



Creature Comforts

Trisha Ashley

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Fall in back in love with life in this gripping read about fate and second chances. The eagerly awaited new novel from the Sunday Times bestselling author.

Izzy has broken off her engagement to her feckless fiancée Kieran and returned to her childhood home – the sleepy village of Halfhidden.

She soon realizes that life in the village is anything but peaceful – for one thing she’s living with her mad aunt Debo and her pack of dogs, and for another, Izzy has a lot of unanswered questions.

When she was a teenager, Izzy was involved in a terrible accident, involving various inhabitants of Halfhidden. As she sets out to discover what actually happened on the night of the accident, she realizes that her painful past is actually standing in the way of her future happiness. So when a handsome stranger comes to Halfhidden will she let love back into her life?

Creature Comforts Details

Date : Published February 26th 2015 by Avon

ISBN :

Author : Trisha Ashley

Format : Kindle Edition 417 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Fiction, Mystery

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From Reader Review Creature Comforts for online ebook

Adele says

Izzy is 16 and loves living in the small rural village of Halfhidden. On a fateful night the last thing she remembers after waking up from a coma is setting off home from her part-time job in the local pub. She doesn't remember the accident that killed one of her friends; and she doesn't remember how she became the one to blame for the accident. Fast forward 19 years and Izzy returns home to Halfhidden following a fallout from her fiancée and from working abroad researching for her new online clothes business. She feels that the time is right to return home where she feels the most happiest with her Aunt Debo and Judy who run the local Desperate Dogs Rescue Centre. Her two best friends, Lulu and Cam, have also returned to the village to start afresh. Izzy is excited to launch her own unique clothing business but prior to the launch she wishes to find the truth of the fateful accident years ago.

A newcomer to the village ruffles a few feathers but his brooding good looks and persona soon spark a mutual connection between himself and Izzy.

In between all this the residents of Halfhidden are trying to regenerate the village and increase visitors to boost the local economy.

The village has a wonderful magical, mysterious quality about it. I love Trisha's description of the heritage of the village and its earlier occupants. Trisha's writing is charming; the landscapes in her stories are detailed and sound idyllic and the characters involved are very likeable and you feel like you want to join in with the village life. I also like the little references to locations in Trisha's previous books. Throw in some loveable animal characters and you've got the making of a wonderful, warm, uplifting, fun, beautiful, romantic story. A gorgeous 4.5/5* read.

Nicki Adams says

It took a while to get into, well written. Second half definitely more enjoyable.

Telma Oliveira says

A premissa parece fantástica, uma rapariga que sofreu um acidente de carro com mais 4 pessoas e não se lembra de nada, apenas lhe é dito que era ela a conduzir, além de ela não ter carta e achar que não foi isso que aconteceu e anos mais tarde tenta encontraras respostas...

O problema é que este livro tem tantos assuntos e nenhum deles é desenvolvido devidamente, além de que quando algo acontece é descrito mas depois ainda temos de ler a mesma coisa outra vez porque aquela personagem está a contar a outra :

- Abrigo para cães e como vão perder aquele terreno (a unica coisa que gostei no livro)
- A loja que a personagem principal quer abrir
- Final do relacionamento com o noivo
- Novo rapaz da vila
- A vila que é infestada por fantasmas (o que eu achei completamente estúpido)

- A vida de toda a gente com relacionamentos em part time
- O acidente

A personagem principal passa quase o livro todo a dizer que tem de falar com as pessoas envolvidas no acidente e nunca fala com ninguém porque ninguém quer falar com ela, a 10 páginas do fim marca uma reunião todos aparecem e surpresa das surpresas tudo fica resolvido e todos ficam amigos e todos se entendem.... algo compreensível visto que ela apenas ficou a ser culpada injustamente durante mais de 10 anos pela morte de outra pessoa...

Natalie TBGWP says

Being totally honest here, what started out as a book I thought I really would like because at first it had me pulled in with drama, suspicion, and curiosity, totally let me down.

At 30% in I realised that it would no longer be holding my attention, and that I could have told you the ending to the book there and then. I couldn't find a way to connect with any of the characters, especially heroine, Izzy. And what I usually love about books set in remote villages, I hated in this. I truly was shocked to be thinking like that because I love Trisha Ashley and her novels.

Whilst sitting after finishing the read, thinking about the book overall and how I felt about it, but more so on how on earth I was going to write a review for it, I knew I had to be blatantly honest and say it wasn't for me. It was slow, predictable, sometimes roll-your-eye worthy, and I felt it was for more a mature reader. At 32 though and knowing that realistically I'm in the target age group for this book made it just that little bit worse.

Yes, it's full of drama. Yes, the overall plot is a good one. But for me that's unfortunately where it stops. So for them two reasons alone I can only award Creature Comforts 2/5.

CK says

I suppose I will probably be in the minority here as it seems a lot of people really liked this book.

Admittedly this is the first book I have read by Trish Ashley and I have heard good things but I am hoping this book is not representative of her usual standard of work.

When I read the cover I do have to say that I did find the story interesting and intriguing. However, I felt the actual story about Izzy and her recovering her memory in regards to the horrific and life changing accident she was involved in as a teenager was really much shorter than this book. So the author then had the need to add a lot of filler as well as a lot of other characters to keep the book moving along. There is quite a lot of the story that honestly could have been left out.

