

Frances Wingate is a very competent lady. A successful archaeologist with four healthy children, she is divorced and famous. Above all she is independent.

So what is she searching for on her trips into the distant past of the desert or the nearer past of her family?

'Full of old-fashioned pleasures', comments *The Times Literary Supplement*, and the *Spectator* agrees that it possesses 'calmness and sanity'. *The Realms of Gold* is that increasingly rare commodity – a sensitive, richly textured and deeply satisfying book.