



## Over the Gate

*Miss Read*

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## Over the Gate Miss Read

Throughout her years as schoolmistress, Miss Read has gathered excellent accounts of the rich and varied history of her beloved country village, often through neighborly conversation over the gate. Fairacre has garnered its share of odd incidents, entertaining episodes, and village folklore, from an unusual recipe for weight loss found in an old notebook -- and used with alarming consequences -- to the tragic story of the village ghost. With characteristic grace and vigor, Miss Read retells many treasured stories of Fairacre past and present.

## Over the Gate Details

Date : Published May 2nd 2007 by Mariner Books (first published 1964)

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Author : Miss Read

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## From Reader Review Over the Gate for online ebook

### Dianne says

In "Over The Gate" the focus swings back to Miss Read and her life as current school mistress at Fairacre. She tells stories about her students, her run-ins with the grumpy cleaning lady, Mrs. Pringle, her friends in the village and the seasonal events that are a regular part of village life. In this book she questions whether Fairacre is where she wants to spend the rest of her life. With a good friend encouraging her to make a change before she becomes too settled in her ways, she has to give serious thought to her future.

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### Laurie says

Quick, easy read. The fifth is the series, the fifth I've read, and I visit to enjoy a restful "coze" with a book. Not my favorite so far, but well worth the time

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### Iru Sai says

The fifth in the Fairacre series and just as charming as the first four.

"Can you wonder that we are never dull in Fairacre?"

This precisely sums up all the anecdotes - some childish fantasies and some true to life stories, but all engaging, nevertheless.

Miss Read's books are every Anglophile's delight!

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### Sarah Crawford says

This is another in the Miss Read series of books. Unlike the others this one seems to consist of a variety of separate stories. It starts out with Pringle basically denouncing the people who live in Fairacre, calling them 'lazy, shiftless, godless, money-grubbing' people. Then the stories start.

Sally Gray was an old woman, according to the story, who discovered a substance that would allow her to become weightless for a short time. This was very handy in cleaning the house and in picking fruits from trees. Then there's a story about two women, Bertha and Polly. Polly seems to have idol worship or something about Bertha and duplicates anything Bertha does including having certain curtains and so forth. It gets into being a sort of feud but has a really funny ending.

Then there's a sad story about a man in the village who actually talked to a ghost. Following that is a story involving Pringle, the Christmas Pudding Affair which, again, has a really funny ending. There's also a story about a boy who meets a man who supposedly has a castle under the sea and a story about another boy who is sure a certain woman is a witch and sets out to prove it.

It all makes for a fun read.

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### **Elizabeth says**

Solid, enjoyable read. I am growing to love the characters of Fairacre.

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### **C.G. says**

I love "Miss Read" books... and this one was fun, I just didn't enjoy the style as much of some of the others. Although each chapter starts out in "present" day Fairacre, it quickly moves into the telling of a tale from years past. Still an easy read, still enjoyable, just not my first recommendation if you're just starting out on the series. However, like all "Miss Read" books - it can stand alone, and you don't have to have read the previous books in the series to fall in love with the folks of Fairacre.

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### **Teri Pre says**

What a disappointment. This book felt like a compilation of ghost stories that Miss Read had hanging around and wanted to make use of. I wish she hadn't. This is the lowest star rating I've ever give Miss Read. Hopefully the next one in the series will be better.

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### **Sara says**

4+ stars  
Another great book in the Fairacre series!

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### **Laura Bang says**

It's always lovely to take a break in Fairacre. In this book, Miss Read hears tales about Fairacre from other residents, so it's nice to hear a bit about the village from different perspectives.

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"How right he was, I thought! We do all need a story, as he said. There is a hunger in us which needs to be assuaged. With what avidity I have listened to my neighbours' accounts of tales of long ago, and with what unfailing curiosity I observe the happenings of today!"

"Here, around me, are all the folk of Fairacre, both the quick and the dead. The story of the village goes back a long, long time; and it still goes on. Every hour that we live the story unfolds, now tragic, now comical, but always and everlastingly absorbing.

"Can you wonder that we are never dull in Fairacre?"

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### **E Wilson says**

I have read several of the Miss Read books and always enjoy their chronicles of life in a small English village.

This book has a few chapters about happenings at the school, but it has a lot of tales told to Miss Read over the gate by residents of the village. One is about an old cottage in ruins that is inhabited by a ghost and the ghost's tragic story. Another is about a little boy on a field trip to the beach who wanders off and meets a midget that shows him tricks and tells him that he is The Old Man of the Sea. Even though it turns out there is a show in town with a troop of midgets, the boy is convinced he met the Old Man of the Sea.

All the stories are pleasant and the majority are quite interesting.

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### **Toni says**

Light and fluffy.

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### **Julie says**

This was slightly different from the others in this Fairacre series. In this book, there are the usual goings on of the school children and the villagers, but every other chapter highlights the interesting story of other characters from past and present. There is the woman who can float, the man in the sea, a possible with, a man who tells stories, a ghost, a elderly man who has runaway from home, and a woman who copies her neighbor in every way. These are rather sweet stories - some funny and some touching - with what feel like hints of magical realism. As always, I enjoy the Miss Read stories as a form of escape.

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### **Elizabeth says**

This book, the fifth in the Fairacre series is a story pulled together by the school year and a group of anecdotes that several of the characters tell to Miss Read as they reminisce and teach her more about the area she calls home.

Miss Read, the village school mistress has been doing the same thing now for several years and while she still enjoys her job and the children, she wonders if it is time to move on and get out of her rut. The thought of another teacher taking her place is what makes her accept the fact that desperately miserable winters are not enough to chase her away.

Miss Read creates an idyllic world where even a stranger at one's door is more of an adventure than a threat of home invasion. Her description of the bucolic surrounding sent me to google on several occasions to find out what feverfew, cowslip and thrushes look like. These pleasures in the smallest of plants and animals that

inhabit a country lane, all of which have individuality is lovely. Sadly when I take a walk in a rural setting I can put a name to nothing but the most common of plants like yarrow, Queen Anne's lace and dandelions.

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### **Joyce says**

Library copy, rebound. #5 in the Fairacre series, stands alone, but characters better understood having read previous episodes.

Over the Gate is a clever collection of stories, relative to the history of the people and dwellings and events of Fairacre, some of which were literally told Over the Gate. Mr. Willett is Miss Read's favorite storyteller. How much of what he told is truth, and how much he embellished (in this fictionalized story), is unknown to the reader.

The fact of the matter is that the author weaves much of her own experiences into her fictional tales, so that the reader is frequently left wondering whether truth is in fact stranger than fiction. Nonetheless, it all makes for good reading.

Consequently this Fairacre tale does not necessarily follow the calendar as others do. And I felt a stronger "dose" of the maiden school-marm's outlook on life than is found in the earlier episodes. Which likely is part of the story, a sort of mid-life wondering and coming to terms with what matters to her.

All in all, a delightful read as usual. Mrs. Pringle plays a significant role in this Over the Gate, as she does in most tales of Fairacre.

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### **Fi says**

Another peaceful sojourn in the village of Fairacre

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