



## A Home at Honeysuckle Farm

*Christie Barlow*

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## **A Home at Honeysuckle Farm** Christie Barlow

A family secret

One shocking argument and ten-year-old Alice Parker's world was turned upside down. Her peaceful life at Honeysuckle Farm in the quiet rural village of Brook Bridge swapped for the bustling metropolis of New York City. Alice's life was changed forever...

A second chance

Now, thirteen years later, Alice's American dream is over. With her life in tatters, there is only one place Alice wants to be... home at Honeysuckle Farm. So, when Alice learns her beloved Grandie is ill, she knows this is her last chance to heal the family rift.

A forever home?

But secrets still swirl in Brook Bridge, and Alice is no closer to discovering the truth. And for some reason her new friendship with local heartthrob Sam Reid seems to be making the locals tense.

Sick of the lies Alice knows it's time to lay the past to rest once and for all. But could the truth ruin her hopes of ever calling Honeysuckle Farm home again?

## **A Home at Honeysuckle Farm Details**

Date : Published April 6th 2018 by HarperImpulse

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Author : Christie Barlow

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## **From Reader Review A Home at Honeysuckle Farm for online ebook**

### **Rachel Gilbey says**

Wow this is yet again proof of what I think I may have said before, Christie Barlow is getting better and better with every single book. This was superb, I was hooked instantly, desperate to know what the big secret was that meant that Alice and her mum moved suddenly to New York, 13 years ago, and why Alice hadn't seen her beloved Grandie in that time.

And when you do get to the reveal, lets just say I didn't see that coming, although it makes complete and utter sense. Before that though there are many other secrets to unravel, an emotional homecoming for Alice, and an offer that could lead to her changing her life for the better.

Oh and lets not forget a simply gorgeous guy, if the rest of the small community can get past something that happened before Alice was even born.

Although this is all about Honeysuckle Farm as a sense of home, this is not a book set on a farm as such, more around Alice's love of dance and theatre, and with a chance to right some wrongs, and reboot her own life, I loved seeing what the author had in store for Alice next.

At various times when I was reading this I felt as though I was on the verge of tears, and by the end I had shivers and goosebumps with the mosts wonderful finale. I loved every second of this book, and just wish I could take a time machine to transport me back to the start of the book again, so that I can discover its greatness again for the first time!

Thank you to Harper Impulse and Netgalley for this copy which I have reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

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### **Dash fan says**

5? A Warm and Compelling Read. Another Fantastic Book by Christie!

A Home at Honeysuckle Farm is a heartwarming cosy read about, family, secrets, friendship, romance and new beginnings.

When I heard Christie Barlow had a new book I couldn't wait to get my hands on a copy. Christie always writes such heartfelt beautiful books and this one was exactly that.

The opening scene tugged at my heart strings seeing Grampie crying at the window whilst his daughter and grand daughter left him alone after an argument. With no explanation as to why they was arguing shocked me.

I couldn't ever imagine being separated from my Nan & Grandad, they lived with us my whole life. 4 generations in one house.

Let's just say we do get to find out why Alice and her Mum left all those years ago it was a shocker! One I didn't see coming but I love stories that shock and pack a punch!

When Alice finds out her Grandie is sick, She has no choice but to leave New York and head back to the home she loves Honeysuckle Farm. With the prospect it could be the last time she spends with Grampie, when she arrives she knows that she has arrived home!

When Alice meets Village Bad Boy Sam, Alice has an attraction to him despite what people are saying about him. I mean who don't love a bad boy! But is Sam really that bad or is his past dictating his future.

Honeysuckle farm is simply charming. Christie made it come to life.

I loved Grandie. I just wanted to give him a gentle hug. He is such a loveable character.

Alice I instantly warmed to her. She is a likeable, warm, caring character. She showed passion towards her Grandie and her love for dancing.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this compelling story that warmed my heart, tugged at my emotions, made me smile and laugh and fall in love with the wonderful characters of Honeysuckle farm.

This truly is a fantastic read. In fact I think it's my favourite of Christie's books.

If your looking for a quick, feel good read that will tug at your emotions yet make you feel warm inside then I urge you to read A Home at Honeysuckle Farm.

Thank you to Rachel Random Resources for this copy which I reviewed honestly and voluntarily.

My Review is also on my blog website:

<https://dashfan81.blogspot.com/2018/0...>

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### **Andrea says**

Nice, easy, feel good reading.

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### **Berit??? says**

#### **4.5 Heartwarming Stars ????5**

This was my first book from Christie Barlow, but it absolutely will not be my last.... this was a lovely book about friendship, family, and secrets.... set at the beautiful and idyllic Honeysuckle Farm.... you could just visualize this farm and this charming village.... with all the storefronts and beautiful homes with adorable names..... there was something very comforting about this book, just left me feeling good inside...

