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and could've. Since they are family, I guess they are my "folks" in a sprawling nineteenth-century sense that reminds me how much upheaval customarily roils domestic routines and throws most people back on the saving kindnesses of home. And yet, older debts and unwavering faith make this book more rightly for my parents, John and Betty Diffley, who have eased my professional and household snarls for years and who made other, earlier households warm. Old times there are not forgotten.

