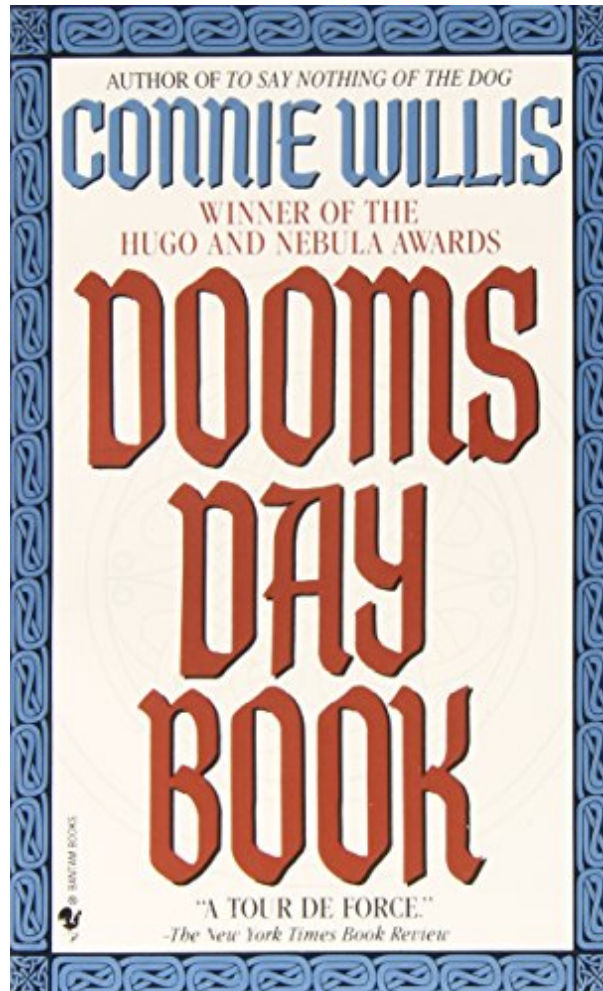
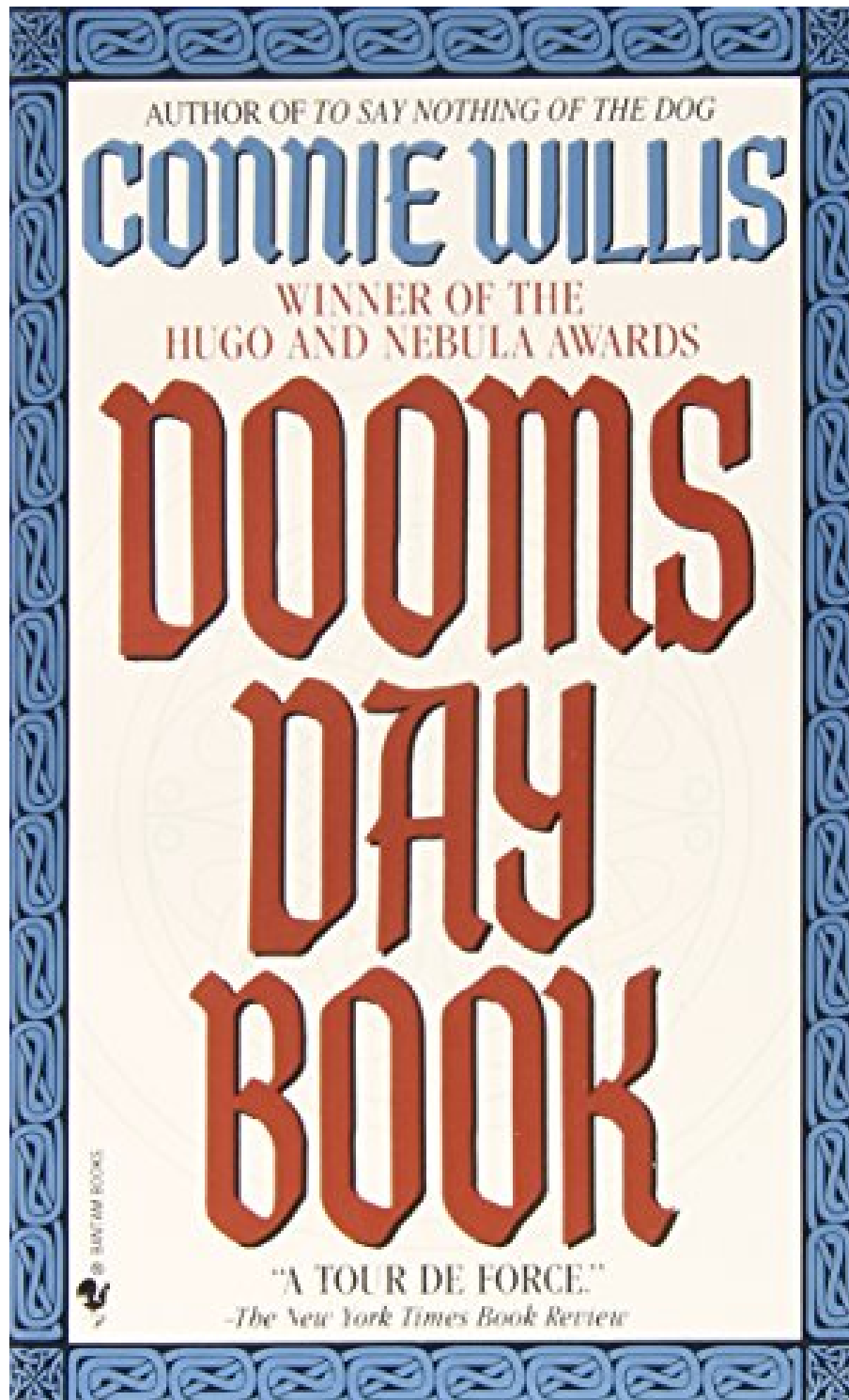


