



## Christmas in Cornwall

*Marcia Willett*

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## **Christmas in Cornwall** Marcia Willett

"We're all pilgrims,' he said thoughtfully. "One way or another, aren't we? Always searching for something."

Twelfth night - time to put away the Christmas angel. A new year dawns, and everything seems to be falling into place for Dossie. Her son Clem and his adorable five-year-old son Jakey have moved to Cornwall to be closer to her. She runs her own successful catering business. All she needs now is some better luck in her romantic life.

Complementing Dossie's rather unconventional family set-up is the wonderfully eccentric Janna: a warm-hearted, generous woman who looks after the quirky nuns of the local convent – and little Jakey. With humour, kindness and the support of friendship, they form a tight bond.

But the Sisters' life as they know it is thrown into doubt when an avaricious property developer starts prowling around their beautiful, historic home. Will this close-knit unit who so depend on each other still be together next Christmas? And what will they have learnt about the true meaning of family, and about having somewhere you really belong? Find out in Marcia Willett's touching and timeless holiday tale, *Christmas in Cornwall*.

## **Christmas in Cornwall Details**

Date : Published October 30th 2012 by Thomas Dunne Books (first published January 1st 2011)

ISBN : 9781250023575

Author : Marcia Willett

Format : ebook 320 pages

Genre : Holiday, Christmas, Fiction, European Literature, British Literature, Audiobook



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## From Reader Review Christmas in Cornwall for online ebook

### Sille says

Kui lugemise väljakutses poleks olnud piinrikast (sest ma ei armasta ei jõule ega nendest rääkivaid raamatuid) punkti "raamat, kus tegevus toimub jõulude ajal", poleks ma seda teost küll kätte võtnud. Lõpuks selgus muidugi ka, et jõulude ajal see tegevus siin just otseselt ei toimu, sest algab just pärast jõule ja kestab järgmiste advendini. Aga kuna veel üks sama imal oopus käiks mulle üle jõu, siis loen punkti ikkagi täidetuks. Andke andeks mu küünilisus, aga mingisugune side reaalsusega võiks sälida isegi nö jõuluraamatute puhul, tohutu ühethoidev kogukond ja üks lõputu õrn ilus üksteisest hoolimine ja armastamine, no kuulge, sellist asja ei ole olemas.

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### Sonia Schoenfield says

First of all this book was not about Christmas, but about an entire calendar year, that takes place in Cornwall. A small group of nuns is slowly becoming unable to care for their property and we watch and wait as their future is determined.

I liked the way the book took chapter names from the liturgical year: Epiphany, Pentecost, Michaelmas, etc. There was a definite spiritual aspect to this book that I enjoyed very much. The characters, when faced with a problem, turn to prayer as well as each other to find their way.

What I found interesting about this book is that there really didn't seem to be a main character; it was all the characters together, the community, that was the focus of the book. In addition to the nuns, there is the young widower father Clem, his four-year-old son Jakey, Clem's mother Dossie, Dossie's parents, and Janna, a young woman who helps in the nuns' kitchen but doesn't quite know where she belongs.

The setting of Cornwall was described beautifully and played its own part in the plot.

This book wasn't a quick read but it was very satisfying. I love Marcia Willet's characters and her world; I look forward to reading more.

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### Reina Williams says

Willett's writing is poetical and has a leisurely pace I like, so I'll be seeking out other books by her. But this one I couldn't engage with--the present tense with third person was odd...I could get past that, but the narration went into too many characters' heads. It was way off for me. I don't mind omniscient third person, but I think that works better not being in so many characters' heads. This was like having deep point of view with every character in the book. I hope Willett's other books don't use that style.

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### **Omi says**

The coziness of England, the sweetness of the little boy and the nuns made it likable. Infact, I liked this book a lot until about half through. After that it was kinda like unh. Swearing, an affair, an abrupt ending...not my favorite.

