



Amelia Grey's Fireside Dream

Abby Clements

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Amelia has a dream: toasting chestnuts by the fire with her husband Jack in their own cosy cottage. Their real life is another world - a cramped one-bedroom flat in Hackney. But when life takes a surprising turn, removal vans are soon heading to the Kent countryside.

They soon realise the cottage makeover is a far bigger project than they'd anticipated. On top of that, there's Amelia's newly loved-up mum and her tearaway half-sister, Mirabel, to contend with - pushing Amelia and Jack's marriage to the breaking point.

Amelia begins to strip back the wallpaper and fittings in the cottage and discovers the story of the cottage's previous owner - and a hidden secret. As Amelia's ideas about love and family change, will her fireside dream finally come true?

Amelia Grey's Fireside Dream Details

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From Reader Review Amelia Grey's Fireside Dream for online ebook

Lisa Richards says

In theory, this would be a great book, but it really doesn't know what it wants to be; the story flits between too many genres, and although I tried to identify with the lead character I just couldn't sympathise with some of the awful life choices she was making. Such a shame...

Heidi says

Amelia and her husband Jack are fulfilling their dream of buying a cottage in the countryside. Does the cottage give them everything they were looking for, or will the pressure of the restoration prove too much for them?

The backdrop for this book is the renovation of an old cottage. I really liked this topic as it is something that a lot of us have come or will come across during our lives. Abby brilliantly highlights the hiccups involved in taking on such a big project. It was great seeing the way she portrayed the whole saga in her characters. She doesn't only emphasize the physical hardship but also highlights the emotional drain involved.

The reader slowly gets eased into the storyline by the introduction of Amelia through her work life and her friends. I love books that start off this way as I feel I get to know the characters before the "adventures" really begin.

The storyline surrounding Elenor (the previous owner of the cottage) and how Amelia finds out more about her by finding certain items that were left behind, is really cute and endearing.

Whereas I adored Amelia's character, she is so enthusiastic and loveable, I wasn't keen on Jack as I couldn't agree with some of the decisions he took.

This book is sweet, engaging and can brighten up a long and rainy day. It even inspired me to decorate one of our rooms :-).

Shelley says

It was an easy read, but really not my cup of tea. I'm not fond of books that tie everything up in a neat little bow without resolving any of the issues raised in them. Although this was about a home renovation, the writing was rushed and I didn't picture the developments I had hoped to. I thought the book would create incredible imagery for me to enjoy but it was all surface level detail. The relationships and conversations weren't relatable and felt trite. It was a sweet story, but I won't be reading anything else by the same author in the future.

Additionally, the editing was atrocious; this version is littered with errors throughout.

Ellie says

Amelia Grey's Fireside dream was not the cosy read I was expecting and there were multiple things that irritated me about the main character. I don't think anyone in their right mind would quit their job before their mortgage was finalised. And if they did, at least wouldn't phone up and tell the bank before they'd got another job. She's meant to be a teacher, someone you hope would have common sense.

She acts like a spoiled brat a lot of the time, incredibly selfish and Jack has the patience of a saint not to turn on her. She gets all huffy when the cottage isn't perfect and it's all her own fault (again with the very stupid behaviour, won't go into details otherwise I'll tell you the whole plot). Her senseless spending got on my nerves so much, you buy a house after quitting your job, you're going to hold onto money, right? Not Amelia Grey! She's a bit unfair to her mum and a wet blanket when it comes to standing up to her dad.

The storyline about not wanting a baby was the final straw. If you've been married for years and bought property together, more than once, you think the topic of starting a family would have been discussed? As in one person doesn't want kids and the other does. The resolution of this conflict really annoyed me, from the point of view of someone who doesn't want kids. You just aren't that easily swayed.

The story of the new house in the country doesn't start until well into middle of the book either. I thought it would be an autumnal read but it's not really, it's more about moving house without using your brain. There's lots of different threads going on too, I wouldn't have minded more on the old owner or general village life. I also quite liked her sister, although again, everything was resolved a bit too easily. A risk you take when you try and pack so much in.

I think I must have carried on reading in the hope of an unhappy ending... or maybe it's just that I haven't finished many books lately. But this really was a let down and not even stupidly romantic. I think you'd be much better off with something by Milly Johnson or Tricia Ashley.

