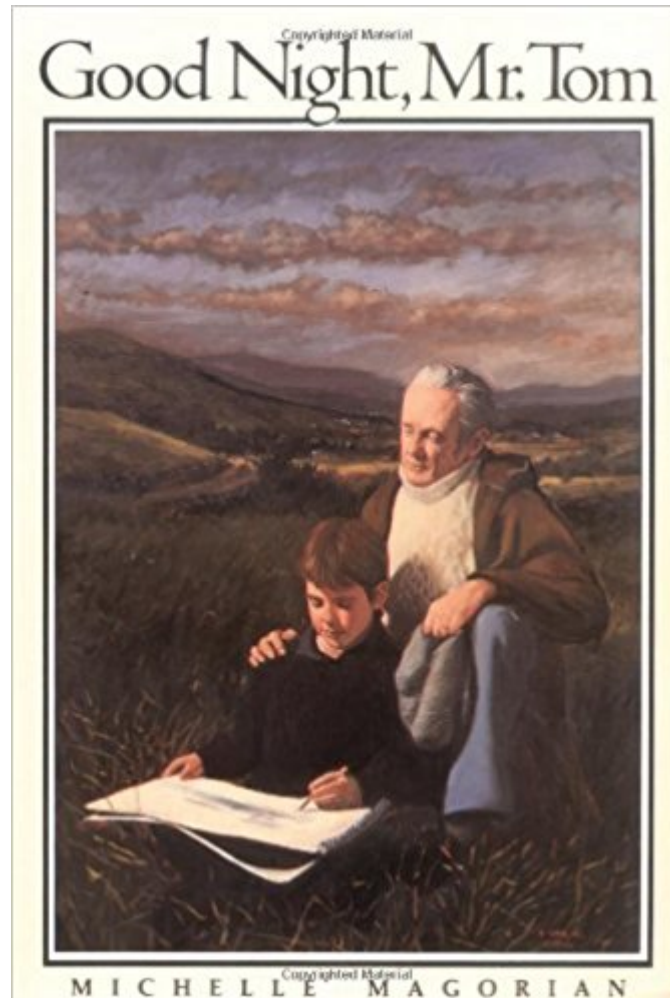




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Good Night, Mr. Tom



Synopsis

Winner of the 1982 IRA Children's Book Award London is poised on the brink of World War II. Timid, scrawny Willie Beech--the abused child of a single mother--is evacuated to the English countryside. At first, he is terrified of everything, of the country sounds and sights, even of Mr. Tom, the gruff, kindly old man who has taken him in. But gradually Willie forgets the hate and despair of his past. He learns to love a world he never knew existed, a world of friendship and affection in which harsh words and daily beatings have no place. Then a telegram comes. Willie must return to his mother in London. When weeks pass by with no word from Willie, Mr. Tom sets out for London to look for the young boy he has come to love as a son.

A small, timid refugee from wartime London; and from a sadistic mother; and a lonely villager who has reluctantly accepted the child form a bond of love and trust that is deeply touching. Michelle Magorian has created a vivid cast for an English story with universal and timeless appeal.

Zena Sutherland, IRA Children's Book Award Chair.

An engrossing, vividly detailed novel.

BL. Winner, 1982 International Reading Association Children's Book Award Notable Children's Books of 1982 (ALA) 1982 Best Books for Young Adults (ALA) 1983 Fanfare Honor List (The Horn Book) 1982 Young Adult Editors' Choices (BL) 1983 Teachers' Choices (NCTE) Notable 1982 Children's Trade Books in Social Studies (NCSS/CBC) 1988 Choices (Association of Booksellers for Children) Children's Books of 1982 (Library of Congress)

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Customer Reviews

"An engrossing and poignant story, with much sunlight to balance the darkness." -- "The New

Yorker""Powerful."-- "The Read-Aloud Handbook"by Jim Trelease

Michelle Magorian was born in Portsmouth, England, and grew up in such diverse places as Perth, Australia, and Singapore. She now makes her home in London. An actress, dancer, and writer by profession, Ms. Magorian has worked with numerous touring and repertory companies, and spent two years training as a mime at Marcel Marceau's world-renowned L'Ecole Internationale de Mime in Paris, France. An absorbing interest in the history and nature of children's books led her to try her hand at writing for younger readers. *Good Night, Mr. Tom* -- Which is her first book -- grew out of a short story she had written about the meeting of the two main characters. As Ms. Magorian explains, "I had to know what happened -- so I wrote the book." Her other writing credits include a television play and poetry.

