



Post of Honor

R.F. Delderfield

Download now

Read Online 

Post of Honor

R.F. Delderfield

Post of Honor R.F. Delderfield

The second book in R. F. Delderfield's acclaimed *A Horseman Riding By* saga of twentieth-century England is a memorable slice of rural life, as one war gives way to the gathering storm clouds of the next

Through hard work and love of the land, Boer War vet Paul Craddock has transformed the sprawling West Country estate of Shallowford. With his wife and three children he enjoys a peaceful country life. But war has begun its inevitable march across England, and this remote corner of Devon cannot escape its cruel destruction. Young farmers of the village—barely men when they enlist—are dying in the field or coming home to a way of life that is rapidly disappearing. Yet as the Great War ends and another threatens to erupt, Craddock's faith and the strength he derives from his family will sustain him and his beloved village through trying, tumultuous times.

Filled with vivid imagery and timeless emotion, this is the unforgettable story of a farming family and a vanishing way of life.

Post of Honour is the second novel in R. F. Delderfield's *A Horseman Riding By* saga, which begins with *Long Summer Day* and continues with *The Green Gauntlet*.

Post of Honor Details

Date : Published March 3rd 1978 by Ballantine (first published 1966)

ISBN : 9780671822637

Author : R.F. Delderfield

Format : Paperback 640 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, War

 [Download Post of Honor ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Post of Honor ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Post of Honor R.F. Delderfield

From Reader Review Post of Honor for online ebook

Nancy Ellis says

Another wonderful Delderfield book! Book 2 of A Horseman Riding By brings us back to the Craddocks and their Westcountry neighbors as they experience the immense changes in their county, their country, and the whole world brought about by World War I and the period leading up to World War II. As always with his writing, he makes us feel as if we lived through it all and knew all the characters. It's almost disappointing to come to the end of the book, although now you can anticipate the third and final volume in the series. Absolutely one of my most favorite authors!!!!

Sarah says

I listened to the audiobook (wonderfully narrated) and, although this horseman's journey is VERY long, it is a most captivating one, beautifully written. I personally found the regular recaps useful, because there are so many characters involved, but the reminiscences and summing up in the last chapter was perhaps unnecessary.

Basically, Squire Craddock and his Devonshire Shallowford estate from about 1914 to 1940... But I won't bore you with the storyline blurb - look at the other reviews here. Suffice to say this is really good historical fiction, and I'm looking forward to the 3rd in the Trilogy, "The Green Gauntlet", very much indeed.

Bettie? says

Opening: They were Squire Craddock's vintage years, the brief, crowded period beginning immediately after the fillip given to the Sorrel Valley by the 1911 Coronation Jubilee, and moving on into the blazing summer of 1914 that, on looking back a little later, seemed as remote as the Middle Ages.

The first, book covered coronation to coronation, 1902-1911, Edward VII - George V. The sleepy Devon valley gradually awoke to encroaching modern times - motorcars, changing fashions and the suffragist movement.

See more: *Soldiers and Suffragettes: The photography of Christina Broom*

TR God Is an Englishman (Swann Saga, #1)

3* To Serve Them All My Days

3* Diana

3.5* Long Summer Day

CR Post of Honour

TR The Green Gauntlet

Nooilforpacifists says

Boring. Slowed to a crawl.

Dorcas says

Whew, what a ride!

"Post of Honor" is part two in the 'Horseman Riding By' trilogy (The first being "Long Summer Day"). It follows along perfectly from book one with no gap of time and minimal re-hashing.*

So, where to start? In POH we have yet another epic, about 100 pages too long but once you've started, you simply *have* to read every word because the people have begun to mean something to you. Skimming is impermissible. It begins in 1914 with some looking back to 1912 to set the stage. WW1 takes up a large chunk of the book (as it should) but the results of said war are so huge that we're left reeling for the remainder.

So many people die ...SO so many. And because so many die, more characters are introduced (entire cast here is probably over 100 but thankfully we do have a character chart at the beginning for at least the main ones) and eventually it becomes impossible to develop each person fully; to me they started resembling mere seeds for future harvests. In saying that, I have got attached to one or two of the next generation and if Delderfield *dares* wipe them out in WW2 I'll personally throw the last book of the series at his gravestone.

