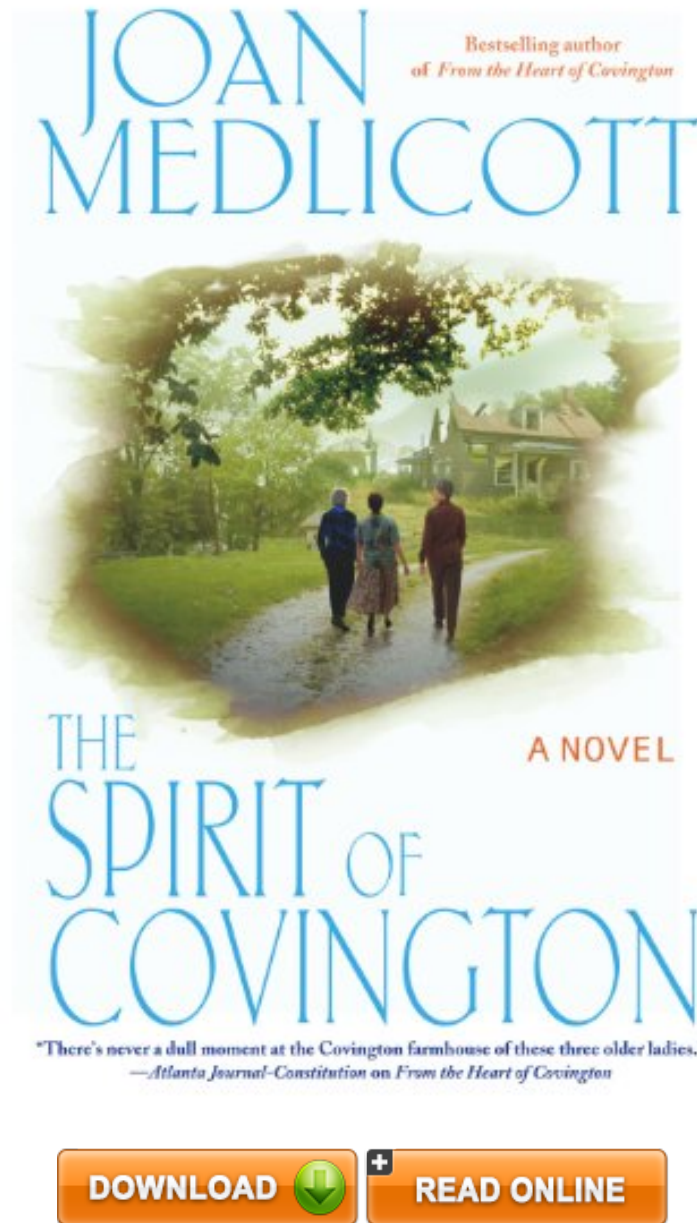


(Download) The Spirit of Covington: A Novel (Ladies of Covington series)

## The Spirit of Covington: A Novel (Ladies of Covington series)

Von Joan Medlicott

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**Von Joan Medlicott : The Spirit of Covington: A Novel (Ladies of Covington series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Spirit of Covington: A Novel (Ladies of Covington series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. They're back! Von Detra Fitch They're back! The Covington Ladies (Hannah, Grace, and Amelia) and their white farmhouse captured my heart in previous novels, so I am overjoyed by their return. When I saw Joan Medlicott's newest release,