Louise Joy says

I finally finished this story today in the way it was probably intended to be read - curled up warm in bed with a cuppa and the rain pouring down outside. I really loved this book and thought it was the perfect Autumn read.

It was interesting because in some ways it gave me a glimpse into what I'd like my future to be - although marriage or owning a house aren't things that specifically affect me at my age or at this point in my life, the dream of moving to the countryside one day IS. So this kind of gave me a realistic view to what things might be like one day. To me, it kind of dealt with the bit after the 'happy ever after' and this story had some great messages behind it. It taught me that it's not always easy going after what you want, but no matter how hard it is, the end result will always be worth it.

For a longer, more comprehensive review, have a look at a review I've popped up on my blog here.

Isabella N. says

After Vivian's Heavenly Ice Cream Shop and this novel, Meet Me Under The Mistletoe is definitely on my to read list.

Emma says

3.5 stars!

This was a cute read, although not exactly what I was expecting. When I originally purchased this, it was listed under some kind of Christmas/Festive heading, and it does not actually centre around this topic at all. The only time Christmas really shows up is at the end.

The book follows Amelia and Jack, a young married couple from London who decide to make a massive change in their lives, and to move to the countryside. They face many problems along the way, both big and small, and it turns out that nothing about their new life is how they predicted.

Character-wise, I liked Amelia, and I thought her desire to move and make change in her life when she felt almost trapped and unmoving was believable. However she had her flaws, and things annoyed me about the way she made decisions and the way she and Jack didn't speak to each other about their problems. I liked Jack as well, although I feel he too had a few issues. Amelia's sister Mirabel was a great character - very realistic for a tearaway 16 year old - and I enjoyed the background stories of their friends and jobs.

The one thing that did annoy me with the story was the underlying hint there would be a "new man" or "new woman" for each of them both in this life - I dislike plotlines where the couple find a "new perfect person" when only a few chapters earlier they seemed perfectly happy together. I am very glad this storyline I felt sure was coming actually did not, and they worked on their marriage instead. Too many people throw marriage away now at the first sign of struggle, and it was good to see their growth and maturity as a couple as the book progressed.

Overall I thought this was a realistic book, with a great back-drop of renovating a house, and the mystery of Eleanor and her past.

I'd give this around 3.5 stars!

Samantha says

I was so excited when this was sent to me to review. I first discovered Abby Clements earlier this year when I read Vivien's Heavenly Ice Cream Shop and I absolutely loved it. I find Abby Clement's books very easy to read and she is very quickly becoming one of my favourite chick lit authors.

Amelia Grey's Fireside Dream is a fantastic addition to Abby's novels and is about Amelia, she is a teacher at a busy inner city school. Amelia is approaching thirty fast and is re-evaluating her life, she realises she wants more from her life. Her husband, Jack and her are looking for a new house and Amelia decides that maybe they should be looking further afield as they would get more for their money.

Jack is unsure at first but begins to come round to Amelia's way of thinking and start to house hunt in Kent.

Life is not plain sailing for them, this story identifies the stress a move can cause and how it can have an effect on your relationship. It also covers natural progression in life, Amelia's friend Suni is pregnant and it is assumed that Amelia won't be too far behind. (She is married, they have a mortgage, moving to a bigger property...) There are ups and downs in the story which keep it fast paced and interesting.

This is a wonderful story for this time of year, I can visually see the story panning out and I feel that I am with Amelia in her house, while renovations are taking place. Abby Clements writes in a way that is smooth and the plot develops smoothly. Although I have a lot I want to say about this book because it is so good, I don't want to spoil it for anyone who hasn't read it yet.

This is a perfect book for anyone who has ever moved, redecorated/renovated or just wants a wonderful story leading up to Christmas. I read this story very quickly and only wish it was longer, I cannot wait to read more from Abby Clements I enjoyed this story immensely and would like to thank the publisher for sending me a review copy.

For this review and others please visit:

Mrsbbooks2011.blogspot.co.uk

Ella says

Nice easy book to read. Just what I needed after reading a few hard going story's

Mandy Radley says

A very quick, easy read, predictable chick lit.

Stephanie (Stepping out of the Page) says

Amelia Grey's Fireside Dream is one of those books that I just looked at and sighed - for positive reasons! As soon as I saw the gorgeous seasonal cover with the shiny autumnal covers and the soothing mention of a fireside, I knew that this would be a perfect book to read as the nights started drawing in.

