



The Lumby Lines

Gail Fraser

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2017 Edition! Book #1 in the Lumby series. What Garrison Keillor did for Lake Wobegon and Jan Karon did for Mitford, Gail Fraser has done for Lumby - a town so heartwarming and endearing, you'll be forever transported. An engaging cast of characters populates Lumby, a one-moose town in the Pacific Northwest where pigs literally fly and goats invade the bank vault, a dog runs for mayor (and wins!) and Sheriff Dixon keeps a gentle watch over all the quirky goings-on. Arousing the suspicions of the townsfolk of Lumby, Pam and Mark Walker, a couple of "East Coasters" purchase the community's fire-ravaged and neglected monastery, intent on converting it into a historic inn and regaining its Historical Register status.

With the aid of the sometimes helpful, often humorously hapless local tradespeople, the Walkers begin their renovation project, while trying to unravel the town that is Lumby. Facing the open hostility from the cranky old newspaper publisher, the newcomers attempt to 'fit in' and piece together the mysteries of the benefactor who leaves unsolicited checks in old journals and the flamingo in their front yard with a flair for fashion. It doesn't take them long to realize that the local paper, The Lumby Lines, provides many of the answers. The daily "Sheriff's Complaints" column reveals many of the town's foibles and benign mayhem, and introduce Pam and Mark to some of the more colorful locals, while the young reporter of the weekly, "What's New Around Town" feature longs to land the big "expose," but somehow never gets it right. Despite the setbacks that occur, Pam and Mark's commitment to the inn and the town never sways.

As the previous tenants of the monastery assist the Walkers in learning its history, the intrigue builds and romance blossoms, and they unknowingly discover long-hidden relationships which lead to unexpected reconciliations. Joining in the annual Lumby Raft Race ensues, Pam and Mark find themselves in the middle of a near disastrous scenario, and the people of Lumby learn the true nature of their newest residents.

The Lumby Lines paints a picture full of laughter and love that readers will take to their hearts--and conjures up magic in an everyday place called Lumby.

The Lumby Lines Details

Date : Published March 29th 2017 by Lazygoose Publishing (first published August 30th 2005)

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Author : Gail Fraser

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From Reader Review The Lumby Lines for online ebook

Pat says

No No No Characters are cardboard cutouts - no personality. I felt I was seeing a version of the TV ad about the kid at school. Joe did this, Jane did that, Harry did this etc etc.

My original comments was:A sweet quiet story of an imaginary town in the NW of the US. Think Mitford without the annoying pastor. Good summer relaxation.

Marcia says

I don't intentionally seek out books about small towns, but there is something unavoidably charming about rural areas, neighbours who know each other, a town newspaper which prints stories using first names and a main street full of mom-and-pop shops. I picked up **The Lumby Lines** while I was on holidays in a my favourite small town this past summer. It was a blustery and rainy day--the beach was deserted and the library was full of big comfy couches and creaky wooden floors. **The Lumby Lines** seemed appropriate for my current circumstances, so I grabbed it and gave it a go, getting a couple chapters in.

Being unable to finish it there, I reserved a copy from the library and boy am I glad I didn't purchase this book! One of the other reasons I started reading it was the fact that I love (and own) the entire Mitford series, so I was excited to potentially find something along the same lines.

I was wrong, oh so wrong. Although Fraser tries her best to create a novel from small town charm, it falls horribly flat and I struggled to get through it to the bitter end.

The character are stale and one dimensional. No one seems to have any serious motivation or emotion, other than the one villain who simply turns out to be a misunderstood old man. (Didn't see that one coming.) The main characters Pam and Mark are attempting to convert an old abbey into a modern day inn and the book follows their path with slapstick attempts at humour and boring side characters.

There is absolutely nothing that makes the book sparkle. Fraser tries to force in eccentric characters (an old rich woman who lives frugally and loves gardening) but she simply ends up reiterating the same pieces of information over and over (said old woman has dirt under fingernails), until the reader is left wondering what else these people have going on their lives.

It was one of the most shallow books I have ever read. Two teenage boys cause trouble all over the town and are constantly in and out of the police station, but barely any time is spent exploring their motivations. Fair enough, this book appears to be the first of a series (that I will definitely not pursue), but as the introduction to a series, it lacks any whimsical charm.

The only reason I can think of readers enjoying this novel is that they have a lower reading level. I know that sounds brutally harsh, but there is no way someone can go from reading Mitford to this. Karon's creation of Mitford and Father Tim is descriptive and beautiful, drawing you in to the characters and their lives. **The Lumby Lines** is boring and dry, the conversations between characters stilted and bland.

Perhaps the saddest thing about this novel is the fact that the premise of it had great potential, but the author lacked the ability to properly execute the story. I am also left wondering how the editor allowed so many

repetitive sentences and descriptions to enter one book.

I would not recommend this book to anyone. It was a waste of my time and will most likely be a waste of yours.

Caitlin says

If I could, I would give this book 2.5 stars. It was an enjoyable rural read whose episodic adventures made it perfect for bedtime reading. It resembles Jan Karon's work in its plucky, helpful-neighbor, small-town way. It turns out you can do anything with a can-do attitude and forgiveness can serve as a panacea. Ultimately the lower rating came down to Fraser's writing style. Dialogue could be stilted, events sometimes felt trite or contrived, and realism seemed to be irrelevant as some of modern society's greatest problems were brushed under the rug. Overall, though, I must repeat that I found the book enjoyable without having to pay too much attention to it.

Glenn says

2.5 stars. Not a "must read" where I'd highly recommend it, but not bad either - for those who like light drama with a lot of "country charm". This is a book that could be used on a Hallmark TV special.

