



Miss Dimple Rallies to the Cause

Mignon F. Ballard

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Life in small-town America during World War II springs vividly to life as schoolteacher Miss Dimple and her fellow townspeople battle valiantly against worry, rationing, and crime at home as well as abroad.

It's September 1943, and the town of Elderberry, Georgia, including their beloved first-grade teacher, Miss Dimple Kilpatrick, has exciting plans for the Bond Rally to support the troops fighting the war abroad. Miss Dimple's friend, Virginia Balliew, has agreed to chair the big event, with the help of Buddy Oglesby. But when children discover a skeleton at the edge of a field, and Buddy disappears along with the war bond money, it's clear that something is amiss in the little town; and Miss Dimple, along with her fellow teachers, is soon on the case.

Miss Dimple Rallies to the Cause Details

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Author : Mignon F. Ballard

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From Reader Review Miss Dimple Rallies to the Cause for online ebook

Melissa says

Great story, but I wish I had read this 2nd in the series closer to the first book. Many allusions to events that took place in the first book that I could not recall, so make sure you read the books in order and fairly close together. The characters were all so likable...even the "murderer"! I hope there is a 3rd book in the works

"It's September 1943, and the town of Elderberry, Georgia, including their beloved first-grade teacher, Miss Dimple Kilpatrick, has exciting plans for the Bond Rally to support the troops fighting the war abroad. Miss Dimple's friend, Virginia Balliew, has agreed to chair the big event, with the help of Buddy Oglesby. But when children discover a skeleton at the edge of a field, and Buddy disappears along with the war bond money, it's clear that something is amiss in the little town; and Miss Dimple, along with her fellow teachers, is soon on the case."

Lexi says

I'm still not entirely sure what to make of this one. It took 50 pages to get into it (and longer to keep the many many characters straight), but it kept my attention throughout its meandering stroll of a mystery and got me interested in the lives of seemingly every person in this small town. Maybe if I had read the first one first it would have been easier.... Regardless, this was my last book of 2018, and a nice way to end the reading year.

Lynn says

Shrewd and observant Miss Dimple once again puts together the pieces of several puzzles to solve a murder, uncover a blackmailer and recover missing War Bond money.

The two books in the series I've read so far are very skillfully done both in the plotting of a some very puzzling crimes and the inclusion of clues and also in the creation of setting and mood. The small town in Georgia and its interesting cast of inhabitants is the centerpiece of the series and becoming richer in this second book. The details of the home front in war time are woven in very well and the sense of the time is very strong.

I know very well that this was a dreadful stressful time with ordinary people carrying enormous worry and fear but somehow going about their daily lives. While that comes through, these books are still somehow calming to read. It may be the picture of people caring about each other and coming together to help each other and solve problems while accepting each other's flaws. Very engaging.

Donna says

Miss Dimple Rallies to the Cause is another gentle mystery, taking place during WWII. In this installment, War Bonds are stolen, people are being blackmailed, and the people of Elderberry, Georgia are dealing with rationing, and everyday worry of 1943. Things seem to escalate with a skeleton is found by a river.

This book is interesting on two levels, the mystery and finding out who the skeleton is, who the thief is and who the blackmailer is kept me reading. On another level though, reading about the everyday lives of the people during the war was very appealing and made me want to know more. I am looking forward to reading the next in the series.

QNPoohBear says

The citizens of Elderberry, Georgia are doing their part to support the war effort with a war bond rally. Miss Dimple's friend Virginia has been roped into helping out by Emmaline Brumlow, who is insisting her nephew Buddy Oglesby be allowed to assist. Buddy has been a bit of a drifter and Virginia does not relish the prospect of working with him and his tyrannical aunt. While the school children and their teachers are helping with the cotton picking, Miss Dimple's fellow teacher Annie discovers the remains of a human washed up by recent rains. The police identify the woman as Cynthia Murphy, a local woman who ran off two years ago, leaving her husband bereft and her child without a mother. Everyone knew Cynthia was "fast" but who would want to kill her? Something is bothering Miss Dimple's friend Phoebe and she is determined to get to the bottom of it. Could Phoebe's problem be connected to the murder? Annie and her best friend Charlie are caught up in wartime romances but Charlie's mother Jo and Aunt Lou are curious enough to check things out and Miss Dimple is on hand to ask all the right questions.

