



Dragonfly Creek

T.L. Haddix

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Genre: Romance with paranormal elements.

Book Three in the Firefly Hollow series.

When Ben Campbell returns home to Hazard, Kentucky after a five-year absence, the last person he's expecting to run into is the girl who broke his heart - the girl who left town and married someone else. He's done his best to move on, but he knows he's only been going through the motions of living. Determined to exorcise Ainsley's ghost, he approaches the young widow with an offer for a steamy liaison to do just that.

Ainsley Brewer Scott carries a lot of weight on her shoulders, weight that's left deep emotional and physical scars. Her dreams of an everlasting love with Ben were dashed thoroughly, thanks to her malicious and conniving mother. Back in town to wrap up the old woman's estate, Ainsley's world is turned upside down when she sees Ben. And when he propositions her, he lights a match to her temper that flames into a burning attraction just as strong as what they shared years earlier.

When the truth behind Ainsley's leaving comes out, the long-held secrets shatter the fragile trust they've started to build. She and Ben have to decide to either walk away from each other for the second time or stand together and fight for their future.

"Dragonfly Creek" is the third book in the "Firefly Hollow" series. Other titles include "Firefly Hollow," "Butterfly Lane," "Cattail Ridge," and "Cricket Cove." Set in Appalachia, the series follows the Campbell family from generation to generation.

Also available from this author: The Shadows Collection, a series of Romantic Suspense novels. Titles include: "Secrets in the Shadows," "Under the Moon's Shadow," "Shadows from the Grave," "Hidden in the Shadows," "In the Heart's Shadow," and "Deception in the Shadows."

Dragonfly Creek Details

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From Reader Review Dragonfly Creek for online ebook

Sidney Rippy McLaughlin says

Great Love Story

Every book in this series has a complicated story of love that can't be denied, but has terrible obstacles. This one has the rich girl/common boy element, a wicked mother who breaks them apart, and a chance meeting years later when that mother dies.

While it's pretty predictable to know love will overcome, the tales are woven with good characters, a wonderful family that we'd all like to have, and believable circumstances.

I liked this one a lot, though I thought it ended a bit abruptly and didn't carry the story quite far enough.

Errin says

Are you tired of me saying I LOVE THESE BOOKS yet? For Dragonfly Creek, it wasn't even because Ben and Ainsley were my favorite couple. Of course, my heart bleeds for Ainsley and the hell she went through. I'm happy with the ending as always. But Ben and his tendency to take the word of all the wrong people was infinitely more frustrating than John or Owen ever were! No, I loved this book because even when the miscommunication was driving me nuts, it was enjoyable overall because the whole Campbell family is so wonderful and present in each other's lives. I cannot get enough of them!

Jeanette Hurrelbrink says

Dragonfly Creek

A nice read. A continuation of the Firefly series. This story was about brother Ben's heartbreak and the last that haunted him for the last five years.

Alienor ✕ French Frowner ✕ says

Edit 10/20 : I still haven't found a second chance romance that I like more than Ben's story ?

➡ **Book 1** : Firefly Hollow ★★★★★ 4.5

This book has *EVERYTHING*. Thought you might want to know. That's why I prepared a little to-do list of all the things you're going to want to do after reading it.

✕ Break into the Campbells's house.

? ? *Hello, incredible family, can I come? Yeah, I totally mean to intrude.*

I mean - first of all, Ben's parents are Owen and Sarah from *Firefly Hollow*. OWEN, remember? Well, the only thing I can say is that even as a dad, the guy is pretty awesome, and I couldn't help but swoon each time we got to see him. **How can I describe the Campbells family?** Well ... They care about each other, so, of course, they tease each other. They are completely unable to mind their own business. Does that make them infuriating? Of course it does. But, more important, **that makes them utterly likeable, real, and fun to follow.**

"On a date," Sarah answered.

Owen scowled. "It isn't a date. It's a get-together with some of her friends, and a couple of them happen to be boys. She's just sixteen. It's not a date."

Ben looked at his mother, who nodded.

" It's a date.(...)"

I love them. I want to move with them. I think I want to be a deer. Or a wolf. Whatever, I'll take what I'll get, because they aren't only nice and supportive when one of them needs it. **They're an incredible family. Period.**

✕ Steal their friends.

? ? *While I'm it, I also want to meet your friends.*

"He didn't. Seriously? For old times's sake?" Zanny pursed her lips. "He's lucky a dunking is all you gave him."

Be prepared for the shock of your life. Wait for it.... In this books the girls have friends, and even more - **they act like nice persons when they meet another girl.**

I know, that's pretty overwhelming, right? After reading a lot of romance, especially in New Adult and Young Adult, I was firmly convinced that women were fucking bitches. *Did people lie to me?* Women can be *nice* to each other? *REALLY?*

✕ Prepare some stuff before reading.

? ? *Beware of the rollercoaster of emotions!*

- You're going to need tissues
- You might want to read it alone in order to hide your irrepressible giggles and your *awwww* moments.
- You can prepare some punching-ball (a pillow is okay too) to punch at some point.

