



Trouble for Lucia

E.F. Benson

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In Trouble for Lucia, Lucia learns to ride a bicycle, and we live through the saga of Blue Birdie (Mrs. Wyse's dead budgerigar [parakeet] invoke in a seance). Lucia and Georgie renew their acquaintance with the operatic diva Olga Braceley and the composer Cortese, but nobody in Tilling believes her when she claims to have entertained a duchess overnight. Lucia becomes Mayor of Tilling and Miss Mapp is appointed her Mayoress. This is the sixth volume in the Lucia Series.

Trouble for Lucia Details

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Author : E.F. Benson

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From Reader Review Trouble for Lucia for online ebook

Sketchbook says

In need of a comic aberration? Do admit--.

Profuse literatus EF Benson, author of countless novels, ends his 6-series "Lucia" revue w this vintage petit point.

Benson cocks an ear as bossy, annoying, horribly energetic Lucia battles another suburbanite for social supremacy in ye wee English town. The crises, involving gardening, pets, bridge, bikes, choir, home entertaining, are harmless, but always fraught w intrigue. (It's why some of us fled family). This is their high-toned life. Benson makes it bracing; still, the biggest "B" of all is bickering.

Lucia's aide-de-camp is platonic husby Georgie who owns a ruby-colored suit, wears a toup and consoles hisself w embroidery. Their duet is not sullied by "that horrid thing which Freud calls sex." Tots? Puhllleze : "Children are so sticky, especially after tea."

Lucia is a platter of jam puffs. You should know when to stop, but you bend to adorable Signora - who fractures Italio - and gobble another raspberry something. Forego Lucia? Extravagant nonsense. Auberon Waugh trickled, "It is not a risk anyone should take lightly."

Nancy says

This particular Lucia novel may not be my favorite of Benson's series, but when I've read (or re-read) one of these books, I feel that I absolutely need to have more. It is definitely the potato chip syndrome at work.

Lucia is certainly not everyone's idea of a heroine, but I love the way she saves the day over and over again in her village. She annoys and bullies her friends, but she makes life interesting and that's good enough for me.

Bravo! Lucia.

Susan in NC says

Still 5 stars - no matter what the situation, no matter how cringe-worthy the embarrassment, Lucia prevails!

This final Benson Lucia novel finds Lucia facing possible social ruin - she's been elected mayor of Tilling and may finally have reached the end of her reign as self-elected Queen of Tilling society. Has she finally gotten too big for her britches? Will her supreme snobbishness finally be rebuffed?

I love these novels - like Thirkell's Barsetshire novels, nothing really happens, it's all about the characters; these are far more snarky than Thirkell's novels, and maybe that's why I love them. Long live Lucia - I've treasured rereading her over the last year or so, and won't let so much time pass before I visit her again. Delicious!

Michael says

(This was a shared read with Donald. We've been working our way through the Lucia series together. I've read all of them once before, on my own.)

I'm not sure what it is about this series, but I love it. This is not my favorite of the series, but I still enjoyed it very much, on the whole, and as the final book of the six, it's certainly well worth reading.

I've seen the Lucia books described as shallow and populated with mean-spirited characters. True, they're not challenging masterpieces-- nor stepping stones on the path to true enlightenment-- and the characters are certainly only too eager to gossip about one another, but there is something intensely human and pleasant about this series! Nothing of any importance ever happens, and that, apparently, is just fine with me. It's enough that it entertains me and warms my heart.

The book (and with it, the series) comes to an end rather abruptly, with little warning. But perhaps that's as it should be. There's no big climax, because that's just not how these stories work. I like to imagine the funny, gossip circle of "friends" continuing on in more or less the same way, forever.

I'm sad to come to the conclusion of the series again... They are such cozy books! There have been several more volumes written by a few different authors. The little I've read about them suggests that they're a mixed bag. Some sound awful (to be honest), but others might be worth a read. ...The more I think of it, though, the more I wonder if it might be better to stick with the originals, after all. Maybe I'll try the "continuations" someday, but probably not immediately.

