



Magic for Marigold

L.M. Montgomery

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The eccentric Lesley family could not agree on what to name Lorraine's new baby girl even after four months. Lorraine secretly liked the name Marigold, but who would ever agree to such a fanciful name as that? When the baby falls ill and gentle Dr. M. Woodruff Richards saves her life, the family decides to name the child after the good doctor. But a girl named Woodruff? How fortunate that Dr. Richards's seldom-used first name turns out to be . . . Marigold! A child with such an unusual name is destined for adventure. It all begins the day Marigold meets a girl in a beautiful green dress who claims to be a real-life princess. . . .

Magic for Marigold Details

Date : Published April 1st 1989 by Starfire (first published January 1st 1925)

ISBN : 9780553280463

Author : L.M. Montgomery

Format : Paperback 274 pages

Genre : Classics, Fiction, Young Adult, Historical, Historical Fiction, Childrens

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From Reader Review Magic for Marigold for online ebook

Alyssa Nelson says

If you've read any books by L.M. Montgomery before, then you pretty much know what to expect with this one -- and adventurous child growing up during the 1920's in Canada. She likes to daydream, has a little bit of sass, and gets into quite a bit of trouble. I don't think that this novel is as strong as Montgomery's other novels, but Marigold and her family members are still enjoyable characters who get into some fun predicaments.

What I think was missing from this novel was a central theme or focus; the book didn't really go anywhere and while there was some small amount of personal growth for Marigold, it wasn't enough to warrant the length of the book. But that was the only thing that I had trouble with -- I loved reading about Marigold's adventures, and this book certainly has some laugh-out-loud moments. Basically, it's a decent enough read if you have the time or if you're a Montgomery fan. But I would suggest that you read Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables or Emily of New Moon series before you pick up this one.

Also posted on Purple People Readers.

Daniela says

Lovely lovely lovely ♥?♥? There isn't a book by L.M. Montgomery that I don't enjoy.

Marigold was the funniest, most adorable girl... the family aspect is wonderfully crafted by the author, as per usual.

I don't know an author who tells a story so well, balancing characters, family dynamics, funny dialogue and description, namely the nature aspect that this amazing woman always complemented her novels with.

Another character, another lovely name. Marigold. I say this in every review but it's true: where did this woman come up with the most beautiful names?

My most beloved author. The Blue Castle remains my favorite but Marigold is gold as well, just like Anne and Gilbert (my dream husband ahahah).

Recommend Marigold to everyone who wants to visit some wonderful memories of heir childhood. I certainly did, especially that part when Marigold is all excited to go to some relative's house to spend the night and when she gets there she's crying for her kittens and her mommy. Ahahaha just like I did when I was her age.

It's like Barbra Streisand used to sing: "Memories... light the corners of my mind".

The Library Lady says

The most mawkish heroine Maud ever created. She is cute beyond cute. Diabetics be warned....

Courtney says

2016 Reread: Thank goodness Elizabeth suggested me joining in on a reread (for her first time reading) of this title. As she aptly puts it, when you are reading Anne she takes you with her through her childhood but reading Marigold makes you feel you are watching from a distance. For this reason I don't think I loved it as much as a kid because of the nostalgic feel but now I appreciate it for its merits, especially knowing more about what was going on in LMM's life at the time of her writing. Since we read it right after reading *The Blythes Are Quoted*, it was nice to get back to more traditional LMM-iness.

The quintessential LMM character in this book is Old Grandmother. The chapter where she and Marigold are alone in the orchard is beautiful and haunting and I am glad Marigold carries Old Grandmother's words with her throughout her life.

Zen Cho says

Happy tweeness about a classic L. M. Montgomery heroine, until the very last chapter, which is called 'The Chrism of Womanhood' and is pretty much as hideous as it sounds. I don't exactly disagree with one of the basic ideas, which is that you have to share the people you love with other people and that's what it means to be grown up. I do object to the other basic idea, which is that it is the fate and sacred duty of Woman to hang around waiting patiently while her man goes off and does whatever -- has fun, does his job, etc. -- and to embrace him uncomplainingly when he returns and listen to his complaints and make him feel important. Jeez louise. She is TWELVE in the last chapter; what poison to be pouring into the mind of a twelve-year-old.

