



## When Autumn Leaves

*Amy S. Foster*

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This is a town where the shoes in the window always fit, where you can buy a love potion at the corner shop, and where the woods at the outskirts of town just might be the door to another world. And, of course, there's Autumn, Avening's beloved resident witch. From what's known of its mythical founding, Avening has always been a haven for people who are a little bit different, a place where they can come to discover what makes them so special.

When Autumn receives news that she's been promoted to a higher coven, she also learns she has to replace herself. But who in Avening is in tune enough with her own personal magic to take over the huge responsibility of town witch? Autumn has a list of thirteen women and men who just might have what it takes-but how can she get them to open their eyes to the magic in their lives?

This endlessly surprising and heart-warming debut is the story of coming to terms with the magical things we take for granted every day-our friends, our community, and, most of all, ourselves.

## When Autumn Leaves Details

Date : Published October 6th 2009 by Harry N. Abrams

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Author : Amy S. Foster

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Genre : Magical Realism, Fiction, Fantasy, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Magic, Paranormal, Witches

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## From Reader Review When Autumn Leaves for online ebook

### Beulah says

There are few books left that truly capture the joys of magic and the divine and yet this is one of them... As soon as i held this book in my hands i knew it was going to be special. I had no idea why. I just sensed it. Maybe it is because i am a woman and this book speaks to women in particular (tho dont worry guys - im sure you'll love it equally - though it may confuse you even more about our species!!) Or maybe it was the fact i could identify with every character Amy S Foster portrays here - the woman who is desperate to help anyone in pain... the one who manipulates a situation to get what she wants (oh come on girls you know we're like that!!)...or the woman who simply feels invisible... It is clear that Amy has created every character with care and attention and love. She lives through these women and these women live through her. She clearly adores writing and she is incredible at it. The proof is in these pages...

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### Kathryn says

I was so anxious to find out how the book came to an end and how everything worked out, but now I am sad because I want more. I know this book is fantasy, but fantasy on a "could it be possible?" level. I was captivated with every person I met in this book and by Autumn's beauty and grace and her realness. I so hope Amy continues the story in her next book. I will be waiting....

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### Lolly K Dandeneau says

Okay this was not at all written in the same vein as Alice Hoffman's work. The problems I had with this novel were many. For one, I didn't believe in any of the reactions people had when witnessing the 'impossible'. Open minded, spiritual, or not, someone would have a far bigger reaction to someone disappearing and someone visiting you when they are having an out of body experience than just being 'cool' with it. Even the most open minded, new age thinking person would be shocked. The characters stories were too rushed, almost as if the author herself was bored by her own creations. Hoffman does write magical stories, but they don't verge on the ridiculous in the way this book did and Hoffman's writing can be pretty 'out there' but always entertaining. The writing seemed more like something a teenager could get into, it was missing maturity. So I will not agree that Foster is a new Hoffman, NO WAY.

When Autumn Leaves had sweet moments, but sometimes it just got too hokey. I didn't fall in love with any of the characters and the ending was weak. I am not sure what this book is about. I wonder if she was trying to set up for a series of books. Maybe if Foster could have focused on one or two of the women and their gifts rather than trying to shove too much in one novel, then it could have developed into something deeper. I also prefer a little darkness when reading anything 'magical'. I felt like I was reading a pamphlet some new age enthusiast forced on me. Seems like she had a checklist of paranormal science and just added little stories to it. I gave it two stars because the writing wasn't horrible and I didn't give up reading. It really was just okay. Definitely not for me.

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## **Carol says**

It's my own fault for reading this, because Julie's review had already said, basically, don't bother. But I thought, how can this be bad? Look at the cute cover! Look at the cute title! Read the description, where they invoke Sarah Addison Allen! How can this be bad? Well, let me tell you. The dialogue was terrible. Really, really bad. The book was divided into sections, and each section dealt with one character. Don't get attached to any of these people because in the course of the book you never meet them again. I probably wasn't even a quarter of the way into it before I was trying to figure out how in the world this had found its way into print. I kept struggling through it, though, because -- Hey, look at the cover! Look at the title! There has to be something redeeming in it. Wrong! From now on I'll listen to Julie! I can't believe I wasted a week of lunch hours on this mess.

