy" in the number of characters (it made me think of Harriet the Spy and her game of "Town"), but eventually they all fall into place and become old friends.

Pvillehol says

I think any book by Miss Read is a good book. They are relaxing stories, not meant to tax your mind, perfect for that "just before bed" moment!

Andrea Sachs says

I almost always enjoy the peaceful reading of these books. A break from my usual mysteries or historical fiction.

Beth Bonini says

Reading the Thrush Green books reminds me of a childhood visit to my grandparents' house: the gentle routine, the seasonal rituals, the comfort of knowing that the conversation was going to be undemanding and that you were always going to do much the same things. But, and this was part of it, too: there was always that slight edge of boredom.

During the past few weeks, as I have been moving house, I have read two of the Thrush Green books: *Affairs at Thrush Green* and this one. They were the perfect undemanding fictional friend at the end of a long tiring day. They are the sort of books you can absorb with less than total attention, and a chapter or two at a time does not interrupt the flow of the storyline - which tends to be episodic anyway. The 'main' storyline in this book dealt with the settling into the 'retirement' Rectory Cottages which had been designed by Edward Young and built on the ruins of the old rectory (home to Charles and Dimity Henstock). But, as ever, the plot doesn't matter so much as the beautiful descriptions of nature and the slightly tart social interactions of an English village in the countryside.

Eleni (books.by.eleni) says

Another lovely Thrush Green installment ! #8

Sarah Crawford says

Albert complains about having to do work. (No surprise there.) A major argument between two guys erupts over steps being put out front in the homes for old people. (Something later proven one way for sure.) Nelly's position is improved at work (although at home it's the same as usual.) Then there's also Guy Fawke's Day and Christmas.

Another good book in this very nice, no horrible things happen book series.

Hope says

This 8th installment in the series takes the reader on another delightful visit to Thrush Green. Not only are the regular residents "at home," but the book recounts the arrival of several new couples who move in to the newly completed senior-living apartment complex.

The regular members of the neighborhood make an appearance in the novel too. Nelly Piggot is a middle-aged woman, married to the town grouch. Most of the town folks hold her at arm's length because she left her husband for another man and then came back again. In this novel she finds a friend, finds her calling and comes into her own. So when the old boyfriend comes into town, she reacts in a way that the old Nelly could never have done.

These small episodes of British country life may not be great literature. But I find the repeated acts of grace (especially to the undeserving) to be soul-nourishing. And the good writing kicks it up to another level as well.

Niki Estes says

This eighth installment in the Thrush Green series, centers largely upon the old person homes that are being built on the site of the old rectory. The building has been behind schedule due to unforeseen problems and weather. In the meantime, the committee must decide on a warden couple to help out the residents and just who those residents will be. When it finally comes time for everyone to move in, the new residents experience a few growing pains as they learn to live within their new community. Aside for the old person home, we also catch up with many of the other residents of Thrush Green. Like all the preceeding books, At Home in Thrush Green is another cozy read and it's always nice to catch up with the residents.

Polly says

If there's anything more comforting than a Miss Read novel, I don't know what it is. Perfect for when the world seems big, cold and scary.

Claudia Cheyne says

I randomly picked this book up and read it not realizing it was part of a series. This was a delightful story. Now I want to find more Miss Read books so I can discover the backgrounds of all the characters in Thrush Green. The old rectory had been destroyed by a fire so the ground was cleared and a row of retirement cottages is being built on the site. There is much debate about who should live there as well as finding a suitable couple to oversee the residents and their needs. Every chapter takes you through another season. You follow the school children and their teachers, the ladies who run an eatery, the local characters and even their out-of-town guests. It reminded me of the Mitford series only set in England.

Joan says

Always enjoy Miss Read!
