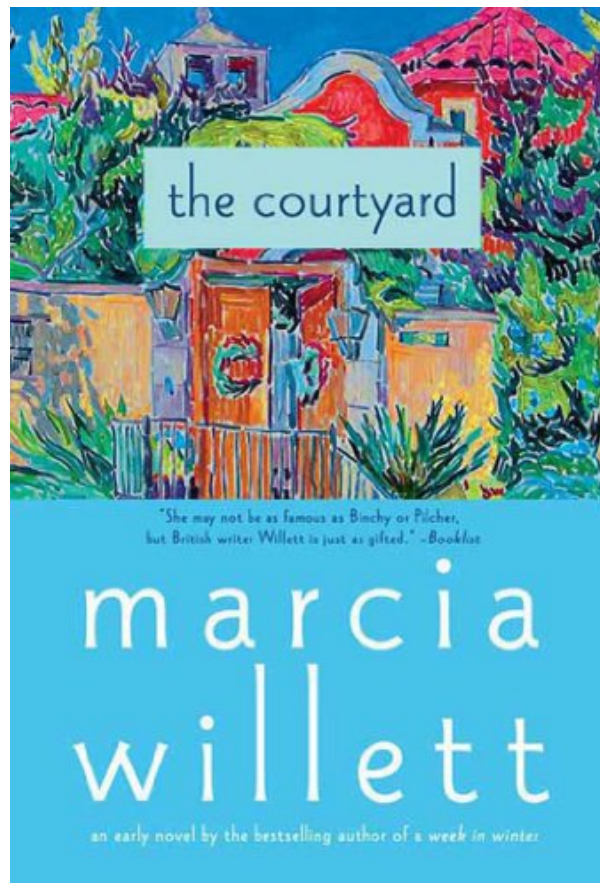
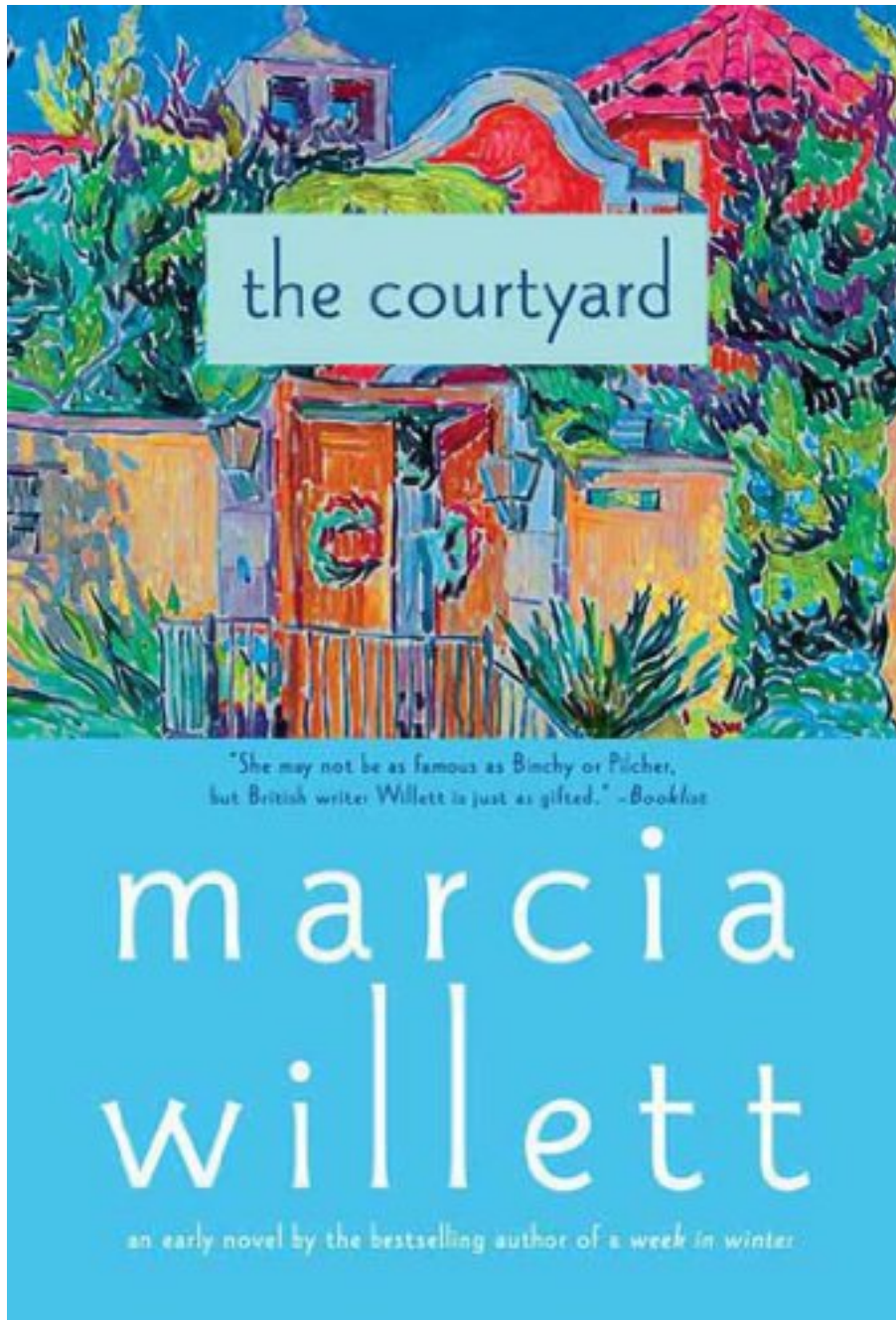


