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## Sally Grant on Muriel Spark's *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (June 1)

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In *Australian Book Review's* June–July Film and Television issue, Sally Grant writes about the influence of Muriel Spark's 1961 novel *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, considered 'the greatest Scottish novel of the twentieth century', and its subsequent 1969 film adaptation starring a young Maggie Smith.

**Extract:** 'The filmmakers' skill, like Spark's, is that the viewer still admires Miss Brodie. Watching *The Prime* after all these years only amplifies my belief in the kind of passionate, life-enhancing education that this curious teacher embodies, irrespective of her vanity and harmful influence. This is Spark's great gift: she revels in the fullness and contradictoriness of individual lives; she recognises the peculiarities in each of her characters and dissects them, clearly and coldly, but she does not minimise them or accept them as easily explainable. Neame's warm and wonderful film similarly celebrates this individual complexity, as it raises the challenges of moral choice, from its opening shots to its moving closing scene.'

Sally Grant's comment will be published in the June–July issue of *Australian Book Review*.

**Sally Grant** is a freelance arts and culture writer based in New York. Born and raised in Scotland, a working holiday visa first brought her to Australia. She subsequently completed her undergraduate degree and PhD in Art History and Italian Studies at the University of Sydney. She is an Honorary Research Associate of the Australasian Centre for Italian Studies, where her scholarly research focuses on the art and experience of eighteenth-century Venice and the Veneto villa. **She is available for interview.**



### **Further information**

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More information about *Australian Book Review* can be found on the *ABR* website.

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