Jennifer says

When I first started this book, I wasn't sure I could get into it. I was wrong. After the first few chapters, I was hooked. I greatly enjoyed the characters and the day to day living they did in a small town. I look forward to reading more in the Lumby series.

Jennifer says

From My Blog...[return]Somewhere in the Pacific Northwest lies the quaint town of Lumby with its eccentric inhabitants and a nearby burned-out Monastery. A typical morning may consist of the bank president phoning the sheriff's office to complain about discovering goats locked in the vault consuming thousands of dollars or an over-zealous reporter hoping to find a scoop. So begins The Lumby Lines by Gail Fraser, the first in her Lumby series. Things become livelier in the town of Lumby when Mark and Pam Walker arrive hoping to restore the old Montis Abbey into a Bed and Breakfast and most of Lumby is behind them, however not everyone wants to see the Walkers succeed. Lumby and nearby towns are vividly described, the characters are wonderfully well written with a charming plot, making The Lumby Lines a delightful, charming and quick read. Anyone who enjoyed the Mitford series by Jan Karon is certain to enjoy the quirky lot in the Lumby series.

Diane C. says

Jennifer's review says it for me.....

"What an adorable book! Truly! This was a cute, feel good, warm hearted story, which is something I don't read very often. I don't know why, I just don't. Maybe because most of them sound trite. This one didn't."

Warm and fuzzy about middle class professionals, if you're in the mood for that. Great vacation book.

Marian Bart says

Despite the moments of quaint charm and moose-related humor, I had to put it down. The misplaced modifiers and other bad sentences were too painful.

Lanette says

This was just okay for me... kind of like the secular version of Mitford. Don't know that I liked it enough to read the sequels.

Holly (2 Kids and Tired) says

Disappointing. I could not finish it. I'd seen it compared to Jan Karon's Mitford series and I loved those books. This was like a flat, pale attempt at imitation, and one that tried too hard. While I've seen these characters described as quirky, I saw very little character development and nothing to make me care about them. I think what was most difficult for me was the strange mix of tenses. It wasn't a first person narrative, but the mix of tenses was odd and incredibly distracting.

The book has received other, very positive, comments and I have no doubt that it will appeal to many people. I'm just not one of them.

Sarah Grace Grzy says

Did not finish. Just boring, didn't seem to have a point, some mild language that pushed me over the edge, and did I mention it was boring?

To quote another reviewer: "I'd seen it compared to Jan Karon's Mitford series and I loved those books. This was like a flat, pale attempt at imitation, and one that tried too hard. "

^^^^ Yup. That is pretty much it.

Lydia Presley says

If you've ever lived in a small town *The Lumby Lines* will seem pretty familiar to you. If you've never lived in a small town, *The Lumby Lines* might just make you wish you did.

The bulk of this story is about a young couple, Mark and Pam Walker, who move from the East Coast to a little town named Lumby. They find Montis Abbey, a ruin that was destroyed by a fire years before and work on restoring it.

This book had me reaching for a cup of tea and snuggling under a blanket, sighing with happiness and, quite often, giggling uncontrollably. This is not a book of high-handed, cryptic writing. This is a meal that you sit down to enjoy at your grandmother's house, or a homemade sweater that you put on at the end of your day. It's comforting, happy and full of love.

My favorite moments in the book were the parts taken directly out of the towns newspaper (for which the book is named). The Lumby Lines contained some of the most hilarious reports from the Sheriff and equally funny articles. For example here is a portion of the Sheriff's Complaints:

9:42a.m. Woman from Hunts Mill Road reported a bat hanging on her screen door.

10:55a.m. Lumby resident requested that her grassb e measured by front walk.

1:13p.m. John Morris reported two dogs trying to down a steer. He shot at them, chasing them off.

1:15p.m. Rev. Olson reported three bullets going through stained class windows at Holy Episcopal.

3:39p.m. A Lumby caller reported that two draft horses had wandered into his pasture.

4:17p.m. Caller reported that aluminum ladder stolen yesterday had been returned bent.

11:22p.m. Pickup vs. deer. Pickup wins.

That's just a sample of what was scattered throughout the book. Subtle, fun, quirky humor. I laughed even typing it up for you to enjoy. The antics of the animals, the people, the rowdy teenage boys, the small-town dramas, the romances..both new and old, everything added up to make this a thoroughly enjoyable, much needed read. I'll be recommending this book to my friends and family and, in its honor, have created a new "cozy" bookshelf to place it on.

Elaine says

Noteworthy news in Lumby might be a car meeting up with a deer. A telephone call to the sheriff could be a moose in someone's yard or perhaps 2 goats dining on paper money in a bank vault .

Outsiders are not easily welcomed, get blamed for things that the townspeople don't like, and the

townspeople don't like the idea that out-of-towners are taking over Montis Abbey to restore it and make a hotel out of it. Folks are spreading gossip without knowing what's going on. Someone's even threatened to sue the new property owners.

The story falls far short of reality. Things fall into place too nicely such as the cottage hidden on the property that's just right for Brooke. Pam's idea for the monks gets off the ground all too conveniently. Although long-time folks from the town don't take to strangers easily, an event occurs that endears them to the newcomers. All too pat.

I wonder how they'll handle one particular garden on the grounds, one I'm sure will make it in "The Lumby Lines." If I were them I'd have wanted to deal with it very early on. Things could really be smokin'!

A very slow-paced book...quaint. Easy read.

Marlo says

I picked this up based on a recommendation by What Should I Read Next website because I liked the Mitford Series. There is no comparison. While the Mitford characters are charming and interesting, these characters and the story line fall flat. I wound up skimming through much of it just so I could finish the story. The most interesting character is a pink plastic flamingo, if that tells you anything.

Lizz says

Another series I've pulled out to re-read since I'm in a slump. This is a nice enough story, it's just that not much happens.
