



## A Natural Curiosity

*Margaret Drabble*

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Rich in character and incident, *A Natural Curiosity* sweeps the reader from smart London townhouses to a run-down embassy in the Middle East, from the splendours of the Musée d'Orsay in Paris to drowsy afternoons in the hills of sunny Italy, as we re-encounter Alix, Liz, and Esther, three erudite, middle-aged, Cambridge-educated women living in Margaret Thatcher's Britain. The story opens in 1987, when Alix, a conscientious social worker, befriends a convicted killer, when a dazed housewife begins an affair with a stranger after her husband's suicide, and a comfort-loving TV executive undertakes to rescue a friend who's been kidnapped by terrorists. *A Natural Curiosity* is wondrous and astute, and in Margaret Drabble's hands, the seemingly improbable becomes vividly real.

## A Natural Curiosity Details

Date : Published February 16th 1992 by Random House Value Publishing (first published September 8th 1989)

ISBN : 9780517080047

Author : Margaret Drabble

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## **From Reader Review A Natural Curiosity for online ebook**

### **Valerie says**

Not as good as the first in the series - The Radiant Way - but still couldn't put it down. Enjoyed it.

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### **Giada Rose says**

This is one of those rare pieces of fiction to which I return again and again and yet have no real grasp on the reasons why I do. It is simultaneously enchanting and disenchanting; in freeing us from our illusions (as 1980s Britain easily does), it ignites a spark—some flickering of curiosity or hope—that both acknowledges the terrifying nature of humanity and celebrates it. I find it difficult to seize the necessary words for it, and perhaps I am the only one who has found so much in this book.

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### **Gillian says**

It's been quite a few years since I read "The Radiant Way" and I cannot recall any of it. I will go and re-read it now and also the third book in the trilogy. I got a wee bit confused regarding the characters, but liked the author's style. I think I will also read and re-read more of Margaret Drabble's work. I am aged in my 60s and enjoyed the thoughts and feelings of the mature characters.

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### **Storyheart says**

First read 1990

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### **Barbara Q says**

Actually 3-1/2 stars. I liked this book.

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### **Dee says**

I don't remember much about it, so I guess I wasn't impressed.

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### **Richard says**

Not as good as it's predecessor, but enjoyable enough.

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### **Rain says**

This is the first of Margaret Drabble's books that I have read and if extensive description of surroundings and thought processes is her propensity then I won't pick up another. That was my first problem with this book. More importantly, there was an abundance of characters who were poorly developed and the story lacked any definable focus. The prose meandered here and yon and back 'round again without really arriving.

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### **Liz says**

Very British. Lots of characters. No chapter breaks. The author, interestingly and humourously, speaks directly to the reader from time to time. Drabble's writing drags a bit for me as my attention span declines!

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### **Kathy says**

I liked it, will look for more by her. Go 3 1/2. I started reading this piecemeal, but that doesn't work. I had to concentrate to get to know the various/numerous characters - their relationships and foibles are complex enough. 1980's era so a bit out-of-date in that sense, but doesn't bother me.

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### **Lesley Botez says**

A Natural Curiosity picks up where The Radiant Way left off. Three women friends, now in their early 50s, continue with their friendships, marriages, professions and murderer visiting. I haven't read Margaret Drabble in ages and forgot how much I enjoy her writing.

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### **Meinwen Sayle says**

Not impressed

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### **Jennifer says**

What happened? A Natural Curiosity is a fragmented, over-populated and under-managed sequel to the Radiant Way, which is one of Drabble's best to date. It was impossible to resist another chapter in the lives of Liz, Alix and Esther, but it seemed a random mess of rather messy lives and rather too many of them. What was the need to introduce such a constellation of uninteresting, albeit new, characters and for no apparent purpose? The pacing is missing, the underlying purpose is unclear. What I've loved in Drabble's previous two books: The Realms of Gold and the Radiant Way was that the characters overlaid an intelligent and articulate foundation of British modernity, zeitgeist, social complexes. This is characteristic too of A Natural Curiosity,

but it gets lost in the barrage of improbable plot and unlikeable people. Sorry, Margaret, and I'm one of your biggest fans from way back.

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**Holly says**

Even better than The Radiant Way!

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**Katie says**

book two Trilogy

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