



Dr Finlay's Casebook

A.J. Cronin

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Dr Finlay's Casebook is a delightful collection of episodic stories of Dr Finlay and his life in the fictional Scottish village of Tannochbrae during the inter-war years and based on A.J. Cronin's own experiences as a doctor. The BBC went on to dramatised these stories on both television and radio during the 1960s and 1970s, with the television adaptation drawing weekly audiences of 12 million viewers. The characters were revived by ITV from 1993-96 and were adapted again for BBC radio in 2001 and 2002. This omnibus edition of *Doctor Finlay of Tannochbrae* and *Adventures of a Black Bag* revives Cronin's masterpiece for a contemporary audience – stories which are tragic, funny and wry and which are a celebration of Cronin's tremendous talent.

Dr Finlay's Casebook Details

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Author : A.J. Cronin

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Marlowe says

An enjoyable brace of books chronicling events in the life of Dr Finlay of Tannochbrae: veering from the pompously preachy to the genuinely moving and embracing moral issues that were probably more relevant then than they are now, it's easy to see how easy it was to translate the stories to radio and television.

Joan says

Second hand paperback from a Scottish Library.

This was a delight to read, although I kept hearing Bill Simpson's and Andrew Cruikshank's voices in my head. It took me back to my childhood and watching the series on Sunday nights. Yes the writing is old-fashioned, and yes some of the words are archaic now, but this is a delightful account of life in a small town. It has more depth in a way than Herriot's stories (which are more personal accounts) and Finlay comes across as a wonderful character.

Nirbhay Shah says

Excellent .

Simple Nd full of life. A J Cronin is my favourite author for his simplicity and positively oriented stories. A must read for all esp doctors

A Enwright says

This was the ultimate old-fashioned easy read. I like the stories in the second half of the book better than the first half. Not too much to say. Predictable. You can see why this was made into a TV series twice.

David says

It Makes You Laugh, It Makes You Cry, It's Impossible To Put Down.

Many older people will remember 'Dr Finlay's Casebook' on television about a young Scottish doctor working in small town in Scotland, Tannochbrae, in pre NHS days. His boss is a crusty old practitioner, Dr Cameron, and the wily housekeeper, Janet, keeps them functioning. Essential viewing then it was based on the tales of AJ Cronin, himself a qualified doctor and an accomplished author. A thoroughly readable book,

each chapter is a separate story woven together to mould an account of general practice in a small Scottish town. Unfortunately few have heard of him these days but further essential reads would be 'The Stars Look Down' and 'The Citadel'. The latter book is said to have inspired Anenurin Bevan to set up the National Health Service in 1948.

Andrew Corbett says

I 'read' an audiobook of this book. It was split into 2 parts.

The first part, set in the town of Levensford, had each chapter a separate short story. The stories were fascinating, enjoyable, and often poignant.

The second part was set in the town of Tannoch Brae, was about the same characters, but otherwise gave no recognition to the previous part. The stories were not nearly so good, and often the title character's reputation seemed exaggerated and the tales cheesy. Very disappointing after the first part of the book.

Bry says

All moral compasses point to Finlay! He's the kind of upstart young man who is featured, daily, in the newspaper for saving a kitten while simultaneously performing an emergency tracheotomy on a small child. He's the angelic boy that makes you scour your mind for even one incident where your kindness could be said to parallel his, inevitably leaving you disappointed and guilty as you make plans to donate all of your worldly possessions to charity.

The "stories" are only a few pages long, and feature Finlay in the midst of some moral dilemma, though -- don't worry! -- he invariably arrives at a witty and righteous solution. Whenever the dilemma results from Finlay's own failings, the blame is miraculously transferred to a one-dimensional secondary character who is appropriately punished, while Finlay is celebrated as a hero.

The secondary characters are more developed in the latter half of the book (*Adventures of a Black Bag*), as if the author had grown tired of writing about inscrutable Finlay. Unfortunately, I had also grown tired of reading about him, and set down the book without finishing.

I may sound like I really disliked *Dr. Finlay's Casebook*, but I guess that's not true. Admittedly, there were moments when I was excited to return home to read more of Finlay's hijinks. However, I found his successes quite tedious to read; I was pleased with the rare glimpses of Finlay's misfortune, just because they broke up the monotony. I would recommend splitting up your reading so you don't sick of the book as quickly as I did!

Gareth Evans says

There is so much wrong with these stories. Overly sentimental, inconsistent (Finlay's loves seems to completely change their personalities and appendicitis is known about and then unknown) and sexism. Nevertheless, Cronin is an excellent storyteller and this set of connected short stories is an enjoyable, if rather light, read.

