



Winspeares are well-bred though not well-heeled, but optimistic and past-masters at making the best of things. Only average in looks, height and achievement, together they survive and flourish in a changing world.

Polly, the narrator, born in 1972, takes us back to November 1945, when the 12th baronet, determined not to lose Winspeare Hall, opens its doors to near and distant kin. Orphaned at the age of seven, Polly is mopped up into the family and records their lives and love-lives, their care of Cousin Georgie, who, 'isn't all there', and their involvement in local events, the troubles in Northern Ireland, the Falklands and First Gulf Wars and National Elections. High spots in her life are school holidays when she and her young kinsman, Chad, are inseparable, a partnership that takes them into adult life.

About the author

Pamela worked for anyone who'd have her before finding fun and immense pleasure in teaching.

She then wrote short stories, features and slice-of-life articles for magazines and newspapers ranging from *Woman's Weekly* to *The Times* Educational Supplement, *Your Cat* to *Christian Woman* and *Yachting Monthly*, to *The Sunday Telegraph* and *The Telegraph Magazine*. Among her prize-winning stories *She can't take them* with her was broadcast on Radio Oxford.

She won poetry prizes, had poems published in *The Lady* and *Wild About Animals*.

Reviews

3* "... charming novel... An endearing read" (*The Lady*, 18 Sep 2015)

What fun! I wish I were a member of that family.

This is the charming story of the Winspeare family who own Winspeare Hall. Polly, a young orphaned family member narrates the story. Set against various important events such as the Falklands War and later the Gulf wars the story also concerns itself with everyday family matters and the struggle to keep Winspeare Hall running. Polly is a wonderful character – both naive and wise and we follow her as she grows into womanhood and falls in love. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It was very well written with many fascinating characters and an interesting storyline. I look forward to reading more by the author, Pamela Howarth. This is a must read for anyone who enjoys family sagas. Lovers of *Upstairs Downstairs* and *Downton Abbey* as well as *The Forsyte Saga* will lap it up as I did. – Janette Silverman

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