So in book two the valley is struggling to come to terms with the results of a world war: decimated population, new attitudes, and industrial progress. A few of the farms become empty and rundown and Paul Craddock's own brood of children seem disinclined to follow in their father's footsteps. Can the future be staved off by one man's passion for the past? Read it for yourself to find out.

I have to be honest. This book is a little depressing. Aside from deaths, it's disappointing to see the Craddock's lack of connection with most of their own children who are left to be as silly as they please or fly the coop with a mere shrug of the shoulders. Because of some of the changes that come about with age and new generations, some readers may wish to read only book one in the series and just pretend they all live happily ever after. That's fine! For me, well I've just been dumped on the threshold of WW2 and for better or worse I have to see it out in "The Green Gauntlet".

CONTENT:

SEX: Behind closed doors but quite a lot of it. Sometimes it seemed like every inhabitant was promiscuous and to me that wasn't realistic. It felt more like 1966 (the date of publication) than 1914. Yes, it happened. But seriously, *everyone*? Barring the parson and one or two misfits, everyone is randy (even for some, after 6 kids and 30 years of marriage)? And everyone is openminded and nonjudgemental? Out of wedlock children are no big deal? Even 'respectables' can mess around in parked cars and remain respectable? No, I don't think

so.

VIOLENCE: Wartime violence but not graphic at all

PROFANITY: Mainly D's and Bs.

MY RATING: PG-13

RECOMMENDED READING AUDIENCE: Adult

** (Strangely enough there was more back tracking in the second half of this, enough for me to wonder if "Post of Honor" was originally going to be two volumes (perhaps the first half tacked on to Long Summer Day and the second half the beginning of "Green Gauntlet", making two 900 page books instead of three at 670, 640 and 450. Hmm I wonder...)*

Andrew says

This book opens in 1911 and the first few chapters chart the disbelief of most of the people in the Sorrel Valley as Europe drifts into war.

As in the first book, Delderfield makes clever use of the gull's eye view to update the reader about the happenings around Shallowford.

The book not only deals with life on the home-front for those left behind. It is inter-woven with some detailed aspects of life for those away at war. A multitude of key facts about times, places and attitudes are explored. I feel that this adds a sense of time and place to the novel.

Much of the story then charts the changed and changing lives of those who survived the war.

The aspects of family life are beginning to drift towards the next generation for Paul and Claire Craddock. During this book they now have 6 children of their own plus Simon, from Paul's marriage to Grace.

I really liked the social history surrounding the inter-war years, with the inevitable drift towards the Second World War.

The book closes in May 1940, with an at times humorous look at life on the home front in the valley.

C says

I didn't enjoy this as much as the first book; it covered too long a timespan in too short a book. (Not that it's a short book - but to cover the time it does, it needs to be longer). The first part, dealing with WWI, was fantastic, and threw up some really new and interesting perspectives, but after that it began to limp along. With all of the original cast fading out in various ways, the next generation were very hard to get to know and like. Rumble Potter is the only character I could name offhand, and even the author admitted defeat and had to keep reminding us that X was "son of so and so whose mother hand controversially married so and so". It was only references back to old storylines that let me vaguely keep up with who was who.

Paul's children are also pretty uniformly annoying - I'm with him that Mary is the only bearable one,

probably because she's the only one given any character or purpose other than to be shunted around as a good plot point - and Claire doesn't come well out of this book. On the whole, I just found everything much more *grating* than in previous books. It was difficult to follow, difficult to like and difficult to finish, and had nothing on the first book.

Peter Batho says

I felt that this book sagged in the middle a bit. I got a little tired of the constant recap of everything that had gone before. It did pick up again towards the end, but I think that the story is stretched a little thin. One book would have been more than enough to cover this. I'll still read the final volume but I may leave a bit of space between this one and The Green Gauntlet.

Claude says

An enjoyable sequel to A Horseman Riding By. I am definitely looking forward to The Green Gauntlet, third in the series.

Bree (AnotherLookBook) says

A continuation of a historical saga about an Englishman who buys an estate and finds fulfillment in looking after the land and its tenants during the first half of the 20th century. 1966.