Bethany Turner says

Magic for Marigold is another treat from L.M. Montgomery. It is delightful and full of Montgomery's magic. And I loved the addition of cat's comments.

Heidi-Marie says

This was a different Montgomery book in that the heroine was so young and did not get into the scrapes that I was used to reading about. I don't remember too much and may have to re-read this one. But I do remember thinking it was sweet.

M.M. Strawberry Reviews says

I can't say that this is one of L.M. Montgomery's best works (namely because of the ending) but it is definitely a solid read. Marigold is a girl with a big imagination, and this book has plenty of delightful

adventures, like the day with the princess, or her trips to various relatives' houses and the like along with her dealing with her emotions (anger, fear, the like). It's hard to not like Marigold, she tries to be a good girl and she is so spirited that it makes for a irresistible combination.

I would have given this five stars if not for the ultimately disappointing end. I know that this book was written in the twenties - the date on the inside says 1929 - and so L.M.'s work tends to be a bit old fashioned compared to today's novels. Generally, this does not bother me, as I have immensely enjoyed all of the Anne and Emily books as well as The Blue Castle and the Pat books, and Jane of Lantern Hill. However, the ending to this book was a big letdown. it was just way too sexist and contrived for my liking. Yes, Marigold is growing up, but this... come on, really. The last paragraph especially rankled me.

If you like L.M.'s other works, you'll like this one, just be ready for a stupid ending.

Elinor Loredan says

Marigold is very sensitive and impressionable, and I enjoy reading about her adventures and mishaps that result.

My favorite chapters are the ones in which Marigold's clan holds a conclave to decide what to name her, and when Old Grandmother talks to Marigold in the orchard the night of Old Grandmother's death. One drawback to the book is that I really miss Old Grandmother for the rest of it.

Montgomery was a master at depicting 'clans' with the quirks, interesting habits, and personalities of its various members. I love the 'conclaves' in her books about Marigold, Emily, and Valancy, and in A Tangled Web.

A sequel for Marigold would be nice...

The first half of the book is stronger than the second half, in my opinion, and the ending is a little disappointing. I like more closure to endings. But it's a great book, one to revisit. I love Marigold's 'int'resting, her fancies, Sylvia (how I wish I could believe in an imaginary playmate!), Aunt Marigold's gentle wisdom, Lucifer's comments, and Cloud of Spruce itself. There is beauty and magic that aches, as usual in LMM's books.

On a third reading, I would like more "magic"--that's the keyword of the title, after all. I want to know more about the things Marigold and Sylvia do and about Marigold's fancies. I love her adventures--they're entertaining and meaningful--but there is not enough magic in them to justify the title. Also, the ending is so abrupt. I wish there was more of a sense of closure in it.

Elizabeth says

This book is so incredibly magical and charming.

I never read "Magic for Marigold" as a child (gasp! I know!) so when my friend Courtney agreed to read it

with me over these last few weeks, I was delighted! You see, as a child, Courtney traveled all the way to PEI and when her parents asked her to pick out some LMM books to purchase... out of all the books she had to chose from, little Courtney chose "Magic for Marigold" which I find hilarious. However, after reflecting upon this, I realized that I had actually never read the book myself which Courtney found quite funny so we decided to continue our LMM reading club :-)

As Courtney and I discussed, this book seems to be more of an adult book looking back on the joys and magic and nostalgia of childhood. It's a lovely book and I adore it but I can see that I probably would not have enjoyed it as much as a child.

I would love to go visiting at Cloud of Spruce where Marigold's clan of visitors are always welcomed with a pantry full of homemade cakes, cookies and biscuits.

Lucy Maud Montgomery is such a kindred spirit to me. I felt it when I read her as a child, teen, early adult and I feel it even more now in my thirties.

Knowing more about her life and times as I do know, I can see where characters mimic certain people in her own life-- most notably characters with religious scrupulosity or religious melancholy like her husband. In this book, I see it in Paula, Paula's father and Uncle Jarvis.

Some of my favorite passages:

*The entire chapter with young Marigold and Old Grandmother in the orchard.

