

# The Sea Lady Margaret Drabble

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**The Red Queen** Margaret Drabble 2005-08-04  
Set in 18th century Korea and the present day, Margaret Drabble's *The Red Queen* is a rich and atmospheric novel about love, and what it means to be remembered. 200 years after being plucked from obscurity to marry the Crown Prince of Korea, the Red Queen's ghost decides to set the record straight about her

extraordinary existence - and Dr Babs Halliwell, with her own complicated past, is the perfect envoy. Why does the Red Queen pick Babs to keep her story alive, and what else does she want from her? A terrific novel set in 18th century Korea and the present day, *The Red Queen* is a rich and atmospheric novel about love, and what it means to be remembered 'Elegant . . . a seductive beguiling narrator . . .

delicious history' Daily Express 'One of our foremost women writers' Guardian 'Carefully wrought and beautifully written The Red Queen is another fine addition to the Drabble oeuvre' Literary Review Margaret Drabble was born in 1939 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, the daughter of barrister and novelist John F. Drabble, and sister of novelist A.S. Byatt. She is the author of eighteen novels and eight works of non-fiction, including biographies of Arnold Bennett and Angus Wilson. Her many novels include *The Radiant Way* (1987), *A Natural Curiosity* (1989), *The Gates of Ivory* (1991), *The Peppered Moth* (2000), *The Seven Sisters* (2002) and *The Red Queen* (2004) all of which are published by Penguin. In 1980, Margaret Drabble was made a CBE and in 2008 she was made DBE. She is married to the biographer Michael Holroyd, and lives in London and Somerset.

*A Writer's Britain* Margaret Drabble 1979  
Selections from England's great writers, describing various sites and scenes, are

accompanied by commentary on how those writers have affected our tastes  
**The Radiant Way** Margaret Drabble  
2014-09-23 Liz Headleand, Esther Breuer, and Alix Bowen have been friends since Cambridge. Twenty-five years later, life has led them all down very different paths. Liz is a successful and well-known psychiatrist with a full social life. Esther, an eccentric bohemian, is a renowned professor of Italian art. Alix, a Socialist, teaches English in a London prison. Over the course of five years, their lives are marked by affairs, divorce, remarriage, sexual exploration, and the great political and social turmoil of London in the 1980s. In this story, "rich, various, many tentacled, chockful of life" (Margaret Atwood, Ms.), Margaret Drabble shows us a rapidly changing world from these three rich and vastly different vantage points, and the friendship that holds them all together.

*The Witch of Exmoor* Margaret Drabble  
2012-03-29 A Los Angeles Times Best Book of

the Year: “Part social satire, part thriller, and entirely clever” (Elle). It is a midsummer’s evening in the English countryside, and the three grown Palmer children are coming to the end of an enjoyable meal in the company of their partners and offspring. From this pleasant vantage point they play a dinner-party game: What kind of society would you be willing to accept if you didn’t know your place in it? But the abstract question of justice, like all their family conversations, is eventually brought back to the more pressing problem of their eccentric mother, Frieda, the famous writer, who has abandoned them and her old life, and gone to live alone in Exmoor. Frieda has always been a powerful and puzzling figure, a monster mother with a mysterious past. What is she plotting against them now? Has some inconvenient form of political correctness led her to favor her enchanting half-Guyanese grandson? What will she do with her money? Is she really writing her memoirs? And why has she disappeared? Has

the dark spirit of Exmoor finally driven her mad? The Witch of Exmoor brilliantly interweaves high comedy and personal tragedy, unraveling the story of a family whose comfortable, rational lives, both public and private, are about to be violently disrupted by a succession of sinister, messy events. “Leisurely and mischievous,” it is a dazzling, wickedly gothic tale of a British matriarch, her three grasping children, and the perils of self-absorption (The New Yorker). “As meticulous as Jane Austen, as deadly as Evelyn Waugh.” —Los Angeles Times

The Sea Lady Margaret Drabble 2006 Traveling separately to Ornmouth, England, a town by the North Sea where they had spent a summer together as children, Humphrey Clark and Ailsa Kelman reassess the course of their individual lives and decisions over the past thirty years of separation, reviewing the successes and failures of their public lives, as well as their secret history, in the process.