This book introduces us to Amelia, our protagonist, who has, after years, grown tired of her urban home and lifestyle. Amelia isn't completely unhappy though, as she lives with her long-term partner, lives nearby to some close friends and has a job that she's passionate about, teaching kids at St. Catherine's school. Amelia Grey's Fireside Dream is about Amelia making her 'Fireside dream' come true, as she moves out of the city and into the countryside with the aim of having a more relaxed, rural life. As always in life, unfortunately not everything can be perfect, and we follow Amelia as she works hard to make her newly-bought, but rather outdated, country house into a home.

Amelia is a wonderful protagonist because she is simply human - the author doesn't make any attempts to

make her a particularly remarkable character in any way, which is exactly why she is so easy to connect with - Amelia is certainly not perfect, but she tries her best and makes an effort in what she does, she's ambitious but somewhat cautious and yes, she makes quite a few mistakes. What I liked reading about most in regards to Amelia was her relationships - those with her friends, her partner and her family. Amelia's two best friends, Carly and Sunita, live in the city and I really liked reading about their close friendships, there was a real sense of comfort and trust between them which was really comforting to read about. I liked reading about Amelia's relationship with her family too, her parents, but mostly her sister, Mirabel who is a bit of a teenage rebel, but who Amelia manages to really take under her wing.

A large part of this book is focused on Amelia's relationship with her long term partner Jack. Initially, Jack isn't completely sold on moving to the countryside, but despite that, they take the leap and purchase a house which needs a lot of work. As there is so much to do with the house and as Jack has a lot on at work, things become stretched. Their relationship was certainly not perfect, there were some quite significant flaws and weaknesses, but again this really made the book feel realistic. Despite the issues, it was very clear that there was chemistry between the couple and I could see that the two had a loving relationship. I was torn with what would become of the couple as the book progressed - I really couldn't predict what would happen with them or if their relationship under the new circumstances.

I also can't forget to mention that there is a fantastic subplot to this book where we are introduced to some mystery items which have been left in the house by the previous owner - I became so excited at these parts, wondering who they belonged to, what the story was behind the letters and items. Though everything was tied up at the end, I do wish that there was even more exploration of this subplot as it did have me on the edge of my seat.

As this is a book about restoring and redecorating an old country house, any of you who are interested in interior design, homeware, crafts and/or Pinterest will definitely have a soft-spot for this book! Many of the chapters in this book start with mood boards, conjuring up Amelia's dream designs for her home and it will definitely get your imagination going, if not making you want to start handcrafting things for your own home!

Overall, this was a really pleasant read which I enjoyed and would recommend to anyone who is wanting something that is easy to read and relax with. The pace of this book is relaxed though never boring and you will find the time slipping away without you noticing as you keep turning page after page. Highly recommended!

Suzanne Waters says

I really wasn't impressed by this book and there was several times I wanted to give up on it. In the end it was just such a disappointment.

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

I'm already a big fan of Abby Clements – I've loved her books ever since I picked up her first release, *Meet Me Under The Mistletoe*, and so when I heard that Abby was releasing another book, I was very pleased! I absolutely love the title – it sounded like such a cosy title and so I sat down to read it on a cold Autumn day

when I was inside wrapped up in a big jumper with a hot chocolate!

Amelia had dreams of being cosy in a cottage with her husband Jack, but in reality, they're living in a cramped one-bedroom flat in Hackney. After deciding to move, they come across a cottage that needs some work doing to it, and Amelia falls in love with it! Doing a makeover can't be that hard surely? Soon they realise that their dream home will be harder to achieve than they first thought, threatening not only their dream place but their marriage too. As Amelia throws herself into stripping wallpaper and working on their perfect home, will both home and love finally come together?

I was hoping that I'd enjoy this given I'd loved Abby's other novels and I was thrilled to say that Abby is back on form again with her latest release.

