



# The Life and Times of Call the Midwife: The Official Companion to Season One and Two

*Heidi Thomas*

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The real stories, lives and dramas behind the smash hit BBC series Call the Midwife which premieres on PBS September 30, 2012.

The official companion to seasons one and two, The Life and Times of Call the Midwife, gives fans a deeper insight into the period, the stories and the characters, and how Call the Midwife, based on the bestselling memoirs by Jennifer Worth, was brought to the screen.

With never before seen photographs taken on set as well as unique sketches and exclusive interviews and anecdotes, this book truly takes you behind the scenes. Discover the hidden secrets of the nurses and nuns of Nonnatus House and delve deeper into the historical context of the series with chapters detailing birth, health, faith, fashion, beauty, street life and food. From the team who brought you The World of Downton Abbey, high production values and attention to detail will create the ultimate and beautifully packaged gift purchase this Christmas that no fan of the show could bare to be without.

## The Life and Times of Call the Midwife: The Official Companion to Season One and Two Details

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Author : Heidi Thomas

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# **From Reader Review The Life and Times of Call the Midwife: The Official Companion to Season One and Two for online ebook**

## **Jessica says**

Amazing book that made me feel like I went back in time while reading it. Amazing to see how the tv show came together and about how peoples lives were back in the 50s. The NHS really was a life saver to millions and the nuns and midwives did such amazing things for their communities! I love the show and I love the book!

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## **Kathy says**

100% recommend this if you are a Call the Midwife viewer and are interested in the historical aspects of the show! Although this only covers seasons 1 and 2 (hoping there are more coming out), it's still a fascinating look behind the scenes. This book is filled with information about why the show's creators made the choices they did and how it all came together in the end. I also liked their highlighting each character and explaining bits of their personalities. Personally, I would have loved to see the characters highlighted a bit more and seen more comprehensive interviews with the characters playing the characters. I honestly think that'd be a bit more interesting to read about than set design. I also would have loved to see more pictures, because the ones they did provide were so fun!

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## **Angie Kennedy says**

I'd love for an updated companion to include the subsequent seasons and new characters like Phyllis, Patsy and Barbara!

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## **Beverly says**

I loved getting to know more about the behind the scenes stuff that went into making Call the Midwife a great series! I loved finding out that Jennifer (the author of the books/memoirs) wanted to give the roles to up and coming actors, to give them an opportunity that they might not otherwise have. I love all the little details that go into making things authentically 50's East End London. This was a great read with all the fun of illustrations and photos! I also liked having Heidi's notes on the process of accepting the challenge, meeting Jennifer, finding a way to make the Jenny of the book come to life on the screen, and the waiting and wondering.

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## **Angela says**

A lovely addition to the series, which I also loved. If you liked the tv series I can guarantee you'll like this too. Lots of interesting facts, and lots of great pictures.

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## **Shelley says**

Fun look at the behind the scenes and making of the series. I liked finding out the real order (St John of the Divine) and people (Sister Julianne = Jocelyn, Trixie = Antonia, Cynthia Miller = Cynthia Miller), but I'm a little sad Chummy either didn't really exist or existed at some other job. I've also heard Sr Monica Joan may not have really existed, either. I liked the look at hair and makeup and casting, plus getting a little more info on the characters, too, though I'm not sure how fandom jumped from Dr. Turner keeping a scarf his wife gave him weeks before she died to he was wearing it in the last scene of season 3!

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## **Correen says**

Fascinating story. I loved the mix of history mixed with the story.

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## **Margaret Sankey says**

Lavishly illustrated, this is the companion volume to the BBC series, providing a look and the development and production. What shines through is that everyone seems to love what they're doing and the production has taken steps to encourage the camaraderie--the actors have sought out and gained the assistance of the real people they are portraying, they're encouraged to work up extensive backstories with them that find their way into the scripts, the actors' and crew's children are frequently featured as extras, many of the crew have parents and grandparents from the East End who have first hand experiences with the poverty and hard times and this is a connection to them, the producer is the grand-daughter of the first woman licensed as a doctor in Great Britain and when viewers write in with their own stories, the production team take seriously criticisms of the authenticity. The production team was careful to reflect the years just out of austerity, when people were starting to make real money, but housing stock had not improved since the WWII bombings of the docks, so a character might have a rotting house and a brand new stove, or very stylish clothes because they could be sewn at home, but teeth only now being fixed by the NHS.

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## **Gabrielle says**

I liked catching up on all the background details of my favorite show. Just enough about each person and the history behind the story line and the making of the series. Lots of great pictures to make it fun.

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## **J says**

A must read for fans of the TV series.

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### **Irma says**

Fascinating book to read with regard to the making of series 1 and 2. So much interesting background information and excellently written by Heidi Thomas

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### **Alyssa Amaro says**

I so enjoyed reading how the television series came to life from Jennifer Worth's memoirs. It was a very fun read and the pictures are beautiful.

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### **Danielle says**

a lovely book about a brilliant and touching series. i highly recommend this to fans of the show.

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### **Carole says**

I was initially wary of this book, but within a couple of pages it had me spell bound.

You need to watch the series of Call the Midwife first (and possibly read the books on the series ) to appreciate what this book entails .

It is a wonderful book well written,full of facts and history which so many of us can remember.

The book details everything from the sets, characters make up and consultations with the late Jennifer, and also a meeting with the lady whom Trixie is based on.

I do think the late Jennifer Worth would have liked it as it was such an insight linking herself and her books with the making of an authentic drama.

It is a hard back cover and whilst mine was half price I would gladly have paid the full price for it .

If you enjoyed the books and the series then this is a must.

It is now a treasured book along with my copies of the 3 books in the series and my christmas present of a dvd set of the series.

I and other family members will go over the book again and again, not a book to sit in the book case but one to be enjoyed and shared.

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### **Emma says**

6/30/2017 - Not finish with the book yet, so I may come back and update after I finish it. But I'd still like to write down how I feel about the book so far, if it would give other people an idea of the book that would be even better.

So I watched the show first, and am pretty obsessed with it. After knowing it is based on a book, I went ahead purchased the book and expected it to be just as fantastic as the show. Well it is and it is not. The book is great, but the story and the way how the story was told is different from the show. I guess I should expect

this already because the book is a memoir so it's told from first person perspective, but the show obviously is most of the time from third person perspective. Also in the show, there are a lot of interaction between different characters, Jenny, Trixie, Barbara, and everyone else. And yes of course there is a lot of interaction because it is a show. The book on the other hand, it's not. Most of the time, it's the author, I would assume it's Jenny in the show, telling the story, and mostly what she experienced, as how a memoir works. Author tells stories of his/her own. Unlike in the show which one episode Jenny is the main character, another episode Barbara or Trixie is the main character, the book is just from the author, at least half of the first book is so. So what I'm trying to say is, don't expect the book is the same or similar as the show, yes the story is the same, but it is told completely in a different way. So with that being said, I was a little bit disappointment about the book at the beginning, because so far I haven't seen any of my favorite characters yet. I have only seen Sister Barnadette (Shelagh Turner later), and I think she only showed up for a page or two. Although the book is different from the show, it doesn't mean it's not good. From the book, I can actually get a deeper understanding about midwifery, and life in London post world war II. Also, the way the author brings the readers back to current time frame, (like she would say something won't happen now but it happened in 1950s) it really helps me see the difference between now and then and how much changes happened over all these years (which is pretty amazing). I still have about half to go in the first book, and from I read online, from second book on it actually departs even more from the show, or I should say the show departs from the book. I'm excited to see how the story goes in the book.

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