

In January, we flew to the Midwest to check out our home, finalize paperwork, and insure the house. Upon our arrival, snow was falling and the wind was blowing—a normal Midwest winter.

We stopped at the house, excited. Snow covered everything, so the view was of a pristine yard and a snug house. A sign with a ribbon attached hung on the back door. On the sign was written “Do Not Enter—Condemned by Order of Ramona Health Department & Grass Mowing Commission.” It was signed “Sheriff/Jack the Ripper.” A key was in the mailbox.

After thirty-five years of life in the big city, prodigal daughter Celia Rensch Day returns home to Ramona, South Dakota. Things haven’t changed much, which in hindsight is a beautiful, wonderfully reassuring thing.

Hail, hail, though a few of the faces have changed the same old gang is here and like any small town, there are bound to be a few characters. There’s Tenacious Maude the Mowing Queen who doesn’t look a day over eighty. There’s Ira who is also known as Mr. Cat Man. And, who can forget Russell, a tireless Mr. Fix It who serves as the local gravedigger, water meter reader, and town maintenance guy. It’s one big happy family. Sure, they butt heads every once in awhile, but there’s a palatable love and indomitable camaraderie. Once you get here, you’ll never want to leave.



Your Dog Is In The Bar

CELIA RENSCH DAY

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