



Looking Forward

Marcia Willett

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When Felicia, Sam and Susanna's parents and older brother are killed in Kenya, the three children are sent to their grandmother Frederica "Freddy" Chadwick in Devon.

Freddy has experienced a lot of sadness and pain in her life, and she would be helpless without her two devoted servants, Ellen and Fox, who also help and support her in this difficult time. Freddy's brother-in-law, Theo, a minister, is also ready to help, while her three grandchildren try to find a way out of the grief to move forward in life.

"Looking Forward" is the first book in the saga of the unforgettable Chadwick family.

Looking Forward Details

Date :

ISBN : 9780747259961

Author : Marcia Willett

Format :

Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, European Literature, British Literature, Literature, 20th Century

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Carol says

I don't know what it is about Marcia Willett books...it could be the proper manners of the British, could be all the tea drinking and scones, could be the gorgeous descriptions of the gardens and the coast. Whatever it is, she is a great story teller. This is the first book of a 3 book series and I am looking forward to the next piece of the Chadwick Family Chronicles!

Maria Elmvang says

Marcia Willett has been compared to Rosamunde Pilcher, and with good reason. This first book in the Chadwick saga reads a lot like what I've come to expect from RP's books. And that's a good thing :) It was rather slow-moving, but not in a way that made it boring, but just to emphasise the atmosphere of the book as being relaxed and unpretentious. It's the first in a trilogy (I think) and I'm looking forward to reading the other two, as you really get to love the family.

Ina Mann says

It's the most boring book I have read in a long time and I didn't finish it. Absolutely nothing happened.

anthony gosling says

Brilliant

An extremely enjoyable, moving story. Can't wait to read the second book in this series. Willett uses such beautiful language bringing each character to life. Thoroughly recommend this book.

Kathryn Bashaar says

This was an easy, pleasant read with appealing characters. My complaint is that the really interesting thing - a grisly, brutal murder - happens "off stage" and the story is about the healing of the surviving children. The book was just a little too light and gentle for me, not the sort of thing I usually read. But it was a nice diversion, and I will read the next two books in the series.

Eileen says

What a cozy, thoroughly readable story! Marcia Willett writes so competently, and the reader soon comes to care about these endearing characters, their surroundings as well as their fates. She has been likened to Rosamunde Pilcher and Maeve Binchy, two much loved authors, and I did find a similar vibration in her writing. A poignant theme seemed to be the tie between generations, as well as wistfulness about those who had come before and those who would follow. Looking Forward, the first of the three Chadwick Chronicles, was rich and comfortable, wrought with a subtle humor! It was a treat to remember that I hadn't yet finished, such was the depth of my enjoyment! The author's keen sense of her surroundings was evident. How much the natural beauty of the English countryside, as well as the different seasons in both life and nature contributed to the finely finished product! Particularly striking was the following passage. 'The moonlight cast dark bars across the carpet, filling the room with an unearthly light..... Outside, pure white brilliance poured down on the silent countryside, robbing it of any depth of color. Trees and hedges were etched black against the ghostly grey of grass and the moon itself was cold and white, reducing the stars to mere pinpricks of light. The small pale patchwork of fields stretched away to the black horizon, but below in the valley, the mist was rising. It curled up, wispy and ethereal, wreathing round the dark boles of trees, floating above hedges, drifting against the hillside.' I'm so happy to have more chronicles in store!

Debi DeBacco says

This is the first of three books about the saga of the Chadwick family set in England during the 60's and early 70's. It is an easy read but certainly kept my attention. Marcia Willett is a good storyteller who develops her characters through the years. The reader will celebrate their accomplishments and feel their pain. I also enjoyed her descriptions of the English countryside. After reading the book, I have a picture in my head of The Keep in Devon which is the Chadwick family home.

Sue says

This is a lovely book, first in the Chadwick Family trilogy. It begins with tragedy, then follows the lives of three children and their relatives. Not quite as good as Rosamunde Pilcher, but well-written, nicely plotted, and some very moving moments. Enjoyable.

Terri Edwards says

Just a nice, well-told story about a family and their struggles and triumphs. My first Marcia Willett, but definitely not my last.

Linda says

The first of the Chadwick Family Chronicles, life at The Keep changes forever when Fliss, Mole and Susanna arrive from Kenya the summer of 1957. Their parents and brother Jaimie have been savagely killed in Kenya, so they are shipped home to their Grandmother Freddy in Devon, England. Freddie has lost so many, her husband and her twin sons. When the three young children arrive at The Keep, Freddie soon realizes that she and her two helpers Ellen and Fox all more than middle aged do not have the energy to handle these three young children, in comes Charlotte whom she hires as a nanny and helper. She becomes a member of the family.

I loved this book, all the characters soon become friends and it is quite difficult to put the book down.

Ann says

Lovely book, I can't wait to read the next in the series.

Elizabeth Ducie says

In this first book in the Chadwick Family trilogy, we meet the entire Chadwick clan from matriarch Freddie to baby Susannah; and what a great cast of characters they are. In the course of the novel, we travel forward 13 years, watching the children grow, mature and fall in love, while the adults oversee everything. As in all families, bad things happen - some very bad indeed - but always 'off-stage', with the story dealing with consequences rather than the incidents themselves. This is definitely a 'curling up with tea and crumpets' book in the tradition of Rosamund Pilcher or Maeve Binchy. Highly recommended.

Carolyn Hill says

Three and a half stars, really. When I'm in the mood for a retreat to the English countryside with likeable characters, I check to see if there's a Marcia Willett book I haven't read. Turns out there was a series, The Chadwick Family Chronicles, which was published in the UK, but not the US. So, I ordered copies for a dollar off the internet. This is the first in the series. The period of this section of the saga is primarily the 1960's, so the children in the book are roughly contemporaries of mine. However, the childhood at an estate house on the coast of Devon, England is quite different from that in a suburban ranch house in the US. That's probably why I'm so enchanted with English books. This is a gentle, slow-moving story that unfolds through the years. There's not much action, mostly the coming of age of three orphaned children and their cousins. The violent tragedy that opens the book is only referenced, not told, so though there was a brutally violent incident that sets the events in motion, the plot is fairly placid from then on, dealing with domestic and relationship issues. If you're in the mood for a book that is more about character than plot, and enjoy a leisurely read while being transported to England in the 60's, then I'd recommend *Looking Forward*.

Carolynne says

I've enjoyed all that I have read of Marcia Willett's books, but this trilogy is possibly my favorite group. I like how the characters interconnect with others in other novels (rather like Maeve Binchy), which reveals

different aspects of the characters.

Laura says

I almost didn't read this, thinking that because I read the second book in the trilogy first, I could easily skip this book. I'm so glad I changed my mind. The writing is good, and the characters are so much better after having reading about their early years. Willett knows how to develop the ins and outs of relationships between family members, friends, and men and women. She's a good find for anyone who enjoys books by Rosamunde Pilcher or D.E. Stevenson.
