

girl with dove

A LIFE

BUILT BY BOOKS

sally bayley



Sally Bayley

Girl With Dove: A Life Built By Books

Аннотация

“The word “mesmerising” is frequently applied to memoirs, but seldom as deservedly as in the case of *Girl With Dove*’ Financial Times‘Reading is a form of escape and an avid reader is an escape artist...’Growing up in a dilapidated house by the sea where men were forbidden, Sally’s childhood world was filled with mystery and intrigue. Hippies trailed through the kitchen looking for God – their leader was Aunt Di, who ruled the house with charismatic force. When Sally’s baby brother vanishes from his pram, she becomes suspicious of the activities going on around her. What happened to Baby David and the woman called Poor Sue? And where did all the people singing and wailing prayers in the front room suddenly go? Disappearing into a world of books and reading, Sally adopts the tried and tested methods of Miss Marple. Taking books for hints and clues, she turns herself into a reading detective. Her discovery of *Jane Eyre* marks the beginning of a vivid journey through Victorian literature where she also finds the kind, eccentric figure of Charles Dickens’ *Betsey Trotwood*. These characters soon become her heroines, acting as a part of an alternative family, offering humour and guidance during many difficult moments in Sally’s life. Combining the voices of literary

characters with those of her real-life counterparts, *Girl With Dove* reads as a magical series of strange encounters, climaxing with a comic performance of Shakespeare in the children's home where Sally is eventually sent. Weaving literary classics with a young girl's coming of age story, this is a book that testifies to the transformative power of reading and the literary imagination. Mixing fairy tale, literary classics, nursery rhymes and folklore, it is the story of a child's adventure in wonderland and search for truth in an adult world often cast in deep shadow.

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Dedication

For Angela Christine Bayley,
Soul of a Rose

Epigraph

‘Attention, taken to its highest degree, is the same thing as prayer. It presupposes faith and love. Absolutely unmixed attention is prayer.’

Simone Weil, *Gravity and Grace* (English edition, 1952, translated by Emma Crawford and Mario von der Ruhr)

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Credits

Also by Sally Bayley

About the Author

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