**A Summer Bird-Cage** Margaret Drabble

2013-10-01 Attractive and witty, Sarah has just graduated from Oxford and started a new job at the BBC. As she immerses herself in the excitement of 1960s London, her beautiful older sister, Louise, marries the famous, though admittedly difficult, novelist Stephen Halifax. Louise initially revels in the newfound wealth and glamor that her marriage affords her, but soon she finds her relationship the subject of bitter gossip and scathing tabloid headlines. Despite the distance that has always existed between the two sisters, Sarah finds herself bound to Louise as she faces the scrutiny of London society and the two begin to forge a connection they had previously thought impossible. With Margaret Drabble's signature eye for the subtleties and intricacies of everyday life, *A Summer Bird-Cage* is captivating, a dazzling, resonant portrait of two young women struggling to find their footing in a city as fickle as it is intoxicating.

### **The Oxford Companion to Classical**

**Literature** Sir Paul Harvey 1957

### **The Seven Sisters** Margaret Drabble

2013-09-05 Candida Wilton--a woman recently betrayed, rejected, divorced, and alienated from her three grown daughters--moves from a beautiful Georgian house in lovely Suffolk to a two-room walk-up flat in a run-down building in central London. Candida is not exactly destitute. So, is the move perversity, she wonders, a survival test, or is she punishing herself? How will she adjust to this shabby, menacing, but curiously appealing city? What can happen, at her age, to change her life? And yet, as she climbs the dingy communal staircase with her suitcases, she feels both nervous and exhilarated. There is a relationship with a computer to which she now confides her past and her present. And friendships of sorts with other women--widows, divorced, never married, women straddled between generations. And then Candida's surprise inheritance . . . A beautifully rendered story, this is Margaret Drabble at her

novelistic best.

**Jerusalem the Golden** Margaret Drabble

2022-06-02 Brought up in a suffocating, emotionless home in the north of England, Clara finds freedom when she wins a scholarship and moves to London. There, she meets Clelia and the rest of the brilliant and charming Denham family; they dazzle Clara with their gift for life, and Clara longs to be part of their bohemian world. But while she will do anything to join their circle, she gives no thought to the chaos that she may cause . . . 'Drabble presents characters who are not passively witnessing their lives (and ours); she is not a writer who reflects the helplessness of the stereotyped "sick society", but one who has taken upon herself the task, largely ignored today, of attempting the active, vital, energetic, mysterious re-creation of a set of values by which human beings can live' - Joyce Carol Oates

Angus Wilson Margaret Drabble 1997-09-01 The first biography of literary lion (ANGLO-SAXON

ATTITUDES) and gay pioneer Angus Wilson (1913-1991), captured brilliantly by one of our greatest novelists. In this vivid and absorbing biography, Margaret Drabble has created a portrait of an artist of enormous courage, a man who confronted challenge to the end.

The Pattern in the Carpet Margaret Drabble

2020-05-07 In *The Pattern in the Carpet* the award-winning and beloved writer Margaret Drabble explores her own family story alongside the history of her favourite childhood pastime - the jigsaw. The result is an original and moving personal history about remembrance, growing older, the importance of play and the ways in which we make sense of our past by ornamenting our present.

*The Middle Ground* Margaret Drabble

2013-12-10 A "marvelous" novel about a woman's psychological battle with the realities of midlife (The New York Times Book Review). Witty and endearingly neurotic, Kate Armstrong has hit a certain age—and the crisis that goes

along with it. She has a career as a successful journalist, specializing in feminist issues, but she struggles to challenge herself at work. She's a mother, but her children have all left the nest, and her marriage has ended in divorce. She has a lively circle of friends, but her relationships with them are complicated by years of history and failed affairs. She's left one stage of life behind and has another stage ahead of her, but right now she's stuck somewhere in the middle. With her "unfailing insight and intelligence," Margaret Drabble shows us a woman alone in London for the first time in years—slowly rediscovering herself in a city on the brink of great change (The New York Times).

**The Gifts of War** Margaret Drabble 2011-02-15  
'Her feelings for the child redeemed her from bitterness, and shed some light on the dark industrial terraces and the waste lands of the city's rubble.' One of the most acclaimed novelists of her generation, Margaret Drabble is an unmatched observer of postwar English lives,

portraying social change, sexual liberation, landscape, class and the messy complications of human relationships with intricacy and honesty. In these two stories of lives colliding, a mother buying a birthday gift has her dreams destroyed, and a honeymoon leads to an unexpected epiphany. This book contains *The Gifts of War* and *Hassan's Tower*.