"Marigold thought the world a charming place at all times but especially in September, when the hills were blue and the great wheat-fields along the harbour-shore warm gold and the glens of autumn full of shimmering leaves. Marigold always felt that there was something in the fall that belonged to her and her alone if she could only find it, and this secret quest made of September and October months of magic."

"Aunt Marigold, who had never had any children of her own, knew more mothercraft than many women who had. She had not only the seeing eye but the understanding heart as well. In a short time she had the whole story. If she smiled over it Marigold did not see it."

Deborah says

I liked Marigold and I wish there were more stories about her. She is a bit like Emily... not as passionate, I think... but she is an engaging heroine in her own right. And this is proper LMM - she's on good form here.

In fact I liked Marigold so much, that if I'd read about her when I was a child, maybe one of my daughters would share her name. That's a lot of like.

Margaret says

I will admit that *Magic for Marigold* is not one of my favorite Montgomery novels. Marigold is a young girl

growing up on Prince Edward Island, in a house with her widowed mother and her grandmother. Like all Montgomery heroines, Marigold is imaginative, making "magic" for herself from a variety of sources. The problem is that she's not much more than that -- she lacks the vitality of Anne, Emily, Valancy, or Jane of Lantern Hill. The book is episodic (based on a series of short stories Montgomery wrote about Marigold before deciding to make it a book), and so we only see Marigold at intervals throughout her childhood and can't follow her development. Also, she doesn't have the obstacles that Anne and the others do and lacking something major to struggle against, she seems to lack their spirit. I think perhaps Montgomery didn't put as much of herself into Marigold as into her other heroines.

Still, there's enough of Montgomery's charm to make me reread the book occasionally (though I always wish I'd skipped the last chapter, in which Marigold learns that she must share her boy friend Budge with other boys but that she'll "always be here for him to come back to" -- ew).

Vanessa says

I have been an L.M. Montgomery fan since she was the topic of my first-ever research paper in third grade. As a young girl I worshipped at the altars of Anne Shirley and Emily Byrd Star, so when I saw *Magic for Marigold* on the shelves of a used book shop, I had to pick it up. I have to admit, I was not carried away by this novel in quite the way I was by Montgomery's other works. Some of that might be age and disillusionment, but I think mostly it is the fault of our limited interaction with Marigold on a daily basis. While the reader is able to follow Anne and Emily through all the mundane moments of their lives, we see Marigold only in little snatches of time across her twelve years. There is a lack of connection between the chapters, and while we see the results of Marigold's development, we never really see it *happen*. Marigold's magic is likewise underdeveloped: her Green Gate is no Lake of Shining Waters, and her imaginary friend Sylvia has none of the depth of meaning or of character that we saw in Emily-in-the-Glass. Overall, this book is charming and a worthy entry into the annals of young adult fiction, but perhaps not the best representation of Montgomery's delightful heroines.

Shelley says

I remember skimming through my cousin's copy of this as a kid and never getting into it enough to read it. It still didn't grab me this time around - taking Marigold from birth (and really, three characters in this were named Marigold? Really?) through age 12 only. She was a boring, lonely girl, and the episodic nature of the book didn't do much in her favor. She grew up, but mostly in between incidents, so it had less impact. Apparently this was cobbled together from short stories about her, and it has that feel, too. Also, that was a lousy story to end the book on, I'd have liked something a little more pro-Marigold than that.

Still, you know, lovely writing and I utterly adored Old Grandmother, despite some inconsistent characterization. Her final night was lovely, and I liked a lot of what she offered to Marigold in the way of advice.

Cecelia says

I didn't read Anne of Green Gables somewhere between nine and eleven and love the film version like all the

other girls my age. In fact, it took me years after reading *Magic for Marigold* to finally go through the Anne series. But I wasn't missing any of the beautiful descriptions and joyful depictions of childhood, PEI or small-town life and family, because *Magic for Marigold* had plenty of all of those.