"And she's worth more than my pride. That wasn't an easy realization at first. We're supposed to be manly and invulnerable and let the women be the weaker sex. *That's* complete and utter bull."

✕ Hate even more the creepy love-stories that are released every day.

? ? *I want to read more about this adorable main couple.*

Ben is Owen's son. Do I really need to say more? Yeah? Okay, so let's go. Hurt. Funny. Adorable. Respectful. Hot. *HOT. Chemistry warning!*

"Noah studied her with a seriousness that was unexpected in a boy his age. "Good. He needs a girlfriend."

Ainsley couldn't help but smile. "Why is that?"

"Dad says he's been sad. And that he got his heart broken, but if he could get past being so stubborn, he might get it unbroken."

"He what?" Ben's cheeks flushed.

Ainsley is been through hell because of the fucking bitch of her mother - I'm going back to her later, and I'm weighting my words here, trust me. From 19 to 24, she learns to be confident and to open to others. Okay, I know what you think, *oh. my. Again, AGAIN a woman with self-acceptance issues, seen that, been there, tired of this shit. NO. You aren't.* Because the way T.L. Haddix deals with it? **This is REAL. Understandable. Moving.**

Their interactions are perfect because they are REAL, and as for book 1, I was incredibly pleased to see **how much their relation and the way they handled issues were believable and so damn cute and heartbreaking.**

✕ I want to find a way to kill Ainsley's mother. What? I don't care if she's already dead, I might find some voodoo way to bring her again into life in order to kill her slowly. **Yeah, I hated her like that. What a fucking bitch.**

Oh, yeah, and you might want to buy each and every one of these wonderful books.

PS Warning : Don't expect PNR here. There are some elements, but really, you have to read it as a contemporary/historical romance (the story takes place in the 80s)

Katie Chapman says

Awesome

Another wonderful read. Haddix creates such lovable characters I'm disappointed when the story ends. So I just buy the next one.

Delena constant says

The Creek

I cruelly have enjoyed this Book series, was very easy to give give 5 Stars. Very intense moments and then it is evened out by a Family who know what Love is. Yes, I am going to Read Book 3. Make a start on your own, if you like ? good solid Story Lines!

Janet says

Not my favorite in this series, that would be Owen and Sarah. Their's is my favorite story ♥?

Gail Ellis says

Interesting but predictable

I enjoyed this 3rd book almost as much as I enjoyed the first two. It was just a lot of the same, I'm not worthy of love or I'm not pretty enough. It would be nice if all the children didn't experience the same thing in their relationships. I know it makes for a good story but be a little more creative.

Sarah says

Still loving this series. There is a bit more sex in this one so beware.

Navessa says

The *f*eeeeeeels.

You know that series or that book that's just...it for you? You know, that one that feels like it was written with you in mind? You might not even be able to put your finger on why you feel that way about it, you just...do.

This is that series for me. Reading these books is like going home.

I was lucky enough to beta read this one and I was so serious about it going in because it was my first time and I *really* wanted to do a good job. I was going to take copious notes, try to record any potential editing misses I found, give great feedback on the things that worked for me and those that didn't and just be the **Best Damn Beta Reader Ever**.

And then I picked it up and that thing that happens every time I read a book in this series happened. Notepad? Forgotten. Pen? Dragged away by one of the cats. The rest of the world? Psssh, what world? So I'm sorry Tab, I really tried this time but I just can't be trusted to critique your work in any sort of productive way. The best I seem to come up with is words and phrases like "GAH", "SQUEEEEE" and "Om nom nom".

I just...I just love this family too damn much and your writing is too enthralling for me to remember to pause and write down notes like "he went to her house, they fought".

For those of you keeping track, each book in this series revolves around a different member of the Campbell clan. *Dragonfly Creek* centers on Ben, one of the sons of Sarah and Owen. Five years ago he had his heart broken by a young woman named Ainsley and this story is about their reconnection.

Where to even start with them? Good God, nothing is what it first seems in this book.

I loved Ben just as much as I did the other Campbell men I've met but I'm sure everyone saw that coming. He's his father's son in so many ways. He has that same casual sexiness that I just find so damn appealing. Not only that but he's charming, able to recognize and acknowledge his emotions (I know, right?), has a great sense of humor and he's pretty easy on the eyes to boot.

Unlike Ben, I was all keyed up to *hate* Ainsley because how dare she mess with one of the Campbell boys?! But then I met her mother.

That. Woman.

She makes Cruella Deville look like a PETA campaigner. I can't even begin to describe the depths of her depravity and so I won't because I really don't want to subject you to a three page long, f-bomb laden rant about *she who will not be named*. Needless to say, her treatment of her daughter pretty much guaranteed that I was on Ainsley's side from the get-go.

She and Ben's road to closure isn't a smooth one but what I love about T.L. Haddix so much is that she can take themes that usually irritate me and do them *right*. Not only that but she covers them with a depth befitting their severity. Because of this, these characters feel real. They have real relationships, real problems and real conversations, some of which are awkward, some of which are heartbreaking and some of which are hysterical.

Plus, she writes great sex. Good lawd, the chemistry between these two!

