



Family of Her Dreams

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A Family to Cherish

Headstrong Tess Grimsby loves her new job caring for the children of a recently widowed man. But she never imagined that she'd fall for her handsome employer. Yet Spencer Abbott is as caring as he is attractive, and Tess can't help but feel for him and his family. Though, for the sake of her job, she'll keep any emotions about her boss to herself.

Between his stationmaster responsibilities in a Gold-Rush town and trying to put his family back together, Spencer has his hands full. He soon finds his new hire's kind personality warming his frosty exterior. But could he ever admit to seeing her as more than just an employee?

Family of Her Dreams Details

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From Reader Review Family of Her Dreams for online ebook

Julie Graves says

Tess Grimsby has arrived in Shingle Springs to be housekeeper to Spencer Abbott, a young widower with two children. Tess was raised in an orphanage and dreams of one day having her own family.

Spencer's wife recently passed away and left behind two children. Little Luke is full of rambunctious energy and into all kinds of trouble. Tess immediately sets out to win his hurting soul. Tess feels for the children, knowing that Luke is acting out in pain from losing his mother.

Spencer is still mourning his wife but knows that he needs help with his children. He is put off a bit by Tess's outspokenness, but soon realizes that she is quite capable of taking care of him and his children.

As Tess takes care of this grieving family she soon begins to fall in love with them, and the dreams of one day having a family of her own begin to resemble the faces of Spencer and his children. Meanwhile Spencer is torn between his attraction to Tess and a woman he only knows through a set of letters that someone lost at the railroad station he runs. Will he miss out on the love in front of him in order to pursue a woman he has never met but haunts him through her letters?

I think this is the first Love Inspired Historical that I have read. I really enjoyed it. I loved Tess and Spencer. Tess has spunk and isn't afraid to speak her mind even though she also has some insecurities. Spencer loves his children even though he is grieving the loss of their mother. I like how he was able to change his mind when Tess presented him all of the facts of a change she wanted to implement. He wasn't an unreasonable parent nor an unreasonable boss. One issue I have with these type of books is that they are shorter than the average novel and therefore can't develop the characters as well as I would have liked. I thought that the story was progressing along nicely, but then kind of galloped to the end a little too quickly. Still I enjoyed these characters very much. I also liked the setting. It is fun to read a story about places that I have been. I look forward to the next book that author Keli Gwyn writes!

Shelly Dabbs says

A special story of love!!

Kav says

This is definitely a case where you can judge a book by its cover. I love the motion depicted in the illustration -- and the scene perfectly fits the mood of the story. It's a wonderful celebration of dreams -- both the kind you yearn for and the kind that, unfortunately, need to be relinquished to bittersweet memories.

Poor Spencer is a grappling with grief in true manly fashion -- that is keep his head down and ignore it. Not an advisable way of coping -- especially for his young children. He hires a housekeeper in the hopes of regaining some order in his life. Cue the gregarious, outspoken Tess. Not quite the gentle, docile woman he

was envisioning would bring harmony back to his home. But sometimes God has plans that are greater (and better) than our own.

Loved that this story takes place over months -- the reader gets to see a realistic progression of Tess and Spencer's developing friendship. Not to mention Tess's slow wooing of Spencer's surly young son. That boy is carrying a world of hurt on his little shoulders and her love and patience make a profound difference.

There are a few really touching story threads that brought a thrill to my romance-loving heart. And humour and action and a dark moment that had my heart sinking down to my toes. In short -- the perfection combination for an enthralling read.

Fedora says

Ms. Gwyn utterly delighted me with this sweet, moving story about a soft-hearted, forthright heroine whose genuine faith keeps her longing after what God has set before her. Her painful past has prepared her to uniquely care for the widowed hero and his mourning children. It's a joy to see God use her to bring comfort and to see her in turn come to recognize her worth in a special way as well.

Christianity is simply a part of the fabric of their lives. It isn't in your face, as a reader, nor does it feel tacked on, simply to make mention of it. The story is well paced with lovely characterizations, and I look forward to reading more from Ms. Gwyn.

Amy says

Family of Her Dreams is such a sweet story of love and faith. I just loved Tess when she was with the children. And really loved her and Spencer when they were together. A wonderful, tender and inspiring story.

Looking forward to more by Keli Gwyn.

Five stars

Harlequin Books says

"A moving story of family, second chances and trusting in God's timing, Gwyn's Love Inspired Historical debut is a perfect fit for the series" (RT Book Reviews, 4 stars).

Melody says

I HAD to read this book after falling in love with the delightful cover! And its story was just as good as the sweet scene on the front depicted! I really fell in love with the spunky and outspoken heroine, Tess. She is a woman after my own heart! I felt like she's a kindred spirit, even though I have no idea what it's like to be tall! ;) Nevertheless she was real to me, and I loved seeing her capacity to love! This story warmed my heart,

and touched my soul. I have never read anything by Keli Gwyn before, but this book has me adding her to my will-buy-whatever-she-writes list. :)

Jennifer says

A family of Her Own is so enduring to ones heart! I so enjoyed Tess Grimsby's story of overcoming life's struggles. Growing up in an orphanage after being turned over by her father Tess carves out God's plan for her by hard work and determination. Spencer Abbott needs a nanny yesterday for his two small children after the recent loss of his wife. Spencer is hoping Tess will work out as their new nanny even though he's taken aback by her unusual techniques and her most unusual appearance.

