



## Mrs. Pollifax and the Whirling Dervish

*Dorothy Gilman*

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## **Mrs. Pollifax and the Whirling Dervish** Dorothy Gilman

Mrs. Pollifax is on hand in Morocco to back up an inept CIA agent, and it's a good thing. Their first informant is killed, and Mrs. Pollifax begins to get the idea that her colleague is not who he says he is. Still, she forges ahead, checking out suspicious informants, and coming to the conclusion that someone is an imposter and someone wants her dead....

## **Mrs. Pollifax and the Whirling Dervish Details**

Date : Published September 1991 by Ballantine Fawcett Gold Medal (first published 1990)

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Author : Dorothy Gilman

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## **From Reader Review Mrs. Pollifax and the Whirling Dervish for online ebook**

### **Shirley says**

Didn't really care for this entry. A simple picture drop turns into crazy times for Mrs Pollifax. Not sure why I didn't like, lots of drama but somehow didn't work for me. The good guys got killed far too much for my taste is maybe the reason.

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### **Shena Leonard says**

My dad introduced me to the Mrs. Pollifax series awhile back. It's an old series - about a Grandma who becomes a spy - SOO fun and full of interesting info! I got them all and loved them! (=

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### **Kathy says**

I did not like this book as well as the others. I felt there was a lot of references to previous books.

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### **it'chy says**

it was written, alright

is it prudent to expect another lance(aka ambrose)-emily reunion?

p56: but the fury object didn't move, it didn't scurry away at her approach and when she cautiously knelt beside it she found that it was not a small animal at all.

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### **Maggie says**

This was another fun Emily Pollifax adventure. Of course, I disliked the original Jacko and enjoyed the real Jacko (though I thought he was a bit of a gloomy Gus, but that made a change from Emily's usual cheeriness), loved the mystic, and the young acolyte. I missed Cyrus's good sense and why humor. I experienced this book on audio and though the reader was very good I was at first unhappy with her voice for the real Jacko, because she did it in an Indian accent. Later it was revealed that he'd spent his formative years in India, so then it made sense, but I still found it strange on occasion when he was speaking and translating one of the Arabic languages. All around a nice way to spend a boring day doing chores.

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## **Sherri says**

YOU GOTTA LOVE THIS HEROINE. READ ALL THE POLLIFAX NOVELS. SHE IS TOTALLY COOL. A CROSS BETWEEN HERCULE POIROT (ACE MAN!) AND MISS MARPLE: WITH A DASH OF 'MURDER SHE WROTE'... GREAT STUFF!

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## **Connie Mollo says**

Actioned packed till the end. Typical Mrs Polifax adventure, this time in Morocco.

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## **Jesse says**

Mrs. Pollifax heads to Morocco and the Western Sahara, to help a very secret offshoot of the CIA, whose sympathies lie not with Morocco but with the Polisarios of the Western Sahara. She has a list of informants, with photographs, and needs to make sure that all of the men match their names and faces, as it's rumored that there's an impostor somewhere among the chain. She isn't alone in this mission, but is paired with another agent who is quite a bit different from most of the colorful, unforgettable people she meets on her missions. This guy, to put it simply, is an insufferable jerk.

As they head south into the Moroccan desert, though, things start happening quickly, and from there, it is another roller-coaster ride, fraught with danger, excitement, and wonder. Mrs. Pollifax shines, and despite her own misgivings at the beginning of the story (worrying that Carstairs may have finally thought her too old for adventuring) she definitely proves that *that isn't the case!*

Yet again, I am stunned by Dorothy Gilman's attention to detail. I really wish I could've met her, because she seems to have shared my passion for the world, for exploring different places. I was intrigued by her descriptions of Morocco because it's a place I haven't studied very much. And although the book is 22 years old, I was absolutely amazed when I Googled some details and looked at some maps, just how right-on she was. For those of you who like travel, as I do, this book makes you feel almost like you're really there.

*Mrs. Pollifax and the Whirling Dervish* reminds me a lot of the first book, *The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax*...maybe because of the military police presence, and the constant flight from the authorities, moving onward because to stay in one place would be to be captured. Among the action, there are those little gems, those moments that provide a perfect, pensive counterpoint to all the action. Namely, Mrs. Pollifax's conversations with Sidi Tahar, as well as the part where they camped in the desert, under the stars, on their way to Rouida.

It was also very satisfying to close the loop on Mornajay - a character from the previous book, and awesome that he finally deduced Mrs. P's identity as a fellow agent. Nice bit of continuity, there!

This is another rousing Mrs. Pollifax adventure which delivers wonderfully, and Mrs. P herself is the feather in the cap, of course.

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## **An Odd1 says**

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End is with same pair in same p

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## **Lorraine says**

Another very good cozy mystery involving Mrs. Pollifax on another assignment from the CIA. Seven Moroccan informers for the CIA but one of them has been replaced by an imposter. Wending her way from one end of Morocco to another, Emily Pollifax, finds herself in all sorts of precarious situations as she tries to verify which one of the informers is indeed an imposter.

