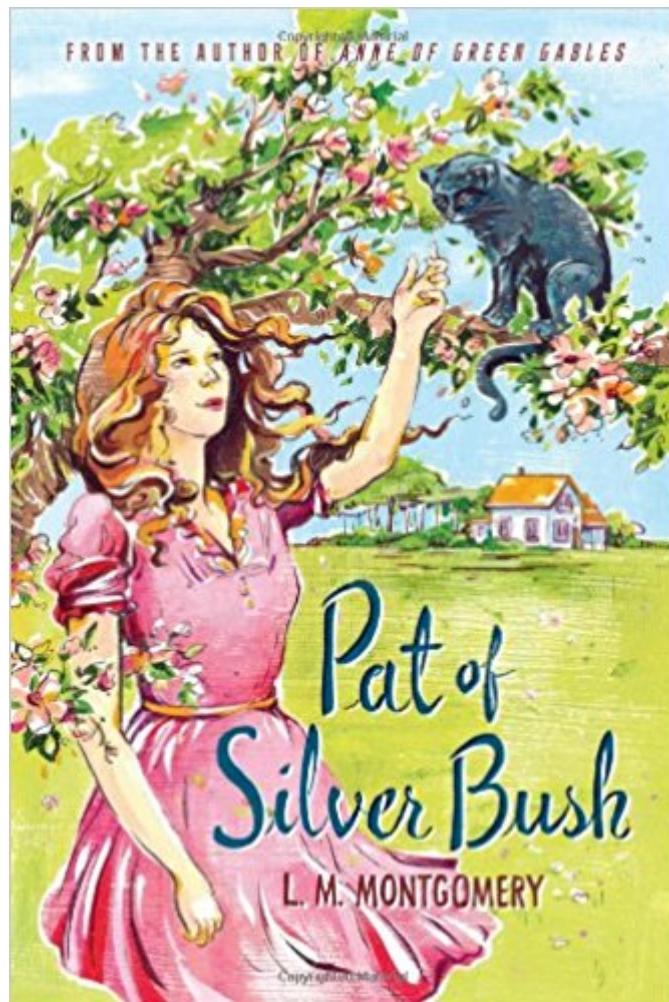


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Pat Of Silver Bush



Synopsis

There's no place like home Do fairies really come for the dish of milk we leave them? Is Mrs. McClenahan really a witch? How is it possible to find a new baby in a bed of parsley? These are all questions Pat Gardiner wants to know. And it seems her Irish housekeeper, the incomparable Judy Plum, always has an answer... For Pat, there is no place more magical on earth than her home of Silver Bush, with its majestic birch trees and enchanting gardens. If it were up to her, nothing there would ever change. But of course if nothing changed, she'd never get a new baby sister, see her Aunt Hazel's wedding, or meet the only boy who truly understands her. Yes, there is change coming for Pat—some of it joyous and some of it heartbreaking. But no matter what, her favorite house in the world will always be waiting for her... What Readers are Saying: "I love this book! It's laugh-out-loud funny and a very charming story." "The Pat books are right up there with the Anne series at the top of Montgomery's list of works." "Pat is a lovely character, and her affection for home and family was delightful." "I thoroughly enjoyed it." ^ ^

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Patricia Gardner loves her old-fashioned home of Silver Bush, because she feels secure things there will never change. But Pat's life does change--starting with the arrival of her baby sister, her bout with scarlet fever and her first romance. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Patricia Gardiner loved Silver Bush more than anything else in the world. She was born and raised in the beautiful old-fashioned house on Prince Edward Island, "where things always seemed the

same" and good things never changed. But things do change at Silver Bush--from her first day at school to the arrival of her new own first romance. Through it all, Pat shares her experiences with her beloved friends and discovers the one thing that truly never changes: the beauty and peace she will always find at Silver Bush--the house that remembers her whole life. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Although by the end of Pat of Silver Bush, I was as impressed in many ways as I have been by all of Lucy Maud Montgomery's work that I have read so far, I have to also say that some aspects of the experience were not as engaging to this reader as I would have liked. As with her other creations, Anne 'of Green Gables', Emily 'of New Moon' and Jane 'of Lantern Hill', Pat 'of Silver Bush' is a loving, engaging and interesting child who goes through her early life - slowly at first but then suddenly much more quickly - from the age of 7 through 18 or 19. Her life can best be seen through her relationship with where she lives - in this case, Silver Bush - a typical strength of LM Montgomery's work. As a writer, Miss Montgomery frequently shows us the physical and emotional importance of 'place' as an anchor for her characters. Silver Bush is no less strong for Pat than New Moon was for Emily Starr and Green Gables was for Anne Shirley's early childhood. Place validates and confirms existence, providing stability and support for the heroine as she engages with other elements in her life most notably physical and emotional change. So this relationship between Pat and Silver Bush was a reliably great and positive element about this book, but other relationships were not so good and ill-defined. As I read more, it became apparent that Ms Montgomery was clearly struggling greatly to define Pat's other relationships with the chief members of her family - most notably with her older brother, Joe, her older sister, Winnie, and even more spectacularly with her parents who seem like dim and ghost-like figures on the fringes of Pat's existence. She is closest to Judy, the home servant, but who functions more like Pat's day-to-day mother. Judy is interesting and annoying by turns and I got fed up with every speech prefaced and then littered throughout by 'Oh Oh' and other supposed Irish dialect. Yet, it is Pat's parents who troubled me most about this book because as those of us who have read Montgomery's other works can testify to, her heroines for the most part are orphans who are in need of a home and empathetic parental guidance. In the Anne and Emily series, home takes the place of physical and emotional support but over time, care is additionally provided by Marilla to Anne and by an assortment of dysfunctional aunts to Emily. Yet for Pat, who by contrast, has a loving family and a permanent home, the relationship with her parents doesn't work which is odd. Just like Jane Austen's seeming failure to convincingly define life outside of small communities and lavish homes, and Charlotte Bronte's

