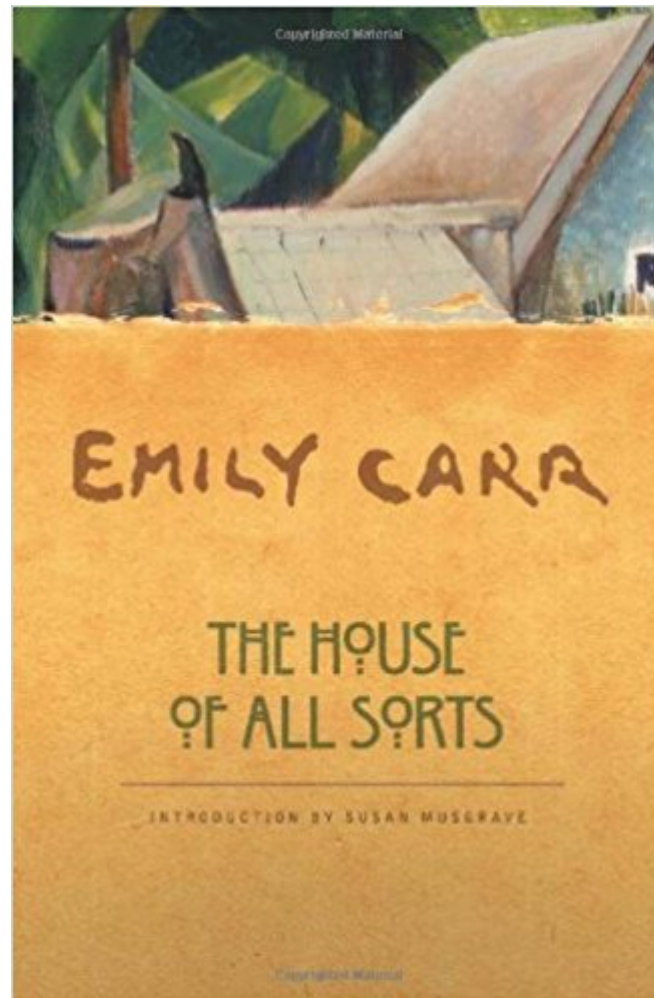




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The House Of All Sorts



Synopsis

Emily Carr was primarily a painter, but she first gained recognition as an author for her seven books about her journeys to remote Native communities and stories about life as an artist, as a small child in Victoria at the turn of the last century; and as a reluctant landlady. Before winning recognition for her painting and writing, Carr built a small apartment building with four suites (she lived in one of them) that she hoped would earn her a living. But things turned out worse than expected, and in her forties, the gifted artist found herself shoveling coal and cleaning up after people for 23 years. *The House of All Sorts* is a collection of 41 stories of those hard-working days and the parade of tenants- young couples, widows, sad bachelors and rent evaders; all the tears and travails of being a landlady confronted with the startling foibles of humanity. Carr is at her most acerbic and rueful, but filled with energy and inextinguishable hope. Carr's writing is vital and direct, aware and poignant, and as well regarded today as when *The House of All Sorts* was first published in 1944 to critical and popular acclaim. The book has been in print ever since.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Carr is a magical wordsmith whose gorgeous prose reflects a desire for simplicity even as it sensually mirrors life in its teeming complexity." (Publisher's Weekly 2004-05-01) "I predict that Emily Carr will be generally recognised as one of the foremost among the few important writers that Canada has produced." (Robertson Davies 2004-05-01)

Young, spirited and rebellious, Emily Carr escaped a strict Victorian household to study art in the Paris of Picasso and Matisse. In middle age, she shook the dust of acceptable society from her shoes and began a passionate journey into the wilderness of British Columbia; the power of her genius made her one of the twentieth century's great painters. Fortunately, she also wrote. In her books, her warmth, her humanity, her sense of fun and the ridiculous combine to present a self-portrait of a remarkable woman and artist. -- Mary Pratt Susan Musgrave is a critically acclaimed, award-winning poet, novelist, columnist, reviewer, editor and non-fiction writer. She has been nominated, and has received awards, for her poetry, fiction, non-fiction, personal essays and children's writing, as well as for her work as an editor.

This is a kind of memoir by Emily Carr of her life when she had a boarding house. She was a painter who spent a lot of time with the native Americans in the northwest, painting their totem poles. When she needed money she opened this boarding house. Each chapter deals with a different tenant. At one point she decides to breed old English sheepdogs which is sort of an aside in her stories of her tenants. It's an interesting book.

The House of All Sorts is one of my favourites from Emily Carr, along with The Book of Small. This one concentrates on the part of her life when she let out rooms in her Victoria B.C house to make ends meet, and bred her sheepdogs. She tells the tales of her tenants with complete honesty and much humor. Her struggles with life as a landlady, the good and bad and ridiculous. This isn't a book about her art (though it does come up in parts) or with the native people that inspired it, Klee Wyck might be better for that. Loved this book.

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