*The Peppered Moth* Margaret Drabble  
2012-03-29 The prize-winning author of *The Dark Flood Rises* offers an "absorbing" portrait of three generations of women—inspired by her own family (The New York Times Book Review). In the early 1900s, young Bessie Bawtry grows up in a mining town in South Yorkshire, England. Unusually gifted, she longs to escape a life burdened by unquestioned tradition. She studies patiently, dreaming of the day when she will take the entrance exam for Cambridge and leave her narrow world. A generation later, Bessie's daughter Chrissie feels a similar impulse to expand her horizons, which she in

turn passes on to her own daughter. Nearly a century after that, Bessie's granddaughter finds herself listening to a lecture on genetics and biological determinism. She has returned to Breaseborough and wonders at the families who remained in the humble little town where Bessie grew up. Confronted with what would have been her life had her grandmother stayed, she finds herself faced with difficult questions. Is she really so different from the plain South Yorkshire locals? As she soon learns, the past has a way of reasserting itself—not unlike the peppered moth that was once thought to be nearing extinction but is now enjoying a sudden and unexplained resurgence. With *The Peppered Moth*, the acclaimed author of *The Seven Sisters* conjures a captivating work of semi-fiction, grappling with her memory of her own mother and the indelible mark of family and heredity.

*The Realms of Gold* Margaret Drabble

2013-10-01 An archaeologist struggles to unearth her own true passions in the “richest,

most absorbing novel” by the author of *The Dark Flood Rises* (Joyce Carol Oates). Frances Wingate is one of England's most renowned archaeologists, having recently discovered a lost city in the Saharan desert. On the outside, she appears to have it all. But beneath the surface, the scientist deals with the demands of children and family—as well as a tumultuous, on-again, off-again romance with a married historian. It's only when Frances throws herself into her work that she discovers some surprising connections to others, in this novel about the search for meaning in life that is “alive with ideas” (Anatole Broyard, *The New York Times*).

**Owls Do Cry** Janet Frame 2016-01-14 *Owls Do Cry* is the story of the Withers family: Francie, soon to leave school to start work at the woollen mills; Toby, whose days are marred by the velvet cloak of epilepsy; Chicks, the baby of the family; and Daphne, whose rich, poetic imagination condemns her to a life in institutions. 'Janet Frame's first full-length work of fiction, *Owls Do*

Cry, is an exhilarating and dazzling prelude to her long and successful career. She was to write in several modes, publishing poems, short stories, fables and volumes of autobiography, as well as other novels of varied degrees of formal complexity, but *Owls Do Cry* remains unique in her oeuvre. It has the freshness and fierceness of a mingled cry of joy and pain. Its evocation of childhood recalls Blake's *Songs of Innocence* and of *Experience*, as well as the otherworldly Shakespearean lyric of her title and epigraph, but her handling of her dark material is wholly original! Margaret Drabble

*Margaret Drabble* Lynn Veach Sadler 1986  
Surveys the life and career of the English author and examines the themes of her major novels  
*The Red Queen* Margaret Drabble 2005-10-03  
Barbara Halliwell, on a grant at Oxford, receives an unexpected package—a centuries-old memoir by a Korean crown princess. An appropriate gift indeed for her impending trip to Seoul, but Barbara doesn't know who sent it. On the plane,

she avidly reads the memoir, a story of great intrigue as well as tragedy. The Crown Princess Hyegyong recounts in extraordinary detail the ways of the Korean court and confesses the family dramas that left her childless and her husband dead by his own hand. When a Korean man Barbara meets at her hotel offers to guide her to some of the haunts of the crown princess, Barbara tours the royal courts and develops a strong affinity for everything related to the princess and her mysterious life. Barbara's time in Korea goes quickly, but captivated by her experience and wanting to know more about the princess, she wonders if her life can ever be the way it was before.

