



## Robinson (New Directions Classic)

By Muriel Spark

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**Robinson (New Directions Classic)** By Muriel Spark

**A suspense novel about three castaways marooned on an island owned by an eccentric recluse.**

January Marlow, a heroine with a Catholic outlook of the most unsentimental stripe, is one of three survivors out of twenty-nine souls when her plane crashes, blazing, on Robinson's island. Presumed dead for months, the three survivors must wait for the annual return of the pomegranate boat. Robinson, a determined loner, proves a fair if misanthropic host to his uninvited guests; he encourages January to keep a journal: as "an occupation for my mind, and I fancied that I might later dress it up for a novel. That was most peculiar, as things transpired, for I did not then anticipate how the journal would turn upon me, so that having survived the plane disaster, I should nearly meet my death through it." In *Robinson*, Muriel Spark's wonderful second novel, under the tropical glare and strange fogs of the tiny island, we find a volcano, a ping-pong playing cat, a dealer in occult as well as lucky charms, flying ants, sexual tension, a disappearance, blackmail, and perhaps murder. Everything astounds, confounds, and convinces, frighteningly. "She is," as Charles Alva Hoyt once put it, "the Jane Austen of the Surrealists." Robinson, a unique and marvelous novel, is another display of the powers of "the most gifted and innovative British novelist" (*The New York Times*). In the work of Dame Muriel in the last words of Robinson "immediately all things are possible."

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### Robinson (New Directions Classic) By Muriel Spark Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #872640 in Books
- Published on: 2003-02-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .50" w x 5.20" l, .43 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 176 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

A rare writer...wickedly funny...Astonishingly talented and truly inimitable. -- *San Francisco Examiner-Chronicle*

Deserves to be back in print. -- *South Bay Weekly*, Bondo Wyszpolski, 20 March 2003

It takes a gifted surrealist like Muriel Spark to show just how unrealistic so-called reality TV is. -- *Islands*, Tony Gibbs, 1 June 2003

Muriel Spark has written some of the best sentences in English. -- *The New Yorker*

Spark is completely, searingly original. There is nobody remotely like her writing today. -- *Independent*

Spark's second novel and one of her best (which is saying a great deal). -- *John Wilson, Christianity Today*, 8 December 2003

To read Spark is to encounter delight after delight. -- *Georgia Review*

#### About the Author

The writer of "some of the best sentences in English" (*The New Yorker*), Muriel Spark (1918–2006) was the author of dozens of novels including *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Memento Mori*, and *The Driver's Seat*. She became Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1993.

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