

Some Tame Gazelle

Barbara in the Bodleian: Revelations from the Pym Archives is a collection of essays by Yvonne Cocking, longtime archivist of the Barbara Pym Society and a former co-worker of Pym's, based on her years of research in the Pym archives in Oxford's Bodleian Library. It includes excerpts from Pym's diaries and notebooks plus correspondence and press clippings, and focuses on the nine novels published during Pym's lifetime – their background, development, and revision, and the reactions of friends, fans, and critics. Barbara Pym was born in Shropshire in 1913. In 1931 she entered St Hilda's College, Oxford, where she earned a degree in English Literature. After serving in the Women's Royal Naval Service during WWII she settled in London with her sister and took a job at an anthropological research institute. Her first novel, *Some Tame Gazelle*, was published in 1950, followed by *Excellent Women* in 1952, and she published four more novels between 1953 and 1961. Her seventh novel was rejected by twenty publishers who found it too old-fashioned for the 1960s, and although she continued to write she was unable to get anything published for sixteen years. In 1977 she was named twice on the *Times Literary Supplement's* list of the most underrated novelists of the century, and *Quartet in Autumn* was accepted for publication and shortlisted for the Booker Prize. Her earlier books came back into print in England and were published in the U.S., and she published two more novels before her death in 1980. 'Yvonne Cocking has a unique knowledge of the wealth of material collected in the Pym archives. This, and the fact that she knew Barbara, has given her a special insight... The voice of the writer comes through, making it, refreshingly, a personal as well as a scholarly work..It is a work of enthusiasm and affection which will give information and pleasure to all Barbara's admirers.' – Hazel Holt

Three comedies of manners set in postwar England by the New York Times–bestselling author of *Excellent Women* and “the rarest of treasures” (Anne Tyler). Often characterized as the twentieth-century literary heiress to Jane Austen, and heralded by Phillip Larkin as “the most underrated novelist of the century,” Barbara Pym explored female friendship and the quiet yearnings of British middle-class life—not the least of which, unrequited love—with sharp wit and deep compassion for her characters. No wonder Eudora Welty called her work “sheer delight” and the New York Times raved, “her entire canon is a treat.” *A Glass of Blessings: Wilmet Forsyth* is bored with her everyday routine: teatimes, local gossip, even with her husband, Rodney, a civil servant who dotes on her. But Wilmet's conventional life takes a turn when she runs into the enigmatic brother of a close friend. Piers Longridge is a mystery Wilmet is determined to solve. Driven by a fantasy of romance, the sheltered, naïve Englishwoman sets out to seduce Piers—only to discover that he isn't the man she thinks he is. *Some Tame Gazelle*: Pym's debut novel invites readers to “step into the Jane Austen–like lives of Harriet and Belinda Bede,” sisters who live together in a small English village (*The Christian Science Monitor*). Shy, sensible Belinda has been secretly in love with the married archdeacon of their church for thirty years. Meanwhile Belinda's more confident younger sister, Harriet, is herself pursued by an Italian count whose proposals of marriage are always graciously declined. But it's a new arrival in their midst who has everyone talking. For now, in this poignant novel of unrequited love, that is enough. *Jane and Prudence*: Jane Cleveland and Prudence Bates were friends at Oxford, but now lead very different lives. Jane is married to a vicar in a proper English parish with a daughter she adores. Prudence lives in London, career-minded and fiercely independent—until Jane decides she should be married. Jane has the perfect husband in mind. What follows is a delightfully trenchant story of manners, morals, family, and female bonding that redefines the social novel for a new generation.