**Words Are My Matter** Ursula K. Le Guin 2019  
A collection of essays on life and literature, from one of the most iconic authors and astute critics in contemporary letters. *Words Are My Matter* is essential reading: a collection of talks, essays, and criticism by Ursula K. Le Guin, a literary legend and unparalleled voice of our social

conscience. Here she investigates the depth and breadth of contemporary fiction--and, through the lens of literature, gives us a way of exploring the world around us. In "Freedom," Le Guin notes: "Hard times are coming, when we'll be wanting the voices of writers who can see alternatives to how we live now ... to other ways of being, and even imagine real grounds for hope. We'll need writers who can remember freedom--poets, visionaries--realists of a larger reality." Le Guin was one of those authors and inWords Are My Matter she gives us just that: a vision of a better reality, fueled by the power and might and hope of language and literature.

**At the Pond** Margaret Drabble 2019-06

Combining personal reminiscence with reflections on the history of the place over the years and through the seasons, for the first time this collection brings together writers' impressions of the Pond.

**The Waterfall** Margaret Drabble 1986 Gift from Kansas City Library. This is a story of Jane,

poetess and failed wife full of guilt and self-doubt, who has given up hope until redeemed and restored to herself unexpectedly by love.

**Arnold Bennett** Margaret Drabble 2012-02-02

'Arnold Bennett was born in a street called Hope Street. A street less hopeful it would be hard to imagine.' Thus begins Margaret Drabble's biography of a man whose most famous achievement was to re-create, in such novels as The Old Wives' Tale and Clayhanger, the life, atmosphere and character of the 'Five Towns' region in which he was born and grew up.

Arnold Bennett is a very personal book. 'What interests me', writes the author, 'is Bennett's background, his childhood and origins, for they are very similar to my own. My mother's family came from the Potteries, and the Bennett novels seem to me to portray a way of life that still existed when I was a child, and indeed persists in certain areas. So like all books this has been partly an act of self-exploration.' Of Bennett as a writer Drabble says 'The best books I think are

very fine indeed, on the highest level, deeply moving, original and dealing with material that I had never before encountered in fiction, but only in life: I feel they have been underrated, and my response to them is so constant, even after years of work on them and constant re-readings, that I want to communicate enthusiasm.' Of Bennett as a man she paints an affectionate portrait, not glossing over the irritability, dyspepsia and rigidity which at times made him so difficult a companion but reminding us too of his honesty, kindness and sensitivity. 'Many a time,' she writes at the end of the book, 're-reading a novel, reading a letter or a piece of his Journal, I have wanted to shake his hand, or to thank him, to say well done. I have written this instead.'

*The Waterfall* Margaret Drabble 2013-10-01 Jane and Malcolm Gray's marriage is characterized by sexual unhappiness and the growing apathy they both feel toward one another. When Jane is confined to bed rest while pregnant with their second child, Malcolm realizes he must escape,

leaving Jane in the care of her dear friend and cousin, Lucy, and Lucy's husband James. After Jane gives birth, Lucy and James alternate nights with her, and it is during this time alone together that Jane and James fall in love, beginning an affair as marked by guilt as joy. Through Jane's struggle to reconcile her relationship with James with her friendship with Lucy, Margaret Drabble gives us an intimate look at a woman caught between the claims of sexual awakening, maternal love and friendship.

*The Lady from the Sea* Henrik Ibsen 1890  
***The Dark Flood Rises* Margaret Drabble**  
2016-11-03 NEW YORK TIMES 100 NOTABLE BOOKS OF 2017: 'masterly' GUARDIAN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: 'An absolute tour de force' Fran may be old but she's not going without a fight. So she dyes her hair, enjoys every glass of red wine, drives around the country for her job with a housing charity and lives in an insalubrious tower block that her loved ones disapprove of. And as each of them -

her pampered ex Claude, old friend Jo, flamboyant son Christopher and earnest daughter Poppet - seeks happiness in their own way, what will the last reckoning be? Will they be waving or drowning when the end comes? By turns joyous and profound, darkly sardonic and moving, *The Dark Flood Rises* questions what makes a good life, and a good death. This triumphant, bravura novel takes in love, death, sun-drenched islands, poetry, Maria Callas, tidal waves, surprise endings - and new beginnings.

**The Ice Age** Margaret Drabble 1977 In today's England of collapsing economy and stately homes, social unrest and Oxonian order, a BBC editor, a real-estate shark, a roguish young woman, and a middle-aged ex-actress prepare for crucial changes in their lives and reflect one another's transf

*The Pure Gold Baby* Margaret Drabble 2013 Her promising career in 1960s London interrupted by an affair with a married professor that renders her a single mother, anthropology

student Jessica Speight faces wrenching questions about responsibility, potential and compassion when her sunny child reveals unique needs. By the renowned author of *The Sea Lady*. 30,000 first printing.

