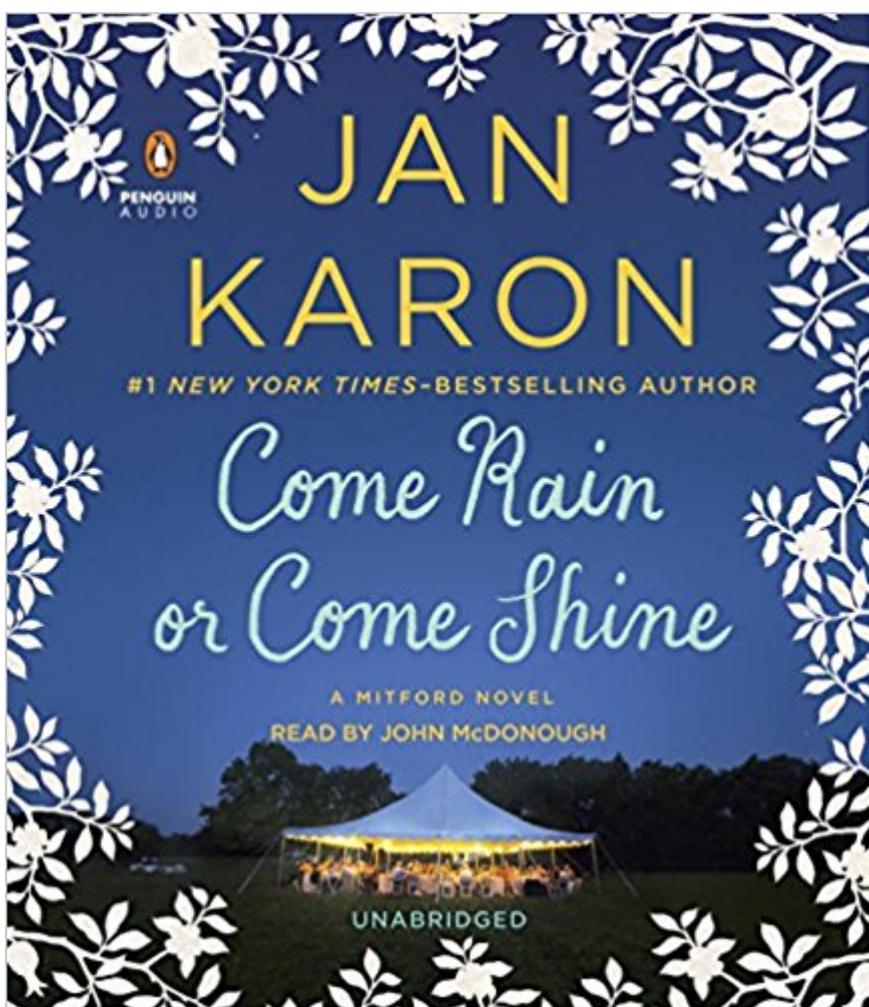


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# Come Rain Or Come Shine (Mitford)



## Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author Jan Karon returns with the story readers have been waiting for. Over the course of ten Mitford novels, fans have kept a special place in their hearts for Dooley Kavanagh, first seen in *At Home in Mitford* as a barefoot, freckle-faced boy in filthy overalls. Now, Father Tim Kavanagh's adopted son has graduated from vet school and opened his own animal clinic. Since money will be tight for a while, maybe he and Lace Harper, his once and future soul mate, should keep their wedding simple. So the plan is to eliminate the cost of catering and do potluck. Ought to be fun. An old friend offers to bring his well-known country band. Gratis. And once mucked out, the barn works as a perfect venue for seating family and friends. Piece of cake, right? In *Come Rain or Come Shine*, Jan Karon delivers the wedding that millions of Mitford fans have waited for. It's a June day in the mountains, with more than a few creatures great and small, and you're invited because you're family. By the way, it's a pretty casual affair, so come as you are and remember to bring a tissue or two. After all, what's a good wedding without a good cry? From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"There is nothing like a simple country wedding to bring out the best in people....Loyal readers who have eagerly awaited the events Karon so charmingly offers in the latest addition to her beloved Mitford series will not be disappointed." Booklist

"Another

delightful novel. Readers will laugh and cry as they share the couple's big day and the unexpected events that make it especially memorable. Familiar characters, lots of love, some humor, and a few surprises make this essential for all Mitford fans.

•Library Journal

“The latest entry in Karon’s Mitford series continues with all the beloved characters, down-home charm, and deep faith in God that are the hallmarks so beloved of fans.”

•Kirkus Reviews --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Jan Karon is the author of the bestselling series of ten Mitford novels featuring Episcopal priest Father Timothy Kavanagh and the fictional village of Mitford, the most recent of which, *Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good*, has spent more than two months on the New York Times bestseller list. She is also the author of thirteen other books, including two Father Tim novels, a cookbook, and several books for children. Karon lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.

