



Old Dogs and Children

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Bright Birdsong, widow and mother of prominent politicians, relives the challenges and choices, frustrations and joys, of small-town life in the South. A masterpiece of old-fashioned storytelling that vividly evokes one woman's remarkable life and her struggle to make peace with the past. Reading tour.

Old Dogs and Children Details

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Author : Robert Inman

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From Reader Review Old Dogs and Children for online ebook

Susan says

Treat yourself! This engrossing narrative of the life of Bright Bascombe Birdsong entertains, infuriates, and compels. Bright is 70 at the start of the story and is looking forward to a visit from her daughter and family. In one short weekend she faces conflict with her daughter, a growing appreciation for her son-in-law, spending time with grandson Jimbo, wins %50,000 and deals with racial conflict in her small Southern home town with all its inherent inter-relationships. She is a wise woman whose parental influences color her decisions but she learns the hard way they aren't always reliable.

Along the way we visit most of the highlights of American history for the first 70 years of the 20th century. Unfortunately in an effort to cover all this history the story becomes inordinately long and bogs down in the beginning of the second half. Most long books can usually shave off 50 to 100 pages and not lose any of the quality of the book. This holds true for Old Dogs and Children.

Jane says

This took me a while to finish - a bit too much of a saga for my taste.

Jamie says

If you like simple Southern literature with lots of quirky characters and hidden secrets in a small town, this is a book for you. The plot is a little slow and the main character takes a while to develop but I finished it quickly and enjoyed it overall.

Mary Baker says

I loved this book!! I have read it twice--once when I first bought it and again to discuss with my book club, who all liked it too. Robert Inman tells a fascinating story that has lots of twists and turns in it. And his characters are believable too.

Janet says

The old dog is the most minor character. The children a little more than minor. The picture on the cover says more about the story than the title. Bright Birdsong, the daughter of the a lumber mill owner and the leading employer in a small southern town who is the wife of a congressman and the mother of the governor, is ready to rest on her laurels and let the life of the town move on without her. When her son and daughter return to her with their needs and her old cronies come demanding her influence, she struggles to keep her backstage role, but eventually succumbs to the role given her at birth - that of the voice of reason and arbitration. Sweet, gentle, fun read.

Maryann says

Funny and loved this book.

Peggy Graham says

Great little book that takes on the role of women and tracks the civil rights movement. I loved the voice of Bright.

Lindahobbs64 Hobbs says

This is one of those books that takes a place for itself in your heart. I find myself recommending it to friends even years after having read it, when they ask what my favorite books are. It is one of the few books I hold on to. The reader is so drawn into the story that it becomes a genuine experience. This is a book with depth, heart and humor. Most importantly, it makes us cherish our own passing days with a little more appreciation for the beauty and value in everyday things, be they old dogs, children or the myriad details that make a life. I applaud the author, Robert Inman for this enchanting gem.

Jennifer says

This was a very good southern novel. It is the story of one girls/woman's life growing up in the South during civil rights movements and the world wars. I thought the characters were well thought out and the author shows the dilemma of making choices that affect not only yourself, but also those you love. Life's triumphs and disappointments and what life is really about. It is a very good read. I must also clarify that this book has some mature content.

Geni says

Pleasant story. Southern lit. (Autographed copy.)

Diane says

One of the best books I've read in a long time. I look forward to reading more of Inman's works as I have enjoyed public channel on Bookmark discussing with him other books.
Old dogs and children and watermelon wine.

NanC says

Strong, generous southerner Bright Birdsong tells the story of her life - that includes her involvement with black friends and with hometown politicians during the Civil Rights era

Marie Conrad says

Gave up on this one. Rambles. Depressing. Next!

Kim Hildreth gnoinski says

A solid 3.5 stars. The book rambled on at times, but I was definitely interested in what happened to the main characters. The old dogs and children are literally and figuratively in each character. How the characters relate to their childhoods, their own children and parents is the overwhelming theme of the book. Entertaining.

Jamie says

3.5 stars. Rambles a bit at times but still good Southern fiction and memorable characters.
