



A Place Called Home

Dilly Court

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The wonderfully nostalgic and heartwarming new novel from the *Sunday Times* Top Ten bestselling author of *The Beggar Maid*.

Born out of wedlock when her mother was only fourteen, Lucy Pocket has spent all her life in the care of her disreputable but charming grandmother, Eva. They dodge from one poor lodging house to another, always in debt and resorting to theft in order to exist.

Until her wealthy paternal grandfather buys her from Eva, determined to bring Lucy up to be a lady. When her grandfather dies, his despicable nephew cheats Lucy out of her inheritance, except for a run-down lodging house in Whitechapel, where she is forced to look after his three illegitimate children.

Jilted by her would-be fiancé, Lucy is determined to make a life for herself and the children, and to search for her long lost grandmother, creating the family she has always longed for.

A Place Called Home Details

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From Reader Review A Place Called Home for online ebook

stephanie says

i dont normally read this style of books but i loved reading this book.

it reminded my why i started to read books more. i felt like i know these people in the book.

when i first got this book it was the cover of the book the drew me in and i wanted to know why they didnt look so happy i wanted to know their story, what they been through. i havent read a book so fast in all the time i've started reading from the age of 11. the writing was so beauifully put together it made me not want to stop reading and because i was reading the words of the book so fast i delayed reading the ending for a long while because i didnt want the book to stop i didnt want to run out of words.

Sarah1983 says

I've read a few other Dilly Court books and enjoyed them but found this one to be disappointing to be honest. I didn't find it very believable and really couldn't have cared less what happened to the main characters.

Angela Free says

Another nice, easy read from Dilly. Characters I cared about. Nice story.

Ilaria says

La strada verso casa racconta la storia di Lucy Pocket, una ragazzina inglese che vive insieme alla nonna materna dopo che la madre l'ha abbandonata. Lucy e sua nonna Eva tentano di sopravvivere nei bassifondi dell'East End londinese tra stenti e povertà. Un giorno alla loro porta bussa Sir William Marriot, nonno di Lucy, che decide di riprendere con sè la bambina per darle un futuro migliore ed educarla come la Lady che sarebbe dovuta essere.

Passano gli anni, Lucy cresce e diventa una donna raffinata, ma non dimentica la nonna con cui ha passato i primi anni di vita. Alla morte di Sir Marriot, Lucy diventa un'ereditiera, ma la situazione si complica quando il cugino del suo defunto padre, Linus Daubenay, rivendica l'eredità e inizia una vera battaglia contro Lucy che potrebbe mandare la giovane donna sul lastrico...

Questo corposo romanzo racconta una storia che ricorda vagamente le atmosfere dei romanzi inglesi ottocenteschi. Lucy è solo una bambina quando suo nonno la reclama e l'allontana dalla nonna che l'ha cresciuta portandola in una casa che non conosce ed educandola come una nobile. Crescendo Lucy non dimentica la vita vissuta con la nonna e non smette mai di sperare che un giorno ritroverà Eva. Quando eredita tutta la proprietà del nonno, Lucy pensa che finalmente avrà l'opportunità di ritrovare Eva e forse anche sua madre Christelle, ma Daubenay, mentendo, prende l'eredità per sè lasciando Lucy solo con una casa nell'East End.

Lucy è costretta a ricominciare da zero, ma lungo il percorso che la porterà a raggiungere il tanto agognato lieto fine troverà tante persone che la aiuteranno e le offriranno il suo aiuto permettendole di trovare la felicità.

La storia raccontata da Dilly Court è una storia che mi ha ricordato, almeno all'inizio, Il piccolo Lord. Chi di voi non ricorda Cedric, il bambino che viene portato in Inghilterra dal nonno per essere educato da lord? A Lucy succede lo stesso, ma successivamente la storia si sposta dieci anni dopo per raccontarci il seguito delle sue vicende.

Lo stile è molto scorrevole e ricco di belle descrizioni. La narrazione ha un ritmo sostenuto, mai noioso, e semplice da seguire. I personaggi sono molti e vari, ma sicuramente fra tutti spicca la giovane Lucy che da monella dei bassifondi londinesi diventa una giovane Lady dal carattere forte e dalla volontà di ferro! Con lei ci saranno molti personaggi, sua nonna Eva, Bram, Hester e tanti altri, ognuno di loro dà il suo contributo alla storia di Lucy e viene ben caratterizzato.

La storia è molto bella, ho apprezzato particolarmente l'ambientazione e la protagonista: Lucy è forte, caparbia e decisa e tenta il tutto per tutto per ottenere quello che merita.

Se amate le storie ambientate nell'affascinante Londra e ricche di avventure ed emozioni, allora questo è il romanzo che fa per voi!

Wendy says

“A Place Called Home” is a heart-warming and touching story that opens when Lucy Pocket, an eleven-year-old living in destitution after the death of her father and mother’s abandonment is sold by her grandmother to her wealthy paternal grandfather. Wanting a better life for Lucy, one free of poverty, petty crime and moving from one poor lodging house to another, her grandmother Eve leaves her despite her protests in the care of Sir William. Although surrounded by servants, clean and well-fed life in the rich surroundings of Albemarle Street is a challenge especially when Lucy discovers that the man whose wallet she stole and returned is her grandfather’s loathsome nephew Linus Daubenay who would like nothing more than to have her disappear.