I am an avid reader of Ms. Karon’s novels. As a matter of fact, in the past six months I have read and re-read the entire series at least 4 times while waiting not so patiently for the release of *Come Rain or Come Shine*. There is a reason for this. I have had a very stressful year and I find visits to Mitford very relaxing. Every character in this series is complete; there isn’t a one-dimensional body in the bunch. Even the nodding acquaintances have a unique and full place in Ms. Karon’s stories. These books make the perfect escape. I love them dearly. Reading these novels makes me feel like I’m going home. But, her writing is also a joy to read. Her descriptions are unique and folksy, and fit perfectly with each scene and character. She weaves minor story lines through the major plot so well that, like a braided rope, the main story line is stronger, better, because it is the sum of all its parts. Which leads me to wonder, did Ms. Karon really write *Come Rain or Come Shine*? Although I loved attending the wedding, from the very first page I could not shake the feeling that this was not typical Jan Karon writing. Perhaps it is the transition from Father Tim to Lace and Dooley as the main characters, changing the voice of the narrative, that bothered me. It just seemed to me that the story was superficial, the characters flat; this book seems to skim the surface of the characters’ emotions. For example in the previous books, the story of Pauline’s apology would have been much more important, given more room to breathe, more of a lead up. Here, it seemed weak and watered down. It wasn’t given enough space for the reader to really connect, to feel Pauline’s struggle, or Sammy’s struggle. A number of stories hinted at here were nothing more than a

tease. In the earlier books, the subplots would have been fully realized, satisfying. Here, I was left wanting more. And Lace. There is little remnant there of the girl she used to be. I was waiting for an outburst of Creek-speak from her, something to let us know that she is still Lace. Or some other connection to her past life. Although her history is talked about, it is only that, talked about. There is little evidence of the Lace that we love. Yes, she has grown into a wonderful woman, and she *“talks”* a lot about her change and growth, but we would have *“seen”* more of this if it had been written as the earlier novels were. I know that because of time *“we are all getting older”* *“the story needs to be passed to Dooley and Lace. But I feel cheated. There are 8 years unaccounted for in this novel. Sammy’s story, Father Brad’s story, Coot’s story, Barnabas. Heartbreaking that we were not there with Father Tim at Barnabas’ passing and Barnabas gets such backhanded treatment. Father Tim’s voice was missing. He was there, inserted just enough times to perhaps convince the reader he was still there, but he and Cynthia were side stories. I know it is time for him to move on, I know it is time for Dooley and Lace to take over. But Father Tim is not dead yet! And we can’t go back now, we can only move forward. This isn’t a ‘Mitford Novel.’ It is a ‘Meadowgate Novel.’ The writing is weaker, lacking the beautiful literary devices that Ms. Karon usually wields so deftly, and the plot lacks the depth of the previous novels. I enjoyed being at the wedding, but I felt like a distant relation instead of part of the family. If you love Mitford, you will love this novel anyway. And that’s okay. It is worth the read. But it isn’t a ‘typical Jan Karon.*

Come Rain or Come Shine by Jan Karon is the book that readers have been looking forward to for a long time. Dooley Kavanaugh and Lace Harper are getting married. They have decided to get married at their new home, Meadowgate. Meadowgate is a farm in Farmer, North Carolina. They want it to be a simple wedding (no wedding is simple). The wedding date is set for June 14. Dooley and Lace decided to make it a potluck dinner reception (asking each guest to bring a dish). Until the wedding, they have plenty to keep them busy. Dooley has to finish veterinary school and graduate. They are busy fixing up the farm (the house, fences, and barn). They have purchased four cows and are awaiting the arrival of their new bull, Choo-Choo (I am not kidding). Dooley will be taking over a veterinary practice after graduation and they will be installing a new sign that reads *“Kavanaugh Animal Wellness Clinic”*. Lace is looking forward to her

new life. She is busy looking for a wedding dress (she wants to get one for \$100), making and selling her paintings (which will pay for some extras, and creating a wedding gift for Dooley. Father Tim and Cynthia have moved out to the farm to help out until the wedding. Lace and Dooley also have a special surprise for their parents. They have had something in the works for two years, and it is finally happening just before the wedding. Let us hope that everything goes off without a hitch. What could go wrong (rain, not enough food, surprise guests, escaping animals)? Read *Come Rain or Come Shine* to find out what happens. I was so excited when I got a copy of this book. I have read all the books in this series (and loved them). Unfortunately, this book was a disappointment. The main problem is the way it was written. It is written from the perspective of the different characters (not just one as in first person). It jumps around and it can be very confusing. One moment it is Lace, then Father Tim, and then who knows who. You have to guess sometimes (because the author only used pronouns and not names) and it changes abruptly (you had to guess based on what the person was saying). This made the novel hard to read. I do not know what possessed the author to write the novel in this format. I wish it had been written differently so *Come Rain or Come Shine* could have been more enjoyable to read. I give *Come Rain or Come Shine* 3.75 out of 5 stars. I received a complimentary copy of *Come Rain or Come Shine* from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

It took some time for someone who hasn't read all of the Mitford series to catch up to all the characters. Annoying trait changing voice several in every chapter. Sometimes I would start out thinking it was one character and it would be someone else. I didn't remember this from the other books I read.

As most of the rest of the reviewers have said, a total disappointment. Very hard to follow. Paragraphs start with "She" or "He" and we don't know who you're talking about. Jan Karon has been totally absorbed in all the other Mitford books. Like visiting old friends. Ms. Karon also said that the book "Somewhere Safe" was definitely the last in the series, so where did this come from? And not even a year later?

Jan Karon's stories are always good. The story of Lace and Dooley is romantic and the characters are genuinely fun. This tale is particularly nice, because there is a wedding, a new son, family galore, a new dog and a big bull, who almost steals the nuptials. Mitford equals happy times.

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