A Washington Post Notable Nonfiction Book of The Year One of NPR Fresh Air's "Books to Close Out a Chaotic 2017" NPR's Book Concierge Guide To the Year's Great Reads “How lucky for us readers that Shapiro has been listening so perceptively for decades to the language of food.” —Maureen Corrigan, NPR Fresh Air Six “mouthwatering” (*Eater.com*) short takes on six famous women through the lens of food and cooking, probing how their attitudes toward food can offer surprising new insights into their lives, and our own. Everyone eats, and food touches on every aspect of our lives—social and cultural, personal and political. Yet most biographers pay little attention to people's attitudes toward food, as if the great and notable never bothered to think about what was on the plate in front of them. Once we ask how somebody relates to food, we find a whole world of different and provocative ways to understand her. Food stories can be as intimate and revealing as stories of love, work, or coming-of-age. Each of the six women in this entertaining group portrait was famous in her time, and most are still famous in ours; but until now, nobody has told their lives from the point of view of the kitchen and the table. *What She Ate* is a lively and unpredictable array of women; what they have in common with one another (and us) is a powerful relationship with food. They include Dorothy Wordsworth, whose food story transforms our picture of the life she shared with her famous poet brother; Rosa Lewis, the Edwardian-era Cockney caterer who cooked her way up the social ladder; Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady and rigorous protector of the worst cook in White House history; Eva Braun, Hitler's mistress, who challenges our warm associations of food, family, and table; Barbara Pym, whose witty books upend a host of stereotypes about postwar British cuisine; and Helen Gurley Brown, the editor of *Cosmopolitan*, whose commitment to “having it all” meant having almost nothing on the plate except a supersized portion of diet gelatin.

A novel of two sisters in postwar England that lets you “step into the Jane Austen–like lives of Harriet and Belinda Bede” (*The Christian Science Monitor*). Belinda and Harriet Bede live together in a small English village. Shy, sensible Belinda has been secretly in love with Henry Hoccleve—the poetry-spouting, married archdeacon of their church—for thirty years. Belinda's much more confident, forthright younger sister Harriet, meanwhile, is ardently pursued by Count Ricardo Bianco. Although she has turned down every marriageable man who proposes, Harriet still welcomes any new curate with dinner parties and flirtatious conversation. And one of the newest arrivals, the reverend Edgar Donne, has everyone talking. A warm, affectionate depiction of a postwar English village, *Some Tame Gazelle* perfectly captures the quotidian details that make up everyday life. With its vibrant supporting cast, it's also a poignant story of unrequited love.

The rituals of 19th century courtship, featuring Fanny Harcourt, 17, who is in London for the coronation of Queen Victoria. It is a time of feverish social activity and matchmaking, and the competition is intense.

The most distinctive thing about the Gamal sisters is that they are, essentially, indistinguishable. The twin spinsters spend their time trying to mask any perceptible differences they have while working hard at their tailoring business in northern Mexico. When a suitor enters the picture, one of the sisters decides that she doesn't want to live a life without romance. Suffused with the

tension between our desire for romance and our desire for independence, *One Out of Two* is a giddy comic fable by one of the giants of contemporary Latin American literature.

Violence erupts in the poor town of Milagro when one poor dirt farmer impulsively taps the main irrigation channel. Reprint.

A tale of a woman's romantic entanglements with two anthropologists—and the odd mating habits of humans—from the author of *Jane and Prudence*. Catherine Oliphant writes for women's magazines and lives comfortably with anthropologist Tom Mallow—although she's starting to wonder if they'll ever get married. Then Tom drops his bombshell: He's leaving her for a nineteen-year-old student. Though stunned by Tom's betrayal, Catherine quickly becomes fascinated by another anthropologist, Alaric Lydgate, a reclusive eccentric recently returned from Africa. As Catherine starts to weigh her options, she must figure out who she is and what she really wants. With a lively cast of characters and a witty look at the insular world of academia, this novel from the much-loved author of *Excellent Women* and other modern classics is filled with poignant, playful observations about the traits that separate us from our anthropological forebears—far fewer than we may imagine.

Barbara Pym's sense of English social life is captured in these three novels. In *Some Tame Gazelle*, for instance, the undercurrents of a vicarage garden party are no less important than an unexpected proposal of marriage.