Alice returns to Honeysuckle Farm after being away for over 13 years.... reunited with her beloved Grandie... I really liked both of these characters and found the relationship between them so sweet.... I could not imagine what could've possibly caused mom to leave...and move her daughter all the way across the ocean to New York.... when that secret was finally revealed I have to admit it was quite shocking, but it made complete sense....

There is also a sweet love story between Alice and Sam.... Sam was such a good guy and I really felt bad that

not everybody could see that in him.... also loved the friendship between Grace and Alice, always enjoy positive female friendships in books... loved all the dancing and the grand finale and Dorothy and Bert, I could just go on and on and on.... this book in a word was simply delightful!

Strongly recommend to anybody who is in the mood for a comforting read with lovely characters and a beautiful setting...

\*\*\* thank you to the publisher and Rachel for a copy of this book \*\*\*

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### **Shirley says**

A Home at Honeysuckle Farm was such a delightful read, I instantly feel in love with the characters especially Alice Parker and Sam Reid, I really felt for Alice and all the family problems she was facing, not to mention the big family secret, I couldn't put my kindle down for wanting to find out what it was and omg I was speechless!!!!

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### **Lauren Tess'x says**

What a bloody gorgeous book, I LOVED every minute of it!?

This was my first venture into Christie Barlow novel and all I can say is, I've been living under a rock for the past god knows how long. Once I started this book I knew I wouldn't be putting it down until the very end, and that is exactly what I did!

?I loved Alice and Sam, they are absolutely gorgeous characters and are the heart and soul of this very book. Sam is a character who is just so easy to love. Alice is a character who I really felt for, all her family problems, the secrets etc... can't be easy to deal with but support from her family, friends and the community sees that smile back on her face and doing something she enjoys doing and bringing that light back to so many lives within the community.

?When the 10 year old secret was finally revealed, I gasped. That caught me off guard completely.

?I really enjoyed everything about this novel, from the community spirit displayed to the dancing themes etc...

?This book is truly one to escape in.?

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### **Nessa says**

What an absolute pleasure and delight of a read, I thoroughly enjoyed it from start to finish. Christie Barlow has definitely provided an outstanding brilliant and heartfelt read. I did not want it to end.

I thought the characters were perfectly written, they felt so very real. I truly felt for Alice, in all that she had to deal with and the family situations she had to contend with. I may have fallen in love with Sam, he sounds like an absolute dream and he can sweep me round the dance floor any time.

As I progressed through the book, one of the things that kept going through my head is 'what on earth is the big secret, what could it possibly be'. I had plenty of guesses, trying to figure it out, none of which were right. When the secret was finally revealed, after having been waiting with baited breath, I was completely

shocked and speechless, literally did not see that coming.

I adore the element of dancing throughout, it made me just want to get up and dance myself. It was lovely seeing it bring a village community together and to life.

I loved loved this book and would definitely recommend it.

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### **Joanne Robertson says**

If you want a feelgood read that will take you away from the outside world for a couple of hours then Christie Barlow is the author for you! I've always enjoyed her books so couldn't wait to dive into Honeysuckle Farm and get to know Alice and her family!

When we first meet Alice she is a very sweet 10 year old girl who lives a sheltered life which revolves around her families farm. But when she one day overhears an argument between her mother and grandfather, she really doesn't understand what's she is listening too. And when her mum then packs them both up and leaves, Alice is devastated! Thirteen years later she returns home to her sick grandfather but the family secrets that kept her away are still a mystery to her. Why did they have to leave the farm and will Alice ever be able to call the place she belongs home once more?

It took me a while to get used to Alice when she was a child as she seemed incredibly naive and young for her age but once she had grown from country girl into big city grown up Alice, I became quite fond of her. Although if I had been her I would have been much more forceful in trying to work out what went wrong thirteen years ago and make someone tell me what the hell was going on!! I enjoyed her burgeoning romance with Sam and I loved the perfect village life that she came back to. The cast of quirky characters really came to life and I found myself becoming part of their community with them.

But my favourite part of the books was the dancing! I enjoyed watching people come together through the magical moments of dance which never failed to put a smile on my face and have me tapping my toes! And as the truth explodes and threatens to destroy the happiness Alice has found, I found myself mentally cheering her on to put herself first and follow her dreams.

This was an easy to read but hard to put down book that became a little ray of sunshine on a dreary Spring day. I'm sure Christie Barlow gets better with every book she writes so I can't wait to see what she comes up with next! Recommended for fans old and new.

