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Kristen Ashley

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Douglas has no desire to raise his dead sister's children nor does he want the distraction of the tempting Julia living under his roof. Julia is struggling with grief and trying to make a go in a new country without much help from impossibly handsome but even more impossibly remote Douglas. Not to mention, she has to deal with the active hostility of Douglas's frosty, Attila-the-Hun-in-a-skirt mother, Monique.

Douglas decides the best way to give the children what they need, get his mother to behave and give himself what he wants is to marry Julia. When he tells her (yes, tells her) she will be his wife, Julia thinks Douglas is (probably) insane. And anyway, she's decided if she ever has another husband (since the last one wasn't so great), he was going to be short, balding, have a paunch and worship the ground she walks on (none of these characteristics define Douglas in the slightest).

One more thing, Sommersgate House is haunted by the ghosts of the man who built the house and the woman who was the love of his life. They both died mysteriously at Sommersgate months after it was finished. When they did, a curse settled on the house making it seem strangely alive. And the only way for the beautiful but frightening house to rid itself of this curse is for its owner to find true love.

Sommersgate House Details

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From Reader Review Sommersgate House for online ebook

Melanie says

After having read 'Penmort Castle', I was all ready to sit down and read a pleasantly entertaining 'Sommersgate House'... but instead of treating myself to a *good* book, I got a **great** book! (WOOT - I love when that happens!!) Seriously, 'Sommersgate House' (IMO) can hold its own against the many phenomenal KA books I've had the fortune to read.

Julia and Douglas have been thrust into the role of guardians to their two young nieces and nephew after their parents (Julia's brother and Douglas' sister) tragically die in a car accident. In addition to naming them as guardians, the will also stipulates that the children are to be brought up in Douglas' gothicly morose ancestral home, Sommersgate House... which just happens to be haunted by relatively benign but cursed ghosts.

After Julia, an American, leaves everything behind and moves to the UK to help raise the children she and Douglas have to deal their attraction to one another - she's determined to keep things platonic, but he's decided Julia will make the perfect wife and, in typical KA alpha-male action, Douglas pulls out all the stops to make her *his*. The result is an amazing and emotionally-charged story - and the emotionally-handicapped but determined Douglas has been added to my "notable KA heroes" list!

On a side note I do wish we could have gotten a bit more insight into Douglas' dangerous "job" (I assume he was an agent of sorts), and the elusive "Nick" but this bit of omission didn't detract too much from the overall story...

Stacie says

March 24, 2018

Third reread. I loved it even more. Bumping on up to 5 stars!

Reread/Audio Review February 11, 2017

4 1/2 "Douglas and Julia" Stars!!

Love, love, love! I mostly just listened to it this time around. The narrator was very good.

Douglas was absolutely swooney. Julia was a quirky KA heroin, but not stupid or annoying. She was quite likeable actually. The children were simply precious. I do love a story with children and the children are

actually a real part of the story. This was well done here. Also the secondary adult characters were all very likeable too. Overall very, very good. I think the only reason this was not 5 Stars for me is because the ghost were not very present in the story. They seemed a bit of an afterthought. Happy reading!!

Original Review April 7, 2014

Another fantastic read from KA. I love the way she clearly loves clothes! Julia and Douglas are great and all the children are wonderful. This book has a really wonderful cast of characters. Douglas making the toast... I got very teary eyed. William... oh, my, what an absolutely charming, thoughtful and mature young man. His future wife is a very lucky girl. I'm not all surprised at how the girls turned out. Especially Ruby. She is adorable. The ending was so touching. It was perfect. I only wish the ghost had more of an appearance in the story. I highly recommend this book, as I do all KA books I have read so far.

Elise ✕ a.k.a Ryder's Pet ✕ says

To be honest, I didn't feel all that much from this book. Sure it had its moments, but I couldn't really get into it. It is, perhaps, because I was doing other stuff while reading, like... re-watching Once Upon A Time with Mom. Oh well. The characters were nice. **Julia Fairfax** (36) had some spark, backbone, heartbroken, *and* broken, yet so kind and loving.

"No one knows the real story," Mrs. K began. "Some say he killed her, some say someone else killed them both. The truth is, they found his body outside, dead from exposure and looking like he'd been trying to get in. They found The Mistress in the house and she'd been strangled."

