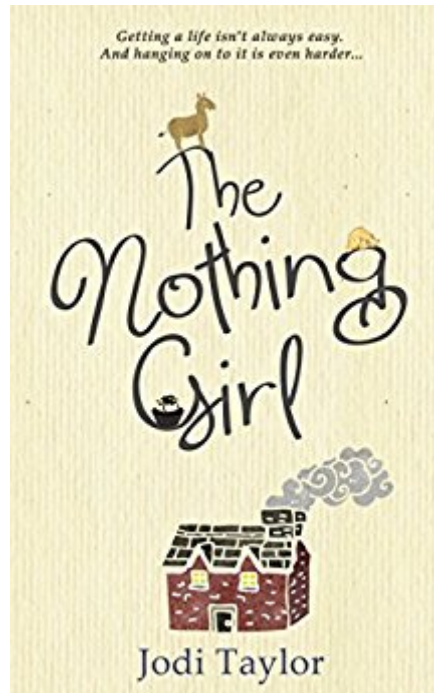


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The Nothing Girl (The Nothing Girl)



Synopsis

Jodi Taylor brings all her comic writing skills to this heart-warming tale of self-discovery. Known as "The Nothing Girl" because of her severe stutter and chronically low self-confidence, Jenny Dove is only just prevented from ending it all by the sudden appearance of Thomas, a mystical golden horse only she can see. Under his guidance, Jenny unexpectedly acquires a husband - the charming and chaotic Russell Checkland - and for her, nothing will ever be the same again. With over-protective relatives on one hand and the world's most erratic spouse on the other, Jenny needs to become Someone. And fast! Fans of Jodi Taylor's best-selling Chronicles of St Mary's series will adore the quirky humour in this new, contemporary novel.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I don't write a lot of reviews because honestly although I read 2-3 books a week, I don't like them enough to write a review and I don't believe in writing bad reviews. Someone put a lot of work into writing and I am not going to tell them it sucks. So, this book was good enough for me to say I loved

it. I can't really say why I loved it, maybe it was just the style of writing or maybe it was the story, I just know I could not wait to read it every day and stayed up way too late to finish it one night and then was disappointed it was over. That rarely happens to me. The story is basic, a young woman with a stutter who is hidden away by her relatives who smother her with care, but keep her isolated from society. Her cousin, a beautiful but cruel girl, dumps her fiancé for another man and the fiancé in turn proposes marriage to our girl as a business arrangement, she has inherited money and he has a large family estate that needs lots of work and money. He uses her money to fix up the place and she has a home that she can rule forever with servants, etc. She accepts his proposal and her family loses their minds at the prospect of the gold digging ex fiancé of their daughter. All kinds of problems ensue, including the re-appearance of old girlfriend, horses, donkeys, a felonious young boy they take in after he tries to rob them, evil cousins who want her money, and of course a growing affection for each other. And did I mention she has an imaginary companion in the form of a giant gold horse who she talks to and who talks to her offering great wisdom and love. Yea, I forgot that. Just read it, you will see it all makes sense in the end.

I have this book in both Kindle and Audible forms. I highly recommend it in either format. I don't know how to classify this book, except that it is so very worth reading. It will touch your heart. You will ache for Jenny, the Nothing Girl, cheer for her, laugh with her, and be so very gratified with how things work out. It has pathos, mystery, humor, great characters, surprises, love, and a Golden Horse named Thomas that only Jenny can see. Is Thomas imaginary? A guardian angel in horse form? A mystical but real creature? Russell is the most important character next to Jenny. The development and growth of his character is no less fraught and important than the growth and development of Jenny. Two great characters you will come to treasure. This story would work as a mystery, romance, character driven plot even without Thomas. But what Thomas does for Jenny is very important in how everything else develops. Jodi Taylor has a wonderful imagination and way with words. If she writes it, I'll read it.

This is the first in the Frogmorton Farm series by Jodi Taylor who also writes the Chronicles of St. Marys series. I really like the Chronicles of St. Marys, but I absolutely loved this book. Both series have fantastic elements: time travel in the St. Marys books and an invisible talking horse who serves as a combination of best friend, counselor, coach, and guardian in The Nothing Girl. How can a book with so many fantastic elements and quirky characters possibly ring so true? Jodi Taylor is an amazing talent. Rarely will a book make me laugh aloud and

make me cry, but *The Nothing Girl* did. The story opens with Jenny, an orphan living a very sheltered life with her Aunt and Uncle, about to commit suicide. It won't spoil the story to tell you that the suicide does not happen since Jenny is the Nothing Girl and this is her story. I began the book at a time of personal sadness and as much as I loved it, I had to put it aside at around 70% because the book made me cry and I was already weepy. It was never a question of not reading it, just more a matter of saving a special book for a better time. Two weeks later, I picked it up and began over just to relive the pleasure. I suspect that I will read it again. Most of my tears were triggered by acts of kindness. As another testament to Ms. Taylor, while there is great sentiment in the book, there is not a trace of sappiness: how rare is that? Meanwhile, the humor is enough that your companion reading next to you might ask you why the bed is shaking. The humor is clever and witty without being snarky or cruel. Again, a difficult task and well done. I will let you read the story to find how *The Nothing Girl* grows up and comes into her own without recounting the details here. Good news: there is a sequel (which I have purchased but I have been saving like the last piece of chocolate). Also good news, Marilyn (who you will meet in *The Nothing Girl*) has her own starring role in a short story, *Little Donkey* (absolutely hilarious and touching).

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