



## **The Iron Facade**

*Catherine Cookson*

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## **The Iron Facade** Catherine Cookson

An intense emotional conflict plunges successful novelist Prudence Dudley into a near collapse and she goes to recuperate in a cottage in the Lake District. There she meets hostile and arrogant Davie McVeigh and gets drawn into his turbulent past, discovering that it was as unhappy as her own.

## **The Iron Facade Details**

Date :

ISBN : 9780552149266

Author : Catherine Cookson

Format :

Genre : Fiction, Romance, Historical, Historical Fiction, Gothic, European Literature, British Literature

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## From Reader Review *The Iron Facade* for online ebook

### Julie Green says

**As always a good read!**

I have read many Catherine Cookson books over the years with still a few to read.  
I hope I can find them.

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### Lynn Smith says

Loved this story set in the 1960s of Prudence recovering from a breakdown after the break down of her marriage due to it being bigamous and her repressible Aunt Maggie and the dysfunctional McVeighs. First book I ordered from the school library book club.

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### Mookie says

Whoeee. I bought this at a thrift store for 25 cents expecting to swiftly re-donate it once I was done, but I am definitely going to keep it. It's a quick read, not overly original or interesting, entirely predictable, and I suppose this was Cookson's attempt to join the 70's bandwagon of 'gothic' style romances. Young woman and female acquaintance travel to a remote place, a rude man attempts to drive them away, the women unwittingly involve themselves into some mystery about the man's personal life, love story happens and they never leave. It's been done time and time again. *The Iron Facade* (ugh, what a bad title), however, includes a layer of Cookson realism and introspection to make this plot formula a bit more interesting. Granted, I read her books for her characters, not the plots.

Cookson had me HATING David McVeigh at the beginning. From the car incident to the drunken rhyme sung into the night. Ugh. I felt as hurt as Prudence did. But by revealing the theme of this book, she had me loving him. Fear. This was a man crippled by fear and covered up by an entirely different guise (i.e. the Iron Facade). She was also a woman bound by fears (via her lifelong depression, multiple abandonment's and the shock of her husband's secret) and therefore able to deal with him as no one can. Cookson dissected the concept of fear so uniquely in this book. She separates anxious fears (like Prudence's fear of people) to elemental fears that David was suffering with. David was a weak man, and the fact that Cookson could write this in a way where he was somehow more stronger because of it, shows her skill. She's not writing an ideal romantic figure for Prudence, she's writing a sympathetic partner who can read her on a uniquely intimate level. That scene in the rain and then later in the cottage, the emotional tension was so amazing.

I think Cookson slipped much of her real feelings into this book - you can understand the motivations of her other books in a way. Such as *Fifteen Streets*, when Prudence tells David how she envies the poverty-stricken people of Eastbourne because they had strong family ties and happy moments that she lacked in her own social strata. Cookson is always so good at writing about the small happiness's (amid big brutalities) existing in the working classes.

I loved the little poem she included- that David was trying to teach to Frannie.

Promise to look at a leaf on a tree,  
Promise me, promise me.  
Promise to stand and look out to the sea,  
Promise me, promise me.  
And at noon on the day look up to the sky,  
And make it a habit. Try, Try.

But if you haven't a tree, or the sea, or sight,  
What will you promise me?  
To reach inside and find the spark  
That started the tree, gave sight, and the sea, and  
so say with me:  
Buck up and be a rabbit.

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### **Redfox5 says**

I've tried reading Catherine Cookson a bunch of times but always given up. I've no idea why because this is just my sort of book. Although it was pretty easy to guess from the first time the characters interacted that they would be some sort of love story between Pru and Davie. I really liked how the story all came together and we were given the McVeigh's background in bits and peices. The only thing I didn't like is the ending. I expected love between Pru and Davie but not a marriage proposal. They've only known each other 3 months! And for aunt Maggie and her house keeper just being ready to uproot themselves like that. But apart from that it was a really good read and am looking forward to the other cookson I've got on my tbr pile.

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### **Lili says**

I read all of Catherine Cookson's books some years ago and enjoyed them immensely. I recently re-read all of them and find that on a second look I found them all so very predictable, and was rather disappointed. However I'm sure that it is my tastes that have changed not the calibre of her story telling.

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### **Susanna Luomansuu says**

Köykäiseksi jäi. Tarina pinnallinen ja epäuskottava.

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### **Barbra says**

Back Cover Blurb:

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## **Gina Dickerson says**

I really enjoyed this tale. I first stumbled across it when I was a teenager and still re-read the old copy now. There is a lot of angst and tension but I think it works well.

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## **Yazlina Saduri says**

It's been so long since I last read a sweet love novel ; what more one written by someone born more than 70 years before me. Indeed, I've always been a fan of peoples in the early 1990s. I imagine that time as a wonderful time, so much love, vast lands free of concrete, fresh air everywhere, thinking minds yet the least conflicts. The reality is probably 98% less than how I fancy it, then again, I don't care. It's the way I wish it to be at least. And it's written by one born more than 70 years before me.

Cookson wrote the iron facade so simply yet the story is drenched with complication. The main character Prudence Dudley is a woman of beauty, brains and a successful career as a novelist. She survived unhappy childhood with plenty of complicated, probably conflicting feelings for her parents who have been unfaithful to each other. Her marriage to Ian, a man she thought will bring her happiness and her sad life sunshine, failed too, just like the marriage of her parents.

In the company of her always protective Aunt Maggie, she flees to a rented cottage in the far off Lake District where she met David McVeigh. He happens to be the owner of the soothing albeit old cottage at the Lowtherbeck estate that Pru and Aunt Maggie rent for 3 months. So much drama took place in the few months of their stay in the estate. Most of the novel narrates all the intricacies and tension endured of the many interesting characters; .....(read the full review in my blog)

What I love best is how the love scene of Pru and Davie is only described and dramatized in the last two pages in the novel. Their love is so devoid of any kind of carnal desires and physical attraction, Instead, their embrace is fueled by emotional bond so vivid and beyond blissful. I love it.

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## **Tara Chevestt says**

This was originally published under the title "Evil At Roger's Cross." Where they came up with that title for this book is beyond me. There is no great mystery or murder. The only mystery is why do all these people hate each other?

Prudence is suffering a nervous breakdown of some sort and her and her aunt rent a cottage in the country to relax. They couldn't have chose a worse place as the owners of the cottage and the farm nearby keep popping up with all their problems. They fight amongst themselves, keep secrets, swim naked. Add a very strange sixteen year old girl that acts like a six year old and that's the mystery. So much for getting away from it all and calming Prudence's nerves.

The last quarter of the book has a bunch of skeletons popping out of people's closets, but evil? Not quite.

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**Danielle says**

This was my first Cookson book and I was expecting it to be cheesy, sappy and overly simple. It wasn't any of those and I loved it.

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**Shirley Revill says**

I read this book some time ago and I really enjoyed the storyline. Recommended.

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**Maggie says**

Pru has been tossed about in life. Her Aunt Maggie had taken her in and they are on their way for a holiday in the Lake District. They have taken a 3 month lease on a lakeside cottage, a lovely place until they become involved with the goings on at the big house. Pru senses a mystery and an idea for her next book. She has come here to get her life back and in doing so has also helped her landlord get his life back. This was an okay story, I enjoyed it but definitely not her best work.

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