'Could one write a book based on one's diaries over thirty years? I certainly have enough material,' wrote Barbara Pym. This book, selected from the diaries, notebooks and letters of this much loved novelist to form a continuous narrative, is indeed a unique autobiography, providing a privileged insight into a writer's mind. Philip Larkin wrote that Barbara Pym had 'a unique eye and ear for the small poignancies of everyday life'. Her autobiography amply demonstrates this, as it traces her life from exuberant times at Oxford in the thirties, through the war when, scarred by an unhappy love affair, she joined the WRNS, to the published novelist of the fifties. It also deals with the long period when her novels were out of fashion and no one would publish them, her rediscovering in 1977, and the triumphant success of her last few years. It is now possible to describe a place, situation or person as 'very Barbara Pym'. *A Very Private Eye*, at once funny and moving, shows the variety and depth of her own story.

Both middle-aged spinsters in a provincial English village, flirtatious Harriet turns down periodic proposals, while shy sister Belinda has been unable to express her longstanding love for the vicar

Barbara Pym was an incomparable chronicler of ordinary, quiet lives. With warmth, humour, precision and great vividness, she gave her best characters an independent life we recognise as totally familiar. In *A Few Green Leaves*, her last novel, her heroine is Emma Howick, anthropologist. Through her eyes Barbara Pym examines in her own ironic and individual style the quiet revolution in English village life, combining the rural settings of her earliest novels with the themes and characters of her later works. The result is a compelling portrait of a town that seems to be forgotten by time, but which is unmistakably affected by it. Romance shares the pages with death in this engaging novel that is the culmination of Barbara Pym's acclaimed writing career. 'I could go on reading her for ever' A L Rowse, *Punch* 'A vivid sense of how we live now' *New Statesman* 'Her sense of brilliant comedy is a direct inheritance from Jane Austen' *Hibernia* 'A beautifully written, very delicate comedy' *The Times Literary Supplement*

Told from Gretel Samuelson's sly and knowing perspective, *Local Girls* charts her progress as she navigates from childhood to the brink of womanhood, picking her way through the tragedies and absurdities of everyday life in a family which is rocked by divorce and disaster, bad judgement and fierce attachments. Her father has left them, her chain-smoking mother, Franny, is falling apart and refuses to learn the simple lessons of life, her perfect brother has fatal flaws, and even her best friend Jill - blonde, enviable and beautiful - is moving too fast into the unfathomable world of women.

With an introduction by Alexander McCall Smith, author of *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series. One did not drink sherry before the evening, just as one did not read a novel in the morning. In 1970s London Edwin, Norman, Letty and Marcia work in the same office and suffer the same problem –loneliness. Lovingly and with delightful humour, Barbara Pym conducts us through their day-to-day existence: their preoccupations, their irritations, their judgements, and - perhaps most keenly felt – their worries about having somehow missed out on life as post-war Britain shifted around them. Deliciously, blackly funny and full of obstinate optimism, *Quartet in Autumn* shows Barbara Pym's sensitive artistry at its most sparkling. Its world is both extraordinary and familiar, revealing the eccentricities of everyday life.

'She is the rarest of treasures; she reminds us of the heartbreaking silliness of everyday life' Anne Tyler It was odd that Harriet should always have been so fond of curates. They were so immature and always made the same kind of conversation. Now the Archdeacon was altogether different . . . ' Together yet alone, the Misses Bede occupy the central crossroads of parish life. Harriet, plump, elegant and jolly, likes nothing better than to make a fuss of new curates, secure in the knowledge that elderly Italian Count Ricardo Bianco will propose to her yet again this year. Belinda, meanwhile has harboured sober feelings of devotion towards Archdeacon Hochleve for thirty years. Then into their quiet, comfortable lives comes a famous librarian, Nathaniel Mold, and a bishop from Africa, Theodore Grote - who each take to calling on the sisters for rather more unsettling reasons.

