



The Mitford Bedside Companion: A Treasury of Favorite Mitford Moments, Author Reflections on the Bestselling Series, and More. Much More.

Jan Karon, Brenda Furman (Editor)

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Jan Karon's *Mitford Years* series is a publishing phenomenon that, since 1996, has sold more than twenty-five million books and attracted millions of devoted readers around the world. With the series now complete, Karon's fans have raced through nine novels—and then sat down and read them again and again. For all those who love returning to Mitford, this gorgeously packaged companion will be the perfect book to curl up with. What was that Uncle Billy joke about the census taker? Where was that beautiful prayer Father Tim offered? *The Mitford Bedside Companion* will make it easy to find the greatest of the countless gems that grace each of Karon's novels. Featuring favorite scenes, casts of characters, Mitford crossword puzzles, plus a hilarious read-aloud scene and lots of trivia questions for fan gatherings and family get-togethers, and much, much more, *The Mitford Bedside Companion* is an enchanting collection. Here, too, are new essays from Karon on everything from the life of a writer to her grandmother's secret to good health. Beautifully packaged and filled with eye-catching art, *The Mitford Bedside Companion* is a book that any fan will cherish, relishing favorite scenes from each book and, in one volume, fondly reliving the best times spent in the little town with the big heart.

The Mitford Bedside Companion: A Treasury of Favorite Mitford Moments, Author Reflections on the Bestselling Series, and More. Much More. Details

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From Reader Review The Mitford Bedside Companion: A Treasury of Favorite Mitford Moments, Author Reflections on the Bestselling Series, and More. Much More. for online ebook

Diane says

I enjoyed the Mitford novels, even though I don't follow organized religion. I felt that they were full of grace, forgiveness, and examined life carefully and with good heart. I would even read them again. However I'm not a book worshipper, and this Companion is for those who would fall into the class of those who wrote letters to Sherlock Holmes asking for help. At the top of these worshippers is Karon herself, which comes out so strongly in the book that it turned me off. She loves her books, likens herself to Dickens, and has set herself up as a preacher and voice of God without having to do all the hard stuff that vocation endures. She admits several times to picking up her own novels when she needs a good read. Would I be more humble, less self-satisfied and self-praising if I wrote books with the success that Karon has had? I hope so! Many other novelists have. So I gave this book only two stars because it is a collection of information about the Mitford novels heavily enfolded in Karon's worship of her own creation. How Godly is that, in her philosophy?

Jan says

Oh Mitford, how do I love thee, let me count the ways!

This is a book that explains some of the behind the scenes of how the Mitford series came about, but more importantly, it is full of great segments that come from the series. Reading this is like reminiscing with friends. Oh, do you remember when...

This is a good book to have nearby when you are between books. Just read here and there and relish the wonderful tone, philosophy, and nature of The people of Mitford.

Kathryn says

I adored this series and waited anxiously for each new book to be published. This books tells about all the characters, the progression of the story, the businesses that were in Mitford and of course the recipes. I really should make the Orange Marmalade Cake someday. It felt good to remember how much these books touched my life and I do really think these books would be a great TV show.

Karen Salisbury says

I am a huge fan of the Mitford books – I've own them all and have read them multiple times. What a delight to find this book which contains essays and insights by the author, plus family photographs, favorite Mitford scenes, jokes, trivia, castoff characters and much more. It was like visiting Mitford all over again! If you or someone you know have read Jan Karon's wonderful series, they need this book to complete the set!

Linda says

If you like the Mitford series, then you will enjoy this book. It is a book that takes parts from the Mitford books and groups them together with topics like The town of Mitford, Gathering around the table, Prayer, Sermon Quotes, Letters, etc.

I didn't read every section but skipped around to the parts that I wanted to read.

You do learn a bit about the author and how she came to write about Mitford throughout the book.

When you want to revisit Mitford, here is just the place to do it!!

Wendy says

It has been quite a few years since I read the the Mitford books. I loved them and this book served to remind of many of my favorite parts of the book. It begins by using snippets from her books to describe the characters and the shops in Mitford. It goes on to special events, etc. Enjoyable enough to make me want to reread the series.

Lu says

It's one of the books I like to open at random, when in the mood and be able to laugh, be inspired, or recall the Mitford novels I so love. I'm often reading it over many years.

Ken Bickley says

I read this "best of" book over a period of several weeks. It's strictly for Mitford fans, but if you enjoy the series of stories about that small town as much as I then it's for you. Besides a collection of gems from the series, it includes information about how Jan Karon began writing the books as well as other personal essays, plus trivia, puzzles and general fun reading. It was edited by her sister, Brenda Furman.