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## **Jennifer says**

It's as if someone took one of those "coexist" bumper stickers, assigned a story to each character, then threw them all together in a book bound by an attractively seasonal cover with a punny title.

The spirituality presented is nebulous at best, and the ending came together much too perfectly and quickly to be realistic-- although in a story about earth witches, I guess I'd have to hold off on some levels of realism. While I was completely charmed by the first chapter's story about Ellie and her singing, by the time the chapter chronicling and justifying another character's extramarital affair rolled around, the book had lost its magic, and it was mostly downhill from there.

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## **Grace says**

A great mythic fiction / magic realism read for fans of Alice Hoffman or Sarah Addison Allen. This book leans more towards the Allen side of the spectrum, with heartwarming tales that don't ever really delve into serious psychology or dark subjects. At times, the book can lean a little too heavily on New Age phrasings and plot, but each section, telling the story of different residents of a magical small West Coast town, captures your attention.

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## **Jane says**

Because this book was a gift to me that was thoughtfully-chosen by someone I admire, I wanted to read this cover to cover. Unfortunately, I did not enjoy this book. I wanted to since it was written by David Foster's daughter, but perhaps that is actually the whole problem with this book? I got the feeling that this book would never have been published had Daddy not intervened and made sure someone would produce it for his daughter. She has no talent for writing. None. What-so-ever. Usually in fiction, an author tries to make dialogue sound realistic, but Amy seemed to think it was fine to have characters saying "like" in between every second word. She also thought it was a good idea to use a fair amount of expletives. I never realized it before reading this book, but a good author doesn't just make the words sound as if someone would really say them, but also elevates them to sound intelligent.

If this is the way fiction is going with today's youth, I'll stick with the classics. (Fortunately, though this book is much more likely to be indicative of the ridiculous power of nepotism.)

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### **Jen McLeod says**

I wanted to give this book a rating of 2.5, but goodreads does not allow for half-stars, so I had to choose - two stars or three? I wanted it to be at least a three-star book, because I felt the story held some potential, but it just had too many other strikes against it:

The book is riddled with sentence fragments.

The writing style is immature and seems unrefined.

The author uses far, far too many figures of speech.

There are far too many inane details (ie we don't need to know that Sylvie cut up the vegetables at home - this is not relevant information).

The characters are all two-dimensional. The space used for inane details could have been put to use to remedy this.

The characters seem too stereotypical.

None of the characters has her own distinctive voice. All the grown women talk in the same way. Sylvie and Molly talk in the same way. Maggie and Siobhan have the exact same speech patterns. Their speech seems based on stereotypes of their ages.

And finally, the dialogue between Maggie and Piper made me laugh because of how much it reminded me of an introductory level of a Legend of Zelda video game.

Despite all this, the story was pleasant and somewhat interesting. If I had not read the final chapter before writing this, I would have dismissed the book entirely, but there was a shimmer of potential there.

If the author writes a sequel, I may read it but I hope she gains some experience in prose before then.

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### **Me says**

I absolutely loved this book! Written in an almost lyrical style, it focuses on a town that draws people to itself. In the town, the first pair of shoes that you see in the shop window, will always be your size, the woods is a place to meet your dearly departed and pranksters can repair your shoes so that you will sing every time they're on your feet. The plot surrounds Autumn, a healer with magical powers who holds a contest to find her replacement. Each woman that submits an essay to her contest is covered in the chapters of the book and ultimately will find her unique magic/self.

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### **Jen B says**

I can't explain the hold this book has over me. I first read it about three years ago and just recently I picked it up again off of my bookshelf.

