



Walking Across Egypt

By Clyde Edgerton

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"An unpretentious, finely-crafted novel that will linger with the readers like the last strains of a favorite hymn. It is more enjoyable than a pitcher full of sweet tea and one of Mattie's home-cooked dinners."

THE ATLANTA JOURNAL & CONSTITUTION

She had as much business keeping a stray dog as she had walking across Egypt--which not so incidentally is the title of her favorite hymn. She's Mattie Rigsbee, an independent, strong-minded senior citizen, who at 78, might be slowing down just a bit. When young, delinquent Wesley Benfield drops in on her life, he is even less likely a companion than the stray dog. But, of course, the dog never tasted her mouth-watering pound cake....Wise witty, down-home and real, WALKING ACROSS EGYPT is a book for everyone.

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Walking Across Egypt By Clyde Edgerton Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

YA A quietly humorous story set in a small town in North Carolina. Seventy-eight year old Mattie Riggsbee, spunky and determined, has one regret: she has no grandchildren, as her son and daughter inconveniently remain unmarried. The story gathers momentum after a slightly sluggish start, when Wesley Benfield, wayward teenager and orphan, comes into Mattie's life. Their need for each other is apparent, and their attempts to get together, despite the disapproval of Mattie's family and neighbors, are the focus of the story. Wesley is captivated by Mattie's good cooking and grandmotherly attention, and when he escapes from a house of detention, he heads straight to Mattie. There is a hilarious scene in church, where the fleeing Wesley and the pursuing deputy sheriff, both disguised as choir members, sit beside each other in full view of the congregation. Edgerton infuses all of his characters with reality, and provides a balanced perspective on age and youth. His understanding of teenagers is nowhere more evident than in the contrast between the reality of Wesley's situation and the humor of his exaggerated fantasies. Rita G. Keeler, St. John's School, Houston

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From Library Journal

This second novel by the author of *Raney* is warm and comforting, like a visit to Grandma's. Mattie Riggsbee, at 78, is slowing down. She plans her funeral so as not to be a burden; she supports the local Baptist church and entertains herself with hymns at the parlor piano; she tries not to meddle in her children's lives, though she does wish they'd marry; she longs for grandchildren. Then comes Wesley. Reared in an orphanage until he graduated to the reformatory, Wesley touches her heart, revives a life gone to seed. Just as he needs a grandmother's love and stability, so Mattie needs his challenge, dependence, and love. How she reconciles that need before family, neighbors, and church congregation is a beautiful story of determination, made more poignant by a Southern small-town setting. BOMC alternate. Thomas L. Kilpatrick, Southern Illinois Univ. Lib., Carbondale

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Review

"Reading this book is like sitting down to a big round table full of the best food you ever put in your mouth; you can't quit eating for a minute, this is just so good."

—LEE SMITH, bestselling author of *The Last Girls*

"An unpretentious, finely crafted novel that will linger with the readers like the last strains of a favorite hymn. It is more enjoyable than a pitcher full of sweet tea and one of Mattie's home-cooked dinners."

—*The Atlanta Journal*

"Genuinely funny, often poignant . . . Edgerton has captured the habits and manners of a small Southern community with loving precision."

—*Greensboro News & Record*

"[A] totally delicious bit-of-a-book . . . Reads faster than you'll want it to, and ends far earlier."

—*The Cleveland Plain Dealer*

"A winner, a homespun romp that I suspect Mark Twain would have loved."

—*The Columbia State*

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Alexander:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or even read a book titled Walking Across Egypt? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time using your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have other opinion?

Austin Lawrence:

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Sheila Nathan:

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information currently can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a expertise or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider while those information which is within the former life are hard to be find than now's taking seriously which one would work to believe or which one the resource are convinced. If you find the unstable resource then you have it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for you. All those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Walking Across Egypt as your daily resource information.

Jeff Wheeler:

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