**Margaret Drabble** Glenda Leeming 2006 Margaret Drabble is a writer whose subject matter and technique have developed profoundly since the early sixties: this book draws together the different aspects of her narrative practice, and looks at the increasing flexibility of her narrative methods, both in terms of the kind of narrator used and in the structuring of plot events. The often distanced and ironic narration is discussed, and shown to reinforce Drabble's recurrent themes - themes that include the effect of early family influence and heredity on free choice, the inexorable pressure of social changes, and the role of accident in destabilizing the confident individual. In the later novels people move in a world where they and others may be victims of a callous society, but may

equally be guilty of condoning or promoting society's worst trends. This study describes how narrative increasingly becomes ambiguous, offering then withholding support for the behaviour of the characters, and challenging the reader to think again.

### Why Didn't You Just Do What You Were Told?

Jenny Diski 2021-10-15 'Nothing about Jenny Diski is conventional. Diski does not do linear, or normal, or boring ... highly intelligent, furiously funny' Sunday Times 'Funny, heartbreaking, insightful and wise' Emilia Clarke 'She expanded notions about what nonfiction, as an art form, could do and could be' New Yorker Jenny Diski was a fearless writer, for whom no subject was too difficult, even her own cancer diagnosis. Her columns in the London Review of Books - selected here by her editor and friend Mary-Kay Wilmers, on subjects as various as death, motherhood, sexual politics and the joys of solitude - have been described as 'virtuoso performances', and 'small masterpieces'. From

Highgate Cemetery to the interior of a psychiatric hospital, from Tottenham Court Road to the icebergs of Antarctica, *Why Didn't You Just Do What You Were Told?* is a collective interrogation of the universal experience from a very particular psyche: original, opinionated - and mordantly funny.

**A Natural Curiosity** Margaret Drabble 2013-10-01 An “engrossing” novel following three women as they confront the darkness and danger of their world, by the author of *The Radiant Way* (People). Sweeping from smart London townhouses to a rundown embassy in the Middle East, from the splendors of the Musée d’Orsay in Paris to drowsy afternoons in the hills of sunny Italy, this novel tells the intertwined stories of three Cambridge-educated women living in Margaret Thatcher’s England. Whether it is a conscientious social worker’s quest to befriend a convicted killer; an affair with a stranger after a husband’s suicide; or an attempt to rescue a friend who’s been kidnapped

by terrorists, this is a novel rich with dramatic events and deeply intriguing characters who find the courage to persevere through trying times, in the hopes of finding some sort of justice and truth. “[Drabble] invites us to see beyond the filth and horror of modern life to the world of possibilities in our own lives, where we also have the power to write our own endings.”

—Winnipeg Free Press “The diverse plotlines develop amidst an abundance of social detail about 1980s Britain, providing a rich and fascinating texture. A winner.” —Library Journal

**The Sea Lady** Margaret Drabble 2007 Two distinguished guests are travelling separately towards a ceremony where they will meet for the first time for three decades. Both are apprehensive, as they review the successes and failures of their public life, and their secret history.

**A Lady and Her Husband** Amber Reeves Blanco White 1914

[The Millstone](#) Margaret Drabble 1998-10-15 The

story of an upper-middle-class unwed mother in 1960s London, from a novelist who is “often as meticulous as Jane Austen and as deadly as Evelyn Waugh” (Los Angeles Times). In a newly swinging London, Rosamund Stacey indulges in a premarital sexual encounter—and soon thereafter finds herself pregnant. Despite her fierce independence and academic brilliance, Rosamund is in fact naïve and unworldly, and the choices before her are terrifying. But in the perfection and helplessness of her baby she finds an unconditional love she has never known before—and as she navigates a situation still considered scandalous in her circles, she may discover that motherhood and independence need not be mutually exclusive. From “one of Britain’s most dazzling writers,” the award-winning author of *The Dark Flood Rises*, *The Millstone* captures both a moment in history when women’s lives were changing dramatically and the timeless truths of the female experience (The New York Times Book Review).

