

On call in the 1930s

THE Nightingale Girls is the first book in a five-part series that follows three young student nurses from their first year of training in the prestigious Nightingale hospital in London in 1936.

I have a not so secret love for old school nursing stories; think of 'Call the Midwife' and you're on a similar track here.

The three girls share a room together and they couldn't be any more different. Dora is a tough east-ender from a poor background with an abusive stepfather and is determined to get away from that and make a success of herself. Helen is quiet and studious and avoids friendship with the rest of her class as she's under pressure from her overbearing mother to be a model student. Finally, Millie is from an aristocratic background and wants something more from her life other than parties and being dependent on a husband.

All three struggle in their own ways with the pressures of being a student nurse in pre-war England but also with their own personal lives, their families and trying to find love.



The characters are really well developed in this way and I was so sucked into their world that I downloaded the second book, *The Nightingale Sisters*, straight away and devoured that just as quickly.

In the second book, the girls are in their second year of training and although they're becoming better at their jobs they still have a lot of the same personal struggles.

As well as the hardships they face on the wards, which include unpleasant duties and long, arduous working hours, they also face the difficulties of exams being treated poorly by the ward sisters, characters who we learn more about in this book.

It turns out they're not all bad; like most human beings they're multidimensional and, once again, their characters are really well developed.

While it touches on some serious topics it's also quite heart warming; to me these are the ultimate comfort reads. Number three is coming up next... I can't wait!

– **Chloe Moloney**

The Nightingale Girls by Donna Douglas is published by Arrow, ISBN-13: 978-0099569350, RRP STGE5.99

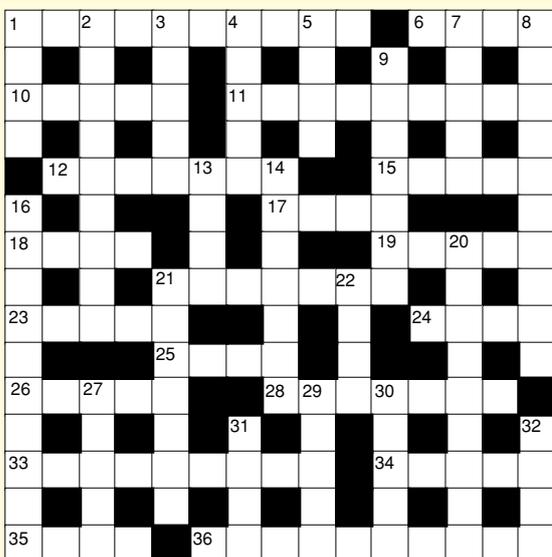
The Nightingale Sisters by Donna Douglas is published by Arrow, ISBN-13:978-0099569428, RRP STGE5.99

Chloe Moloney is a nurse who loves to write. You can read her blog at nursefancypants.blogspot.ie

Crossword Competition



WIN A €30 BOOK TOKEN



Across

- 1.& 6. Prepatellar bursitis could cause the sheikdom unease (10,4)
10. She is slender and graceful (5)
11. Unruly type - especially after 'a few pints' (5,4)
12. On which people were hanged (7)
15. Criminal burning (5)
17. The Rebel County (4)
18. US Midwestern state, capital Columbus (4)
19. Build, put up (5)
21. More irate (7)
23. Cherub or seraph (5)
24. Historic bird of Mauritius that is no longer with us (4)
25. Bay, inlet (4)
26. Ancient Greek philosopher (5)
28. Treads upon this relative (7)
33. In which to package a casement? (6,3)
34. Horse noise (5)
35. Sunbeams (4)
36. Yes, seek cot (reconstructed) for orbits. (3,7)

Down

1. The sound of a snake or a sound of disapproval (4)
2. Getting the cargo onto the quayside (9)
- 3 & 21. Each holly lot can provide some spirit! (5,7)
4. Permit (5)
5. Canines (4)
7. Crannies, niches (5)
8. I, in context, can provide the fate of the 24 across (10)
9. Smashing kind of wave! (7)
13. Baking compartment (4)
14. Neck-warmers (7)
16. Energy derived directly from the sun (5,5)
20. Cut back on one's spending (9)
22. Periphery (4)
27. Irritate, exasperate (5)
29. The Lone Star State (5)
30. Contagious fear (5)
31. In competent manner (4)
32. Indicative word found in recent history (4)

Solutions to September crossword:

- Across: 1. Pacesetter 6. Asps
 10. Prune 11. Unselfish
 12. Wicklow 15. Polio
 17. Rump 18. None 19. Eland
 21. Pretend 23. India 24. Espy
 25. Name 26. Civic
 28. Nervous breakdown
 34. Latch 35. Else 36. Newsvendor
- Down
 1. Pope 2. Cautioned 3. steak
 4. Truro 5. East 7. Still 8.
 Schooldays 9. Clapped 13. Leer
 14. Written 16. Invincible 20.
 Assaulted 21. Pancake 22. Near
 27. Veers 29. Ennis 30. Valve
 31. Wove 32. Char

The winner of the September crossword is:
**Jennifer Moynihan,
 Westport,
 Co Mayo**

Name:
 Address:

The prize will go to the first all correct entry opened.

Closing date: Monday, October 20, 2014

Post your entry to: Crossword Competition, WIN, MedMedia Publications,
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