The Spirit of Covington, I could hardly wait to actually get the book in my hands and 'catch up' with the goings on in the lives of these special ladies. In my eagerness I wanted to devour the book, but at the same time I wanted to savor every word because Joan Medlicott is a masterful storyteller and should have begun her writing career decades ago. She can take the simplest phrase and write it with exquisite beauty. That ability is one of the many things that make her books so appealing and such a joy to read. You only have to read a few sentences in the first two paragraphs of The Spirit of Covington to understand that. As this story opens, a spark... "flared to life among dry leaves and snaked toward the woods". Joan Medlicott gave animation to that fire, causing me to see it with perfect clarity when she wrote, "By two A.M., a necklace of gold edged the outer fringe of trees, and by three A.M. it had crawled into the woods." That sentence made me shiver because it foreshadowed the devastation that was to follow. As the fire moved closer to the beloved farmhouse, Amelia's heartbreaking, wide-eyed fear of its all-consuming temperament was palpable. She only had to touch her scars to remember another fire many years ago and the painful burns it had inflicted on her. Of course she, Grace, and Hannah fled helter-skelter from their white farmhouse with only the few things they could carry in trash bags that Hannah had hastily snatched for each of them. Strong, steady Hannah was the only one who was able to set aside her shock and hastily grab their important papers including the deed to the farmhouse. In the days and weeks that followed the fire, our ladies were separated for the first time since they had bravely joined forces and left the Pennsylvania nursing home together years earlier. As each year passed, they had learned to depend on each other's special strengths and had carved out a life for themselves in their new community. Now, in their isolation, they were depriving themselves of the very essence of what had always sustained each of them. During the many unpredictable changes in their lives, I began to fear that they would be unable to find their way back to their former loving and supportive relationships. I also feared that rebuilding their farmhouse would be too difficult for them, but unexpected help came from many people. Some were people in the community whom they had befriended through the years, but many were complete strangers. These strangers had read about the fire in the paper, and offers of help, not to mention money, began to flood in. Such kindness overwhelmed our ladies. Change and the challenges it often brings filled the pages of this book. Gentle, anxious Amelia confronted the tortures of depression, and Grace found herself having to care for her boyfriend, Bob, following his heart attack. Caring for him meant moving in with him; a situation that caused her even greater conflict. Of course this left Amelia, who was always so apprehensive, and our strong and steady Hannah at cross-purposes with each other. Without Grace to stand between them and act as a mooring for their vastly different dispositions, they struggled against each other. Hannah ended the struggle by moving in with her friend, George Maxwell, who had lived across the street from their farmhouse on Cove Road. She already had a special friendship with this neighbor, and now that friendship deepened. He wanted to take care of Hannah, not only during this time of rebuilding, but also later in life. He spoke of a marriage of convenience because he wanted to grant Hannah the legacy of Bella's Park; the special park they had worked side-by-side to build after his wife's death. If they were married, there would be no inheritance taxes for Hannah to pay on the property. As these three ladies toil with the mentally fatiguing process of rebuilding and finding their way back to each other, the reader is enticed deeper into their lives. Then in the midst of all this, Hannah's daughter, Laura, finds out that she is pregnant. \*\*\*\*\* Words cannot say how much I loved this book. As the ladies found their way back to each other, I realized again the sustaining power of friendships and that love must be cherished. Each book in this series is unique and notable, and these three ladies seem as real as cherished friends. The Covington books tell about life in the truest sense of the word, and are written with the emotional identification and empathy that only Joan Medlicott can provide. I can hardly wait for the next one. \*\*\*\*\*

Kurzbeschreibung Having captured readers' hearts and imaginations in three USA Today-bestselling books, the irrepressible Ladies of Covington again delight us in Joan Medlicott's richest and most warmly affecting novel yet. If you're meeting the Ladies of Covington for the first time, prepare to fall in love with Hannah, Grace, and Amelia -- three warm, strong, and wonderful sixty-something women who are so real, they'll soon become dear friends. If you've visited Covington before, you know how much you're going to enjoy catching up on their lives, as the ladies face new challenges with generous hearts, a hearty dose of practicality, and good cheer. Hannah, Grace, and Amelia are devastated when a fire destroys their beloved old farmhouse on Cove Road. As they begin the long, difficult process of rebuilding, they find an unexpected silver lining as the crisis creates deeper bonds with the locals in their adopted North Carolina mountain town. Of course life doesn't stop just because there's an emergency, and new developments arise from the situation. After Grace's dear companion Bob has a heart attack, she moves into his hillside condo to take care of him -- and then must decide whether to rejoin the other ladies when their new farmhouse is finished. Without the buffer of Grace's ease, Hannah and Amelia find their very different personalities clashing. To ease the strain, Hannah temporarily moves in with George Maxwell, their across-the-street neighbor, with whom she works side-by-side in creating Bella's Park. And when Max surprises Hannah by offering her a marriage of convenience, where she can continue living with the other ladies but also inherit Bella's Park to safeguard it, she has a very difficult decision to

make. A soul-nourishing portrait of the power of female friendship and the endurance of love, *The Spirit of Covington* is pure Medlicott: totally engaging, heart-tugging, and unfailingly true-to-life. From Booklist As cozy as a cup of tea and a favorite cat, the latest in the Covington series will delight fans with yet another visit with Hannah, Grace, and Amelia. As in the three previous novels (*The Ladies of Covington Send Their Love* [2000], *The Gardens of Covington* [2001], *From the Heart of Covington* [2002]), the sixtysomething ladies struggle with life events both large and small. This tale opens with a fire that leaves the friends with little more than the clothes on their backs. Losing their home separates the women, and the resulting isolation brings on its own stress. Amelia struggles with depression, Grace is trapped in a live-in relationship with Bob, and Hannah stews. Through many trials and tribulations the ladies come to question the lives they have built for themselves, and their very friendships seem in peril. In the end, however, the unity of the three is upheld and the conclusion is pure Medlicott--sweet and uplifting. Fans of Jan Karon, Delia Parr, and Ann Ross will enjoy these gentle novels. Neal Wyatt Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved Pressestimmen "Medlicott is attuned to the nuances of Southern life and draws her characters with affectionate understanding." "Atlanta Journal-Constitution" on "From the Heart of Covington" There's never a dull moment at the Covington farmhouse of these three older ladies.