Charlotte says

I have not read any of the books in the Mitford series but had heard about them so I was glad to receive this book as a gift. I am especially interested in Irish people and was curious about Father Tim.

It must have taken many hours and much diligence to compile this edition so I applaud those efforts. However, I found much repetition of stories in the book and was not at all sorry to finish the book. It is good to know such wholesome reading is available. Perhaps sometime I will read some books in the series, but I

have read enough for now.

Cissy Ashley says

“Bedside Companion”

I have read several other reviews and I'm not sure if people understand this is a bedside companion and not a new book. I'm sorry I'm not trying to be rude but I use it to help remember parts of the books that I had read a year ago and refresh my memory since there are several books. It is very helpful when used as a bedside companion...

Gwen says

I'm the type of person who will actually watch all the director/writer/producer/actor/special effects commentaries for movies and TV shows, and I thought that this book would be the written version of the author's commentary: development, editorial process, focus group reaction, reaction from fans, parallels to author's life, etc. Sadly, I was mistaken. This book is little more than a compilation of sections from the nine books in the Mitford series, grouped in themes like "food," "Uncle Billy's jokes," "prayer," etc. I've already read the books--why should I reread little chunks of them again?

The highlights of this book are the few original essays on character development, setting development, and 'bloopers'--what I thought I was getting a book full of when I borrowed it from the library. I wanted a book about writing the books, not the series rehashed.

But the orange marmalade cake recipe! That will get baked rather soon...

Margo says

A delightful compilation to read, even when you OWN all the Mitford books! There are some bits of new material/essays and comments from Jan Karon, as well as some photos, and even a crossword puzzle and "bloopers." Excerpts are pulled from all the books along themes, such as meals, prayer, special events, letters, sermons, and Uncle Billy's Jokes. I enjoyed it thoroughly, and you read it in very small chunks.

Marie says

Nearly 500 pages of sheer Mitford bliss! Each chapter collects various scenes from all the Mitford books around a common theme, with reflections from Jan herself on the topic. Far from formulaic in design, The Mitford Bedside Companion reads much more like an intimate conversation with the author and her characters.

I recently re-read the entire Mitford series to get ready for the release of Somewhere Safe With Somebody Good, and I was feeling a little withdrawal from the cozy town. This book is the perfect antidote! In it you'll

find all your favorite scenes with all your favorite characters. Miss Sadie and Uncle Billy are once again alive and well, Dooley is a teen again, and Percy is back behind the counter at the Main Street Grill. Just a few of the topics covered include the turkey club at Main Street Grill, Father Tim's sermons, and Uncle Billy's jokes. Yes! There's a whole chapter that's a collection of Uncle Billy's finest! I think this was my favorite chapter. A close second: the chapter that collects the love letters between Father Tim and Cynthia.

There were two unexpected (to me) bonuses to [The Mitford Bedside Companion](#): a very short section of Mitford bloopers and a fairly thorough character glossary. The bloopers section was only about a page long, but there were a few details that I guess other readers caught that I didn't. In case you'd also noticed that Miss Lottie has two different last names in various books, Jan answers that in this book. (Don't look at me for an explanation! Go get a copy of this book! You know I don't do spoilers.) The character glossary is much longer. Jan estimates that over 700 individually named characters have made appearances in the series. Do not fear: she doesn't list all of them! This book would have to be published in multiple volumes for that to work. But she does list a *lot* of them. There were a few that even I had forgotten! But as soon as I saw the names, a smile stole across my face as though I were greeting an old friend.

Thanks to someone *awesome* (shout out to my mom!), I've met Jan Karon. So I could totally hear her voice in my head as I read her reflections. (I hope that statement doesn't sound stalkerish. I promise I'm sane.) I loved "hearing" her talk about her experiences in Mitford, and how the various characters and situations came to be.

This book is so easily digestible. You could read it all in one go, as I did, or savor sections of it at a time, since it's written as a collection of essays and quotes from the books.

Lynnea says

A very fun book to remember the stories in the Mitford series, to read through the cast of characters in case you have forgotten who someone was, and mostly, to hear how Jan Karon thinks and processes her books. I think I will read this book again in a year or so (it will probably get 5 stars then). I just read the nine Mitford books in the last two months so re-reading stories so quickly wasn't as great as it could have been. A great book to read after you have finished the series and taken a break for a while.

Linda says

I love the gentle writing of all the Mitford books and eagerly grabbed this off the Library shelf in hopes of finding some excerpts suitable for reading aloud to some Nursing Home residents. I didn't find what I had hoped, although it was enjoyable to recall the characters who have provided entertainment over a span of time.