Katrin says

What happens when a woman searching for happiness and a family starts working for a grieving familie of 3! A lovely story about faith, hope and love!

I loved reading Keli Gwyn first novel, I love her second!

Kerry Johnson says

Keli Gwyn's Family of Her Dreams is a delightful historical romance with the perfect mix of likeable characters the reader roots for, internal and external conflict, sweet romantic tension, and surprises twisted in.

Independent, headstrong Tess Grimsby arrives in Shingle Springs to apply for a job as a housekeeper for recently widowed Stationmaster Spencer Abbott. Spencer has two young children, and soon realizes competent Tess is the perfect fit for his grieving family.

The story follows Tess and Spencer's business agreement, budding friendship, and eventual romantic interest over a six or eight month period of time. The author did a wonderful job weaving historical detail in the day-to-day experiences on the Abbott homestead, and showed the tender growth of feelings between the widower and his housekeeper.

There were fun plot twists thrown in throughout the story, including a nice zinger at the end.

Getting to know Tess, Spencer, stubborn four-year old son Luke, and sweet baby Lila was a reading treat. The author created realistic characters and poignant situations and conflict that furthers the story at a page-turning pace.

Which means it was hard to put this book down!

But my favorite part of reading A Family of Her Dreams was the gentle way the author weaves spiritual truth--and real life reminders--into the story.

While Tess has her set of foibles and faults, I was inspired personally to be more like her--to be more encouraging toward my husband and his dreams.

Tess believed in Spencer, even before they were romantically interested, and told him so through her words and actions.

I read and loved Keli Gwyn's first novel, A Bride Opens Shop in El Dorado, and I loved this one just as much.

I highly recommend A Family of Her Dreams and look forward to this author's next book!

Terri says

Wonderful story!

Paula-O says

Family of Her Dreams by Keli Gwyn

This author writes a great story , she made Tess and the way she felt about her life and her dreams so real that I felt like I knew this young woman. I was sad for her to be abandoned at an orphanage at a young age and then to feel the head of it did not like her and bullied her made me want to kick him in the shins.

He gave Faith the name of "Tess" which she was unhappy with her whole life until the day she found out why he did this.

Tess lived her life in the orphanage and helped with the younger children and then upon leaving found that she loved caring for children and made this her job to make a living for herself.

Spencer Abbott lost his wife soon after birthing their daughter to an infection so he needed a housekeeper and he hired Tess to help him. She started on a trial basis but he soon knew she was a caring loving person and a hard worker too. He has a son who is four and a determined little one who wants nothing to do with a woman living and caring for them, he wants his mama. He is inquisitive and Tess has her hands full watching over him.

Spencer works for the rail line but wants to be a rancher...come read this story and get to know this family and how Tess "fits" right in.

I had company and lost some reading time but when I picked the book up tonight to finish it , I felt like I had never been away-it all just fell right into place and Spencer and Tess were getting along so much better as she was with Luke too. Thanks for a wonderful story Keli...

Joanie Bruce says

I absolutely loved this book. Usually, suspense books are more to my liking, but this story grabbed me and wouldn't let go.

What I liked: The characters came alive in every way possible. I loved everything about Tess. Everything from her floppy, flamboyant hat, her six foot frame that stood taller than a lot of men, and her loving, generous personality. She was a true Christian in every sense of the word. The plot was similar to others I've read, but had its own distinct twists and turns. A touch of suspense was even added here and there to spice up the story.

What I didn't like: I wondered if the situation where Tess was living in Spencer's house to care for his children and other housekeeper duties might not have been taboo back in those days. Even though Spencer stayed in the newly constructed bunkhouse, I can't help but imagine that tongues in the city should have been wagging about how much alone time they spent together. It might have added even more interest in the story if a craggy, spinster lady complained and spread rumors about the couple.

Over all, I give this book five stars. Well done Ms. Gwyn. I look forward to reading more of your books.

Susan Vance says

4.5 stars

Jodie Wolfe says

Tess Grimsby longs for a family of her own. Instead, she must be content with being a caretaker to a recently widowed man's children. Raised in an orphanage, Tess is well aware of the trauma and stages of grief that children go through and hopes to make a difference in the lives of her two young charges.

Spencer Abbott has his hands full as a stationmaster and trying to create some semblance of order for his children. He hadn't counted on a headstrong nanny that questions him on what seems like every decision. But he can't deny the good Tess has provided either.

Is Tess worth the trouble?

This was the second book I've read by Keli Gwyn, and I found it quite enjoyable. She provides a sigh-worthy happily-ever-after. You won't be disappointed.
