



## The School at Thrush Green

*Miss Read*

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## **The School at Thrush Green** Miss Read

As two schoolteachers plan for their retirement, readers witness the challenges they face leaving their old home and learning to drive. Once again Miss Read will satisfy fans with her happy blend of nostalgia and authentic flavor. Illustrated.

## **The School at Thrush Green Details**

Date : Published December 1st 1988 by Houghton Mifflin (first published 1987)

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Author : Miss Read

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## From Reader Review The School at Thrush Green for online ebook

### Laura says

Reread for the umpteenth time, this time as an audio book. Still delightful.

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### Booksnpieces says

A pleasure as always to visit Thrush Green.

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### Eleni (books.by.eleni) says

Another lovely read in the Thrush Green series!

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### Carol Bakker says

I knew I was in for a treat when I heard the first sentence: "January," said Miss Watson, "gives me the jimmies!" Miss Read is straight-up comfort reading.

The story deals with two teachers—Dorothy Watson and Agnes Fogerty—approaching retirement who keep house together in a non-sexual domestic partnership. I read somewhere that 25% of the English male population were killed in WWI, making this kind of living arrangement not uncommon. Miss Read weaves a story from the tensions the two experience when Dorothy wants to buy a new car (Agnes doesn't) and Agnes wants a cat (but Dorothy decidedly doesn't).

Put that way, it sounds like a dreadfully boring book. But I love the world of sextons, cardigans and tea in the Cotswolds.

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### Deborah says

I'm going to do a combined review for all the remaining Thrush Green books (with the exception of *Christmas*) because although they are all excellent, they are also all basically the same, in the way that episodes of *The Archers* are all the same. So, still worth reading; but hard to differentiate one book from another.

The attraction comes from seeing the seasons ebb and flow, and picking up the stories of the characters. There are changes - characters die, babies are born, houses are built, newcomers arrive, people retire, fall ill and/or become increasingly eccentric. There is no reference to events in the outside world - the importance is attached to events in the local community. And those events are rarely dramatic (this isn't Midsomer). They are *real*.

Anybody who is considering relocating to a village should read these books to get an idea of what they would be moving to. And anybody who thinks these books are unrealistic, or sentimental, has either never lived in a village, or didn't join in properly when they did!

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### **Mandolin says**

Sweet and soul-satisfying, this installment of the charming Thrush Green series by Miss Read returns us to the small village and the lives of its eccentric inhabitants. Finally ready to leave their comfortable nest next to the school at which they've taught for so long, Dorothy Watson and Agnes Fogerty begin to seriously consider housing options in the nearby seaside town of Barton-on-the-Sea. They're foiled at every turn by real estate agents that seem to refuse to understand their wishes. Will they ever find a home in which they'll be able to happily retire? Their plans are further complicated by Dorothy's attempts to learn to drive and Agnes' growing fondness for a stray cat. Meanwhile, elsewhere in the village, life proceeds as usual in its somewhat topsy-turvy fashion...the parsimonious Lovelock sisters find yet another victim to torture with their frugal ways; Albert Piggot, slowly returning to health, finds satisfaction in helping kooky Dotty; and Winnie Bailey is beset once again by her inconsiderate nephew and his plans to settle in the area. Gently humorous and insightful, the book is delightful addition to an already wonderful series. Though not the best in the series by far, it's a rewarding, heart-warming read.

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### **Chris says**

3.5 stars

I'm getting a little sad I'm getting to end of this series!

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### **Lise Petruskas says**

This is a flawed but beloved book.

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### **Sarah Crawford says**

The Thrush Green series begins winding down. The two older teachers at the school are finally able to retire and they make plans on where to go and what house to buy. The people who run the school and others make their plans for going-away gifts. Tom worries about what will happen to his dog after it dies.

Miss Watson takes driving lessons but not everything goes perfectly. There's a drought. Richard's marriage has problems as do the three Lovelock sisters.

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## **Hope says**

Another pleasant visit with the folks at Thrush Green. Not a lot happens, but it was nice to see the two faithful teachers find their happy ending.

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## **Zoe says**

Charming, like a British 50's or 60's version of Jan Karon's Mitford. Like any ongoing soap opera, these books are fine on their own, but you might get more out of the large cast of characters if you read them in order. Very cozy.

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## **Judy says**

I found this to be a lovely calm book. It centers around Dorothy and Agnes 2 teachers who have taught many years at Thrush Green.

They together decided it was time to retire. They must seek out new property to live, learn to drive, and accept the thanks of the Thrush Green population. A small black cat comes into the picture. Some side stories about the Lovelock sisters and Dorian, a single mom, who works for them.

We meet Ginny Bailey and her nephew Richard. I listened to this and found the reader quite good. If you are looking for a pleasant book describing country life this is a good one. Miss Read the author has a fine series of books surrounding English country living around middle of the Twentieth Century.

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## **Lori says**

3 1/2 stars.

This is one of my least favorite in the series. I thought the beginning was slow but it did pick up about half way through.

Dorothy Watson and Agnes Fogerty, are retiring after teaching for many years at the Thrush Green school. The story centers around their hunt for a house in Barton-by-the-Sea, Miss Watson learning to drive a car, and a new furry friend for Miss Fogerty.

Once again, the charming people of Thrush Green pitch in to help one another. I love how this little Cotswold community embraces their inhabitants- forgiving idiosyncracies and praising what is good and generous in each other.

It is always a pleasure to visit.

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## **Kate says**

"*The School at Thrush Green* returns readers to the heart of the Cotswolds just as beloved primary school teachers Dorothy Watson and Agnes Fogerty announce their retirement and make plans to leave Thrush Green and buy a new home at Barton-on-Sea. The village people are aflutter with the news, musing about the teachers' replacements, the fate of the schoolhouse, and an appropriate farewell gift. Further drama unfolds as Dorothy takes up driving and Agnes finds a new friend in a stray cat. As summer turns to fall, the hanging seasons reflect the changing face of Thrush Green, where old and new friends settle down and find happiness."

~~back cover

The mellow melodramas of house hunting, and moving house are survived, as is a drought. A burglary at the Lovelock sisters seemingly coincides with the disappearance of Doreen and suspicions run rife. And life goes on, as it always does, in Thrush Green and the world at large.

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## **Niki Estes says**

More changes have come to Thrush Green as *The School at Thrush Green* focuses largely on the retirement of Miss Fogerty and Miss Watson. These books really bring to light the changes one faces throughout their lives. It will be interesting to see where the retired teachers go from here and the changes that take place at the school. There is also a newcomer to town who is facing some troubled times of their own. This entire series has been a comfort read throughout the year and each one feels like greeting old friends you haven't seen in a while.

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