This is a pretty good mystery. I was expecting it to be slow, like the first book, but the body was discovered early on but not identified right away. That kept the mystery going. I thought I had it all figured out. Phoebe's problem was incredibly obvious and why Miss Dimple never figured it out before, I don't know. I also thought I knew who the murderer was. I had two suspects and I thought I knew what had happened. I was totally wrong about the identity of the murderer but right about what had happened. I was largely intrigued by the romantic plots. I want to keep reading the series to find out which young men make it home. The author is a skilled writer. The first book in the series is recapped as part of the story instead of just dumped in for recap purposes. The author also works in numerous historical details as seamless parts of the story. I did question where they would get coffee when it was rationed but that was sort of answered at the end. I also wondered at a Hershey bar wrapper but it's October 1943 and such things may have been left over from before rationing or from a serviceman passing through town. I also liked the autumnal details, being set this time of year. It was a little jarring to read about 80 degree weather and peach harvests but that worked to set the scene firmly in the south.

Miss Dimple is a little too matter-of-fact for me. She likes to read mysteries and I suspect she is a throw back to the golden age mystery novel characters. She's not in this book as much as I expected and she doesn't have a lot to do except ask questions. She's more in the background to support her friends and ask the right questions. This is more of an ensemble piece with several people working to put together the clues and solve the mystery. I especially felt sorry for Phoebe and Virginia, who were unwittingly dragged into the mystery. They're both kind people who didn't deserve to be unhappy, especially Phoebe whose husband was not so nice.

I really liked Charlie and Annie and their youthful romances but found them interchangeable. They're both

intelligent young women who remain sensible despite being in love during wartime, though they consider giving in to desire. Charlie's Aunt Lou is totally crazy. Not only is she nosy, she comes up with dangerous schemes and drags her sister into them. Charlie's sister Delia and her baby make more of an appearance in this book. Delia is a young mother, lonely and missing her husband. She is torn between missing her carefree youth and being a responsible adult. I think even non-mothers can relate. I felt horrible for Reynolds since everyone knew his wife was fast but he seemed to not know what she had been up to.

There were numerous secondary characters. There are some newcomers to Elderberry: Buddy Oglesby, who I wasn't crazy about but he turned out to have some depth. I even liked him in parts but he is a bit immature for a middle-aged man. There's also Coach MacGregor and his wife Millie. I don't know what to make of them. I was surprised at the direction their story took. There's also a new deputy, H.G. Dobbins who seems to be a creepy womanizer. He doesn't respect Annie at any rate and doesn't understand women. He may also be a murderer... or not.

I liked this book enough to want to keep reading, but I don't have the time right now. Maybe this winter I will return to this series.

Lchamp says

Light reading. I'll be ordering the next in the series. It's kinda hard to keep all the relatives in the proper order. Soon, I will know all of them.

Michell Karnes says

I am loving this series, with its hometown, patriotic and simple life vibe. The mystery is almost an added bonus. The author does a great job making the characters feel like long time friends. Dimple Kilpatrick and her fellow neighbors solve another mystery of a murdered woman, stolen bond money and blackmailer. A wonderful book to curl up in bed and read til the end!

Mandolin says

Though they expected excitement at their upcoming rally to raise money for the war, the citizens of the town of Elderberry, Georgia certainly didn't expect to be embroiled in a mystery! However, the glories of the parade, humor of the womanless wedding and overall thrill of the war bond rally are overshadowed by the grisly discovery of a corpse in one of the town's small creeks. The discovery is quickly followed by a slew of bewildering events, including the disappearance of some of the bond money along with the prime suspect in the case. The town is in an uproar and it's up to Miss Dimple Kilpatrick, a spinster schoolteacher, to uncover the solution to the mystery. Miss Dimple doesn't stand for any nonsense, whether it be from her boisterous first graders, a wicked murderer or malevolent blackmailer intent on harming her friend and landlady, Phoebe Chadwick. Dressed in her trademark purple, armed with her handy parasol and fortified by her infamous "Victory Muffins," Miss Dimple sets out to solve the mystery of the uncovered corpse as well as to identify the person causing such emotional turmoil to her friend. She must go it alone, however, for her young friends Charlie and Annie are caught up in the angst of young love hindered by the war to yield much assistance to the investigation.

Once again, Ballard perfectly captures the essence of small town Southern life during the second world war. Full of Southern charm, delightful characters and just a little bit of spice, the book has all you could want in a cozy mystery.

