



## Village Affairs

*Miss Read , John S. Goodall (Illustrations)*

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**Village Affairs** Miss Read , John S. Goodall (Illustrations)

Open the gate to Fairacre, America's favorite English village.

The English village of Fairacre may appear idyllically peaceful to passersby, but those who live among its shady lanes always have problems to untangle. When a terrible rumor emerges — that the Fairacre School is to be closed and the children bused to nearby Beech Green — the village is up in arms at once. The schoolmistress, Miss Read, suffers agonizing indecision at the prospect, and her situation is made worse when her infants' room teacher decides to leave and the short-tempered Mrs. Pringle becomes more contrary than ever.

## Village Affairs Details

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Author : Miss Read , John S. Goodall (Illustrations)

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## **From Reader Review Village Affairs for online ebook**

### **Elizabeth says**

I always enjoy reading Miss Read, but over all this story was depressing. Aside from Miss Reads concerns about her life and future which really weigh her down, there are sides stories about two other women. Both of these are hapless creatures who are buffeted by life but are too ignorant or stupid or foolish to help themselves in any way.

One is happy that she gets beaten by a strap instead of a belt buckle and the other considers bread and some canned sauce adequate nourishment for her four children and even when she gets some money she doesn't spend it on them.

The village blames her abusive husband for her troubles but I finished the book more sad and depressed about the very lousy lives the children of these two women have. These takes place in a village where even other women think that an abused woman should stick by her louse through thick and thin and cover the bruises as best they can. Aargh!

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### **Ellen says**

I really enjoy these books so much. This story dealt with the possibility of Fairacre school being closed. Rumor run rampant and Miss Read worries that she will lose her happy situation as Fairacre school's headmistress. Of course that's not the only thing for her to worry about. She worries about little Joseph Coggs and his two sisters, who attend Fairacre school. Their Father, Arthur Coggs, Fairacre's major trouble maker, drunkard, thief, wife beater and all around louse has finally gotten his comeuppance and will be spending two years in jail for his part in the theft of a lead roof that was on Henry Mawne's summer house. Luckily Joseph's mother and his siblings end up better off, since now the money from the government can go for food and clothing, not for beer for Arthur to guzzle at the pub.

Minnie Pringle, who is Mrs. Pringle's niece, ends up damn near destroying Miss Read's home. She needs money, so Miss Read and other good hearted residents hire her to do light housework but her chronic clumsiness and nonexistent house cleaning skills are a recipe for disaster . Needless to say several of Miss Reads's beloved treasures get smashed. Minnie and her brood get stranded when her no-good husband leaves her for Mrs. Fowler ( The witchy old lady from Tyler's Row). Minnie gets herself a boyfriend, who's not much better than her husband. He moves in with her and the next thing you know, Ern, the husband is back pounding on her door, threatening to beat her up ( again). Mrs Fowler has thrown him out! Never a dull moment in this book. Great fun.

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### **Tami says**

This was my first Miss Read book. I was looking for something different at my local library and literally just pulled this off the shelf one day.... That was somewhere around 1979 or 1980...and it's been love ever since. I have read all her books, most of them several times over, and enjoy them immensely. I also got a few of my friends following her and we have had some chats over the various characters. I am not sure I can say which I like better, Fairacre or Thrush Green, when I am reading about Fairacre that's my favorite and vice versa....

Well perhaps Fairacre just a bit more! I am saddened to learn of Miss Reads death. Long live Thrush Green and Fairacre!!

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### **Laura Bang says**

I know say this in almost every Miss Read review, but it really is always lovely to visit in Fairacre for a while. It certainly provides a welcome breath of fresh, country air for my mind when the world outside of books is dark and stormy.

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### **Maureen says**

I love all Miss Read's novels. Miss Read is the pen name of the late Dora Saint. Without a doubt, I could read each one a dozen times and enjoy them immensely.

My late sister, Jae, introduced me to these novels. Jae was partial to the Thrush Green series and, for me, I identify a little more with Fairacre. However, I'll read any of them with pleasure. Apart from these series, there are several novels that focus on one character or one family or one incident. These are also good, but I'm definitely enamored of series! I am happy to meet the same characters over and over and to partake of their lives and communities over time,

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### **Barbara says**

This book was ok, and interesting enough I finished it, but not one of my favorites. It was written a long time ago, and is set in Britain, so the writing style is quaint, but different. The characters were varied and humorous at times, and the life of a small village schoolteacher was fun to read about.