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### **Amy says**

When I curl up with a new Christie Barlow book I just know I'm about to have an enjoyable read, every single time she nails the perfect combination of elements that I crave in lighthearted fiction; a relatable and fun protagonist, a pretty setting, an interesting storyline and a hint of a mystery and A Home at Honeysuckle Farm delivered on all fronts.

Alice was the type of character that I wish was my own friend, she's sweet and funny with a huge heart and an endearing personality. Her mom and grandfather have a very strained relationship for reasons unknown to

her and this is where the secretive, mysterious aspect comes into play. Often times in women's fiction I feel like attempts at plot twists are super obvious, but Barlow always manages to surprise me. Besides Alice, the village of Brook Bridge was chock full of amazing secondary characters, a truly charming and delightful group of people.

I'm such a huge fan of Christie Barlow and I could gush over this book all the live long day, but I'll spare you and just say that if you want a read that will make you smile and keep you entertained, look no further.

A Home at Honeysuckle Farm in three words: Warm, Sweet and Happy.

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### **Yvonne says**

This is my first experience with Christie Barlow and I absolutely know it will not be my last. A Home at Honeysuckle Farm is the story of Alice, when she was 10 years old her mum had an argument with her Grandad this resulted in her mum taking herself and Alice off to New York to live, breaking all ties and contact. 13 years later one of Alice's friends get in touch to let her know Grandad had a fall. Alice returns to the village of Brook Bridge and Honeysuckle Farm that is nestled on the outskirts, mum stays in New York and Alice still doesn't know what the argument was about.

Oh I LOVED this book a huge amount! The characters, the descriptions, the plot the everything for me it was absolutely perfect. It had me hooked from the very first pages as I got to know Alice and how she was wrenched from the idyllic world on the farm. Life in New York is hard for Alice, being on stage and dancing is a thing that runs in the family and you would imagine that New York would be the perfect place to do that, but for Alice this is not so. She is unhappy and struggling and trying to put on a brave face, so the chance to go home is just the thing she needs.

This is when the story really tightened its grip on me, the descriptions of the village, farm and the people are great and I could visualise the settings from the authors words. Following this are all the emotions and dreams not just of Alice but of others, the village is a community, but as is often the case there are those that don't fit in. My emotions kind of went through the mill a little bit with this story with "heart in my mouth" moments to absolute jaw dropping shock. One moment reading with a great big grin on my face to then having to find tissues to dry my eyes, impossible to read when your eyes are leaking!

Even though the farm features in the story it is much more than that. It is a sense of family, community spirit, the good and the bad things in life. Also about following your dreams and your heart, pulling together and looking to the future. The past is gone, you cannot change it, you shouldn't dwell on it. Oh and then there is also the deliciously delectable Sam mmmmm

This is a book I Definitely Highly Recommend to readers of Romance with a great story line, some shocking moments and family dynamics. I loved it a huge amount and hope others do to

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### **DJ Sakata says**

Favorite Quotes:

‘Gosh, they used these things back in the days of the dinosaurs,’ I said with amazement, taking out the cassette tape and flipping it over.

But you never know, she has the habit of popping up when you least expect it. She gave me that look ...you know, when I left the house... The look where she narrows her eyes and I feel guilty for even breathing... Do you know how difficult it is to sneak out, even at my age? That woman must have some sort of psychic powers, knowing when I’m up to something.

I thought today was just another day, but it turned out it was the day I found out what my father looked like for the very first time.

#### My Review:

I had a problem settling myself to pen a review for this book, as for one, I couldn’t decide how to categorize the genre. There were several mysteries, loads of family drama, grief, small-town issues of pettiness and long-held feuds, a slowly developing yet sweet romance, frequent licks of amusing humor, and a main character in agitation and tumult. I landed on the broad category of women’s fiction, as I so frequently do since most women face all of these thorny issues on a daily basis. The story was easy to follow and held my interest and kept me curious while taunting me by withholding critical information and causing rampant speculation on my part.

But my main consternation seemed to be that I couldn’t fully connect or empathize with the main character of Alice, who often annoyed me with her indecisive waffling, lack of backbone, and proclivity for fabrication - although her obstinate mother also seemed to have mastered the art of deceit as well. I was increasingly frustrated with Alice and had developed a steadily growing resentment of her mother who was the epicenter of the majority of Alice’s turmoil, although I enjoyed Alice’s friends and adored the sexy Sam. I was beginning to despair of the truth remaining undisclosed while I was running out of pages when the closely held secret was finally unwound. Sigh, thankfully I held on for that HEA and was rewarded for my patience. Christie Barlow can certainly spin a tale.

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#### **Sarah says**

Christie Barlow transports us into the wonderful and idyllic world of Brook Bridge. A small knit community of which you can easily visualise the country box houses and the quaint shops. It sounded heavenly and along with Honeysuckle Farm itself, I was ready to pack up and move there myself.

