



Nurse, Come You Here!: More True Stories of a Country Nurse on a Scottish Isle

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Mary J. Macleod and her husband left the London area for an idyllic place to raise their young children in the late sixties, and they found the island of Papavray in the Scottish Hebrides. There they bought a croft house on a “small acre” of land, and Mary J. (also known as Julia) became the district nurse. At the age of eighty, she first recounted her family’s adventures in her debut, *Call the Nurse*, where she introduced readers to the austere beauties of the island and the hardy charm and warmth of the islanders. The anecdotes in this new volume take us to the end of her stay on Papavray, after which the MacLeod family left for California.

Once again we meet the crofters Archie, Mary, and Fergie, and other friends. There are stories of troubles, joy, and tragedy, of children lost and found, the cow that wandered into the kitchen, a distraught young mother who strides into the icy surf with her infant child, the ghostly apparition that returns after death to reveal the will in a sewing box. There are accidents and broken bones, twisters that come in from the sea, and acts of simple courage and uncommon generosity. Here again, a nurse’s compassion meets Gaelic fortitude in these true tales of a bygone era.

Nurse, Come You Here!: More True Stories of a Country Nurse on a Scottish Isle Details

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Libby says

A follow up to "Call the Nurse." I enjoyed more stories about the author's life as a nurse on the Hebrides in the 70s. However, the last several chapters didn't seem to belong to the book--they chronicle the family's time in Nevada and California, and while they were not uninteresting, it just didn't make sense that those chapters were there.

Jean says

I enjoyed MacLeod's first book "Call the Nurse" about her life as a nurse on the Island of Papavray in the Scottish Hebrides. So, I decided to read the sequel. I must say that I enjoyed the first book more than the second.

The first part of the book is about life and nursing on Papavray. The second part is about the family following her husband as his work took them to Nevada, California and England. The book is well written and the famous Scottish humor is prevalent in the story. MacLeod presents various short stories about people she cared for. I found it interesting to learn about the state of medical and nursing care in the 1960s. MacLeod reveals the cultural shock the family felt going from the Hebrides Island to Nevada and California and from Scottish culture to American Culture. Overall the book made of a delightful, easy read.

I read this as an e-book via my Kindle app for the iPad. The book is 320 pages long.

Amarelys says

What a rich, adventurous life Nurse MacLeod must have lived! If all these stories are really true, I had no idea so much could happen on a small remote Scottish island... And if they aren't, well, there are still full of very likable people/characters, with their particular wit and wisdom, and some simple but sensible life lessons. Reading this book, I almost felt like a part of this odd community myself, and right now I could fancy a retreat in the Hebrides... Failing that, I will have to be content with reading the first volume of Nurse's memoirs.

Ruth says

This was part 2 of a memoir written by a woman who served as a nurse in a remote western Scottish Island. Each chapter is a story of something that occurred in her life. It includes when her husband goes to work in the US and the family goes with him living briefly in Nevada and then on to California. Having a Scottish background, I was very interested in the descriptions of the island and the people who live there.

The book was both interesting and worthwhile and I would read the first part in order to have a complete picture, though the book I read can certainly stand alone and you do not need to read the first book in order to enjoy this one.

Lorelei says

I enjoyed the first book so much that I got this one. I like Mary's honest and yet simple description of her life in Papavray. There is something familiar and homey about it. I would love to spend a period of my life in a place as remote as this. To publish her first book at 80 years of age is a reminder that it's never too late to pursue something you love that can affect the lives of others.

Mary Simonsen says

Truly wonderful

I loved this book. The stories were great, and I loved how the author told them. She is gifted in many ways!!

Audrey says

Mary J. is the community nurse for for small Papavray island. As with all families and small communities, you are invited to smile with the humorous events and shed a tear over the tragedies. This was an enjoyable read until they moved to Nevada and California where there was no connection with the community as Mary J. was not nursing at that time. The first book was better.

Marjorie says

I loved this book! after reading it as well as the first book, I feel as if Mary J and I are friends! She has an engaging way of writing, telling the many and varied adventures not only on their island in the Herbides, but in Sunny California and HAWTHORN Nevada.

