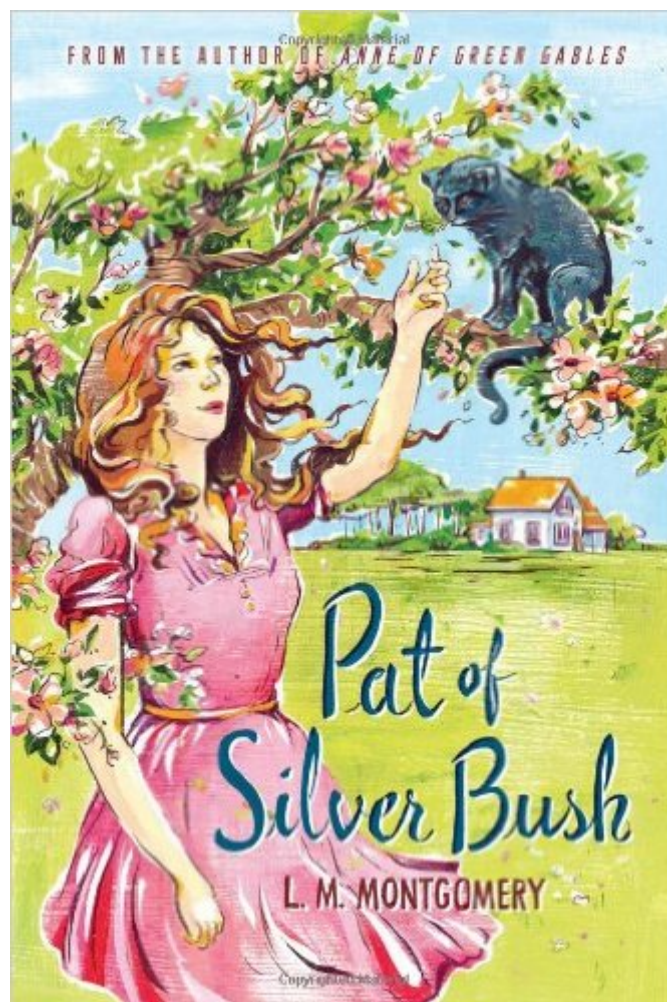


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Pat Of Silver Bush



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." Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

L. M. Montgomery's most famous heroine, Anne Shirley, was once told that she got too attached to the places she lived. But Anne's love of Green Gables and the House o' Dreams doesn't hold a candle to Montgomery's Pat Gardiner, who loves her home of Silver Bush more than anything in the world. In fact, she thinks her home life so perfect that change of any sort would be disastrous to it. But it happens anyway — people are born, get married, go on journeys, and die. Pat herself grows up, making new friends like the charming invalid Bets (that's a girl, in

case you weren't sure) and the raggedy but bright and ambitious Hilary (that's a boy). It's pretty hard on Pat sometimes, but when has growing up ever been easy? This is definitely not 'Anne of Green Gables' or 'Emily of New Moon'. The huge casts of chatty, quirky characters are absent in Pat's story. Aside from the Gardiner family, the wonderful Hilary, and the sweet Bets, there aren't many to speak of. Montgomery's propensity for odd short stories does, however, pop up in the Gardiners' hoot of a housekeeper, Judy Plum. Although Judy's Irish brogue and funny stories add a lot to the novel, they aren't as important to Pat or the plot as usual. In addition, Pat's quite an adjustment for someone used to Montgomery's other heroines. Most of them have big dreams, usually wanting to be writers and storytellers. Pat's not ambitious; she wants to be an unmarried homemaker, and she's awfully good at it. Her desire for everything to stay the same is her defining characteristic, although not her best or only one. Earlier in the book, this gets a bit grating, but Pat matures well and learns to understand that change happens, for better or worse. (And Montgomery pokes a little fun at Pat's peculiarities as well.)

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.

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