



The Courtyard

By Marcia Willett

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In this latest early novel from the beloved Marcia Willett, Henry Morley can only wonder at the good fortune that has given him a vivacious wife and a beloved family home called Nethercombe. When he remodels a cluster of cottages known as the Courtyard, he is delighted to welcome a group of charming tenants. But soon disaster strikes, and everyone must come together to face the crises head on. Marcia Willett's ardent fans will savor a return visit with some of her most endearing characters.

The Courtyard is a gem of a story to be savored.

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The Courtyard By Marcia Willett Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

A chance tea shop meeting between an elderly pensioner and a beautiful young mother blossoms into friendship in this treat from British novelist Willett (*Echoes of the Dance*), first published 10 years ago in the U.K. It's 1988 in Bristol, England, and Nell Woodward, with young son Jack in boarding school, is uneasily married to John, a former navy officer who is trying to remake himself as a realtor. Meanwhile, Henry Morley is converting the stables of his estate, Nethercombe Court, into the Courtyard, a housing development. Henry's wedding preparations are underway as the book opens, and soon after, his discontented younger bride, Gillian, has problems adjusting to country life. At the same time, Nell's friendship with Gussie Merton, an elderly second cousin of Henry's, brings them both to Nethercombe. As relationships unravel, crises rise and fall, and tragedy strikes. Willett creates a compact multirelationship saga with a nice edge, sharpened by Willett's keen depiction of Nell and John's marriage in particular. (*Oct.*) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Review

Praise for the Novels of Marcia Willett

"A must for women fiction readers."

---*Booklist on The Children's Hour*

"Like Rosamunde Pilcher and Maeve Binchy, Willett creates such fully dimensional characters that readers feel as if they should phone or e-mail them to keep in touch."

---*Rocky Mountain News on A Week in Winter*

"Thoroughly engrossing, with richly drawn characters, a mysterious locale, and a beautifully crafted plot."

---*The South Florida Sun-Sentinel on A Week in Winter*

"Readers will enjoy the heartwarming ending, vibrant characters, and the excellent depiction of the English countryside."

---*Booklist (starred review) on A Summer in the Country*

About the Author

Born in Somerset, in the west country of England, **Marcia Willett** was the youngest of five girls. This is the third of several early novels that will be published by Thomas Dunne Books; her more recent novels include *A Week in Winter*, *A Summer in the Country*, *The Children's Hour*, *The Birdcage*, and *Echoes of the Dance*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jesus Gilbert:

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