Karon's "Somewhere safe with somebody good" (Book Review)

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The book is one among Jan Karon’s popular Mitford series and begins with Father Tim and Cynthia’s return from a trip to Ireland. Contemplating his purpose in retirement, the beloved main character, Father Tim, feels as if he’s in a slump and has lost something – perhaps his passion for life? His wife encourages him that it’s okay to experience a period of rest, and reminds him of all that he has accomplished since retiring from the priesthood. Readers will find that even if they have not read previous Mitford novels, Karon excels at providing just the right amount of background information to keep them moving forward in the novel.

In the midst of settling back into life in the quiet town of Mitford, an important question is asked of its citizens by the local newspaper The Mitford Muse, “Does Mitford take care of its own?” Father Tim, along with a variety of colorful characters, proves that the quaint village is filled with kind and considerate individuals who reach out in every way to “care for their own.”

Not only does Father Tim reach out in his unique way to help others, he receives numerous votes by the town folk to name him as “Mitford’s Leading Citizen.” This humorous storyline, along with several others, provides some endearing moments that Karon is so adept at weaving throughout her novels. Of course, Father Tim also faces a number of difficult matters that he handles with wisdom and grace. Oh my! The assortment of challenges that confront him! From rescuing a troubled fellow clergy member, to helping a famous actress reunite with a family member, to caring for his son’s younger brother Sammy – who unquestionably tests Father Tim’s patience at every turn.

Once again, Karon has created a world in which the reader feels welcome, cared for and inspired. Her use of Scripture and literary quotes sprinkled throughout each chapter provide a bit of solace and comfort to those who visit Mitford. Despite the many needs and problems Mitford’s residents may experience, the heartwarming episodes come together to provide Christian fiction booklovers with a safe place in the center of a hometown filled with good people all around.

**Reviewer**

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