



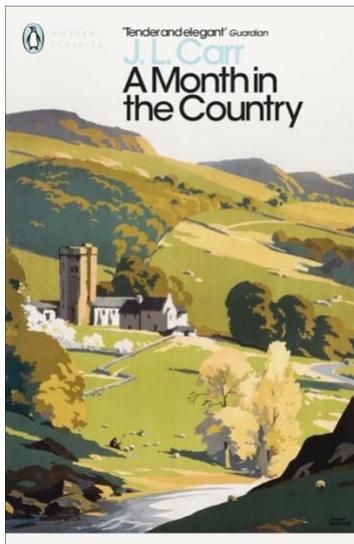
Prison Reading Groups
25 years
1999-2024

Book Talk

A Month in the Country

By J. L. Carr

Number of pages: 160



In this peaceful and reflective novel Tom Birkin, a veteran of the Great War and a broken marriage, arrives in the remote Yorkshire village of Oxgodby where he has been hired to restore a recently discovered medieval mural in the local church.

Living in the bell tower surrounded by beautiful countryside, and labouring each day to uncover an anonymous painter's depiction of the apocalypse, Birkin finds that he himself has been restored to a new and hopeful attachment to life. But summer ends, and with the work done, Birkin must leave.

We recommend this book if you enjoyed *Train Dreams* by Denis Johnson, or *Small Things Like These* by Claire Keegan.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the significance of the mural in the Church? What characters and/or storylines does it parallel?
2. What do you think is the meaning of the man in the exhumed grave?
3. What did you think of the relationship between Birkin and Alice? Why did they not act on their feelings for one another?
4. How does the description of the church reflect Birkin's life? How does it reflect his thoughts and feelings?
5. What does the novel teach us about the past and present?

Thank you to our volunteer Megan for choosing this title and creating the resource.