*A summer bird-cage* Margaret Drabble 1989  
*The Realms of Gold* Margaret Drabble 1989  
English archaeologist Frances Wingate, divorced mother of four, and distinguished scholar Karel Schmidt, selfless and marriage-imprisoned, stay-at-home, come inexorably together once more after years of on-again, off-again romance  
*A Day in the Life of a Smiling Woman* Margaret Drabble 2011-05-18 Short fiction from “a fastidious chronicler of the vagaries of women’s lives in England since the early nineteen-sixties” (Joyce Carol Oates, *The New Yorker*). In stories that explore marriage, female friendships, the English tourist abroad, love affairs with houses, peace demonstrations, gin and tonics, cultural TV programs, and more, Margaret Drabble showcases her insight into the lives of women. This decade-spanning collection not only reveals how the female experience has—and hasn’t—changed; it also demonstrates the talent that has earned Drabble multiple literary honors, including the James Tait Black Memorial Prize

and a Golden PEN Award, and made her “one of the United Kingdom’s finest contemporary fiction writers” (*Publishers Weekly*, starred review).

*The Gates of Ivory* Margaret Drabble 2013-10-01  
A woman tries to uncover the mysterious fate of a friend in Cambodia in this “very smart” and suspenseful novel (*The New York Times Book Review*). Liz Headleand is one of London’s best-known and most prominent psychiatrists. One day she arrives at work to find a mysterious package, postmarked from Cambodia. Inside, she finds various scraps of paper, a laundry bill from a Bangkok hotel, old newspaper clippings—and pieces of human finger bones. Shocked but intrigued, she realizes the papers belong to her old friend Stephen Cox, a playwright who moved to Cambodia to work on a script about the Khmer Rouge. Convinced Stephen is trying to send her some sort of message, Liz follows the clues in the box to the jungles of Cambodia, risking her life to find her

friend. In this thrilling novel, Margaret Drabble continues the trilogy she began in *The Radiant Way* and *A Natural Curiosity*, taking us far from the civilized, familiar streets of London, and painting an “urgent, brilliant” portrait of the tumultuous, terror-ridden landscape of Cambodia in the late twentieth century (*The Boston Globe*). “A tour de force.” —*Calgary Herald* “Unputdownable . . . A sojourn within *The Gates of Ivory* is not something one soon forgets.” —*Edmonton Journal*

**The Radiant Way** Margaret Drabble 1988 This novel goes back through the lives of three women, a psychoanalyst, an art historian and a good woman who all met at Cambridge in the 1950s.

**The Garrick Year** Margaret Drabble 2013-10-01 From the Golden PEN Award-winning author: A “well-written, entertaining” dark comedy of a marriage on the rocks in 1960s London (Joyce Carol Oates, *The New York Times*). Emma and David Evans seem

to have a perfect life. He’s a handsome and successful Welsh actor; she’s a sometimes model, soon-to-be television news anchor, and full-time mother. But all is not well under the surface. She’s impatient and choked by domesticity; he’s narcissistic and unfaithful. Between the two of them is a privately combative marriage that has fed their want of drama. Then David relocates the family from their London home to provincial Hereford, where he’s to star in two plays during the city’s festival season. It’s here, far removed from the highbrow stimulation of the city, that Emma’s resentment of David—his long hours, his expectations, his ego—finally boils over. Bored and lonely, she falls into the arms of the theater’s director, an indiscretion that triggers a series of surprises neither Emma nor David could have foreseen. Narrated by a complicated, fascinating, and fiercely intelligent woman at the end of her rope, *The Garrick Year* is “a witty, beautiful novel . . . written with extraordinary

art" (The New York Times). "[A] romantic novel about actors and the theatre and marriage and sex and babies . . . deliciously bitter . . . so alive." —The New Yorker "Unsparring . . . a very knowing, diverting entertainment." —Kirkus Reviews

The Needle's Eye Margaret Drabble 2022-06-02  
Simon Camish, a resentful insecure barrister in a stifling marriage, would not have particularly noticed Rose Vassiliou had he not been asked to drive her home one night after a dinner party. Now, separated from her Greek husband, Rose

lives alone with her three children. Despite all the efforts and sneers of her friends, she refuses to move from her crumbling house in a decaying neighbourhood to which she has become attached. Gradually drawn further and further into her affairs, Simon becomes aware that Rose is a woman of remarkable integrity and courage. 'Though I have admired Miss Drabble's writing for years, I will admit that nothing she has written in the past quite prepared me for the depth and richness of this book' - Joyce Carol Oates