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### **Carolyn Hill says**

Scanning the new book shelves at the library, I was attracted by the seasonal theme - why not get in the Christmas mood? - and the author. I enjoy Marcia Willett's writing when I'm in a cozy-cottage-in-Cornwall type of mood. Which is often, as those who know this inveterate Anglophile will attest. This is not really a Christmas book, though it was obviously marketed as such. It actually begins at Epiphany and ends at Advent, so rather misses Christmas itself. So much for getting in the mood. This is a sweet and gentle book, however, and is centered around a community of elderly Anglican nuns and the people who help support them. So, no rip-roaring plot lines or even a dead body in the abbey. In fact, I'd say where Willett often stumbles is in plot, but her skills lie in creating believable characters and in beautiful descriptions of nature. As one would expect with a book dealing with nuns, there's a good bit of scripture quoting, so if that bothers you, then this book is not for you. Willett also expresses a quiet spiritual insight that has little to do with religion, and, no, not all the characters are religious. There is some extramarital hanky panky going on, but no venturing into the bedroom. The supposed threat to the convent never gets off the ground, and as a plot device, never generates any real concern, and the way it is dispensed with at the end seems ludicrously over the top. (There have been similar type dispatches in some of her other books, and it just seems silly and lazy.) But Willett evokes her setting beautifully, and I enjoy spending a bit of time on the Cornish coast with her sympathetic characters (and a few unsympathetic ones).

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### **Melita Sheppard says**

Another really lovely Christmas book that can be read anytime of year. The story is of the year between one Christmas and the next set in a village in rural Cornwall. The general storyline is of a threat to a group of aging nuns and their living quarters.

The story of those around who all need help in their own way and are guided to Chi-mer, the house that was willed to the nuns a lifetime ago. The gentle non-judgemental attitude of the nuns bringing a sense of calm to those who need it.

I loved it.

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### **chlorinda naish says**

#### **Christmas**

A wonderful story about love and hardships, and how a few nuns helped a small community to love one another through the hardships that a real estate man, who wanted to buy the convent and part of a home belonging to Pa and Mo, and the courage they had and beliefs of life and loves that have them strength for the whole family.

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### **Sharon says**

This is a warm and wonderful book that explores the changes and growth that occur in a variety of people during the period of time between two Christmases. The characters are engaging and believable and I found myself routing for them all ( ok almost all!). I highly recommend this novel to anyone interested in the varieties of the human condition

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### **Dianne Vandenhurk says**

I've read several Marcia Willet books & like the others, it took time to get involved with the story & characters. I do enjoy persisting. Another that I read included Clem & Jakey a couple of years later than this one but although I have tried I can't remember or work out which title it was. Great to see how their life with the sisters began.

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### **Cindy says**

I love Marcia Willett. To me, she is sort of the natural heir to Rosamunde Pilcher, whose books I also love.

Willet's stories are comfortably written, if you know what I mean. There is a gentleness, insightfulness, thoughtfulness to her writing.

Her characters are easy to get to know and to care about, and though the story is not particularly fast-paced, I had no trouble wanting to keep the pages turning to find out what happens in their lives.

There are some books that are like pleasant places that you really enjoy inhabiting, and you don't want to leave.

Christmas in Cornwall is just such a book.

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### **Vickie Richens says**

I had read Homecomings which also features some of the same characters so it was good to read the back stories of these characters

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### **Karen Ashbrook says**

I really enjoyed this book, with its interesting characters and beautifully descriptive writing. I didn't find it a quick, easy read and re-read parts to fully appreciate what the author was saying. Despite the title it's not really a 'Christmas book', it starts as the Christmas decorations are being packed away and ends as the

decorations are being brought out for the following Christmas. I think it's a story that will stay with me and I might even read it a second time, something I don't normally do. I look forward to reading more by this author.

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### **Kate says**

It's one of those gentle reads...just escape to the Cornish coast and become acquainted with the gentle characters that are all pilgrims al life's journey. There is Dossie, her son, Clem, and grandson, Jakey, and her parents Pa & Mo.

in addition, there are 4 aging Anglican nuns and Janna who feel the bonds of family and community.

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### **Evenstar says**

I'm giving this book two stars for the effort the author made to write it. Other than that, what a disappointment. My initial thought was YA, a story combining two of my favorite things; Christmas and England. I found the baby talk lisping given to the child annoying and unnecessary and the first person narrative (I think that is what it is called) distracting. The story just didn't have it

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### **Maureen Coath says**

Really loved this book. I enjoy Marcia Willett as an author but this book challenged me spiritually. It helped me see that God can use our brokenness and that He uses other people to reach us when we are feeling vulnerable and frightened. I was moved by the comparison in it between the silence at the beginning and end of a piece of music being as important as the music itself and the silence at the beginning and end of prayer.

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