Ahem! I'm fine.

In addition to the relationship of the main characters we see the overarching bond of the Campbells as a family. I love them like they're real. I feel like I **am** a Campbell in a lot of ways. I too was born in a rural mountainous town. There are also five children in my family, none of which can mind their damn business, and we all love and support each other to the best of our abilities. I love that their family dynamic plays such a strong role in this series and with every new volume, I get more and more excited to learn about the other

children, whose stories are to come in future installments...

looks at calendar

dying whale noise

In closing, I love this series, I really do, and I urge you to pick up the first book and discover it for yourself.

Tracy says

We're back with the Campbell clan. This time it is Owen and Sarah's son, Ben. This story plays out at the same time as John and Zanny's story. Well, mostly during that time. There are tidbits of John and Zanny's story in this, but not much, or enough to really ruin that book for you. Though, I do suggest reading these in order. OK! That being said, let's get on with Ben and Ainsley. They met and they had one amazing summer right around the ages of 18 and 19. But something really bad happened and deliberately placed untruths tore them apart. The bulk of this story occurs five years later, when they both happen to be in Hazard, KY for different reasons.

First off, we get to see Sarah and Owen, and these two steadfast people are amazing parents. I hope to be as wonderful to my adult son as they are to their children. Which I know is insane since they're fictional characters, but there's truth, even in fiction, and these two were modeled after someone, or several someones. ANYWAYS! I digress. We see John and Zanny, Emma, Rachel, Eliza, Amelia, Noah, Eli, and Rick. OH, and we get to meet Sydney. We're also clued in on part of the next book. BUT I won't be giving that one away. How to put into words just how awesome these stories are. Each one of them is technically paranormal, but in such a gentle and subtle way. And Ben is just as different as his family, but so different from his family. And each time they have to break this secret out to their loved one for the first time, my breath catches, because what if they don't accept them. Strange, I know, but that's how well these books are written.

Ms. Haddix' story of life on that mountain just outside of Hazard is mystical and filled with wonder and magic, no less spectacular than Harry Potter or any other work of high fantasy. The use of subtlety to bring into our own existence such unusual proclivities is awesome. And I also love that it isn't something so easily acceptable by those who don't really know about it. BUT because of the magic that is the "holler", it's allowed to exist and it's given the possibility. So would I recommend this third book in series? Yes, I do. :D

Emmy says

4.5

Full disclosure: I skipped book two in the series. The plot sounded a little too angsty for me and not something I would like so I decided it was best for all if I skipped it (neither myself or the author would enjoy a low rating). The author was nice enough to respond to my inquiry about how advisable this was and recommended against it, but said it was probably possible. There were a few times that I suspected

something was being referenced that happened in book two, but I got through okay. In fact better than okay. This book made me feel things:

And I mean this in the best possible way. Yes, parts of it were sad, but I frickin loved it!

Surprisingly my favorite character wasn't Ben or Ainsley, but Eliza (Ben's grandmother). She had a smaller part than she did in Firefly Hollow, but she was so much funnier in this one! She was sassy. She provided a good comic relief and I loved her.

I have to admit, that while I liked Ben and Ainsley, it wasn't their romance that made this book so enjoyable for me. It was the Campbell clan. I tend to love the dynamic of big, tight-knit families in books. Ben's parents (who I loved from Firefly Hollow) are still larger than life characters here. Ben's relationship with his siblings, and his sisters in particular, were entertaining and endearing. And it is the mark of a great writer when they get you to love the secondary characters as well as the main ones - and this is because the secondary characters are fully developed themselves. This may have something to do with the fact that many of this secondary characters have their own books in the series.

And to that point, what's really interesting in how Haddix has set up the sequels of Firefly Hollow, is that the timelines of the sequels overlap and you get glimpses of the other stories.

For example, book 2 (Butterfly Lane), is about John (Owen and Sarah's oldest son) and his wife Zanny as they go through a rough patch and almost break up. Now in Dragonfly Creek, from Ben's POV we see when John and Zanny separate for a while. Their story actually happens at the same time that Ben's unfolds and we see them overlap.

And then in book 4 (Cattail Ridge), it's Emma's story and we know she has a daughter. Well in Dragonfly Ridge, again from Ben's POV, we find out about Emma getting pregnant and are with her when she has the baby - essentially setting up the scene for the next book. These overlapping timelines and stories all woven together is really neat and I don't think I've ever see anything like it. It's really very cool and very well done!

Now, while Ben and Ainsley are my second favorite couple from the Campbell clan so far (yes, that's out of two), I did still enjoy their romance. As I've said, Haddix creates characters you can become invested in and love.

Notable Quotes:

"If being pure of heart and merciful were conditions of getting into heaven, Ainsley figured her mother was probably feeling toasty."

Ruth McCurry says

Story to boring

This story was to long winded for me.

This story was boring for me, because I found it too long. Plus it seemed to me, that only half of the story was told.

Phyllis Wright says

Well! THAT's a relief! Glad they worked it out!!

Beth Yeary says

It was an okay romance. I just got tired of the sex scenes, and found myself skipping a whole chapter here and there because of them.
