

# A WINTER AWAY

"My last secretary was thirty-five," old M. said gloomily, "and no more sense than a child of ten. Or else she wasn't all there. You all there?" he asked suddenly, giving Maud a searching look. "No banging your head on the table? No throwing the china at me? Hey?" Young Maud has made her escape from an overbearing stepmother and come to stay with...



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### A Winter Away

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## Reader's Opinions

A Winter Away takes us to a small English village, and introduces us to twenty-year-old Maud Ansdell, who has come to stay with her father's cousin Alice and her companion Miss Conway generally referred to as Con. The two have been sharing Combe Cottage for years, settling into a well-practised routine, they also have a spoiled dog called...

A village at oddsAlthough this is not my favourite of Fair's sextet, it is an enjoyable coming of age novel. It put me mildly in mind of Jane Austen's Emma set in the nineteen fifties. Her characters are quirky rather than likeable, but I enjoyed watching them rub along together. Most village novels create a "happy" family, Fair takes...