The story begins at the very start of Marigold's life, when she is known only as the still-unnamed Lesley baby. It carries on through her childhood, with anecdotes and experiences over the years, and finally ending somewhere around age twelve, or the end of childhood. Changing perceptions and friends and family happenings making up the storyline, and the adventures of an imaginative, humorous and self-contained little girl make for charming reading. There's mischief, there's the magic found in innocence, and there are the joys as well as the small tumbles and embarrassments that make up a truly happy childhood. This book is delightful, and is suitable for girls of all ages (perhaps even a few discriminating boys, too!).

In my quick re-read last night, I was struck by how much I enjoyed the family dynamics described in this little novel. I don't remember paying much attention to the adults in the story as a kid, but now that I'm an adult myself, I see that they are not just window-dressing. Ms. Montgomery wrote humorously, and sometimes the intrigue, politics and foibles of the adult characters are laugh-aloud worthy. You can just see the society of the turn of the century, and hear the sharp, silly and wise voices all coming in and giving their very decided opinions...it's quite fun!

Rebecca says

I love Montgomery's heroines who are ordinary females who get angry, are jealous, make a mess of things and then get up from where they have fallen, flick off the mud and move forward with their heads up. They are always creatures who live in a dreamland and as I think most of us readers are so it is easy enough to identify with them. I loved Marigold and her friends and enemies. Typical Montgomery.

Hayden says

This is probably one of my least favorites of Montgomery's works. I didn't care for the parade of childhood friends of Marigold's that we were introduced to- I never felt like I got to know any of them well, and most of them I didn't like, except for Jack, who Marigold despised. Their conversation was priceless, and I liked him much better than that horrid Gwennie. More importantly, I never felt like I really got to know Marigold herself, and I was always more interested in the side stories with the adults rather than with going on with Marigold herself. And there were several things that I felt LM Montgomery rehashed from some of her other books, as well.

It had a few good sections (such as Old Grandmother's last night), but this was definitely not a favorite.

Katri says

A charming book with a charming little heroine. *Magic for Marigold* is not as well known as L.M. Montgomery's more famous books, such as the Anne or Emily series. After reading it, I'm not even sure why it's not more popular than it is, because I found it quite enchanting. I suppose it's because the book is even

more episodic than LMM's other work and so doesn't seem to have as much of a central driving force in the story; and also, the book ends when Marigold is in her early teens and so there's no romance (though a hint of future comes in the last chapter, and to be honest it's my least favourite part of the book, I don't much like the image it gives of girls' vs. boys' roles even if that's typical of the time - but LMM's heroines aren't usually quite like that and I think Marigold has spine for much more, too!). But I think LMM is excellent at portraying children and Marigold is another lovely example - she's charming in her flights of fancy and her earnestness, but at the same time not too perfect. I found astonishingly much in her that reminded me of my own childhood and so made Marigold very dear to me. Then again, I was rather an odd child, so maybe not every reader has that experience!

Besides Marigold, I love the characters of her family, they're wonderfully drawn and feel true, and often quite hilarious. The writing is beautiful like in LMM's work in general, though I think the Finnish translation I read it in (couldn't find it in English) wasn't as good as the translations of the Anne or Emily books I'm used to reading. I'd like to give this another read in English some time. I definitely loved it well enough to buy it some time, so I'm sure it will happen.

Sally906 says

Not my most favourite Montgomery book

Leta Bishop says

Montgomery is magic!

Marigold is an odd little book in that it's really just a collection of events that happen to a girl from about 6-12 years old. She doesn't have quite the charm or enthrallment as Anne of Green Gables. However, the real magic is the way Montgomery can instantly take the reader back to their own childhood and make it almost as real as being there. I have yet to read another author who so eloquently and beautifully describes the feelings, thoughts and imaginations of childhood as well as Lucy Maud. She had an uncanny knack for reminding readers of when the world was new and full of wonder.

Her characters always ring true and her books feel like coming home again after a long absence. She respects childhood and never makes light of children's feelings. We all remember a time we burned with shame, became passionately angry or dreamed in quiet serenity as a child and Lucy Maud reminds us that all children do and have hopes, fears and complex relationships with each other that adults can only guess at! Anne was always a kindred spirit to me and while Marigold may be only a "chum" it was still nice to envelope myself in Lucy Maud's charm and coziness. She is a true world treasure.
