

Midsummer Night in the Workhouse



I can remember in detail being hit by my first story one January morning in 1958. So begins literary legend Diana Athill in the preface to *Midsummer Night in the Workhouse*, a long-overdue collection of her short fiction, originally published in the 1950s to the 1970s. In unsentimental though often touching prose, Athill's young women anticipate, enjoy, or just miss out on brief sexual encounters with men met on trains, at parties just about anywhere they can. A cheating wife, back with her boring husband, is wracked with agonizing love for the unavailable partner of her brief fling; a writer seeks inspiration at a writers retreat whilst avoiding the group seducers invitation; a wifes party flirtations propel her possessive husband into another womans bed; two fun-loving women face a sinister sexual assault during a Greek holiday; a teenager experiences enraptured detachment during her first kiss. Beautifully written, perceptive, touching, and funny, *Midsummer Night in the Workhouse* is Diana Athill at her best.

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society also offers a £995 fee option at 1.05%. James Farrow, senior mortgage manager at Yorkshire Building Society,
said: "We are very pleased to offer borrowers the lowest mortgage rate ever available. "The cost of funding has fallen in
recent weeks and as a financially strong building society with no external shareholders to satisfy we have the ability to
pass this on to borrowers." After the 2-year period the mortgage will revert to the lender's standard variable rate, which
is currently 4.74%. Rachel Springall, finance expert at Moneyfacts, said: "It's fantastic to see such low rates on offer
from Yorkshire Building Society and the choice between variable or fixed deal will appeal to different types of
borrowers. "Those looking for more flexibility over the shorter term may prefer a discounted deal, but those looking for
some security could choose the fixed rate. "In such a low interest rate environment it would be ideal for borrowers to
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