Barbara Pym's sister Hilary teams with cookbook author Honor Wyatt to bring together this mouthwatering collection of family recipes, memories, and anecdotes drawn from Pym's diaries and letters, as well her most acclaimed novels *Straight from the Kitchen of Barbara Pym*, this winning cookbook delivers a delectable treat for readers who like their meals served with a generous helping of literary aplomb. Sharing favorite family recipes that Pym incorporated into her novels, *The Barbara Pym Cookbook* reveals how the author's life intersected with those of her memorable characters. Inside you'll find British classics such as steak and kidney pie, plum cake, sausage rolls, and toad-in-the-hole—dishes that Pym's characters would often prepare for each other. Other treats, such as moussaka and risotto, reflect Pym's fascination with Greece and Italy. Throughout, the recipes are interwoven with references to Pym's novels; *Dulcie's* musings on "love apples" from *No Fond Return of Love* accompany directions for tomatoes à la Provençale, for instance. There are glimpses of Pym's personal life, too, such as her description of kipper pâté for lunch with Philip Larkin. *The Barbara Pym Cookbook* is a must-

have for both budding cooks and Pym aficionados.

'Captures both Barbara and her writing so miraculously' JILLY COOPER Picked as a Book to Look Forward to in 2021 by the Guardian, The Times and the Observer

Caro is the wife of Dr. Alan Grimstone, a lecturer at a provincial university in a West Country town in England. She knows her circle believes that she should be doing more with her life. She is the mother of a young daughter but relieved to be able to leave the girl in the care of an au pair. Her one selfless act--reading aloud to a former missionary at a rest home--is sullied when she allows her husband to 'borrow' some of the old gentleman's papers in order to get the better of a colleague. Caro's sister is a social worker disinclined towards marriage and children, but is she happy? Despite appearances, Caro is content enough. Until she learns that that her husband Alan has a wandering eye. What is happiness? The knowledge that one is loved? Academic renown? Or is it friendship with eccentric friends and the sight of the first crocuses of spring or the Virginia creeper in autumn? Barbara Pym completed the first draft of her satirical "Academic Novel" in 1970, ten years before her death. It was first published posthumously in 1986, thanks to her friend and biographer Hazel Holt.

Some Tame GazelleA NovelOpen Road Media

Miss Morrow is content in her position as spinster companion to Miss Doggett, even if her employer and the woman's social circle regard her as a piece of furniture. Stephen Latimer, the new cleric and Miss Doggett's dashing new tenant, upsets the balance for Miss Morrow by proposing the long discounted possibility of marriage.

Barbara Pym's early novel takes us into 1950s England, as seen through the funny, engaging, yearning eyes of a restless housewife Wilmet Forsyth is bored. Bored with the everyday routine of her life. Bored with teatimes filled with local gossip. Bored with her husband, Rodney, a civil servant who dotes on her. But on her thirty-third birthday, Wilmet's conventional life takes a turn when she runs into the handsome brother of her close friend. Attractive and enigmatic, Piers Longridge is a mystery Wilmet is determined to solve. Rather than settling down, he lived in Portugal, then returned to England for a series of odd jobs. Driven by a fantasy of romance, the sheltered, naïve Englishwoman sets out to seduce Piers—only to discover that he isn't the man she thinks he is. As cozy as sharing a cup of tea with an old friend, *A Glass of Blessings* explores timeless themes of sex, marriage, religion, and friendship while exposing our flaws and foibles with wit, compassion, and a generous helping of love.

First novel in a trilogy based on Liddell's own family and experience, chronicling English life in the first half of the twentieth century.

