

JAEL

Hope Bourne

Jael, legendary country writer Hope Bourne's only novel, is full of references to the Devon countryside, methods of farming, the seasons and local folk lore. But it is no gentle stroll through pastoral England. Instead it is a torrent of emotions.

Jael is an independent and resourceful countrywoman who is struggling but succeeding to live on alone after the death of her mother the previous year. This life has not been freely chosen but brings *Jael* reward and enjoyment. One day a Landrover overheats near *Jael*'s cottage and she helps the driver, Paul Wentworth to get back on the road. Paul and *Jael* develop a connection and *Jael* helps Paul to manage the farm he has taken on as tenant. But there is a dark foreboding tension in the relationship from the start. Paul's new wife brings their close platonic relationship to an end and leads ultimately to the dramatic conclusion of the novel.

A deeply moving story, this novel will be read eagerly by those many thousands who admire Hope Bourne's work, both for her sympathetic understanding of rural life and her passionate insights into human character.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hope Bourne was born in Oxford in 1918 but brought up at Hartland in North Devon. She lived on Exmoor for some 60 years, for two decades in a caravan at Ferny Ball near Withypool. Growing or shooting her own food, she earned her living as a writer, publishing four books in her lifetime as well as pamphlets and a regular newspaper column. In later life three television documentaries about her life brought her to the attention of an even wider public.

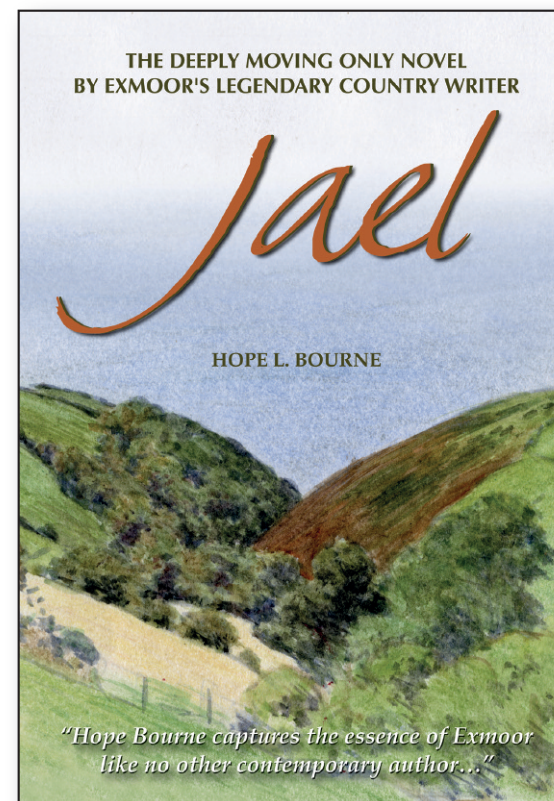
Hope Bourne died in August 2010 a few days short of her 92nd birthday.

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