The book deals with the unknown and unexplained that lives in our world, our hearts and our minds. Yes it deals with magic but not in a supernatural way. More of how magic is all around us and the more we look within ourselves we'll find our own powers and how to use them. Whether it be to understand people, feel the earth and the elements around us or how to heal with either our words or the touch of our hands.

Without out going into too many details or spoiler it centers on a wise woman named Autumn and the small town in Nova Scotia called Avening that many people call home. Those who grew up there and those who were drawn there by something they can't explain, but once they arrived they knew it was where they belonged.

It centers on Autumn needing someone to be her apprentice, so she asks for women around the town to submit why they believed they would be the best to work with and eventually take over for her. Anyone can enter, but what they don't know is that she already has a list that those who are higher powered than she have given her.

How she helps these women find who they really are is best left for you to find out.

I do know that as I read this book I find myself calming internally, it really does have this quality about it where you start thinking about who YOU are.

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### **Kayla says**

WHEN AUTUMN LEAVES by Amy S. Foster

#### My Thoughts:

It won't be a shock to say after my quickie review (on my blog), but I did not enjoy this book at all. The writing left a lot to be desired and the characters were either dull or just plain annoying. I couldn't believe some of the choices these characters made, or the words that came out of them, they were completely ridiculous. Sadly, the only thing I liked about this book was it's format - that each chapter was a Pagan holiday, as shown in an illustration at the beginning of the book, and the fact that each new character was a branch off the previous one. I can't say anything else really stood out to me, besides a couple choice quotes. Without giving away the entire book I can't really explain why I thought this book was eye roll worthy, but all I can say is that I won't be wasting my time on this book again.

#### Favorite Quotes:

"Not everyone may believe in the same thing, but everyone can believe that even the darkest, coldest winter will move over and make room for spring." (Page 10/11)

"Infatuation consumes, but it doesn't settle." (Page 126)

"Nothing that feels that good could ever be ignorant of its darker twin." (Page 147)

Overall Opinion: C-

~Kayla

<http://kaylasbookcase.blogspot.com/>

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### **Gail Kessler says**

This book was added as a Book Club selection by my local group. It was a good read. Not a great one, but the writing itself was good. Then, seeing as it was #1 of an expected 13, one of the Book Club members sent Ms. Foster an email asking when the next books would be released. The reply?..."Yeah, I've decided not to

write the series..." and on she goes with her life.

Despite her obvious talent as a songwriter as Mister Buble can attest, I don't think I'll be reading anymore of Ms. Foster's books, just on principle.

Note to Ms. Foster - don't start what you're not prepared to finish - for goodness sake's hire a ghost writer with Daddy's millions if you don't want to do it yourself. Chances are we would never have noticed.

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### **Jeanmarie Jones says**

oh, my what a lovely, amazing feel- good book. another one to hug when you finish, my heart felt so warm and soft as it ended. Hard to explain the book. very different, in a woman/family/hometown sort of magical way. but bigger then life and everyday sorts of emotions. I didn't know where things were headed or how they would turn out; but that was just a lovely way of the book.

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### **Stephanie says**

It was very short, only 300 something pages, but I wanted it to go on and on. It's by Amy Foster, who is a songwriter, and it was her first novel. I am an atheist by nature, but I love pagan things, just can't get my head around a goddess. The story is set in this wonderful little town called Avening. It makes you want to live there. The beginning of the story is about Autumn Avening, who is some what of a witch, though she hates that word, and she must choose her replacement because she has been called to leave. You can just imagine her home and little store. She is given a list of women to consider, and their stories are fascinating -- that was the part I would have loved to have delved further into. Their stories were just enough to make you beg for more. I wanted the tiny little plot lines of their lives to keep going, especially the woman who had breast cancer and was dying but was given the option to go some place else...very interesting....or the girl who could astral project. She wrapped the story up nicely with truths about Autumn you suspected but ended up being much deeper than you realized, but I felt there was so much more to tell about each of the women in the story, and I'm still craving it.

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### **Laura Jansen says**

Amy's book is a lovely story of women, magic, and faith. I can't wait to read the next one in the series!

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