I appreciate her love of people, animals, family and nature. If you, the potential reader, like me, love anything written about Scotland, and hold these things dear, you will enjoy both of her books!

JT says

From sentence one to the end of the book, I could hardly put it down. Once again, Mary Macleod, invites us to share her memories (funny and sad) of the days of being a district nurse on a tiny, far-flung Scottish island followed by travels to California and Saudi Arabia. This is one of those books that I love to cuddle up to when I have a few 'me' hours. I strongly recommend it to others.

Margaret Sweet says

A satisfying conclusion

Having read her first book, I looked forward to the sequel and was not let down. Other reviewers thought the abrupt change from the Hebrides to America's far west was disjointed but I felt she told the story of the family's globetrotting well. I enjoyed it every bit as much as the first book.

Lynn Carr says

I loved this sequel to Call the Nurse! It was great to revisit all the characters from her first book. Loved the locale, her words described this desolate island ruled by all the bad weather Nature had to throw at it.

Jen Grogan says

I purchased this book on Kindle, on a whim, because it was cheap and because at the time we were planning a trip to the Scottish Highlands. We returned from that trip about a year ago, so... that's how long it took me to actually get around to finishing this book. Parts of it are a charming look into the way the distant islands of the Hebrides were in the 1970s, but it meanders from anecdote to anecdote with no deep consideration, and the latter 20% or so takes the author's family to California and Nevada, which was significantly less interesting, at least to someone who grew up in America, and seemed to be a significant enough departure that I wished the author had simply tied up her narrative when her family left Papavray.

Carol says

3.5 stars

This is Macleod's second memoir of life on a Scottish Isle. If you love all things Scottish, as I do, you will enjoy daily pleasures: *We'll make some tea and have a nice warm up. Or In Scotland, one does not 'mend' anything or 'fix' it in any way. One 'sorts' it.*

The format—short, disconnected vignettes—worked against holding my attention. Several stories in the middle just weren't that funny or remarkable, but I kept reading from a sense of loyalty. Towards the end, her husband was hired by a firm in California and I thoroughly enjoyed a Brit's view of life in California and Nevada. Her remarks on the debt-ridden southern CA lifestyle and a summer in remote Nevada were great. I had never before heard of *Lake turnover*, the process where temperature changes cause plant life from the bottom of the lake to rise to the surface and clear water to sink. She tells of a family camping trip to Yosemite...close in time to some camping I did in Yosemite with friends.

I admire Mary J. Macleod. She wrote her first book in her eighties and wrote another after the first was a publishing success. She learned to water ski in her fifties and five years later took up wind surfing. She writes with grace and gratitude.

Living in such a remote and windblown location surrounded by the capricious sea had its disadvantages, of course, but oh, the compensations! The beauty of the majestic mountains with their hurrying, bubbling cascades, the glittering lochs, deep glens, and the sight and sound of the surging sea gave my life a simple reality.

Nancy says

After reading Macleod's first book *Call the Nurse* I wanted to know the rest of the story. *Nurse, Come You Here!* completes the story nicely. I don't know if I enjoyed/liked the second book better because I already knew the setting and characters, or if Mary J. Macleod hit her stride on the second book. The two books are a satisfying set of tales about Ms Macleod's life and work, a worthwhile memoir to read.

Megan says

This is an OK follow up *Call the Nurse*. After meeting the residents of the Scottish isle where Mary J. was a district nurse in the 60s & 70s, I looked forward to continuing the story with this community. Unfortunately, the sequel is disjointed. The island tales don't really follow a chronology there are just stories to justify various flashbacks. Then with no warning Mary J is living in the western US. Since she doesn't practice nursing, there are no tales of "her community" just her description of their new life. While it could be interesting, I felt like there were many jumps in time and I didn't have much sense of a time line.

I was most disappointed with the abrupt change in location. . .in *Call the Nurse*, we learn about how they decide to make the move, how they buy a croft house, how they settle in the new community but there is no explanation of the move. . .no insight to the decision, no details about Nick leaving home, not how the community reacted when she left.

Still interesting, but not as interesting.