I love this emotional and beautiful story about the slowly developing friendship/love between the two lonely and abandoned people, widowed Tom Oakley and deprived nine-year-old Willie. A very well-written story about the many ways we may support one another if we have the right positive attitude to our fellow human beings - AND if we dare take the first giant step. I saw the film years ago on Danish television and when my English class last year picked the topic "Great Britain during World War Two" I instantly remembered the film. I ordered the book and used passages in my class, and the children (14 to 17 years of age) loved it. The book is easily read, and apart from being a beautiful and emotional story, it gives a close and genuine impression of what it was like to live in that anxious time of world history. I can recommend the book and the film for children - of course in Britain, who want to learn about an exciting and tragic period of their own country - but also for children (and their teachers) in other countries who want to learn English in an interesting and relevant way.

Just finished reading the book and needed to see the film again, having watched it a good few years ago. Obviously a lot was left out that was in the book and sometimes it seemed a bit disjointed but John Thaw can do no wrong in my eyes and he really made the film. There was a real feel of the time, from the clothing to the housing and vehicles in use. A bittersweet story. Watch the film and then find a copy of the book. You won't regret it.

Highly enjoyable book, in good condition. Received quite promptly. Will is a very shy, abused child, but begins to change almost immediately under the caring villagers. He's been told stories about

evacuees being "used" by the country people. You'll love Tom, too.

"Goodnight Mister Tom" I really love this movie. It is about a man at the beginning of World War II who has been mourning for his wife and young son who died during World War I. He is forced to take in a 9 year old boy from London since Tom lives in a small town far from London. They start sending children to small towns where they will be safe during the war. This is the best thing to happen to Tom for many years. He just has to accept having another child to care for. Then he wouldn't take anything for having young Will. And Will grows to love Tom, too. Tom even fights to save Will from a children's home where a psychiatrist wants to send him. Great movie for families and anyone who loves family films.

This is the most heart warming movie. Thaw is brilliant (as always) in the role of a grumpy, antisocial, old villager forced to accept his share of the evacuated city kids to the English countryside. But as is usually so in Thaw character themes, his coarse demeanor is just a mask.

This is a really good family movie. John Thaw is very adept in playing the role of Mister Tom. The village is lovely and the villagers are well acted by a good cast. The rapport that develops between the older man and the boy is so touching and you can sense that all will end well for both characters. This movie is a real tearjerker but at the conclusion, you will feel very satisfied with the outcome.

Touching, important, and very well written. During WWII, children are sent out of London to a little village fairly safe from destruction wrought by Nazi airpower. Tom, an aging, lonely farmer and unlikely candidate for parenting, takes in a traumatized, weak boy. The relationship between the two is the meat of the story, powerful enough to bring one to tears as Tom rescues the boy from suffering and the pair grow in fondness for one another. I was not enamored as much of the boy's peripheral relationships with newfound friends, with the exception of his friendship with a Jewish boy. The other friendships seemed to me like filler. Nevertheless, in my opinion the book is excellent on the whole.

I recommend this movie to anyone who wants to get a glimpse into the recovery of an abused child. A child is in a delicate position of having a care-taker/abuser for a parent. This movie captures this concept and shows how the boy William tries as hard as he can to follow the mixed messages and

outbursts from his mother. During his reprieve from abuse while living with Mr. Tom, some of his fears and conditioning from abuse come to light. It's a pity to have to see a child go through such abuses, and to see the post-trauma emerging in what should be everyday social happenstance. There is redemption for William, and I won't give it away here, but it's a happy moment. The ending is a bit anti-climactic, but still happy.

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