equal inability to convincingly describe industrial unrest throughout her novel Shirley, Lucy Maud Montgomery is seemingly out of her element with defining a convincing and meaningful relationship between her heroine, Pat, and her parents. They seem to be there, but not there, and yet all of her other heroines have longed for parents so the failure to engage Pat with her mother and father on something other than them just being there, and with little dialog between them, is so much the more striking given the longing that Anne, Emily and Jane have for parental stability. Indeed, I would go further and say that Pat's parents only really cross the book when something indifferent or hostile to Pat's needs and emotions needs to be expressed. I am thinking of her Dad's trip 'out west' to explore a farm possibility and the indifference to Winnie's supposed 'adoption' by relatives which fortunately for Pat fails to work out. They are part of the big picture of Pat's life at Silver Bush but not part of the day-to-day minutiae of existence - all of which is shared with Judy or with her friends Jingle and Bets. Her brother Sid, is better defined, but only in one of the final scenes with Winnie, is Pat's life really expressed in its intersection with her older sister. At least, it is the only time we really get to hear Winnie speak in the book. Pat of Silver Bush is unique in the oeuvre for Ms Montgomery because Pat has siblings and parents but for all of its descriptive and other strengths - we care a lot about what happens to Pat and her friends being amongst those - the way the writer connects or does not connect Pat to the rest of her family but leaves her predominantly in the care of Judy, is indeed a failure. Just telling us how important her parents and siblings are does not convey to this reader at least how important they are. Grieving over Joe leaving for shores unknown, her sister's wedding, her father's trip and her mother's illness does not convey the importance that they all have for Pat because we hardly ever hear her and them in conversation together. The only touching connection delineated with her father comes across with the story of who gets to name the new baby. Yet, 'Cuddles' remains 'Cuddles' throughout the rest of the book so the importance of how Pat manipulates events to allow her father to get to choose the name of the baby is diluted.

L.M. Montgomery's "Pat of Silver Bush" is a charming coming of age novel, set in Prince Edward Island, Canada, between the World Wars. Its heroine, Patricia Gardiner, is good-hearted, hardworking, and fiesty when her ginger is up. Her outstanding characteristic is her love of Silver Bush, the traditional family farmhouse and a source of stability and pride. Young Pat spends much of the story honing her domestic skills, and can imagine nothing more fulfilling than being mistress of Silver Bush. The novel follows Pat from age seven to eighteen. She will experience such childhood challenges as a new baby in the family, school, her first party, her first beau, and her first wedding. Other challenges are more traumatic: a couple of serious family illnesses, the slow

departure of siblings to their futures, and the death of a treasured friend. She will be assisted along the way by Judy Plum, the family's long time Irish domestic and story-teller; by bosom friend Bets Wilcox; and by kindred spirit Hilary Gordon. The ending is a bit bittersweet (and a setup for a sequel) as Pat finds herself, somewhat by default, at last the mistress of Silver Bush, but at the cost of a promising relationship with a young man. Sadly, "Pat of Silver Bush" appears to be out of print, but is very highly recommended, even in used condition, to fans of Lucy Maud Montgomery's novels and her remarkable storytelling skills.

My sister loved it!

I loved Anne and adored Emily, but Patricia Gardiner is my new favorite LMM heroine. This is the story of her devotion to her home, Silver Bush, and her family, including the inimitable Judy Plum, who cares for the Gardiner family. In this book, set on Prince Edward Island, Pat grows up and learns to love others in addition to her family and home. She finds a friend in Hilary "Jingle" Gordon and a kindred spirit in sweet Bets, who comes to live at the Long Lonely House next to Silver Bush. the book moves from Pat's childhood just after the end of the First World War to her young adulthood at age 18. It is truly a wonderful story about growing up, love and loss. Pat stands on her own as another lovely and memorable heroine of Prince Edward Island.

Great Book

Nice!

I had read many books by L. M. Montgomery but never this one. I really enjoyed this book and the sequel.

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