Two literary romantic novels from the New York Times—bestselling author of *Excellent Women*. *Less Than Angels*: In a story that explores the mating habits of humans, magazine writer Catherine Oliphant lives comfortably with anthropologist Tom Mallow—until he announces he's leaving her for a nineteen-year-old student. Though stunned by the betrayal, Catherine becomes fascinated by another anthropologist: a reclusive eccentric recently returned from Africa. Now Catherine must weigh her options and decide who she is and what she really wants. *No Fond Return of Love*: The course of true love does not run smoothly in this delightful comedy of manners set in 1960s London. Jilted by her fiancé, Dulcie Mainwaring gives up on ever finding true love. Of course, that doesn't stop her from meddling in the romantic lives of others. Her friend Viola is enamored with a handsome editor, who in turn has eyes for Dulcie's young niece. Dulcie, meanwhile, for all her struggles may be falling back into love again.

As mesmerizing as a tale from the lips of Sheherazade, *Gazelle* traces the story of Elizabeth, a thirteen-year-old American girl whose adolescent passion is awakened in the exotic climate of 1950s Cairo. While her mother—whose beauty and sexual prowess both frighten and fascinate Elizabeth—moves into a hotel to pursue a string of lovers, her father, a historian, loses himself in a world of chess and toy soldiers. Elizabeth's imagination, primed by an explicit edition of *The Arabian Nights*, leads her to fantasies about her father's friend, a gentle, older man named Ramses Ragab, a perfume maker who visits their house regularly to play games of war and who opens her up to the mystery of hieroglyphics and the art of exotic scents.

"One of my favorites of Pym's novels, it turns a shrewd, mocking, but always affectionate eye on English country life 30 years ago. Pym's fans will feel completely at home when they step into the Jane Austen-like lives of Harriet and Belinda Bede."- *Christian Science Monitor*

A collection featuring the complete novel "Civil to Strangers," as well as four short stories, sections of three unpublished novels, and an autobiographical essay

Set in St Basil's, a North London parish, Barbara Pym's novel is full of high comedy. Her depiction of characters begins with Mark the vicar, and his wife Sophia who is quite obsessed with cats, as is Daisy Pettigrew, the vet's sister.

Between the amorous antique dealer Humphrey and his good-looking nephew James glides the magnificent Leonora, delicate as porcelain, cool as ice. Can she keep James in her thrall? Or will he be taken from her by a lover, like Phoebe . . . or Ned, the wicked American? 'A highly distinctive and - ultimately - charitable novel' *Financial Times* 'Faultless' *Guardian* 'Her Characters are all meticulously impaled on the delicate pins of a wit that is as scrupulous as it is deadly' *Observer* 'A coldly funny book' *Sunday Telegraph* 'Highly distinctive . . . the critics who have recently insisted on Miss Pym's too long neglected gifts have not been wrong' *Financial Times*

Three lonely people come together in this poignant, witty novel of star-crossed romance from the New York Times—bestselling author of *Jane and Prudence*. After being jilted by her fiancé, Dulcie Mainwaring despairs of ever finding true love. For a distraction, she goes to a publishing conference, where she meets Viola Dace, a dramatic woman who refuses to live without romance, as well as Aylwin Forbes, an editor whom Viola adores. The fact that Aylwin is married doesn't stop Viola. When her amorous pursuit prompts Aylwin's wife to leave him, the academic heartthrob is wide open to Viola's romantic attentions. That is, until Dulcie's eighteen-year-old niece moves in with Viola, and the young girl soon catches Aylwin's roving eye. Set

in London in the early 1960s, *No Fond Return of Love* is a delightful comedy of manners that comes full circle as Dulcie discovers a love as unexpected as it is liberating.

The nineteen essays in this volume examine the theme of reading in Pym's books, notably the idea that the author is engaged in an ongoing dialogue with those readers for whom reading is a reciprocal act.