Alice is a wonderful protagonist. She is young, sensible, hard working but sadly struggling to follow her dreams. Going back to her childhood home gives her a much welcome break from the disappointment of New York. Reuniting with her childhood best friend and a new love interest to boot, why would you ever want to leave?

Grandie is a wonderful character. Even though weak from being ill, there is no mistaking the strong and loving aura that surrounds him. I was as desperate as Alice in finding out what had made her mum and Grandie fall out all those years before. I could never imagine not talking to a loved one for so long and couldn’t envision what could be that bad to stop them from talking and have a mother take her young

daughter miles away from home. When we find out, WOAH! I did not see that coming! I think my jaw may have dropped and stayed there for quite a while until I remembered to fix it back into place.

A Home At Honeysuckle Farm is a comforting and breath taking read. When reading it you feel like you are in a warm and cosy bubble that you never want to leave. It radiates goodness of which you can't help but fall in love with it all. A truly wonderful and fabulous story by one of my favourite go to authors who never lets me down.

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### **Shalini says**

A beautiful read by Christie Barlow. All her books have the right amount of emotions, with tears, laughs smiles, and some memories. And this book too does not disappoint.

There is family and secrets, with Alice returning to Honeysuckle Farm after 13 years. Her reunion with her Grandie brought tears to my eyes.

There is a love connection between Alice and Sam which was fun to read. And the friendship between Alice and Grace had me smiling.

This was a terrific read on a Monday afternoon. A good break from realities of life. My first Christie Barlow book, but definitely not my last. This book made me happy.

I received an ARC from NetGalley and publisher HarperCollins UK, and this is my honest and unbiased opinion.

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### **Kerry says**

A Home at Honeysuckle Farm is one of those books I wish I could have curled up with and read from cover to cover without any interruptions. I truly envy people who can read a book in a day. It's something I am yet to achieve. Unfortunately, as for most of us, this isn't a very realistic option. As much as I'd love to read all day, there is always something else to do, but I can honestly say that this story still had me hooked from the start. Whenever I picked up my kindle I was instantly immersed in Alice Parker's world again and when I wasn't reading I was wondering what might happen next. I couldn't wait to carry on reading.

Alice is a lovely character and one I warmed to straight away. I really felt for her being torn between her loyalty to her mother and missing her old life back in England. I can't even imagine being whisked off to live in New York at 10 years old and not seeing the rest of my family again. It would have felt like moving to another planet to me at that age. It would now! I'm a bit of a home bird.

Alice remembers an argument between her Mum and her Grandie, but has no idea what it was all about. What could be so bad that they had to cut ties all together? I have to say the truth was quite a shock!

As is often the case in real life, illness and the fear of running out of time to make amends, makes Alice reassess her life. Does she really want to go back to New York when she has a chance of a brighter future back home? She needs to find out the truth though before being able to move on completely. Can she convince her Mum to come home?

Honeysuckle Farm sounds idyllic and not far from where I live. I wonder if I can visit ;-) I'm not surprised Alice feels right at home again when she returns. Meeting Sam only makes the prospect of staying all the more appealing and who can blame her, he sounds so lovely. The chemistry between them is obvious from

the start. He's worried his family history will get in the way of their relationship though, as some people seem unable to let go of the past, but Alice is determined to turn things around for her family and her community.

This is such a heart warming story. One which might make you think about your own family relationships and friendships. We never know how long we have people for and although some things are hard to forget, we have to do our best to forgive.

I can't imagine anyone not loving this story. Why not treat yourself.

Many thanks to the author and publisher for my ARC via Netgalley. I will be more than happy to recommend.

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### **Nicola Clough says**

Christie Barlow does it every time and always improves from her last book this one is simply brilliant so well written and great characters and story plot has you hooked from the first word. It's full of fun, laughter and family problems and romance and happy ever afters. A simply joy to read this book so so much highly recommend it to anyone.

The story is based around three main things which is a family secret a second chance and forever home. Alice loved living with her grandie as she called him and her mum in a lovel village and when she was 10 she moves away with her mother after hearing her having an argument with him and telling her mum to leave. She is so upset but moves to New York and builds a life there but 13 years later she hears from a friend that her grandie is ill so she decides to go back and see him. As soon as she lands in England she knows that honeysuckle farm will be her forever home as her life in New York is in tatters and she doesn't feel it's home. Once she's home her grandie is so pleased to see her and offers her an offer she really can't turn down but she wants her mum to be with her but does she change her mums mind and can she learn the family secret or can know one tell her what it is. She also meets Sam and feels she can be falling for him but he's not popular in the village at all so can she change people's minds or not and can she be happy.

This is an amazing book and so highly recommend you read it. Worth far more than five stars for sure.

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