



Incident at Badamya

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1950 Burma: Gen Ferris, 16, must flee after her missionary father commits suicide. Her knapsack holds \$100 US, a slingshot, a magical Burmese puppet, and the New York City, USA address of an unknown aunt. Imprisoned with six other lost travelers by Red Chinese, she vows to escape; never dreaming who will come to her aid.

Incident at Badamya Details

Date : Published February 28th 1990 by Fawcett Publishing (first published 1989)

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Ryan says

This is one of my regular re-reads - I was surprised it hadn't already been added because I read it 3 or 4 times per year. Its a great story about a young American girl, raised in Burma during WWII, and who is now an orphan, trying to leave. I have no idea how accurate it is about Burma, but I don't think that accuracy is important to me - it is plausible and I love it because it is full of magic, discovery, and reminds me that God has not abandoned me simply because my life feels out of my control.

Em7ar7 says

One of my most favorite books!

Kyrie says

This book is my absolute favorite Dorothy Gilman. A 16 year old girl's father kills himself in Thailand and now she has to get herself out of the country and to her American aunt (who she's never met). She's captured by the Red Chinese, along with other tourists, and how they survive and eventually escape is just great fiction, with a bit of paranormal wonder thrown in. Like most of my favorite books, I'm not doing the story justice. It's really good, though.

Kate says

One of Gilman's group-of-people-learn-to-accept-themselves-and-overcome-together books. Although I prefer Caravan, this is a comforting, kind novel, with a bit of spirituality wafting through.

Kristine says

Fun and unexpected ending. I enjoyed learning a bit more about Burma. I liked how the characters developed through the book.

Diane Lynn says

What a wonderful story. A seemingly disparate group of travelers come together at a remote temple on the

Irrawaddy River in Burma. It's 1950 and they aren't there because they want to be. Very well done!

Luann says

I highly recommend this to all Dorothy Gilman fans - who, of course, should read everything she's ever written. This isn't her typical mystery or spy thriller - if that's how you think of the Mrs. Pollifax books. This does have the exotic setting and an unlikely hero with great survival skills. It also has a touch of mysticism and a great supporting cast of interesting characters.

Lois says

This is a wonderful story... sticks in the corners of your mind and heart.

Dorothy Gilman is especially known for her Mrs. Pollifax novels. When she broke out into other stories, she was a wonderful writer. I love her international outlook on life.

Susanna Natti says

This was a very enjoyable read. The setting is Burma in 1950 and Dorothy Gilman demonstrates a convincing knowledge of Burma: its multiple warring ethnic factions, Burmese customs, language and its rich tradition of puppetry. She offers, as well, very thoughtful insights from the characters that set up tensions between the Western and Eastern way of viewing life.

Seven travelers are thrown together when they are kidnapped as political pawns; they reveal themselves to each other as time goes on. The main character, Gen Ferris, a sixteen year old American who has been raised in Burma and has been suddenly orphaned by her father's suicide, is elfin and wise at the same time, a magical heroine.

Their escape is improbable, but plausible. As I followed Gen in her efforts to reach safety, it felt very much to me like traditional tales where a hero (or heroine) is given a few items whose powers are not known at first, but become essential. Gen's knowledge of Burma prove invaluable. The ending is satisfying.

Chris says

Took this for a short plane trip read. Pleasant read, a nice change from the author's cozy Mrs. Pollifax series. This short novel is set in Burma, 1950 and has a touch of native magic sprinkled about. She mines the trope of disparate characters trapped together coming to terms with each other's strengths and weaknesses and in doing so find a pearl or two of life's lessons.

Some quotes:

"I think when time moves very slowly it leaves spaces in between moments for more things to happen." -Gen

"Why is this man recalling to me all the hatreds, angers, and revenges I've nursed in life? I grow old and and wounds mount but how many wounds have I given as well?" -Lady Waring

"She wishes to hide, she wishes to throw away the rest of her life because of her past. Me, I don't like waste. It is possible that she will find.. redemption....but it is more likely that she will feel lonely and alien, and every passion in her will be killed." -Mr. Baharian

" I had stopped being a memsahib and a stranger, and we had become fellow human beings alive in the universe at the same moment. Something flowed between us, a warmth, a recognition-from holding hands and being together ion this long walk at night in the bush. I wasn't frightened-because what I felt was an incredible awareness of the moment and the sharingness between us." -Mrs. Caswell

"tragedies don't interest me, tragedies and heartbreaks are all alike, what matters is how a person meets them, how they survive them. Given the inevitability of lossess and disappointments in life, that's where the challenge is..." Mrs. Caswell

"In the East, in much of the world, as you no doubt realize, it is believed that we live many lives, returning to this earth again and again, bringing consequences and responsibilities with us from past lives to meet again and work through. Earth is a learning ground, that's all." -U Ba Sein

"we in the East see life as a long, long struggle toward perfect knowledge, a procession of souls given flesh to love, hate, kill, victimize, forgive, sow, reap, create and destroy, be sinners or saints until at last we break through our shells to the God inside us." -U Ba Sein

"There are people who insist that we're made of bone and flesh and muscle but I say instead that we're made of memories. Cherish them but don't live in them, Gen, or they'll destroy the bridges to your future." -Lady Waring

Storyheart says

Delightful.

Melinda says

This was so enthralling that I wish I was just starting it. I will be reading this again.

Mary Garrett says

INCIDENT AT BADMYA by Dorothy Gilman

I was so sad to have reached the end of the Mrs. Pollifax series, that a friend suggested finding other works, and this one has it all, danger, helpful friends, unexpected lessons . . .

Gen, orphaned in Burma in 1950, is captured and held for ransom along with passengers left behind by the river boat. Insurgents have set a deadline for ransom or . . . execution.

Gen is serious, introspective, and open-minded enough to find the real people under their masks, anger masking fear, loneliness hiding behind aloofness, and like Mrs. Pollifax, is loyal to and received loyalty from the friends she finds along the way.

A few insights:

“Unleashing Lady Waring upon the insurgents would not be without benefit.”

“It’s anger that keeps people going.” “what matters is how a person meets (tragedy)”

Lady W’s cane a prop and weapon, “I can walk.”

Miss Thorald “I wonder if we can ever know a person until we know them under stress.”

U Ba Sein, puppet master (recognized at first glimpse on boat) tells Gen she is a visitor from star. I’m glad she came . . .

Sheryl Tribble says

I was in the mood for a mystery and it was not a mystery (nor did I think it would be), but it was quite satisfying because it gave me a similar feeling of closure -- which some of Dorothy Gilman's non-Pollifax mysteries don't always accomplish, actually, so rather unexpected.

I generally enjoy Gilman's books and this one was no exception. I don't share Gilman's view of reality or theological opinions, but I share her mood somehow and so am comfortable in her world. Nothing in her books is ever surprising, but they're predictable in the sense that a mystery or a romance is predictable, where the predictability is part of the pleasure. Classic comfort reads.

Zodama Bug says

unique storyline and excellent assortment of characters