Sally says

Ah, the long visit to the villages of Riseholme and Tilling are over as I finish the 6th book in E. F. Benson's "Lucia" novels. I enjoyed all of these stories about these odd characters and the things they do to fill their days with back-biting, two-faced politeness, manipulations, power struggles, penny-pinching, extravagance, prevaricating (yes, even lying) playing bridge, having tea, making music, painting and walking the main streets daily to shop and gossip. It reminds me a little of the Cranford stories that were recently done on PBS, (I found myself picturing some of the PBS actors of those period dramas) except that I can not think of a single character in these novels that is truly admirable.

There is no real plot to these stories, but rather there is continuous plotting through an on-going movement from one event to another with a view to how each character reacts to each event. There is something amazing about how E.F. Benson could put together such enjoyable tales to keep you reading, even as you are slack-jawed at the atrocious behaviors of the characters. There is no obvious profound truth to be gleaned, no psychological eye-opener, no political message and nor even judgement to be pronounced. It is simply leisure reading, and yes, I'd say it was fun. You put aside disbelief that such people could exist together in a single community, as you would in a fantasy novel, and wonder what could each character possibly get up to next as you turn to each succeeding page. Although Lucia was always the central character, I felt that I got to know each of the other characters and found some empathy for each of them. My favorite character was Georgie Pillson.

Trouble for Lucia was a satisfying conclusion to this series of novels, but somehow I feel that the characters go on and on in their odd little lives, and it's a shame that the chronicles had to come to an end.

One note on the paperback copy I have: it was a used book and an older publication, and the pages snapped loose from the cover. I don't know if there are newer releases. Also, I think I'd like to hear an audiobook version..

Viviane says

This book starts off and sticks on a “tarsome” topic, Lucia’s mayorship, but builds to a delicious and satisfying ending to the series. Reading all six books was tremendous fun, more than I expected to have. I’m glad that I googled EF Benson after characters in a fictional book raved about this series. How nice that it was real.

Flora says

Last of the Mapp and Lucia books - I'll miss those silly people. This one is not quite as good as the rest - the characters and eccentricities have hardened into stereotypes and catchphrases - but gems like the saga of Blue Birdie make it worth reading.

Tania says

Sadly, the last of the Mapp and Lucia books, (by E F Benson, anyway) I will miss them. I have very much enjoyed my visits to Risholme and Tilling.

Bettie? says

[Bettie's Books (hide spoiler)]

Leslie says

A good end to the series - as the title says, Lucia runs into some trouble in Tilling & with Georgie Pillson but, ever indomitable, she rises to the crisis.

Eleanor says

Amusing but not as good as the earlier Lucia books. A bit like TV shows, that are kept going one series or so too long.

Susan says

These books wouldn't be as much fun if any of the characters ever had sex.

Richard says

This is the first Mapp & Lucia volume I have read in the sequence of books. I did see the Television series many years ago and from what I remember, the characters in this book are far better presented and the humour more effective. Of course, I have started the volumes at the wrong end--this being the final volume Benson wrote--but I still enjoyed it quite a bit. The ending, perhaps, is rather abrupt and there are some occasions when the humour seemed rather forced. I found the character of the painter, Irene, annoying as she combined a thoroughly nasty streak with an adulation of Lucia. Still, her paintings added a significant element to the comedy.

I now plan to continue the series in the proper sequence and have little doubt but that I will find the books very enjoyable.

Bob says

Final one of the six books in this series. I somehow ploughed through the collective 1800 pages or so in a couple of weeks - they go fast and are entertaining. Summarizing the actual plot seems pointless, but I am still fascinated by the little details which situate the conservative small-town characters in the changing wider world around them. At one point in this volume, after a particularly busy and not very successful day of social climbing, the central character thinks back on everything she undertook - "Quite like that huge horrid book by Mr. James Joyce, which all happens in one day," she reflected, as she stepped out of the car.

Joy says

Endlessly delightful.