Just as Julia, **Douglas Ashton** (38) had his demons (I wish we had gotten to know more about him; his job), was commanding, sexy, knew what he wanted; took it, and dangerous. He was hot, but far from my favorite **KA** alpha male. The rest of the family; **Ruby** (4), **William** (10) and **Elizabeth** (12), even **Veronika** (17) was adorable, though I wished we had gotten a chance to know them more. I almost felt like a person looking from the outside... Overall, it's a alright story, but not for me. I was a bit disappointed in this book, to be frankly honest.

"If you ever leave," his voice had changed from soft to harsh, "I'll find you and bring you back."

Quick basic facts:

Genre: - (Adult) Paranormal Romance

Series: - Series, Book Two

Love triangle? - (view spoiler)

Cheating? - (view spoiler)

HEA? - (view spoiler)

Favorite character? - Douglas Ashton

Would I read more by this author/or of series? - Yes.

Would I recommend this book/series? - Sure.

Will I read this again in the future? - No.

Rating - 2.5 stars.

Pam Nelson says

4.5 Sommersgate House Stars

Ok so I liked book one but I enjoyed book two just a little bit more.

The dynamic in which these characters come together is sad and heartbreaking. But also so very needed for all of them to heal.

The children needed a home, and the house needed a family. Douglas needed love and family who cared. And Julia needed to heal.

I didn't not like Douglas, in the beginning, I would call it cautious. I wondered why he was so standoffish and you learn why that is and your heart goes out to him.

I think I felt most for Julia just because she cared her grief on the outside and it was hard for her to be brave. Plus her past is kind of sad but for the most part she doesn't or I should say tries really hard to put it in the past but sometimes the past is just so painful it stays with you for a lot longer then you wish it would.

I love the interaction between the staff and the children, just all of it is refreshing, I have read a lot of books with kids but I like when they are so intertwined in the story that you couldn't image it without them.

Last but not least having a glimpse into Douglas and Julia falling in love was precious and I am so glad I listened to this audio, Abby does a great job with this narration. I enjoyed all her character voice. Worth the credit for sure.

You don't have to like my review but its 100% my opinion, and I am allowed to have it.

Catarina says

5 Cursed Stars

Welcome to Sommersgate House. A house that was made for love, but now only hides dark secrets. A house that was made to have happiness in it... but it only has grief.

A house that one man built to live happily ever after with the woman of his dreams, until a tragedy torn them apart leaving them curse forever, until true love can unite them again.

Douglas, the actual Baron of the house had a hard past in a house without love. The only person he truly loved was his sister, Tamsyn. Until the day she and her husband die in a car accident leaving him and Tamsyn's sister in law with the custody of the children and a will that says that the kids should grow up in the house.

Julia loved his brother and loved her sister-in-law like a true sister, so when they died, despite being broken she was willing to move to England to fulfill their last wish: raise their children in Sommersgate. And that

means, living in the same house as the sexy and mysterious Douglas when everyone knows (except those two) that there were always something between them.

They say love is a hard battle, so when the equation adds three broken children, a grandmother from hell, two souls that are lost for centuries and feelings that both of them are too scared to admit, they are getting ready for the hardest battle of their lives.

Rating: 5 Stars.

Storyline: I really don't know why I haven't read this series before. As basically all Kristen Ashley series, these books are effing amazing. This one was (my only complaint) a little too slow burn for me. I wish they had sorted their stuff sooner, but other than that, another epic romance story with KA's signature.

Writing Style: Third person. Dual POV. Heartwarming, steamy and addictive.

Character Development: Julia was an amazing heroine. I love how strong and loving she was. Douglas was a great and sexy alpha-male. I love how decided he was and how he was with Julia and the kids. And those two as a couple were amazing, two broken souls healing each other.

As always in KA's books, an awesomely crazy group of supportive characters.

Steam: Hot.

HEA: (view spoiler)

Jessica ✿ ⇨ **Silverbow** ⇨ ✿ **Rabid Reads-no-more says**

3.5 stars

Hmm . . . Not my favorite KA book, but still KA, so better than most. VERY much looking forward to moving on to the next one.

RTC.

10/23/15: ANOTHER Buddy (Re)Read with **Robin** and **Joanita** !

Lady Heather says

I really liked this story!

The writing, characters and story were typical 'Kristen Ashley'.

Douglas and Julia are amazing together, as well as Will, Lizzie, and Ruby.... absolutely ADORED Ruby!

