



## **The Houses In Between**

*Howard Spring*

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# The Houses In Between

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## **The Houses In Between** Howard Spring

In this book we follow the life of Sarah Rainborough from age 3 in 1851 to the end of her life in 1948. In the opening chapter Sarah is taken to Britain's \*Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace where she catches a glimpse of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Throughout the novel Spring gives his readers the opportunity to share Sarah's perspective on English history which for Sarah from age 3 on is somehow magically, metaphorically, reflected on the glass windows of the Crystal Palace. As a matter of fact, we learn in the author's foreword that the title of this book comes from an old music hall song with the words, "You could see the Crystal Palace if it wasn't for the houses in between."

## **The Houses In Between Details**

Date : Published 1964 by Collins (first published 1951)

ISBN : 9781842323472

Author : Howard Spring

Format : Hardcover 576 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, European Literature, British Literature

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# From Reader Review The Houses In Between for online ebook

## Sai Sruthi says

A very informative and interesting book. History is brought alive through the story of a girl from her infancy to old age. Her growth and changes in history parallel each other as the story unfolds.

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## Raquel Martin says

I discovered this book in my college library stacks at the end of my freshman year finals in 1965, when I was ready to read something for pleasure instead of studies. I fell in love with it, and have re-read it at least four or five times since then. It may be dated as others on Goodreads have said, but it paints an incredible picture of Victorian life and all the lessons learned in a well-lived life. Very nostalgic, sometimes sad, but also uplifting. It's definitely worth reading!

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## Jani says

I'm enjoying this novel, which I stumbled upon at the bottom of a bag full of rejected "antique" books. I thought I'd give it a chance and I'm glad I did. Fitting comfortably into the Bildungsroman (coming-of-age) genre, this is an engaging, often unexpectedly funny, glimpse into the life of a young, upper class, girl in Victorian England. So far we've had comedy, romance, tragedy, adventure, and action. This is an intriguing, intimate look at a historic period during which societies, conventions, and lives were undergoing tremendous upheaval.

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## Keith says

Howard Spring was a terrific writer whose novels were invariably very readable and absorbing. This was a very enjoyable read -- a nostalgic experience, for I first discovered this novel many years ago, in the mid to late 1950s I think, and it was good to find that it is still as readable as it was then.

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## Dorcas says

This is the fourth Howard Spring book I've read so far (feels like more than that since they're so chunky) and it's my favorite. Basically, the novel follows the life of Sarah from age 3 on her visit to the Crystal Palace with her parents to see the Queen, to her death at age 99, the last living of her generation.

But it's so much more. Lives are not lived in a vacuum, and Sarah's life intertwines with many and varied people over some major global events (Queen Victoria's complete reign, The Indian Mutiny, The Crimea, The Boer War, WW1, and finally WW2) It's fascinating to see how all these characters interlock, rising and

falling over the generations.

And Howard Spring is a master with his pen. This is truly a book to savor. I read it over a spread of two weeks and looked forward to every minute when I could relax and pick it up again.

But keep in mind, this is not a book of action and HAPPENINGS. It's a book about real life, real people, their joys and tragedies, one day at a time. I love it.

CONTENT:

Suitable for all readers

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### **Tina Naples says**

It is so many years since I read all that Howard Spring wrote that I really must now find time to go back and re-read the rest of them. Such a good storyteller.

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### **Carolyn Agosta says**

This is the first book I've read by Howard Spring, but it will not be the last. I enjoy historical fiction, particularly family sagas, and this fits right in with that. The synopsis others have given is well-enough, but I would add that if you're a fan of Galsworthy, R.F. Delderfield, or Cynthia Harrod-Eagles, you will enjoy this book. The voice of the main character, Sarah Undridge, from age 3 to 97, covering the last half of the 19th century and first half of the 20th, is so 'right', so believable, that you wish you had the chance to meet the old girl. And to visit Tresant, the country home where much of her life took place. The period encompasses so much change that is fascinating to read. My own grandmother lived from 1903 to 1989 and saw a great deal of change in her lifetime, change I was able to monitor at least through the medium of photographs, showing her as a little girl with ringlets and white muslin ruffles up through her old age in pantsuits, enormous '80's eyeglasses and sensible running shoes with Velcro closures. At any rate, the book is HIGHLY enjoyable and I plan to search out more of Howard Spring's books. By the way, the copy I read was a 1954 hardbound version, which made the reading even more enjoyable.

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### **Jim says**

A rather rambling story of a woman's life from the Great Exhibition to just after WWII. Many linked stories, some very interesting, some not. Quite dated now, not one of his best, but readable - very evocative descriptive passages here and there.

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### **Carrie Carteret says**

This is a wonderful family saga based on a woman's life spanning the second half of the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century, and set in London and Cornwall. The title comes from a music hall song

which Spring remembered mentioning the Crystal Palace (though the lyrics as recorded mention other non-visible sites, but not the Crystal Palace). This symbol of peace and progress which was the protagonists's earliest memory is a recurring motif as the century darkens.

Some of the characters in this novel are more believable than others, but Howard Spring is a fantastic storyteller who can deliver a plot and involve the reader in the lives of new players with economy and verve. This is how he despatches one minor character, Henry Grimshaw, who has just bought a house in St John's Wood, complete with pond and marble statue:

"Here Captain Grimshaw and his still attractive but childless Annie might have been happy together for a long time had not the railway-investment bug bitten him deeply. He was a man with neither sense nor experience in financial affairs, and the marble lady looked down with faultless modesty and unconcern, while the goldfish nibbled the hairs of his ears and moustache during the few hours that passed before he was lifted out of the pond at seven o'clock on a sleety winter morning."

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## **Marina says**

I enjoyed this book so much. At first I wasn't convinced a male author could write through the eyes of a female but I think Howard Spring really did an excellent job, a female author may have made the book more romantic maybe. This book has everything, including enough deaths to give Les Mis a run for its money. I didn't read the prologue until after I had finished the book and I'm glad for that as it didn't ruin the ending for me. It was a very sad day for me when I did complete the book, I was very tempted to start reading from the beginning again. Why is there no adaptation? Can imagine it being similar to the Forsyte Saga.

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