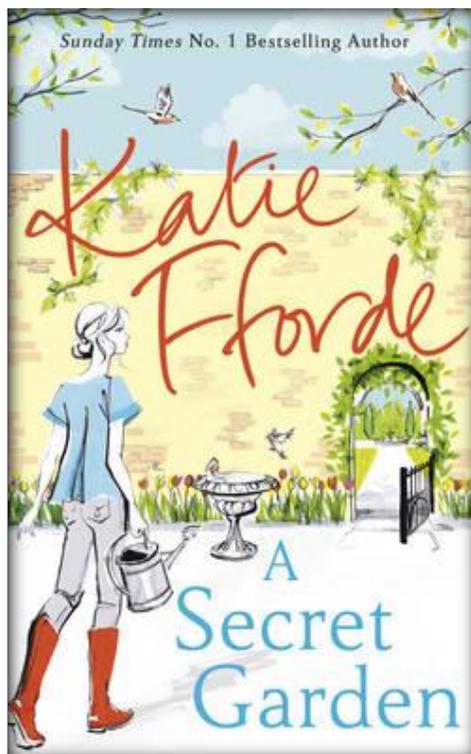




Helping you choose
your next book

LoveReading Reader reviews of **A Secret Garden** by Katie Fforde

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.



Humaira

I've always wanted to read a book by Katie Fforde- you always see her books around in bookstores and supermarkets. And now I have. 'A Secret Garden' is as Poignant as the characters. I loved it dearly. I love Philly and Lorna fiercely- I just love it when an author can make you love something so much just with the power of words.

Annie Day

A great 'feel good' story with three intertwined romances.

Reading 'A Secret Garden' was the most relaxing thing I have done in ages! Katie

Fforde has created a lovely story which is pure escapism.

Lorna and Philly are single ladies making their way in a rural community. They are relatively content in their lives but remain open to the dream of love and romance. When the possibility of a relationship for each of them beckons, they have to confront their demons and decide whether to follow their hearts.

I enjoyed this book and felt that it was more engaging than most romantic novels. I would have liked to see a few darker moments in the story, such as finding out more about Lorna's failed marriage and Philly's abandoned childhood sweetheart. I also felt that there could have been room for another female character to be developed in the story. However overall it was a good read and definitely one for a holiday or a relaxing weekend.

You can follow Annie on Twitter: @dayann1

Ailsa Anderson

Transport yourself into the pages of Fforde's latest creation 'A Secret Garden'. Where you'll find a perfect mix of romance, humour, love, secrets, men. You won't be disappointed.

What can I say about Katie Fforde's latest creation? As always she's nailed it. She has produced an enchanting, easy to read story. Something that I could pick up at any time and immediately be transported into the pages. Like a fly on a wall seeing everything unfold as it happens. Perfect mix of romance, secrets, love, men and humour. A bookworm for life.

Julie Watkin

A gentle and pleasing read designed to remind us that true love is never beyond our reach.

I would describe this book as a very pleasing gentle read. The characters are introduced carefully and with thought so that you bond quite quickly with them. The theme of the book is love and the quest to find true love when perhaps you've thought it has passed you by. I would recommend this book to my mother as I think she would enjoy the considerate way in which the story unfolds.

Cathy Burman

A secret garden is not the only secret in this book. The characters also have hidden secrets which, as you turn the pages, will slowly be revealed. Dare to enter and enjoy as I did.

Need a pick me up? Then this book is for you. Stimulate your senses and take yourself off to a place where the air is filled with the aroma of freshly baked bread, the taste of delicious home baked cake washed down with freshly brewed tea, feast your eyes on a kaleidoscope of floral colour and beautiful statues and feel the smoothness and follow the contours of beautiful sculptures. Add to this an abundance of romance. Feeling better? Well I did when I read this book.

This is a book of secrets...

Philly, who lives with her grandfather Seamus, is a plants-woman trying to make a living from growing and selling plants. She supplies plants to Lorna who is restoring the garden of a manor house and they uncover an overgrown secret garden.

Lucian, a budding chef, catches Philly's eye but all is not what it seems and he too has a hidden secret.

Lorna has had a crush on Peter, from the manor house, for years

But he has his eyes firmly set on Kirstie, an internet date. Enter Jack, a stonemason, who is drawn to Lorna but it seems he too has a hidden secret.

A very enjoyable, feel good, quintessentially British, easy read with a few twists and turns to keep the readers interest throughout"

Gemma Niven

Fantastic book by Katie Fforde which will warm your heart and make you feel all cosy and fuzzy inside!

This is the first book I've read from Katie Fforde and it was an absolute pleasure to read. It's very romantic with different love stories centring on a beautiful garden. If you want a light, romantic read then this is definitely for you. The main characters are believable and you can relate to each one, especially Philly and Lorna who are restoring the garden while dealing with their love lives. I loved the Irish connection throughout the story and would love to read more about Philly's grandfather Seamus. This is a book to set time aside for, curl up on the sofa with a hot drink and cake and lose yourself in a romantic story.

Edel Waugh

I have been a fan of Katie Fforde since her first book so I was thrilled when I got the chance to read this one for review. This was just the book I needed to put me in the mood for spring!

The story itself is centred around two women, Lorna and her pal Philly, and those closest to them in family and work. They both work at a very grand house in the country and both of them have been unlucky in love in the past, this beautiful workplace could be just the thing they need to put a little spark back in their lives. My favourite character was Seamus, a loveable rogue from Ireland with a gift of the gab and a heart of gold. The parts of the story with him, and he and Anthea were some of my favourites .

