
Mollie Panter-Downes

Good Evening, Mrs Craven: The Wartime Stories of Mollie Panter-Downes



Title: Good Evening, Mrs Craven: The Wartime Stories of Mollie Panter-Downes

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Description

For fifty years Mollie Panter-Downes' name was associated with "The New Yorker", for which she wrote a regular 'Letter from London', book reviews and over thirty short stories; of the twenty-one in "Good Evening, Mrs Craven", written between 1939 and 1944, only two had ever been reprinted - these very English stories have, until now, been unavailable to English readers.

Exploring most aspects of English domestic life during the war, they are about separation, sewing parties, fear, evacuees sent to the country, obsession with food, the social revolutions of wartime.

In the "Daily Mail" Angela Huth called "Good Evening, Mrs Craven" 'my especial find' and Ruth Gorb in the "Ham & High" contrasted the humour of some of the stories with the desolation of others: 'The mistress, unlike the wife, has to worry and mourn in secret for her man; a middle-aged spinster finds herself alone again when the camaraderie of the air-raids is over ...'

Insightful reviews

Jan: I liked this book a lot, not because the 21 short stories were particularly memorable, but the overall quality of the writing and the tone and texture of the book was amazing. Snippets into the lives of ordinary English people during World War II written by 'London correspondent' Mollie Panter-Downes and published in the New Yorker magazine.

Gabi Coatsworth: I so enjoyed this book. I have to make an effort to read short stores, but because all these were written about the upper middle classes on the home front in We 2 England, they have a cohesive air about them which makes them seem like different aspects of the same plot. I hadn't heard of Mollie Panter-Downs before I read a review of this book on Goodreads. I should have realized that for these stories to be published by the New Yorker, they must be very good indeed. And they are. MPD chooses every word for maximum value, so that each sentence conveys a world of meaning. I laughed out loud sometimes, and sympathized at others. I will be rereading this book in the future, I'm sure.

Trisha: This is the first book I've ordered from Persephone books in London (<http://www.persephonebooks.co.uk/inde...> it won't be the last. They reprint "neglected classics" by 20th century women (and a few men) like this one by Mollie Panter-Downs who was the New Yorker's London correspondent during the war. Her "Letters from London" were published from 1939 - 1945. The New Yorker also published a series of 21 short stories which were also written during the war years. This beautifully bound book from Persephone Books contains all 21 of those stories in chronological order, beginning and ending with two of her letters from London (the first dated September 3, 1939 and the last one dated June 11, 1944.) The stories in this collection all capture aspects of the ordinary lives of British people from a wide variety of occupations and social positions as they get on with the harsh realities of living during wartime. Although there's a definite element of heartbreak in some of the stories, none of the characters are sentimentalized. In fact what comes across most strongly isn't necessarily the heartbreak of war as much as the circumstances people found themselves facing in the course of simply

getting themselves through the difficult business of living their ordinary lives in the midst of extraordinarily chaotic times . A further note about Persephone books: They always include a preface and afterward with additional information about the author, her life and her work. And the books are beautifully and elegantly presented in between endpapers that reproduce graphic designs of the period. In this case they were taken from a textile design for a printed dress fabric of the 40's, called "coupons."

Jess: i've got a sophisticated courting with brief stories, usually simply because i am the type of reader who prefers a continuing narrative, the place i am getting to understand characters and keep on with them over a couple of hundred pages. occasionally brief tales go away me in need of more, even if they are excellent little gem stones and simply so long as they had to be. For no matter what reason, i did not consider like something used to be lacking here. The tales felt like snap-shots within the most sensible way, and maybe i used to be additionally pleasantly distracted through considering how Mollie Panter-Downes was once writing approximately lifestyles in Britain in the course of the struggle because it used to be occurring round her. there is a feel of immediacy and element that you just do not helpful get from old fiction, the place the writer understands the end result even supposing the characters don't. even supposing the point of interest here's frequently on extra domestic, daily situations, they can be events created through the war, and the characters suppose the uncertainty of the way lengthy it is going to cross on. certainly advised to somebody who enjoys feeling immersed in a distinct time and to readers who love character-driven stories. And did I point out that there is a extraordinary humor to some of the stories? Source: my library method

Jennifer: i purchased this ebook simply because I enjoyed the packaging - a small sq. paperback with hide flaps exhibiting a element of the portray A Queue on the Fish store (Persephone Publishing is aware the right way to make an enticing little book!). It was once the ideal photo to exploit for a publication of tiny slices of existence in England in the course of conflict time. those tales are actually gems. whereas I regularly knew that ladies and youngsters evacuated London for the rustic throughout the bombings i have not learn that a lot approximately what each day existence should have been like - either from the perspective of the evacuee and, much more fascinating and now and then entertaining, the viewpoint of the hostess. those tales depict humans facing lifestyles because it marched on in the course of wartime. I really loved the habitual tales of the stitching circle girls debating stitching pajamas for the Greeks. each tale was once insightful, a few humorous, others middle breaking yet them all pitch perfect.

Florence Millo: sturdy Evening, Mrs. Craven via Mollie Panter-Downes. This e-book is a set of brief tales written by way of MPD in England in the course of WWII and released within the New Yorker journal from 1939 to 1945. whereas the surroundings for the tales is kind of dated, the characters are not. In fact, you most likely is familiar with a few of them (or their counterparts) today. There's Mrs. Ramsay who meets an outdated beau for lunch and determines that she made the higher selection with Mr. Ramsay. yet then there's Mrs. Craven who wonders how she's going to recognize if her lover is killed or wounded in conflict for the reason that other halves and households are notified...and she is neither. There's Frances who stocks her domestic with Margaret and is green with envy of Margaret's baby, George. contrary her is Mrs. Craig who's nearly not able to comprise her pleasure whilst her visitors leave. The characters

are so basically drawn that you're guaranteed to realize several. The tales are such delights that I discovered myself saving one on a daily basis till after dinner to learn for dessert.

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