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

WONDERFUL! I saved this story 'cuz I knew it'd be awesome and I knew there'd come a time I'd need a guaranteed awesome read...and I got one! So much poignancy, so much romance, and sooooo much passion! LOVED IT!!!!

Description

Douglas Ashton is the cold and unfeeling owner of the gothic Victorian Mansion, Sommersgate House. Julia Fairfax is his stubborn American sister-in-law. After tragedy strikes, Douglas and Julia are forced to live together at Sommersgate and raise their newly orphaned nieces and nephew.

Douglas has no desire to raise his dead sister's children nor does he want the distraction of the tempting Julia living under his roof. Julia is struggling with grief and trying to make a go in a new country without much help from impossibly handsome but even more impossibly remote Douglas. Not to mention, she has to deal with the active hostility of Douglas's frosty, Attila-the-Hun-in-a-skirt mother, Monique.

Douglas decides the best way to give the children what they need, get his mother to behave and give himself what he wants is to marry Julia. When he tells her (yes, tells her) she will be his wife, Julia thinks Douglas is (probably) insane. And anyway, she's decided if she ever has another husband (since the last one wasn't so great), he was going to be short, balding, have a paunch and worship the ground she walks on (none of these characteristics define Douglas in the slightest).

One more thing, Sommersgate House is haunted by the ghosts of the man who built the house and the woman who was the love of his life. They both died mysteriously at Sommersgate months after it was finished. When they did, a curse settled on the house making it seem strangely alive. And the only way for the beautiful but frightening house to rid itself of this curse is for its owner to find true love.

Robin (Bridge Four) says

Why? *Cuz it is October and something haunty is required and we can.*

Also....cuz *My Enabler Jessica* and fellow KA lover **Joanita** said they would buddy read the entire series with me.

#impromptubuddyreadsforlife #imighthaveaproblem #KAjustgetsme

3.5 The House Doesn't Like Strangers Stars

Have you ever walked into a house or room and it has a 'feel' about it? Whether it is good or bad there is just something that surrounds you and makes your emotions shift a certain way. Well Sommersgate house has that definite feel to it to all those who live there and it is unmistakable what the house is feeling.

Worst of all, the house was tense and make no mistake about it, even though it was simply mortar and stone (albeit grand mortar and stone), Sommersgate could most definitely be tense.

The house it seems is haunted by two lovers who were killed shortly after they were married and a horrific way and over the years they are made to relive their deaths time and time again. The curse will only be broken when the master of the house finds true love. But that it seems is hard to come by and so hundreds of years have passed.

While I was immediately drawn into the first book of this series, this one takes some time. The beginning is a little slow at it is being set up and I will say that this is one of the few times I've felt like KA is guilty of info dumping. But, once we get the first few chapters in everything starts to pick-up.

Douglas it seems is a broken man and a man of mystery. No one seems to know what he does, he is gone most of the time and once disappeared for two years. Julia had a bad marriage that totally broke her confidence and she hasn't trusted a man since. When both her husband and father basically abandoned her she decided that she would never let someone that close again...then her brother died.

Julia and Douglas are thrown together to raise the two children left behind when their parents died. It was Douglas's sister Tamsin's last wish that he and Julia raise the children together at Sommersgate. It is quickly clear that they are clashing over what each expects from the other and Douglas isn't used to anyone standing up against him let alone a beautiful woman.....so let the sparks fly.

"As for Tamsin's wishes, I intend to carry them out to the letter. There was a reason she wanted you here, you and your delectable body and your enticing perfume and your legs that go on forever."

She was stunned by his words and could barely process them before he went on.

"My sister was a romantic and she cared for us both. She had very specific intentions for this little arrangement she created and I've no doubt she talked Gavin around to her way of thinking."

The story might start out a little slow but that is the feel of coming into a house of mourning and trying to bring back 3 children from the depths of despair that is left when both of your parents die. I loved the tender moments that we get as this family starts to put themselves back together. Sometimes it was so incredibly heartbreaking as each child comes to terms with it in different ways.

Douglas is bound and determined that Julia will be his wife and they will raise the children together. But Julia after her horrendous last marriage keeps putting him off and saying no. Seriously even I was starting to get more and more disgruntled with her reluctance because it was taking sooo long. Douglas was definitely playing the long game on this one.