*I recommend this to fans of 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett , **this is a cosy, feel good read centred around a special garden with likeable characters that will leave you wanting more.***

Emily Wright

Katie Fforde is an author I turn to time and again for a comforting read. 'A Secret Garden' bears the trademarks of friendship, romance and warmth which I have come to know and love in her writing.

Philly and Lorna are keen horticulturists and their friendship flourishes as they restore a long forgotten garden to its former glory. Both women appreciate the challenge; it distracts them from thinking about their menfolk. As brambles and old foliage are hacked down, to be replaced by beautiful blossoms, will true love also bloom for the friends?

As much as I enjoy discovering new authors, sometimes it is a delight to curl up with a book by a trusted favourite; like the comforting feeling of wearing a much loved, cosy jumper. For me, the joy of Katie Fforde's novels is their familiarity. The beautiful cover design offers a tantalising hint at the escapism which lies within the pages, welcoming the reader in to relax and enjoy.

The female characters, of different generations and backgrounds, are brought together by their shared love of gardening. Anthea, the elderly lady who owns the secret garden, is every bit as vibrant and lively as green fingered young Philly, making this a novel that could be enjoyed and related to by grandmothers, mothers, daughters and granddaughters.

Katie Fforde's latest novel offers the opportunity to escape to an idyllic world full of Cotswold charm, where people are kind to one another and all turns out well in the end.

Alison Jones

What a delightful read! From start to finish I was treated to a world of romance and happy ever afters that lifted my heart and spirit leaving me tripping on air.

The lovely Lorna and Philly became my friends and I skipped off to work with them in the gardens of a Cotswold Manor House. When they thought they had found suitors, I shared the joy. When they questioned their dreams I was there as part of the family wondering would they, could they come true? And did they? Well I'm not telling because I want you to enjoy this amiable, charming story. I want you to delight your senses and add a lightness to your step gained from turning these pages.

Do you believe in happy ever afters? Open the covers and discover 'A Secret Garden' for yourself.

Evelyn Barrett

Fans of Katie Fforde certainly won't be disappointed by 'A Secret Garden'. Philly and her grandfather, Grand, left Ireland to escape from family interference. They live a happy but no frills life in an old farmhouse in the Cotswolds. They have a market stall selling the plants which Philly grows and Grand's wonderful homebaking. Philly also supplies her friend Lorna with plants for the garden she is restoring. Lorna works for and thinks she loves Peter who is always looking for love elsewhere. Complicated so far? Well then add Lucien, Jack, Lady Anthea and Kirstie into the mix, not to mention the garden and the weekly phone call from Ireland.

Providing the escape we all need from the post-Christmas doldrums, with characters that are a good sympathetic mix, 'A Secret Garden' leaves the reader smiling.

A scrumptiously romantic offering, ideally suited both to a cosy winter's evening by the fire and a sunny beach with a cocktail.

Kathy Martin

*I am sure that Katie Fforde's fans will be delighted with her latest book. **Pure escapism and a delightfully easy read.** The character's live in a Cath Kidston/Laura Ashley style, cosy, chintzy world, full of romance and flowers and fresh baked bread, farmer's markets and the obligatory 'big house'. There are no steamy love scenes, it's all very "nice". The sort of book you could safely buy for your Grandma.*

Disappointingly for me, the actual secret garden is only discovered well into the book and had me wondering where the title had sprung from. There are no big surprises or plot twists, and predictably (spoiler alert!)..... everyone lives happily ever after.

Lizzy Dingemans

Make a hot chocolate and curl up in a comfy chair to enjoy this charming new tale where relationships intertwine as much as the plants in the secret garden, in this charming tale by a well-established author. Fforde chooses another beautiful setting for her new story with her trademark formula of boy meets girl and happy ever after, with a few hiccups on the way! Add in the discovery and restoration of a hidden garden, and all the trailing ends are tied in nicely by the end of the book. There

are two plots to follow as both Philly and Lorna look for love, but the story is well told and easy to follow. Fans of Katie Fforde will not be disappointed, and new readers will want to try her other books after reading this!

Angie Rhodes

Philly and Lorna, best friends, one is a talented gardener, the other a plantswoman, both working together in a beautiful manor house, set against the beauty of the Cotswolds, that belongs to Peter, a childhood sweetheart of Philly's... and the same Peter that Lorna silently fancies. But alas he has someone new in his life and just when Philly starts to give up on love, Lucien wanders into her life and things start to look up. Happy endings all round? Err not if the meddling parents and nannies from hell have anything to do with it, The discovery of a secret garden might just help, fingers crossed,

Once again Katie whisks the reader away, this time to the Cotswolds, a place full of blue skies, romance, secrets and men who need to be shown that love sometimes is staring them in the face.

Janet Gilliard

Settle down in a comfy chair with a cup of tea (or glass of wine). The new Katie Fforde is here. It's up to her usual high standard. Lorna and Philly work together in the garden of a large house in the Cotswolds. Both are single and looking for love. Will the discovery of a secret garden change this?

I really enjoyed this. A new Katie Fforde is like meeting an old friend and catching up on all the news. Highly recommended.

Nicola Cooper

It's never too late for love.

*A nice story, easy read. Lorna, Philly, Anthea, Seamus, Jack & Lucien all good characters. Tells the story of how they are all brought together in love and via a Secret Garden. A story of work and family and how it's never too late to find love. Sometimes predictable but an enjoyable read with a nice story. Romance, Humour and Happy Ever After. **A feel good read, in a beautiful setting. Just what we need to get us in the mood for spring. Katie Fforde fans will love it.***