This well-structured and enthralling story heats up ten years later after the death of her grandfather and his nephew’s seizure of her inheritance. Left a run-down house in Whitechapel, blackmailed into caring for Linus’s three illegitimate children, and the promise of an engagement broken, Lucy begins rebuilding her life with the children, friends and her new boarders. Yet she can’t forget the loving grandmother who mysteriously disappeared from her life so she sets out on an adventure to find her that has her joining a circus; contending with the rivalry of the two men who love her; as well as the jealousy of the circus’s snake charmer.

Emotionally- intense beginning with Lucy’s losses as a child to growing up in poverty in a rough neighborhood where she has to steal to survive, and later in the wealthy environment of her grandfather’s house suffering the disparaging comments of the servants, the hatred of Sir William’s nephew and being locked in her room, the power of the plot escalates when she’s left with an old house and a small bequest after her uncle’s theft. Yet amid all the intensity and suspense as Lucy searches for her missing grandmother, and struggles to keep the devious Linus away from his children, she finds love reawakened with Bramwell Southwood, a boy who once saved her life when she got lost in Epping Forest.

Dilly Court creates a complexity to her characters that not only infuses the plot with passion, high-energy and excitement but makes them unforgettable. Lucy Pocket raised by a loving grandmother in the misery and poverty of Whitechapel is determined and fearless as a child but under her grandfather’s influence becomes a relaxed, responsible and empathetic young woman. Bramwell Southwood the brother of Linus’s kind-hearted and caring mistress Meg is a sensible, good-natured tease as a teen. Buying a commission in the army and serving in the 7th Hussars, he’s strong and resolute especially in his determination to keep Linus away from Lucy and his younger siblings. Womaniser and gambler Linus Daubenay is a cold, heartless bully who has

no conscience and a quick temper while the obsessed snake charmer Stella, determined to get rid of her competition is conniving, manipulative and nasty.

Like all of Dilly Court's books that I' have read so far, I loved " A Place Called Home" and continue to be one of her fans.

Steph says

I devoured this book from the first page. It was drama filled with fun,nice, crazy and hateful characters. I liked Lucy and that she wasn't a pathetic weak girl though I wish she had stood up to Stella. Not a predictable read either, how her life turned out could have went any number of ways. But overall a thoroughly enjoyable read.

Delia Sandford says

I really enjoyed this book will defiantly be reading more by this author

June Jones says

The beginning and the middle were o.k., but Lucy joining a circus, as a horse rider/ entertainer, was too far fetched. on the whole an enjoyable read

linda jones says

Brilliant

Fab fab fab what more can I say she never does a bad book role on the next one .

Charmain Ward says

It was inspiring to read how Lucy and her Granny survived the tough times despite their poverty to see how she turned out in the end with Bram at Marriott Park!

Joyce Flowers says

New reader

Have just started to read silly court books. I am really pleased I have. They are very entertaining. There are lots of turns in the plots to keep you guessing and I found them hard to put down. They are on a par with several of my favourite authors I am so pleased I have found her.

Izzy says

Dilly court

Really liked this story. Slightly different in the plot made it more enjoyable. Try it, you should like it too.

Amy Olivier says

I can always tell how good a book is by how long it takes me to read it and this took me almost a month! It found it boring and not believable. I finished it but wouldn't recommend it to anyone else. This is the second Dilly Court book I've read and I think it's fair to say, the books aren't to my taste.

Debbie Ward says

Another good read by Dilly Court. I did wonder where the story was going when Lucy left the children for several weeks to work for the Circus. Felt for a while it was an unnecessary part to the story. However it all ties together in the end. Probably didn't enjoy the story as much as the other ones I've read by same Author. At times felt the story was too scripted which detracted from the characters in the book. Still it held my attention and enjoyed the characters and storyline.

Laura says

Lucy è una piccola orfana che vive un po' di qua, un po' di là con la nonna, facendo quello che possono per sopravvivere. Abbandonata dalla mamma Lucy sogna una situazione migliore: vestiti puliti, cibo caldo nello stomaco, l'amore dei suoi genitori. Tutto ad un tratto i suoi sogni sono realizzati: il nonno paterno la trova e la porta nella sua casa per farla diventare una vera Lady. Ma le cose non vanno come Lucy aveva sempre sognato, soprattutto perché è costretta a separarsi dalla sua amata nonna.

Riuscirà Lucy a riunire la sua famiglia ?

Devo dire che questo libro mi è proprio piaciuto. Le ambientazioni sono bellissime, descritte così chiaramente che sembra di sentire l'odore dei bassifondi londinesi e delle persone che si muovono al loro interno.

La storia è un susseguirsi di avventure, appena si pensa che le cose si siano risolte ecco che succede qualcosa'altro che rimescola tutte le carte.

Lucy è un personaggio ben costruito, anche se è forse l'unico di cui sappiamo tutto, gli altri personaggi sono delineati in modo più semplice e non ci viene detta la loro storia passata ma solo quella presente.

Una cosa forse un poco carente è il rapporto di Lucy con Bram: la dichiarazione dei reciproci sentimenti avviene frettolosamente quasi per caso, e alla fine un banale litigio sembra che li allontani per sempre. Per

fortuna poi le cose si mettono bene ma avrei gradito che il loro rapporto fosse analizzato un po' meglio soprattutto perché Bram ha tutte le carte in regola per essere un personaggio davvero carismatico.

Uno stile di scrittura scorrevole, che sembra disegnare luoghi e personaggi davanti agli occhi e permette di perdersi completamente nelle pagine.

Consigliatissimo !!