From the Man Booker Prize longlisted author of *My Name is Lucy Barton* Two brothers' lives are irrevocably altered when their 19-year-old nephew is embroiled in a scandal of his own making. Haunted by the freak accident that killed their father when they were children, Jim and Bob Burgess escaped from their Maine hometown of Shirley Falls for New York City as soon as they possibly could. Jim, a sleek, successful corporate lawyer, has belittled his bighearted brother their whole lives, and Bob, a legal aid attorney who idolises Jim, has always taken it in his stride. But their long-standing dynamic is upended when their sister, Susan - the sibling who stayed behind - urgently calls them home. Her lonely teenage son, Zach, has landed himself into a world of trouble, and Susan desperately needs their help. And so the Burgess brothers return to the landscape of their childhood, where the long-buried tensions that have shaped and shadowed their relationship begin to surface in unexpected ways that will change them forever. * 'Strout animates the ordinary with an astonishing force' *The New Yorker* * 'As perfect a novel as you will ever read' *Evening Standard* on *Olive Kitteridge* * 'A novel of shining integrity and humour, about the bravery and hard choices of what is called ordinary life' Alice Munro on *Amy & Isabelle*
Visit the author's website: www.elizabethstrout.com

In this delightful memoir, the book critic for NPR's *Fresh Air* reflects on her life as a professional reader. Maureen Corrigan takes us from her unpretentious girlhood in working-class Queens, to her bemused years in an Ivy League Ph.D. program, from the whirl of falling in love and marrying (a fellow bookworm, of course), to the ordeal of adopting a baby overseas, always with a book at her side. Along the way, she reveals which books and authors have shaped her own life—from classic works of English literature to hard-boiled detective novels, and everything in between. And in her explorations of the heroes and heroines throughout literary history, Corrigan's love for a good story shines.

The Making of Barbara Pym offers new insights into Pym's formative years as a writer, during which she honed a complex view of the necessity of change on individual and cultural levels. Supported by newly published archival material, this comprehensive study of Pym's early work explores her personal and fictional pre-war and wartime writing, including unpublished and posthumously published works, before looking closely at *Some Tame Gazelle* and *Excellent Women*, published during Britain's post-war austerity period. Of central importance is a new recognition of Pym's use of social roles, particularly those of women, as proper avenues for change. The book traces how Pym came to devise characters whose individual development can be seen as analogous to or representative of larger cultural movements. Pym uses the spinster figure to embody the forward-looking cultural perspectives that she endorsed and then, finally, in *Jane and Prudence*, to figure the end of Britain's austerity period.

The author of *Excellent Women* explores female friendship and the quiet yearnings of British middle-class life—a literary delight for fans of Jane Austen. Jane Cleveland and Prudence Bates were close friends at Oxford University, but now live very different lives. Forty-one-year-old Jane lives in the country, is married to a vicar, has a daughter she adores, and lives a very proper life in a very proper English parish. Prudence, a year shy of thirty, lives in London, has an office job, and is self-sufficient and fiercely independent—until Jane decides her friend should be married. Jane has the perfect husband in mind for her former pupil: a widower named Fabian Driver. But there are other women vying for Fabian's attention. And Pru is nursing her own highly inappropriate desire for her older, married, and seemingly oblivious employer, Dr. Grampian. What follows is a witty, delightful, trenchant story of manners, morals, family, and female bonding that redefines the social novel for a new generation.

Set in St Basil's, an undistinguished North London parish, *An Unsuitable Attachment* is indeed full of the high comedy for which Barbara Pym is famed. There is Mark Ainger, the vicar, who introduces his sermons with remarks like 'Those of you who are familiar with the church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.' His wife Sophia with her cat, 'I feel sometimes that I can't reach Faustina as I've reached other cats.' Rupert Stonebird, anthropologist and eligible bachelor. The well-bred Ianthe Broome who works at the library and forms an unsuitable attachment with a young man there. The sharp-tongue Mervyn Cantrell, chief librarian, who complains that 'when books have things spilt on them it is always bottled sauce or gravy of the thickest and most repellent kind rather than something utterly exquisite and delicious.' There is also Daisy Pettigrew, the vet's sister, another obsessional cat person, and Sister Dew who bears a strong resemblance to Sister Blatt in *Excellent Women*.

[Copyright: c72d0f78ba2978b5bca37012da7c3236](https://www.ebay.com/itm/9780007240000)