Full review (and recommendations!) at Another look book

I read this and Long Summer day in the combined American edition. I LOVED Long Summer Day, although I felt like the end of it just sort of drifted off...But I loved the characters enough to jump right into Post of Honor (or, in my edition, the second half of the mega-book). And then WWI happened and everyone died...No joke!! In the span of 100 pages, it seemed like all of my favorite characters died. And they weren't all soldiers!

In addition to needing a better editor (insanely long paragraphs, confusing misuse of commas), there were too many typos in this edition. AND the book could have had about 200 pages chopped off the end. Maybe Delderfield could have put those 200 pages to better use by writing about the 1920s, instead of just skipping over them completely.

Still, I give it 4/5 stars because it was, all in all, good storytelling with lots of lovable characters. If I miss them too terribly much, I might eventually read The Green Gauntlet. But for now I've reached the Delderfield saturation point.

Emily says

I hate these books. I've been trying to read his one for over a year at my grandma's behest, because she loves

this trilogy, but today I decided I can take no more. I'm not finishing it.

Such a soap opera! The women are always horny and described in terms of their sexuality, and the men "discipline" their wives and daughters by spanking and kicking their fat backsides. (I'm not making this up.) Children are but an afterthought and mostly invisible. Farmers and soldiers alike feel free to take up with "sluts" if their wives aren't pleasing them enough, and guess what... The sluts love being sluts. Also, war is bad and a lot of innocent people die because of politicians. There, now you don't have to read this excessively long book full of progressive (sarcasm font) characters.

Charlene Roberson says

I just LOVE this author - but his books are LONG and take FOREVER to finish!! I really did take 3 weeks to read this - and I was reading!! It is long, and I love to savor the language.....Delderfield has a way with words that you just don't find in modern authors.

This book begins where the first one left off and takes the valley through WWI and to the cusp of WWII. There have been many changes, but things still stay about the same, and that is how they like it!!

D.w. says

This book takes a look at the years of the Great War to the Second War. It is dense and with the previous book and perhaps as a show of the times in which it was written, Delderfield takes on a long journey.

The faults of the first book, changing speakers in one paragraph of dialogue are here in the second. Changing points of view, and often undimensional characters as well. We see the world mostly through the eyes of the Squire, Paul Craddock, but the man seems to walk around in a stupor. He is unconnected to all his children and does not really seem to care about any. He cares more about farm prices than about anything else.

Perhaps this is indicative of being British. His children are an afterthought, and they are an afterthought of the writer as well. A dynasty is here and it is ignored. We of course only see the world through our own eyes, but it would be nice to have tried to show how another generation does not see the world change so much as they see a place to participate.

It is age that shows us that things have changed, and the lead character ends this book shortly after sixty. That he leads a bucolic life might allow us to believe that the entire roaring twenties did not take place. Since we go from the Armistice to the Crash in a blink of an eye.

And then luckily for our hero, he is tipped off that Herr Hitler is more than a little foolish man. It seems like a terrible plot device to have our hero be the only one ready for the Second big show. Since of course the author knows it is coming. It would seem much nicer if he was caught up as all his tenants and friends were.

In all, we get a glimpse of some of the world of George V. Not much. There is a great deal of thought about sex and how good one looks, and can one still have sex when you are on the down side of the time line. Far too much repetition here, and in other thoughts that pad the book out to almost six hundred pages. In the God is an Englishman series, as I recall, we see the world through the eyes of the next generation as well, and that

gives us a glimpse to how the Country changed over the course of the Victorian era.

Here we hardly see that at all, and I think we would have had a much richer tale if we had.

D says

This is the second volume in a trilogy describing the life around an 'estate' (containing several farms and lots of land) in the South of England. The trilogy apparently was a bestseller in the 1960's. I can understand that for the first volume but not for the second. Once, the first world war is finished, about halfway through the book, it becomes unbearably boring, predictable and full of repetitions. So, to prevent getting depressed, I had to give up reading at page 468 out of 660. Pity that I also bought the third volume which is probably full of more of the same unreadable dribble.

Janice says

Not as good as the first but I love finding a book series with sweeping multigenerational story lines.
