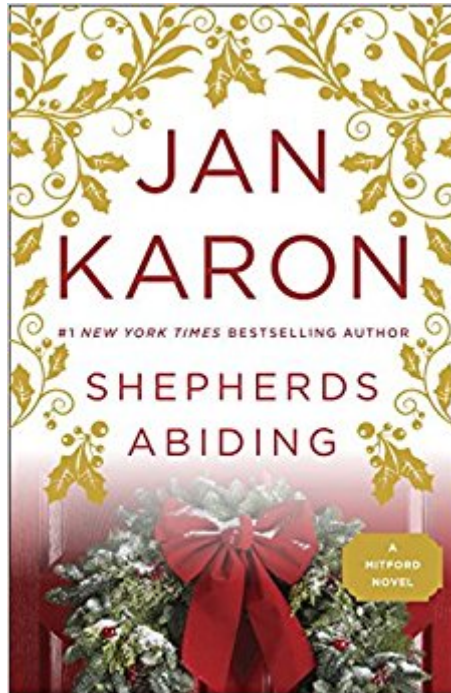




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# Shepherds Abiding (Mitford)



## Synopsis

Millions of Americans have found Mitford to be a favorite home-away-from-home, and countless readers have long wondered what Christmas in Mitford would be like. The eighth Mitford novel provides a glimpse, offering a meditation on the best of all presents: the gift of one's heart. Since he was a boy, Father Tim has lived what he calls "the life of the mind" and has never really learned to savor the work of his hands. When he finds a derelict nativity scene that has suffered the indignities of time and neglect, he imagines the excitement in the eyes of his wife, Cynthia, and decides to undertake the daunting task of restoring it. As Father Tim begins his journey, readers are given a seat at Mitford's holiday table and treated to a magical tale about the true Christmas spirit.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Karon works more homespun magic with this latest uplifting story set in sleepy Mitford, N.C. Father Timothy Kavanagh, stalwart of the Mitford series, is approaching 70 when he comes across pieces of an old English nativity scene at his friend Andrew Gregory's antique shop. The set has definitely seen better days, and Andrew is hoping that someone will volunteer to restore it. Who better than Father Tim, who seems to have reached a turning point in his life and needs a project to distract him? Inspired by memories of a manger from his childhood that was destroyed in a rainstorm, Father Tim, after much deliberation, takes up the cause, planning to surprise his artist wife, Cynthia. Meanwhile, Hope Winchester, manager of Mitford's Happy Endings bookshop, learns that the shop

is in danger of closing at the end of the year and struggles to save it and make it her own. Tear-jerking moments and humorous scenes featuring Mitford's more ornery denizens make for a cozily familiar trip into town. The restoration of the creche proves to be transformative for Father Tim, and a snowy Christmas Eve brings happiness to everyone in Mitford. Steering readers far from the "craziness and commerce of Christmas," Karon stays true to the adage that all things are possible with hard work, ingenuity and a little faith. Written in light, breezy prose that shimmers with faith and good hope, Karon's story goes down like hot cocoa by the fireplace. The author's warm spirituality and vibrant holiday spirit make this heartwarming eighth series entry a welcome one. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Since he was a boy growing up in Mississippi, Father Tim has lived what he calls "the life of the mind." Except for cooking and gardening and washing his dog, he never learned to savor the work of his hands. And then he finds a derelict nativity scene--twenty figures, including a flock of sheep, that have suffered the indignities of time and neglect. Could he give the small company new life? Restore the camel's ear, repaint every piece, replace a missing nose on a wise man? "You can't teach an old dog new tricks!" he reminds himself. It's when he imagines the excitement in Cynthia's eyes that he steps up to the plate--and begins a small journey of faith that touches everyone around him. The eighth novel in the bestselling Mitford Years series is a meditation on the best of all presents--the gift of one's heart. Lovingly written and beautifully illustrated, it seeks to restore the true Christmas spirit and give everyone a seat at Mitford's holiday table. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As a self-admitted Christmas junkie, I'm always on the lookout for movies and books to make my own personal holiday experience a little richer. I found that in "Shepherds Abiding", even though at that point I had not read any of Karon's other Mitford novels. The story is fairly simple and uplifting, but something about it appealed to my soul so much that I now make it a point to reread the book every year when fall comes and I can feel the holidays beginning to stir (which happens early on with crafters--so much to do and so little time to do it!) I also have it unabridged on cd so that I can listen to it if my hands are otherwise occupied, and I don't have that many books on cd. I've given copies of this to almost all of my friends in case their spirits need a little renewing during this time of year. If you are looking for an easy, comfortable read, this is it and it stands alone quite well without having to read the entire series. Cannot recommend it highly enough.

I reread my favorites of Jan Karon's books each year and try timing this one to be read during the Christmas week because it always warms me up to the joys of the season - especially for those of us who have prayed the prayer surrendering our life to the Most High! All the delights of small town friendships, long term loving relationships, the beauties of advent church events and Christmas giving! That is quite a bit for a book, but it is so...both for my sad Christmases when I have felt lonely and for those when I am feeling blessed. A marvelous Christmas addition to the Mitford cannon!

This book continues the happenings in Jan Karon's Mitford series. Karon manages again to keep your interest with colorful descriptions of the characters in the imaginary town of Mitford and her main figure, the Episcopal priest. She always includes love, humor, mystery, suspense and with lots of down home occurrences. She leaves you wanting more when each book ends.

The Mitford books as they are called are written by Jan Karon about an American Priest called Father Tim. I chose this rating because these books are so special and delightful. There is no violence, swearing or horror. The books are about a man who is a man of God and the books just covered how he lives his life and how his faith in God helps him to bring amazing miracles into his life. The books tell how he is able to overcome the trials that come into his own life and how he overcomes them. These books are wonderfully uplifting and worth reading more than once. I would suggest though that it is necessary to read all the Mitford books and to read them all in order. UNFORTUNATELY, not all of these books are available on Kindle which is a great disappointment to me. I would also mention that I am not really a serious Christian but Father Tim is and he inspires me. Please read these books and give some thought to the fact that if we all lived an thought like Father Tim the world would be full of peace and love and the world would be a wonderful place to live.

Once again inspiring read. I'm going to the next book. The series gives me inspiration. I just feel good and want to follow the steps of kindness; Cynthia is my role model in these books. She is the always positive character. Actually Jan Karon is my role model. She created characters I know or knew. Her descriptive words provides a scene, for me to feel, see and understand them. I want to write a book because of this author.

This was a very good book. It put me in the Christmas spirit and reminded me of the true meaning of

## Christmas

Jan Karon obviously loves Christmas as much as I do, and this is another heartwarming offering of real life! Another Winner!

Love Jans books. I have been working my way through for the last two months...they are gentle, kind, do not require stress or anxiety. They are filled with God's love and truth. I'm looking forward to finding the last Barlow child! Thank you Jan! I also love that the churches work together in Mitford!

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