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### **Sarah Crawford says**

There are three terms for the school. A lot of one-teacher schools have been closed and Miss Read finds out that the Fairacre school is on the chopping block. The school has only two teachers (Miss Read being the only one that lasts other than Miss Claire who retired) and fewer than 30 students.

Thus the main theme for the book is set with the village coming together to try to save the school while the government representative will not commit himself to any position. It seems that England was having major economic problems at the time and condensing schools was a way to save money.

The second theme is about Minnie who is, putting it mildly, not the brightest bulb in the pack. She has marital problems and ends up working for Miss Read, causing more problems than she solves.

The third theme revolves around the Coggs with Arthur Coggs being up to his usual nasty ways but this time being caught and ending up in prison. That's a quite of bit going on in this book and, as usual, the stories are well told and the book is enjoyable.

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### **Iru Sai says**

The entire village of Fairacre is buzzing with rumours that seem to be turning out true and if they do, they can impact the lives of many, including that of Miss Read. Yet, with speculation doing the rounds, and Miss Read's increasing apprehension, this book still does not lose the charm of a typical Fairacre book - warm, comfy and a cozy read.

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### **Joyce says**

Library copy. This narrative of the goings on in the village of Fairacre is one of my favorites in the series. I enjoy hearing about the school, the children, and the headmistress based on the author's experiences. There's ever so much more character in the day-to-day. Lovely descriptions of the seasonal changes as well as the underlying current of uncertainty, particularly relating to the school.

My favorite character is Joseph Coggs, or Joe as she calls him now. There was one point in this book where my emotions ran over, which is unusual for a Miss Read book. This one was a bit harder to put down, hence the 5 star rating. A great book in an enjoyable series.

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### **Judy says**

Another gentle Miss Read book -- easy to read and enjoyable -- she doesn't mince words in her "criticisms" of human nature, exemplified by the characters she writes about -- not only is Mrs Pringle described so well that one almost cringes when she is involved, you also "love" the curmudgeon because Miss Read makes you realize that Mrs Pringle (and other "characters") also have some good points. This book one has the constant worry about the closing of Fairacre school -- will it, or will it not?

I think I have been giving 5 stars to each in the "series" -- if not, I should. Today, I will start "Gossip from Thrush Green." I'm sure it will be as good as each of the others.

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### **Sparrow12 says**

It was okay.

I expected it to be better than it was.

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### **Kirsty says**

I hoped that *Village Affairs*, one of Miss Read's Fairacre novels, would turn out to be just the right thing to read whilst feeling under the weather. I haven't been reading the series in order; I don't feel as though it matters particularly. I do hope to read all of her novels in time. *Village Affairs*, the thirteenth book in the series, concerns the village school. I found it rather amusing, and a lovely and immersive read. There are a

couple of serious elements to the plot, concerned with whether the school may have to shut, and what will happen to teacher Miss Read, but the manner in which it is presented makes it rather lighthearted and easy to read. This is certainly another well written and charming addition to the series.

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### **Reading Fury says**

Always a pleasure to spend time with Miss Read. She beautifully blends an observant love of nature with compassionate humanity for her neighbors and students. I always feel refreshed and better about the world after reading one of her novels! In this installment, we reconnect with Mrs. Pringle's walking wreck of a relative, the messy, fertile, wild spirited Minnie. And the school is in danger of being closed. Arthur Coggs is up to his usual unrepentant ways, but now Mrs. Coggs has unsuccessfully taken up petty larceny. However, as always, a ray of sun brings harmony and beauty to balance the world.

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### **Sally says**

When life gets crazy, there's nothing like escaping to Fairacre. Another enjoyable read in this series!!

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### **Suzanne says**

Hi! First of all, I made a mistake when I was clicking on the stars and I ended up with one star instead of 5! I enjoyed his book very much. In fact, I own the complete collection of Miss Read books and reread them often. I especially enjoy the Fairacre series because Miss Read's adventures in the classroom sound very familiar to me.

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