Clearly, Douglas realised what Julia had officially termed (in her own mind) "The Tender Onslaught Strategy (with Vague Tendencies Toward Arrogance)" was working beautifully so he kept right on using it.

Overall though this is one of the more drawn out of KA's love stories and loved all the small gestures that Douglas makes not only with Julia but also with the children as he learns how to love a family and receive their love in return.

There are always some hiccups along the way and the culmination of the story that will release the ghosts was interesting and really good. But for me one of the best parts of the story was the epilogue that gave little snippets of what all the characters did in the future. It was so interesting to see what sort of future they all

had.

~ Becs ~ says

This was definitely better than Penmort Castle but I still don't like the hocus pocus stuff interrupting the beautiful romances that KA has been giving us. While we don't have the turbo-charged banshee totally jumping the shark the way we did in the first book, we still have a bit of a screamer for a spook and there's really no need for it. I *know* that's the whole point of this series but KA really does give us good enough stories and issues that all the ghost mumbo jumbo really does seem a bit superfluous.

Anyway, this time we have three young children orphaned when their parents were killed in a car crash and are left in the care of Julia & Douglas, their paternal aunt and maternal uncle, in their parents' will. Julia is an American divorcee and has given up everything to come to live in Sommersgate House in England and raise her brother's children along with Douglas, heir to the stately pile, and the children's mother's brother. Still with me??

This had all the hallmarks of a classic gothic Victorian melodrama – it even felt a little like Jane Eyre with Julia taking on Jane's role, Douglas as Rochester, Mrs Kilpatrick as Mrs Fairfax and even little Ruby as Adele. Of course, Jane is not a governess and Douglas goes to great lengths to make sure that no one sees her as a hired help but very much as part of the family.

So Douglas – he's a bit of a cold fish to begin with and his story is actually quite heartbreaking and slowly revealed to us during the novel. We begin to understand his cold demeanour and I loved how he very slowly warmed up towards the children. He decides very early on that he and Julia should get married but Julia fights it all the way. She's been married before and is in no rush to have another go and feels she can marry for nothing less than love. Douglas does love her but it will take him just about the whole novel to realise it.

Julia herself is a wonderfully warm character. She's been raised with love and wants nothing less for her nieces and nephew despite their terrible loss. Some of the scenes with Julia and the children were beautiful – there was one particular scene, on Christmas Day, which I felt so deeply, my vision blurred from tears. Beautifully written.

While I enjoyed it, there were a few things I felt were totally unnecessary. Monique, Douglas' mother really had a starring role as a Monster-in-Law and she drags up Julia's ex husband who appeared for a fairly extraneous scene that really didn't contribute to the overall plot. Douglas has some kind of sneaky beaky MI6 role and had disappeared for 2 years in the past and returned scarred and this is never explained. But, these were minor gripes, and I mostly enjoyed the romance and tension between Julia and Douglas.

I did wonder why the heroines are always American and not English when this series is set exclusively in England but have decided that this could be something to do with the fact that KA herself is an American living in England and she's sharing those experiences through her heroines.

So, a good 4 star contemporary romance, with a brief ghostly interlude.

CC says

4.5 stars

Loved it! Ending and epilogue was a little weak for KA. But otherwise I loved this story! The ghost story was poignant and 1000 times better than the first book in the series.

There are so many great reviews I do not think I can add anything of value. But to add my thumbs up for this one!

Jacqueline says

This has been my favourite of this series so far. The paranormal plot was secondary to the romance in this one, it was much more of a classic KA with the guy determined to get the gal, but the gal too damaged by a toxic ex to want to try again. The addition of the orphaned children and the way they become a new family was sensitively handled, it could easily have turned to sentimental mush, but no, it felt genuine.

Douglas, the alpha male m/c is a Baron and at the beginning of the story is remote and inscrutable, but we get the odd flash of protective, tender behaviour from him, just to reassure us he's a good guy under that austere, aristocratic exterior. I loved the way he gradually becomes more and more demonstrative, although without ever becoming a sap. We even got some dirty talk from him during the smut scenes so that was me happy.

I loved this, recommended.

Georgia ♥ Team Dex ♥ says

4 KA Dreams, Ghosts and Fairytales Stars

“If I could ... I’d have the world watch me make you mine.”

