



The Thursday Friend

Catherine Cookson

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Hannah and Humphrey Drayton were regarded by all who knew them as the perfect married couple. However, Hannah soon came to realise that this stuffy, City broker was stifling her with his insistence that she should always comply with his wishes. The only relief she had from his tyranny was his absence on Thursday evenings, when he played bridge with a group of acquaintances, and at weekends, which he spent with an elderly couple who regarded him as the son they had never had.

Hannah, in despair and in the face of her husband's ridicule, took refuge in her writing, and it was the completion of a book for children and an advertisement in the local newspaper that took her to the office of a publisher, a visit that was to change her life. There she was to meet David Graventon, an assistant to the publisher, and a man she was soon to think of as her Thursday friend. Taking advantage of Humphrey's absences, she and David would meet and talk, visit the theatre and the cinema - activities she had never enjoyed with her husband. He, of course, knew nothing of Hannah's 'other life', being preoccupied with protecting what he imagined were his future interests. But Humphrey had his own secrets; and when events occurred that he could not control, the outcome for his ambitions was entirely unexpected.

As for Hannah, her Thursday friend was to become the saviour of her very existence - but would he manage to resolve his own not inconsiderable personal difficulties and offer Hannah the happiness she craved?

With its deceptively simple theme, *The Thursday Friend* is a remarkable novel that displays Catherine Cookson's consummate ability to explore human relationships. It will enjoy immense popularity among her many readers throughout the world.

The Thursday Friend Details

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From Reader Review The Thursday Friend for online ebook

Suzanne says

Sometimes on, sometimes off

This writing was interesting as it was like a light switch; it was at times engaging and active, at others boring and mundane. I had pretty much predicted the story line, plot and outcome very early on but kept with it while while the author prodded through.

Cheryll Butters says

I loved this book! Didn't want to put it down! I lived the story! Great characters, excellent plot. Once again Catherine Cookson has delivered!

Amethystina says

This book didn't start out all that bad. I felt sympathy for Hannah due to the way her husband treated her, it was a delight to see her come closer to her dream of publishing a book, and if she happened to find a nice man along the way, well — good for her.

What I *don't* like is the infidelity. I thought there would be a lot more of Hannah and David getting to know each other before they had sex, but apparently not. They jumped almost straight into having an affair. Now, no matter how horrible Hannah's husband is, infidelity is wrong. I can't support it. And the fact that everyone in Hannah's surroundings DID feel kind of strange. They even had the nerve to question David about his morals and motives when *Hannah* is the one cheating. I think *her* morals should also be called into question.

On top of that, the writing is terrible. There was a lot of repetition, characters flipped back and forth between outrageous moods in the middle of scenes, and some concepts were just *odd*. Like the fact that Hannah keeps talking to some sort of inner voice? And argued with it when she tried to make decisions. I know this is a concept that is sometimes used, but I am not a fan. It just made it all feel so silly and overdramatic.

I didn't end up finishing this book because it annoyed me too much. The plot was rushed, the pacing was off, and the relationships between the characters felt strange. I just didn't like it, at all.

Mookie says

2.5. I do think I will actually read this book again one day, because there were elements to it that I liked but cannot recall right now. I think I enjoyed the twist, although how Hannah never guessed it is beyond me. I remember not being too into the romance - it felt like two kids falling in love and to paralyzed with childish fears to enact change in their circumstances. After a later re-read I'll write a more thorough review.

Brigitte says

The writting was a bit odd. It was hard to follow the dialoges sometimes. But the story was nice enough to read on a rainy day :)

Harriet says

I liked the idea behind it, but I struggled getting into the book. For about the first 10 chapters I still felt slightly as though I was reading a particularly detailed and well-thought-out plan or plot summary. I like description, and didn't think the book had enough, to me it seemed more like stage directions. If I stopped, and thought about how I would stage a production/film it was fine!

Carolelewislucy says

A good read I enjoyed it

Ariella says

I think three stars captures it for me: I liked it. ...but that's it. Cookson comes up with some thoughtful insights into human nature, too bad they were too few and interspersed. The characters were mostly one-diminutional, although they did have secrets. The good guys were good and the bad guys were bad! And after much drama, the good guys won in the end. Maybe really only 2.5 stars?

Joan Archer says

Another good read.

I really enjoyed this book but as it's by Catherine Cookson I knew I would. She has that gift of drawing you into the life's of her character's and it's hard to put the book down till you get to the end.

Beth says

Once you get past the support of adultery you can understand how Hannah gets into this relationship. The romance starts and intensifies quickly. Some plot twists were a bit much to take. You really end up disliking Humphrey and rooting for Hannah and David.

Lynn Smith says

One of my favourite stories by Catherine Cookson, likeable and sympathetic characters apart from the husband Humphrey!

Lili says

I read all of Catherine Cookson's books some years ago and enjoyed them immensely. I recently re-read all of them and find that on a second look I found them all so very predictable, and was rather disappointed. However I'm sure that it is my tastes that have changed not the calibre of her story telling.

Julie Powell says

Another good read from this author who always understands the inner workings of human behavior. This time it focuses on an unhappy woman whose guilt tries to stop her from changing her life.

A great cast of realistic characters - some good some not so good - where the author does a fabulous job of setting the perfect scenes of realism from many angles...romantic to insanity.

I don't give spoilers but will say that this is a more modern read than some of her work and yet the motivations within a realistic and somewhat suspenseful plot are insightful and satisfying.

A well written and very good story.

Northern Light says

This is not a typical Catherine Cookson and suffers for that. Hannah is in a loveless marriage at least from her husband's side. Everything changes when she goes to see if someone would publish her children's book and she meets people who will change her life for ever.

Shirley Revill says

Absolutely loved this book. One of my favourites.