THE COURTYARD BY MARCIA WILLETT



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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"

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THE COURTYARD BY MARCIA WILLETT PDF

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.

- Sales Rank: #252546 in eBooks
- Published on: 2007-10-02
- Released on: 2007-10-02
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Most helpful customer reviews

38 of 40 people found the following review helpful.

Revel In Family Drama on the Moors of Dartmoor

By Antoinette Klein

Augusta Merton may be Marcia Willett's greatest creation of her many great characters. She is elderly, alone, and poor when we meet her in an English teashop on the first page of this compelling story. Elegant enough to pause for tea in a nice shop but too poor to afford a piece of cake with her tea, Gussie finds an unlikely friend that day in the much younger Nell Woodward. Little did they know on that day, but the two would share a lifetime of triumphs and tragedies thanks to a second-hand dress and a borrowed hat.

A large English estate with stable buildings that are being converted into cottages is the setting for this multi-layered drama. Adultery, deception, death, despair, and redemption all play important roles in this, but it is the characters who give the work such a rich depth and make the reader anxious to turn the pages and discover what could possibly happen next.

Some of those who will intrigue you are: Henry, the altruistic lord of the manor; Gillian, his spoiled and selfish wife who learns a lot about life; John, the former navy man now finding his way in real estate ventures; Guy, the son of Kate Webster from previous novels, who finds a home in the courtyard; Elizabeth, the career woman with a few regrets; her best friend Lydia who is also Gillian's mother; and, of course, Gussie and Nell, who propel the plot and whose lives are the focus of a great part of the story.

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

A fan of Marcia Willett's writing

By Amazon Customer

Marcia Willett is an author who is frequently compared to Rosamunde Pilcher and Maeve Binchey and I would definitely concur. She is a wonderful storyteller.

This is a another book about families and lives intertwining, joy and sadness, to sum it up in two words dysfunctional lives - something we can all identify with.

This book will warm your heart as her books always do. I loved all the characters. Gussie, Henry, Nell, Gillian, Phoebe, Guy, Gemma. You just have to read it and you will love them too and miss them when you get to the end of the book.

I love the characters and this time there aren't so many I can't keep track of them. The story is interesting and keeps you reading to see how all the different lives will blend and play themselves out in the end. Of course, all the time hoping for a happy ending?

I love her writing and the charming places it takes me, she weaves stories of life and love that we can all understand. I love Marcia Willett and was so happy that Gussie had faith in God and talked to him, it was so refreshing in the world we live in today.. I meant to give it 5 stars.

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

Long overdue for publication in the United States

By Welsh Corgi fan

The Courtyard is an excellent book, beautifully written, vivid, and evocative. The characters come alive, and so do their lives. The reader ends up caring deeply about them, hoping that all will turn out well. One of the huge advantages to Marcia Willett's books, incidentally, is that characters from her novels tend to show up in subsequent novels, so the reader really has a chance to "see what happens."

It is about time that her books were published, in order, in the United States. The first of her books was First

Friends, second is A Friend of the Family (called Thea's Parrot in England), and third is The Courtyard. I look forward to more of the books being issued in the lovely editions shared by the first three!

[See all 31 customer reviews...](#)

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