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Amazon.com Review

Connie Willis labored five years on this story of a history student in 2048 who is transported to an English village in the 14th century. The student arrives mistakenly on the eve of the onset of the Black Plague. Her dealings with a family of "contemps" in 1348 and with her historian cohorts lead to complications as the book unfolds into a surprisingly dark, deep conclusion. The book, which won Hugo and Nebula Awards, draws upon Willis' understanding of the universalities of human nature to explore the ageless issues of evil, suffering and the indomitable will of the human spirit.

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For Kivrin, preparing an on-site study of one of the deadliest eras in humanity's history was as simple as receiving inoculations against the diseases of the fourteenth century and inventing an alibi for a woman traveling alone. For her instructors in the twenty-first century, it meant painstaking calculations and careful monitoring of the rendezvous location where Kivrin would be received.

But a crisis strangely linking past and future strands Kivrin in a bygone age as her fellows try desperately to rescue her. In a time of superstition and fear, Kivrin -- barely of age herself -- finds she has become an unlikely angel of hope during one of history's darkest hours.

Five years in the writing by one of science fiction's most honored authors, *Doomsday Book* is a storytelling triumph. Connie Willis draws upon her understanding of the universalities of human nature to explore the ageless issues of evil, suffering and the indomitable will of the human spirit.

- Sales Rank: #75980 in Books
- Brand: Spectra
- Published on: 1993-08-01
- Released on: 1993-08-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.90" h x 1.30" w x 4.10" l, .60 pounds
- Binding: Mass Market Paperback
- 592 pages

Features

- Great product!

Amazon.com Review

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Most helpful customer reviews

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

faith in humanity

By Kindle Customer

It's 2045, and historians are exploring the past with a new methodology: time travel. Oxford tutor Mr. Dunworthy is worrying about his student Kivrin, who is about to go back to 1320 Oxfordshire despite his grave misgivings about the dangers she might encounter. They do the "drop," but something goes wrong. Is Kivrin really in 1320? Can she find the rendez-vous spot in time to go back to 2045? Can Mr. Dunworthy overcome political and bureaucratic obstacles in time to bring her home? Meanwhile, both of them find themselves in the middle of community crises where outside help is sought but never comes through and people have to count on one another.

Maybe I'm just hearing what I need to hear right now, but this book was about having faith in our fellow human beings. And about the importance of living up to the faith others put in us. About caring and community and refusing to give up on one another.

I loved the details in this story, especially the bells that tie together the past and the present/future and communicate the rhythms, peaks, and valleys of human experience. I also related to the main characters. The middle portion of the story dragged quite a bit as Kivrin and Mr. Dunworthy both struggle to solve their respective problems and are repeatedly thwarted, but I felt thoroughly rewarded for my patience in the end.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

An emotional blend of historical fiction and time travel

By Solipso

The reader is alternated between a near-future Great Britain and Great Britain in the 1300s. Kivrin, a young historian, travels back in time to observe the past. She is well prepared: Inoculated against diseases of the time and dressed appropriately with a suitable identity. And she has an implanted translator and a recorder.

But..., "Something is wrong."

I presume Connie Willis is more a novelist than a historian. For example, Joan of Arc was born in the fifteenth century, not the fourteenth. Also, the bandits that supposedly robbed Kivrin should have left hoof prints, or at least footprints--an absence that middle-agers would spot. Nevertheless, be warned! If you are incapable of breezing through such quibbles, you will miss out on a superb piece of writing.

Be advised too: Aside from a brief scuffle with black rats, this 578-page paperback has no violence. There is blood and there are deaths, but there are no stabbings, shootings, etc. Characters are endearing, dialog is plentiful, and the prose is as lively as should be expected for this kind of story. But most of the narration is domestic and mundane. So some of you may need to cinch up a notch in your reading saddle. If you can endure the ride, however, you will be rewarded. The story's peak moments are powerfully fulfilling.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Another High-Quality Read from Connie Willis

By Amazon Customer

I love Connie's books. The Domesday book has a complex interweaving of similar tales from the past and the future. I felt an almost real-life empathy toward the characters. Her dotty Britishers who come unconsciously barging their way into the plot single-mindedly going about their affairs sowing constant chaos for the protagonists while helping to advance the plot are hilariously fun to read about.

Mr. Dunworthy has misgivings about his protege' Kivrin's traveling back to the 1300's but she finds a way to go and right when she leaves a major epidemic hits the area in spite of all the high level medical care available. He becomes obsessed with getting Kivrin back knowing that she is doomed to remain in that era for the rest of her life if it does not take extraordinary measures fighting through bureaucracy, his own illness and the slew of interesting characters noted above.

Her depiction of life 700 years ago and the way her forthright and plucky time-travelling character Kivrin warms to her medieval host and her family are fascinating. Storytelling is about the journey and Kivrin journeys from an obsessed academic to becoming completely invested in the very real people she encounters - people who have all the same foibles and flaws and nobility that we see in our contemporary fellows.

The pace is slow and sometimes I was wondering if anything will end up happening but the story moves along to a somewhat anticlimactic yet satisfying ending.

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