

(Download) Reluctant Nightingale

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Joan Lock

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Joan Lock : Reluctant Nightingale before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reluctant Nightingale:

As her readers will discover, Joan Lock is both perceptive and interested in people; this chronicle of her adventures in nursing is irreverent, harrowing, dramatic, sad and funny. As in her earlier book, *Lady Policeman*, she takes us into the everyday life of the minions of the profession. Whilst doubtful about the authoritarian system Florence Nightingale inspired, Joan Lock feels sympathy with her down-to-earth attitudes and as impatient of the public's obsession with saintly vocation as Miss Nightingale was of those who thought her first sorties into nursing 'shameful' and a 'disgrace'. But our author found that life in hospital does mean the excitement of being at the heart of things, the drama of life-or-death struggle, finding humour in the most unlikely circumstances and learning fast about people. She left nursing immediately she had finished her general training, the reluctance revived by petty discipline and having to work extremely hard while carrying heavy responsibility and being rewarded with a pittance. Better than any white paper or commission, *Reluctant Nightingale* explains the extremely high wastage in nursing at the ordinary level during the 1950s.

'compulsive reading' *Newcastle Evening Chronicle* 'informative, compassionate and often very funny' *Catholic*

Herald 'vastly entertaining' Cork Examiner 'forthright, funny and sad in turn.' Women's Journal From the Author The media response to my first book, *Lady Policeman*, was very good partly because the public were very curious about policewomen. There were so few of us and women in any sort of authority were still rare. I approached the writing of my second, *Reluctant Nightingale*, in a similar fashion taking the reader with me through a nurses training via various tasks, branches of medicine and encounters with patients and my fellow nursing staff and doctors. It had been almost fifteen years since I left nursing but my mother worked at the same hospital first as a trainee nurse then a sister so I had another memory to aid me but in any case much of it had been etched very clearly on my young mind. I realised that nurses would not have the same rarity value as policewomen but I was not prepared for the fact that my first publisher would not find it interesting enough to bring out. Big disappointment. But, after a while, Dent took the book on, had a striking design done for the cover, and it received a reasonable amount of approval when published in 1970. However, roll on over forty years, and see *Please, Nurse!* paperback published by Orion.