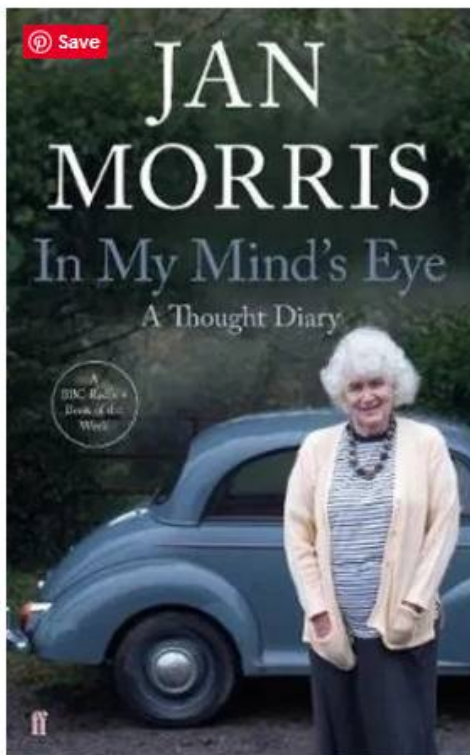


February 2020



Jan Morris' memoir, *In My Mind's Eye* was published in 2018 as a thought diary. Over 188 days, Jan wrote a daily vignette. The entries vary from short story to poetry, past to present, lament to celebration. They carry a conversational style where the author appears to be speaking directly to you 'dear reader', occasionally signing off with 'see you tomorrow'.

Notably, this memoir begins as the author enters her tenth decade. It is not only the rich and varied life experiences that Jan Morris brings to the page. Her writing displays elegance, curiosity, playfulness, reflection and humour. It also gives us insight into the inner world of a ninety-something year-old which is not something we often have the opportunity to read.

Jan Morris is a Welsh writer who has received numerous awards for her contributions to literature. She is most well-known as a writer of travel, history and memoir. She published under her birth name, James, until 1972, when she had sex reassignment after transitioning from male to female.

Across the 188 days of this thought diary, Jan writes of her daily life in the top-left hand corner of Wales where she lives with her love, Elizabeth. The entries also draw upon her former careers as a soldier in Britain's best cavalry regiment and as a journalist and foreign correspondent. Morris became renowned as the journalist who accompanied Hillary and Tensing in their ascent of Everest in 1953 and broke the story of their success.

Our group was divided in their responses to this book. Some thoroughly enjoyed her daily thoughts "on everything from the stupidity of sheep and the intelligence of her (sadly deceased) cat, to marmalade and the importance of kindness". However, others lost interest finding it "pleasant but lacking weight". All agreed that the author's broader life was immensely interesting and her emphasis on kindness a welcome theme.

Ratings: Dianne, Claudia, Gail, Janet, Margie, Nicola, Pauline and Viv 3, Kim, Karin, Jenny and Lynda 2.5 and Sandy 3.5.

Our next meeting will be 13/04/20 at 6:30PM at [Preece House, 50 Nerang St Bischof Pioneer Park, Nerang \(next to 54 Nerang St. shops\)](#) to discuss In [The Lucky Galah](#) by Tracey Sorensen.

Hope to see you all there and happy reading!

March 2020

Damascus by Christos Tsiolkas, 4

Stasiland by Anna Funder, 4

How to Live by Sarah Bakewell, 3

When I am playing with my cat, how do I know she is not playing with me... by Saul Framton, 3.5

Do nothing – service the attention economy... by Jenny O'Dell 4.5 Trick Mirror by Jia Tolentino 3.5

A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles, 4

The Rules of Backyard Cricket by Jock Serong, 3

My Name is Lucy Barton by Elizabeth Strout 4

Anything is Possible by Elizabeth Strout 4

Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout 4

Olive Again by Elizabeth Strout 3.5 and 4

Mothering Sunday by Graham Swift 3

Our Mutual Friend by Charles Dickens, 4

Amnesty by Aravind Adiga, 3

By the Sea by Abdulrazak Gurnah, 3.5

The Professor of Poetry by Grace McCleen, 3

The Little Princess by Conor Grennan, 3

Unquiet by Linn Ullmann, 3

Not a diet book By James Smith, 4

Fleishman is in trouble by Taffy Brodesser-Akner, 3