



Godchildren

Nicholas Coleridge

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All the godchildren, looking back on that fateful dinner, remembered it in the same way: the vacant wooden throne at the head of the table, the huge array of wine glasses and water glasses that were always a feature of dining at any of Marcus' houses, the sense of expectation and dread that hung over them like a cloud of mustard gas.

In his magnificent island home overlooking the sea, the great tycoon Marcus Brand plays host to his six godchildren. But soon, secrets will be revealed that dramatically alter the tone of this holiday weekend, and all will have to confront a web of betrayals and lies spanning four decades...

Each from a different background, the godchildren grew up enthralled by their godfather: Charlie, fascinated by Marcus's wealth; Mary, whose life is blighted by tragedy; Jamie, feckless but utterly charming; Saffron, stunningly beautiful but unaware of her power over men; Abigail, insecure and gauche; and Stuart, who is torn between admiration and hatred for his capitalist godfather.

Godchildren is an epic tale; powerful, engrossing, and impossible to put down. With his trademark blend of wicked satire and impeccable writing, Coleridge has created gloriously jaw dropping portrait of the British upper crust.

Godchildren Details

Date : Published September 2nd 2008 by Thomas Dunne Books (first published January 1st 2002)

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Author : Nicholas Coleridge

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Joebe1 says

This book took me awhile to get through because its so epic, but it was a wonderful story about these six kids growing up under the strings of their unsavory godfather.

I liked how you see how the influence of the godfather changes the kids and the choices and consequences that impact each one.

This is definitely a book that shouldn't be rushed when reading or you might get lost.

Kit says

The first U.S. edition of Colderidge's snotty, addictively wonderful page-turning tour of the British class system.

Nini says

Great fun, and you definitely want to finish to find out what happens.

Jen says

Check out my review at [http://bookaweekwithjen.blogspot.com/...](http://bookaweekwithjen.blogspot.com/)

Jayne Charles says

If Charlie and the Chocolate Factory had been written by Jeffrey Archer, the result would probably have been very much like this book. That's not a criticism. Spanning nearly four decades, the book follows the six godchildren of a successful but morally bankrupt tycoon. I liked the way the book dipped into their lives at various stages, kept the momentum going, a mammoth juggling act given that there are six of them to keep up with. They can all be readily characterised (druggie, chancer, toff etc) but stay the right side of being caricatures.

There is a boldness about the writing, a willingness to incorporate real people (Margaret Thatcher turns up at one point, as does David Blunkett - the second book in a row that I've read with him in it, how weird is that?). Also an interesting theory about whether or not Mikhail Gorbachev likes Marmite.

I thought at some points the motivations of the characters were having to be manipulated to an extent that was positively gymnastic, just to make sure the plot stayed on track. Given the events in the story, there was no way some of the godchildren would have maintained links with their godfather, but there they were every

time there was a meet-up. In spite of this, I was gripped, and had to read the last sixty pages locked in my bedroom to prevent any interruptions! Coleridge has a really really good writing style - lively, confident, easy to follow, and I'm amazed he is not a bigger name on the literary stage.

Amanda says

I'd read it on a plane, or on a train, but would I read it for my brain? No, I would not deign.

Traci says

I give this 3.5 stars. I started off really slow, but I really became interested in where the lives of the six godchildren would go and how Marcus would eventually factor into all of them. It probably could have been trimmed down a lot, but it did read pretty quick.

Jay Howard says

This was a tricky one to rate - had to think hard about what I thought and why. Marcus Brand is a wonderfully evil, manipulative spider at the centre of the web he traps his godchildren in. There are clever twists in the story and it kept my interest to the end. The characters and locations were handled well enough they felt real to me. But I do have a few reservations.

It took me several weeks to read because my life has been so hectic, but I had no trouble remembering who was who and what they were getting up to. I started off with the same feeling I have at the start of a series - I'll give the first episode leeway while I get to know the people. Obviously the godchildren made quite an impression as I quickly felt I was getting to know them well. They also developed throughout the work, as people do over the timespan of this novel. Or did they? Thinking back, was it just that they got older, retaining a child-like awe of their godfather when they were in his presence?

I can't help wondering if anyone would really let Marcus get away with what he did. And if he was really that brilliant with his business obfuscations, why did he allow it to all fall apart at the end? At the very least, if he were to stay in character, he would have long since made arrangements that everything illegal could only be pinned on someone else.

But I did enjoy it tremendously!

Thomas Hughes says

Good book

Maya says

Super scandalous and a fun read. The fact that the main character's motivations are never explored kept this from rating higher. He's just pure evil with no redeeming qualities (kinda like the main character in Serena, which kept that book from rating higher as well).

Carol says

I've read two other books by Nicholas Coleridge, but this was my favorite. It is the story of a wealthy man who has no children of his own, but does have 6 godchildren. This is a highly readable story of his relationships with them, how the different godchildren react to his money and power, and how he influences and manipulates their lives. This is a great summer read, although I have to say, as with the previous book of his that I read "A Much Married Man," I was a bit disappointed at the end. The reader languishes in a well-told story all throughout, as it slowly reveals itself. In both books, the endings seem to negate all the nurturing the author put into telling the stories. The endings both seem abrupt and hurried, and not in the least bit satisfying. What I am giving 4 stars to is the body of the book. The theme is not new, the story of absolute power destroying absolutely, but it was so much fun to get to the end, I really can't discount it on the basis of the ending alone.

Tyra says

A great summertime book. You do have to pay attention in the beginning to get all of the godchildren and their families straight but after that it was a very entertaining read. My only comment is that there are some disturbing relationships and since the author is British, there is an awful lot of British slang. Most of them I could easily figure out...but I'm hoping that Nipples has a different meaning in England since a girl nicknamed Nipples really annoyed me.

Taskina says

Good to read while travelling, very easy reading but tempting. The finishing could have been a bit more constructive.

Lavinia says

This book is great fun, filled with people you recognise and places you know. I read it in bed with flu and it was perfect, amusing and easy.

Tania Van den Bergh says

finished 'Godchildren' by Nicholas Coleridge and really liked it. It's big book but reads like a highspeed train. I liked the way it covered four decades and was full of betrayals and wickedness. Nice style too.
