



## Celebrations at Thrush Green

*Miss Read*

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### Celebrations at Thrush Green Miss Read

Miss Read's 36th novel takes readers back to the village of Thrush Green, where special plans and celebrations are being made for the village school's 100th anniversary celebration. And although plans become complicated, events culminate in a very special celebration.

### Celebrations at Thrush Green Details

Date : Published December 31st 1993 by Houghton Mifflin (first published 1992)

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Author : Miss Read

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## **From Reader Review Celebrations at Thrush Green for online ebook**

### **Harsha Priolkar says**

I found this little gem on my first visit to a Bangalore institution - Blossom Bookstore! It is a perfect example of why I love British literature and authors. They are masters at describing the gentle pace of life in an English village and in making the mundane interesting.

This is my first Thrush Green book and I will most certainly seek out the rest. Miss Read does a fantastic job of describing life in an English village, focusing in this book on two events that bring the villagers together in celebration. These are ordinary people, going about their lives as best they can - good, decent folk ( a decided rarity these days!), striving to be kind, helpful and charitable. They write letters of invitation and Thank you notes, tend their gardens, have endless cups of tea, make jams and preserves, go to church, visit friends and on occasion indulge in friendly gossip! No Midsomer Murders vibe here!

There is a particular charm in the deceptive simplicity of their lives and Miss Read's gentle use of language goes a long way in enhancing that charm. And yet her gentle tone doesn't preclude insight into the characters and attitudes of the people who live and love in Thrush Green. Through skilful use of dialogue she highlights human foibles while sketching a pretty tableau of village life. An added attraction are the sweet illustrations by John S. Goodall!

A cosy, comforting read that is guaranteed to uplift a troubled heart. A book that made me believe again in the 'goodness' of people - always a good thing!

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### **Susan says**

These are not deep reads, but they are relaxing reads, and gentle, and some times, that is just the right thing.

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### **Chris says**

This was missing many of the usual characters and the story went back to the founder of Thrush Green, which is what began the series. I've grown to love the characters so much, I want to know what is going on with them, not the statue in the middle of the green!

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### **Sarah Crawford says**

Information about Nathaniel Patten is discovered and there are preparations made for both the 100th anniversary of the school and the anniversary of Nathaniel's mission in Africa. Winnie is ill and Mrs. Gibbons proves herself to be quite nasty. More of the same type of thing but it's still good.

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### **Lori says**

Another charming installment of the Thrush Green series.

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### **Eleni says**

The good old times in Thrush Green!

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### **Niki Estes says**

The last couple Thrush Green books, while still very enjoyable, have heavily involved a certain character that was really getting on my nerves. I'm so happy that that was not the case with Celebrations at Thrush Green. Maybe it was that she was not in the book much or just that Miss Read really focused on the upcoming celebrations that were take place. Whatever it was, I thoroughly enjoyed this one and am looking forward to reading the last Thrush Green book next month.

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### **Harriet says**

Another wonderful book about the every day lives of the villagers of Thrush Green. I find these books deeply refreshing.

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### **Katy says**

Not one of my favorites...too much about Nathaniel Patten.

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### **Deborah says**

I'm going to do a combined review for all the remaining Thrush Green books (with the exception of *Christmas*) because although they are all excellent, they are also all basically the same, in the way that episodes of *The Archers* are all the same. So, still worth reading; but hard to differentiate one book from another.

The attraction comes from seeing the seasons ebb and flow, and picking up the stories of the characters. There are changes - characters die, babies are born, houses are built, newcomers arrive, people retire, fall ill and/or become increasingly eccentric. There is no reference to events in the outside world - the importance is attached to events in the local community. And those events are rarely dramatic (this isn't Midsomer). They are *real*.

Anybody who is considering relocating to a village should read these books to get an idea of what they would be moving to. And anybody who thinks these books are unrealistic, or sentimental, has either never

lived in a village, or didn't join in properly when they did!

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### **Hope says**

Another delightful entry in the Thrush Green series. Not my favorite, but still lots to enjoy. The town rallies around Harold Shoosmith's plan to honor one of Thrush Green's Victorian heroes, missionary Nathaniel Patten. As Harold researches Patten's life, diaries and letters surface that add to his admiration for him.

"The first days of the New Year were mild and still. . . It was a time to relish one's home. In the dark of the year, when curtains were drawn between four and five, and the long evening stretched ahead, the people of Thrush Green turned to their fires, books knitting, needlework, and, sometimes, television to amuse themselves. Domestic comforts became doubly precious: a warm bed, a hot drink, the snugness of curtains shut against the night's chill, all brought comfort in the dismal days of January." (p. 124)

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### **Claudia Cheyne says**

Thrush Green residents have discovered two reasons to celebrate - both their village school opened 100 years ago as well as Nathaniel Patten's mission school in Africa. Long lost letters from Patten have recently been discovered which help people to learn more about the man. Plans are being made for an October celebration to honor both centenary occasions. Many people get involved in sharing ideas of how best to combine the festivities with equal attention. This is a great story about why we remember the past and the importance of communities gathering together for special events.

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### **Laura says**

Re-read as audiobook.

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### **Beth Bonini says**

This was a very undemanding book to read over the Christmas period, but the plot points were even less interesting than usual. I've never been able to understand the excitement about Thrush Green's Nathaniel Patten - the Victorian missionary who brings Christianity to a village in Africa. I just fail to understand why Harold Shoosmith finds him to be such a moving and inspirational figure. (I suspect that Christian missionaries have definitely suffered from a loss of 'status' in the last 50 years.) Anyway, the 'action' in this novel revolves around the discovery of some letters between Patten and his rich benefactor - with a few romantic titbits thrown in, revolving around the two men's ancestors. The village school is also celebrating its 100th anniversary, which gives Thrush Green the excuse to hold a village-wide celebration involving former teachers Dorothy Watson and Agnes Fogerty.

It's a tranquil world to visit for a few hours of pleasant reading, but this was not one of the more memorable instalments from Thrush Green. A weak three stars from me.

## Teri-K says

I adore Miss Read's books. I collected them all before the internet came along, when they could be very hard to find, and they have pride of place on my good bookshelves, along with Maud Lovelace and Gladys Tabor. Unfortunately, I just can't love this one.

These books tell the story of people in small villages in England - ordinary people with simple lives. They're loosely held together by a particular thread - a problem at the village school, someone retiring or moving into the area - small but vital threads that give the narrative form. Their strength is the wonderful sense of place and also the really distinct characters the author creates.

Unfortunately this book centers on Harold Shoesmith and his great interest in a long-dead resident of Thrush Green. It's unfortunate because Harold never makes sense to me, I never feel I understand him or see into his feelings or mind at all. While I could immediately sit down with Agnes, the Vicar, Mrs. Pringle or Miss Read and have an interesting conversation, Harold and I would be stuck with only niceties about the weather or the garden. He's just not a real person. And I don't find myself caring much about Nathaniel Patten either.

I hate to give any Miss Read book only two stars, but I have to be honest with myself. If you like simple stories about real people you must try these books, but please don't start here. I rather favor the Fairacre series, except for those times when I think Thrush Green is more fun. So try either. lol But do read them.

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