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## **Sara says**

I quite enjoyed this Pollifax, especially the ending, and found it fascinating to explore so many different places in Morocco. For that very reason, however, this was not quite the page-turner (hence the four stars) and there is a lot of geographic description which requires a different sort of attention when reading. I found most of the towns (except the last) on Google Maps which is always fun - Gilman's research seems impeccable although how would I really know?

There is often an intrepid child whose ideas save the day and this is no exception...

And now I know how a whirling dervish whirls!

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## **Andrea says**

Another fun outing. Mrs Pollifax is neither a quailor nor kickass (for all she's picked up some martial arts skills) and gets by on caution and good luck.

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## **Kelly says**

I can't quit saying that Mrs. Pollifax is both a spy thriller and a cozy. Seems weird, but it's true. Much more than either.

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## **Kate says**

Better than the last few, and interesting (temporary) reverse of the usual Mrs. P setup where she immediately finds a tribe to like.

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### **Julie says**

Emily Pollifax is pondering the idea that she may finally be too old. It's been ages since she's heard from the CIA and she suspects that they no longer think her capable. Just as she starts to feel terribly sorry for herself the phone rings, and the next day she is off to Morocco. Her job is to accompany another member of the CIA on a simple journey across the country to locate and identify seven men who are working as informants. False information has been leaking out of Morocco and there is concern at headquarters that one of their operatives may have been compromised. Mrs. Pollifax, traveling as the aunt of Max Jenko, is simply to identify the informants from pictures she has been given, and if she finds a fake, they are to wire Carstairs immediately.

However, right from the start things seem wrong. Janko is as arrogant as Carstairs thought he would be. He insists that Mrs. Pollifax turn over the pictures to him at once and leave the country. She decides the best way to handle the situation is to only give him one picture and address at a time. That way he will be dependent upon her. However, when she learns that the first informant they identify is killed within hours of their finding him she becomes suspicious, and things rapidly begin to spiral out of control.

A very enjoyable trip through Morocco with Mrs. Pollifax and some returning characters. Both suspenseful and mysterious. Mrs. Pollifax maintains her positive outlook and resourcefulness even when things look bleak. I only wish there had been an epilogue like there so often is to tell us how Bishop and Carstairs respond to her adventures. Oh well, perhaps in the next book.

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### **Julie says**

This is another exciting Mrs. Pollifax book. It is always good to know there is at least one more to read so I know for sure she survived her adventures.

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### **Sharman Wilson says**

I enjoyed this partly because I've been to Morocco--on a guided day tour from Spain to Tangier. I've also been to Kona in Turkey, to the beautiful shrine of the beloved Sufi poet Rumi. There was a museum on the site, with lifelike wax museum type scenes of Sufis writhing and whirling. I love reading these mysteries that are often set in countries I have been to or at least close enough to picture them. The topography and character of the land, as well the culture figure highly in the Mrs. Pollifax series.

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### **Stacie Haden says**

Another adventure for Mrs. Pollifax- this time in Morocco. I just love this series. Each book has a different country to learn about, with touches of the history and the culture, and a wonderful protagonist I've come to adore!

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## **LJ says**

MRS. POLLIFAX AND THE WHIRLING DERVISH (Spy Novel-Mrs. Emily Pollifax-Morocco-Cont) – G+

Gilman, Dorothy – 9th in series

Fawcett Books, 1990, US Paperback – ISBN: 0449147606

First Sentence: They had been waiting among the low dunes for two days, a few goats feeding nearby on an impoverished growth of desert grass.

Emily Pollifax's husband is away and she's feeling bored. That soon ends when she is sent by the CIA to Morocco. She is to connect with another agent to locate and identify seven undercover agents. She finds she doesn't trust her contact; particularly as the agents they are to identify are either killed or disappear after their visits.

I had not read Mrs. Pollifax before and was very pleasantly surprised. I expected the book to be fluffy and annoying. Instead, it was much more serious than expected.

To compare Mrs. Pollifax to Ms. Marple would be doing both an injustice as they are very different. Mrs. Pollifax has the same intuitiveness, but also knows how to take care of herself. I loved the quote from "archie and mehitable": "There's a dance in the old dame yet, toujours gai, toujours gai."

In addition to a very good story with an excellent sense of place and plenty of suspense, Gilman provided a good history lesson and some basic philosophical reminders about what is important. I may just have to read more books in this series.

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## **Nancy says**

I have an audible version of this book, and I love to listen to books like this, as I'm going to sleep. When I first started reading the Mrs. Pollifax books, I was in my 20's, and the thought of an older woman joining the CIA, and getting into so much danger, was intriguing and funny. Now I'm in my 70's, and I am still thoroughly enjoying the Mrs. Pollifax books, and better understanding what it would take to go on these adventurous assignments. I think these books are just delightful, and I love the narration of the books.

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