I liked how realistic Abby kept the story. Moving house is often very stressful, busy and time-consuming...I've been spending some time helping my brother fix up his new house so I know how much work and effort goes in. I feel Abby did a fantastic job of portraying this aspect in her novel, it was very realistic and true to life and at times I almost felt as though I was with Amelia pulling the wallpaper off and watching her home undergo its transformation. I loved the detail Abby put it about Amelia and Jack's home, I could imagine the changes that were happening and I could almost see the new house coming to life in front of me. I genuinely felt so much excitement for them as I saw their dream house building up bit by bit and becoming a reality...I'm now very keen to up and move to a beautiful cottage!

The characters were brilliant. Amelia is a likeable character and I warmed to her straight away. Like Amelia, I too dream of one day having a cottage in the countryside so I was really cheering her on and hoping that she managed to get her fireside dream with her husband Jack. I loved Jack and Amelia as a couple too, I could see that they loved each other deeply and the romantic in me was rooting for them throughout!

Amelia Grey's Fireside Dream is a warm read that really touched my heart, and it was such a beautiful story. This is the PERFECT novel to curl up with this Autumn and Winter!

Leah says

When I received my copy of Abby Clements' new novel Amelia Grey's Fireside Dreams I was so excited. She's such a popular author since her debut novel was released last year, and I was really looking forward to reading the novel. I haven't actually read any of Abby's books yet, although I did manage to read her Christmas novella that was released last year called The Christmas Bake Off and I was massively impressed with it. I had high expectations for Amelia Grey's Fireside Dreams, but sadly, it wasn't as fun as I expected it to be...

I really love the idea of home improvements and I love shows like DIY SOS so I was really pleased to see the plot of Amelia Grey was about a house renovation. I imagined it would be something like the film The Money Pit, a quirky, funny read, but it was a bit more serious and a lot less fun than I expected. The novel just seemed to motor on, ticking all the Chick Lit boxes as it did so and I was never really 100% vested in the novel, I wasn't bothered if Amelia and Jack would make it through the renovations unscathed or if their cottage would ever be finished. Amelia could have been such a great character, but I felt like she never really came to life for me. She just seemed so flat and uninspiring. I totally get that home renovations are difficult, and money can be tight etc and in that regard the novel was very realistic and I appreciated how much strain can be put on a marriage when there's a cottage to totally gut and put back together, but I dunno I just found

myself not as interested as I wanted to be in the novel.

Amelia Grey's Fireside Dreams will undoubtedly have its fans, because it is the perfect book to curl up with during the Winter months (or what passes as Winter months in Tenerife! :)) I just appear to be in a bit of a reading slump recently, and I think I need some kind of butt-kicking book, something absolutely shocking to pull me out of my slump and this one wasn't it. Which is a massive shame, actually. Abby is such a popular author and it is a solid novel, and I did finish it in the day, it just didn't capture me the way I wanted it to, I wasn't overtly interested in Amelia or Jack, although I did enjoy reading about the house being renovated, I did like to imagine all the colours being painted on the walls, and the beautiful claw-footed bath tub. It just didn't work for me, really. It was OK and it ticked all of the boxes, it just didn't blow me away and currently I'm trying to find a book that will blow me away, because I need something like that to jolt me out of my reading slump.

Ellen says

it was unrealistic and the author has never decorated a house in her life: painting and papering a room at the same time - totally impractical to be hanging paper around wet paint AND the cat walked across the paint lid when she was painting the landing walls - one uses emulsion for walls, not gloss, so why did she write that the cat's paws had to be cleaned with white spirit when water would wash off emulsion paint?

unrealistic again because, from kitchen order on a website on the tuesday to arrival to install by the friday - no way!!!!!!

she spends all day one saturday back in london to see a friend's baby leaving jack at home to get on with the renovations, but when he says he has to go away for four days the following week for work, she 'bollocks' him for not helping out with the cottage, when she'd just been out all day and he'd been working on it and he'd be at work all day the following week anyway, importantly, as the sole wage earner.

but then he's a plonker too - they're in the middle of doing up a cottage after a stressful move and only six weeks into it he wants to move out and give them a break from each other, leaving her to do all the work now, when they should have cut each other some slack for the stress they'd been under not add to it - just crazy and over dramatic and unrealistic - who behaves like this?

then miraculously at the end she changes her mind and she does want a bay when in three months she's hoping to get a new teaching job - motherhood is a career - she thinks it won't be as hard as doing up a cottage!!!!!!!

there are no spoilers in this review as you could see it all coming a mile off and there was hardly a plot to spoil anyway.