Suzi says

3.5. Better than the first one for sure.

Gail Cooke says

Refreshing, nostalgic, homespun, warm, humorous all describe Mignon Ballard's evocative descriptions of small town life. With this, the second eagerly awaited story in the Miss Dimple series, we return to Elderberry, Georgia. It is 1943 and the townsfolk are absorbed in news of the war, all fearing a visit from "the boy on the black bicycle who delivered telegrams, and doing everything they can to support their country.

To that end a war bond rally is being planned (despite many not wishing to work with the dictatorial, five foot nine Emmaline Brumlow). There's much excitement as the rally will include a "womanless" wedding performed by male actors. Bus driver Buddy Oglesby has come up with some terrific ideas for publicity. However, the excitement quickly dissipates when the school children are playing by a creek during a visit to the Hutchinson's farm to pick cotton. They'd been told to stay away from the creek but nine-year-old Willie Elrod and his pal, Junior, couldn't resist. When a teacher came looking for the boys she found a grim surprise - the remains of a skeleton, which had probably been exposed when the creek over flowed.

Miss Dimple believes the skeleton is that of a woman as clinging bits of cloth in bright colors seemed to be what a woman would have worn. But who could it have been and why was the body left in such a place? As if that weren't enough to dampen everyone's spirits the theft of some \$2,000 raised in the war bond rally is later discovered.

Never one to run from a challenge Miss Dimple is determined to solve both mysteries. Cozy mystery fans will thoroughly enjoy the latest rom Mignon F. Ballard.

- Gail Cooke

Judy Aulik says

Although Ballard is an accomplished author, there was a little bit of the sophomore jinx about this story of an unearthed corpse, blackmail, and stolen war bond money. The exposition of the villain, set in italics at each chapter's beginning, exposes the culprit(s) a little soon. Plus, many of the descriptions feel lifted from the first book. Therefore, you won't feel confused if you start the series with this episode. But I'd advise starting there and possibly skipping this.

Miss Dimple Rallies to the Cause is far from being a bad book: it just feels a little threadbare and worn, like the synthetic rubber tires Ballard seems obsessed about.

Carol says

Miss Dimple Rallies to the Cause by Mignon F. Ballard

3★'s

From the Book:

life in small-town America during World War II springs vividly to life as schoolteacher Miss Dimple and her fellow townspeople battle valiantly against worry, rationing, and crime at home as well as abroad.

It's September 1943, and the town of Elderberry, Georgia, including their beloved first-grade teacher, Miss Dimple Kilpatrick, has exciting plans for the Bond Rally to support the troops fighting the war abroad. Miss Dimple's friend, Virginia Balliew, has agreed to chair the big event, with the help of Buddy Oglesby. But when children discover a skeleton at the edge of a field, and Buddy disappears along with the war bond money, it's clear that something is amiss in the little town; and Miss Dimple, along with her fellow teachers, is soon on the case.

My Thoughts:

First I need to say that "Cozy" Mysteries are NOT my cuppa tea...at all. I read this one for two reasons...my mother loves "Miss Dimple" and it was for a sub-genre challenge on another group.

I guess I just don't get how these non-professionals without any training that would even classify them as private investigators, can insert themselves into crime solving situations...and manage to not only catch the bad-guy but live to tell the story. Not just once, mind you, but through 20 or more books.

It does have some historical value however. A small Georgia town during WWII is the setting and Miss Dimple, the heroine is a teacher. Soon she is joined by some fellow teachers and several locals. She's not very grateful for the extra help as she considers them to be in the way. I wondered how the local police viewed her. Even though I will never go out of my way to read this genre I do have to say that Mignon Ballard has managed to produce a pretty good period piece and will appeal to those that 1. love this slant on history and 2. don't care for lots of blood, guts and violence in their reading.

Kim says

3.5 stars, these books are a delight to read!

Rosemary Cantrell says

This was a cute book, set during WWII, in the area around Atlanta. I enjoyed reading about some of the cities that I am familiar with as they were described at that point in time. I also enjoyed the descriptions of conditions that people lived with during the war.

A body is discovered that had been hidden a few years before and it leads to a chain of mysteries - who was it? who killed her? who fired the shot backstage after the follies? who stole the bond money? who set fire to the house? and so on. Miss Dimple, a spinster school-teacher, along with help from her friends, begins to sift through clues and the answers are found.

This is one in a series of books about these characters. It is a cute book, with light humor. The characters are interesting, if not somewhat predictable, but the mysteries were that and there were enough conflicting clues to make the solving of the mystery a fun story line.

Diane Davis says

Loved it... Never could figure out whodunit !@!!
