



The Cricket Term

Antonia Forest

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It is busy summer again at Kingscote School. Nicola Marlow is coaching her team with a steely determination to beat the senior girls in the interform cricket cup, and her twin sister Lawrie is just as determined to get the part she really wants in the school play.

The Cricket Term Details

Date : Published 1979 by Puffin (first published 1974)

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Author : Antonia Forest

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From Reader Review The Cricket Term for online ebook

Carolynne says

Antonia Forest is really the best of the British school story writers. Characters are nuanced, there are plot twists, and not everything turns out perfectly. Spoiler ahead:

In Cricket Term, the sturdy Nicola is about to get removed from school simply because she is mature enough to handle it, when an older friend suggests she compete for the Prosser scholarship which her sister Karen has recently given up in order to marry. Nicola works hard and is very successful, but the scholarship is unexpectedly awarded to someone apparently far less deserving. But with another ironic twist, Nicola is allowed to stay in school after all. It's just not your conventional school story. The cricket passages are incomprehensible to me, but that's a small defect in a shining story.

Sherwood Smith says

Thanks to Hallie, another great Antonia Forest.

Intensely good. This might have been on the shelves when I was younger--it came out in the seventies--but the title would have been an instant turnoff, seeming to be about sports. Sports there were, but the personalities and the drive; the last cricket game was actually thrilling, because of the entirely personal stakes.

Forest is so brilliant, or was. I wish copies of *Peter's Room* weren't over a hundred bucks. It's ridiculous that these books are not in print.

To stave off withdrawal, I looked Forest up, and discovered a new tidbit, she not only loved *Lord of the Rings*, but her favorite of all was Patrick O'Brian. How utterly perfect was that?

Deborah says

I have read this book so many times in the past 30 or so years that nowadays I can only do so *very carefully*, as is now a collection of loose pages rather than an actual book. It is my favourite of all Antonia Forest's stories, and not just because I like cricket. It ties in neatly to *The Ready-Made Family* beforehand, and the historical stories which I'm saving till last, and sets the scene for the events of *The Attic Term*. But it is complete in itself - it is all I knew of the Marlows for several years - and, as you'd expect, the characters are real, moving through a beautifully plotted sequence of events.

Jonathan says

Girls infighting at school

Kitty says

kogu see kriketijutt oli vaimustavalt jabur. vahepeal oli lehekülgede kaupa matšikirjeldusi, kus ma sain aru igast üksikust sõnast, aga absoluutselt mitte midagi sellest, mis tegelikult toimus. õnneks osutus see laiemas plaanis täiesti ebaoluliseks.

suurim maiuspala ses loos minu jaoks oli hoopis see liin, kus tüdrukutel on lubatud trimestriks kodust internaatkooli kaasa võtta üksainus raamat, aga mässumeelne Nicola võtab KAKS! kui ta sellega vahele jääb, siis karistuseks annab klassijuhataja talle raamatunimekirja ja võtab ausõna, et tüdruk ei loe enne ühtegi omavalitud raamatut, kui kõik nimekirjas olevad raamatud läbi on. kogu nimekirja (ega selle pikkust) meile ei avaldata, aga tasapisi selgub, et esindatud on Dickens, Walter Scott ja Thackeray. mnjaa.

Emma Rose Ribbons says

OH MY GOD HER WRITING! I had to read most sentences twice, they're just so sophisticated and make no sense when read hastily. We're lucky Forest wrote in girlsown, her talent is frankly unmatched. Very interesting story but there were rather more theatre things than cricket things, I thought. A lot of good sisterly moments and extremely realistic characterization. I CANNOT believe this used to sell for 75p, I got this for 5 quid and snatched it straight away as it goes for crazy money. Can we please reprint these?

Laura Canning says

To AF fans: I've put together a guide to Antonia Forest fanfic if anyone would like to take a look: written to acknowledge the first-class AF fanfic out there, and to share it with those who haven't seen it yet. I hope no-one minds that I'm sharing it in reviews of some other AF books here - my motives are altruistic, I do most horribly swear.

A Reader's Guide to Antonia Forest fanfic.

Enjoy!

Carolynne says

Nicola is faced with the threat of having to leave her beloved Kingscote, ironically, because she can handle it better than either of the two sisters also students there. She manages to keep this threat a secret even from her irresponsible twin Lawrie; how one deals internally with this pain is the main theme of the story. Although I like this less than the other Forest school stories (too much cricket!) it is still one of the best of the genre from the best writer in the genre. This was a second reading, the first being in January, 2003.

Townsend the Wonder Hamster says

Antonia Forest's masterpiece. Every Marlowe novel she'd written until this is good, almost timeless--but "The Cricket Term" is truly above & beyond. Nothing she wrote afterwards was nearly as good as it or even the earlier books.

It's slightly stunning that a novel about schoolgirls in an English boarding-school could be considered a great work of style and expression, and with a subtlety regarding emotions and mixed motives. Yet this novel is definitely IT.

Filled with literary allusions that the author doesn't bother to explain because she presumes that her audience (of adolescent readers!) will either pick up on the references, or be able to "run & find out" (as Miss Cromwell would say), it deals with what could be called "teenage" "issues" in a calm, measured, slightly sardonic way.

Should never be allowed to go out of print.

Kate says

Still not my cuppa, these books. I suppose that makes me unique, since millions have loved them beyond anything. I'm just the exception that proves the rule.

Sherwood Smith says

As I have absolutely no interest in organized sports whatsoever, I would have avoided this book had it not been written by Antonia Forest.

It is about sports--Nicola becomes games captain--but like any good book, it's really about the people playing the sports. The last game was actually exciting to me, when usually I page past games (including, in fact, especially Quidditch, because Harry or his friends would always win) but this time the personalities were so intensely involving that I felt the pulse-pounding involvement that seems to infuse spectators.

There are other concerns--the school play, and whether or not Nicola can continue at the school. Some amazing discussions between the characters, on all subjects, including religion. I simply couldn't put the book down, though I fully intended to limit myself to a chapter or two a night.

CLM says

Nicola and Lawrie Marlow are determined that their form will triumph in cricket but there are many obstacles to overcome.