Once again Kristen Ashley proves that fairytales and happily ever afters aren't just Disney movies and they aren't over because we just stopped being kids. With great emotion, her usual flair for the dramatic, attention to the detail and a huge imagination she narrates a ghost story about eternal love, family bonds and hope. That the power of love will thaw a cold-hearted man and set free two souls eternally in love and break the curse that haunts the castle.

It was sweet, magical and sassy just like I LOVE KA books!

Erika says

4.75 stars!!

I absolutely and completely adored this book! In fact, I am sad to say goodbye to the characters. :-(Having read 4 other KA books prior to this, I knew that I loved her writing style, but some of the content was not to my personal liking. IN this book? Not so! I really loved all of: all the characters and everything that happened.

First of all, I adored Douglas. Man, my heart really went out to this guy. He was cold and unemotional at first, but inside (though he wouldn't have verbalized it) he really just needed a family and needed love. Despite his coldness at times, he was very good to Julia. Throughout the book, we see him, page by page, experience more and more emotion, and warm to everyone around him: Julia, the kids, and the wonderful (family-like) staff at Sommersgate House.

The kids were adorable and believable. I loved their little personalities, and oh but I felt so sad for them. It is just such a devastating thing to imagine young children losing BOTH of their parents. There is a scene that happens at Christmas, that just broke my heart!!

A word about Tamsin (deceased sister of Douglas) and Gavin (deceased brother of Julia): these two really came alive for me in this book, especially Gavin. I REALLY wanted to meet this man, who clearly was such an incredible brother, father, husband and son. I wished he was alive!

The paranormal part of this story was small, but it was fun, and I enjoyed the way the story of the ghost lovers played out.

There is only one thing I didn't like in this book, and unfortunately it is rather commonplace in romance novels, and that is the repeated references to Douglas having been a manwhore. It is mentioned that he has had women sleep in his room and that he has been with tens, maybe 100s of women. We are lead to believe that he never really connected emotionally with these women (which I am sure he didn't), but still, he clearly connected physically and enjoyed them enough to have some of them spend the night in his arms. Just the mentioning of them makes me picture another woman laying there with him doing everything Julia was. Anyway, this is a pet peeve of mine that unfortunately is run-of-the-mill for KA -- and many many authors as well. I believe ALL of her heroes are manwhores. Thankfully, I believed that he never really developed any kind of emotional connection to those women, and therefore I was able to get past these little references in the book.

The epilogue was lovely. Just lovely. Everyone always mentions KA's epilogues and I must say that, she definitely knows how to leave you with a happy, fulfilled feeling.

Mo says

I have had this series on my kindle for over two years. When I first discovered KA, I downloaded everything that she had (well everything except the Rock Chick series.)

Those few who had actually met her thought she was rather lovely indeed, for an American...

But... There are the words “ghosts and reincarnations” in the title and it totally put me off. So never read them.

Was given Penmort in a Challenge group that I am in and read it. I loved it.

Douglas ignored her look, determined to move to the next phase in his strategy and went on. “Julia, I intend to be your lover.” With Julia’s soft warmth pressed so close, he could smell her. Both the feel of her and her scent made his body begin to tighten in an intensely pleasant way so that, when he spoke, his voice deepened, became hungry, as he, again, made his intentions clear but this time, he made them clearer. “I intend to sleep in sheets that smell of tangerines and jasmine. I intend to have your naked body squirming under mine. I intend to touch you everywhere with my hands and my mouth. I intend to memorise the taste of you, to make you call my name while I’m moving inside you, to make you so excited you beg me to let you come...”

The British aristocracy are a funny bunch. Here in Belgium I have lived next door to a Baron for over 10 years and he is as down to earth as the next person.

The Dutch Royal family are totally personable. Something about the British where the “class” system still exists.

Loved seeing Douglas unraveling and beginning to understand family and love.

As soon as I finished this one, jumped straight onto the next one and I am really enjoying it.

“There had been very little in Douglas Ashton’s life that he ever wanted. Most of it he could obtain, the rest of it, a loving mother and father, his sister back from the dead, was unobtainable.

At that moment, he found himself wanting something.

And what he wanted was for Julia to lose herself with him.

He wanted this stubborn, tempestuous Julia Fairfax to disappear and an acquiescent, but still tempestuous, Julia Ashton to take her place. He wanted to brand her with his name and shackle her with his ring.

Did she not understand that was a good thing?”...

”Douglas,” she used words that stung, “what do you know of making anyone happy?”