I wouldn't say the book was horrible but nor would I say that it was really good, just a general basic story that didn't have too much to it and a fair bit of predictable material as well.

I give the author credit for creating so many characters but I suppose that was necessary as she needed to create distractions or conflicts for nearly everyone involved to make the story more complicated and keep

everything from happening much too fast. As another reviewer said, seemingly ever character had an aunt/uncle/friend/parent/sibling that was creating conflict and mixed up in Izzy's search for the truth, which was just too much. But at the same time I suppose the author needed to have enough characters so she could find enough people to tie up all the loose ends at the end of the book and make everything nice & neat for a happy ending.

It was just too soppy at the end as well when Rufus basically said for the author "and they lived happily ever after" by proposing and actually saying "shall we live happily ever after".

Kim says

Izzy believes that she is responsible for a car crash that killed a friend, when she was only 16. Various parts of the memory of that night seem to be coming back to her and when she returns to Halfhidden she is keen to speak to everyone who was part of the interviews and investigations of that evening.

She's back to her childhood home after breaking up with her fiancé Kieran and is setting up her own business selling clothes inspired by work she'd done setting up self supporting businesses in India, with the local women. They have inspired her with beautiful fabrics and she is keen to make a success of her new venture and helping her aunt to save the Desperate Dogs 'sanctuary' - where she's unable to turn any dog in need away. She takes on the 'desperate' ones- but they are trying to find loving homes for them.

Unfortunately her aunt hasn't been so proactive taking care of the business side and there are many unpaid bills.

There are threats to close them down and the new owner of the estate seems to be unhappy to have the ramshackle kennels on his property.

Their past lives are linked by tragedy and when Izzy and Rufus get to know each other better- there is a spark between them. You can't choose your family after all!

I absolutely loved the cast of characters – feeling like I was getting to know the villagers as they come together to plan a haunted trail to rejuvenate the local businesses. I loved the idea of visiting pretty cafes, local galleries and an evening listening to terrifying ghost stories in the snug. Where can I book?! I loved the dogs adding more character to the story.

A really gorgeous read- I'd love to return to Half Hidden and visit more of the villagers.

<http://kims366.blogspot.co.uk/2015/02...>

Verity W says

Oh I do love Trisha Ashley's world. Every time a new book comes out and introduces me to a new part of the corner of Lancashire that she's invented, I want to go back and read all the others again as well.

I managed to control myself (for me) and made myself pace myself - and took three days to read this (I've been known to gobble Trisha's books up in one sitting) and I really enjoyed it. Another set of quirky and fun characters and an interesting and compelling plot.

Now I've got to wait for the next one...

Kathryn Laceby says

Originally reviewed at Novel Escapes

Creature Comforts was such a simple title but I found the novel to be very complicated. There were, unfortunately, a vast number of characters and almost every one of them was starting their own business or changing jobs/romantic partners and they all had a parent/aunt/guardian/mad uncle that was mixed up in our protagonist's search or one of her friends' lives. At the end of the novel I still didn't know who everyone was and had no clue which business title belonged to which character. I felt almost as if I'd been dropped into an episode of something already in progress and I was struggling to catch up.

Because of the confusing nature of the narrative I struggled to get into the story and had a hard time connecting with Izzy. I understood that she had returned to her village of Halfhidden to get the whole story about an accident she had been involved in in her teens. It seemed really peculiar to me that, now in her mid-thirties, was the first time she was attempting to put the pieces together of that night. It was explained that she had spent the intervening years putting her life together but I never really got the feeling that the accident was interfering in her current life-plan? It was almost as if there were two stories in Creature Comforts and neither one was focussed on properly. One about Izzy's search for the truth- which could have made a great story and the other about Izzy returning to her home town- having left her fiancée, to start a new business.

Having said all that, there were several interesting villagers that kept me entertained (Debo and Cam for instance) and I liked the village of Halfhidden quite a lot also!

I am obviously in the minority in my feelings about this book- most people seemed to enjoy it immensely and weren't nearly as befuddled as I was. I've also read novels by Trisha Ashley before and loved them so I'm going to put this in the "huh?" pile and move on!

Thank you to Harper Collins UK for our review copy. All opinions are our own.

Angie says

I enjoyed this book for the main part but felt the romance went from 0-60 in very short space of time.

The mystery of the accident was good though but the sub plot with Lulu and Guy was again rushed to get resolved

Allie says

Izzy Dane has returned to her home village of Halfhidden to discover what really happened on the night of a fatal accident she was held responsible for when she was 16. Now, 19 years later, can she find out the truth. She is also in the process of setting up a new clothing business, while also sorting out the finances of her Aunt Debo who runs a sanctuary for unwanted and homeless dogs. While some of the villagers are pleased to have her back, those involved with the accident are not.

Throw in the newly arrived Rufus, who is the new estate owner as well various characters involved in setting up a village Ghost Trail and you have an entertaining mix of characters.

This was an undemanding read, the village was a mix of either OTT pantomime villains or heroes (both 2 and 4 legged) that had you hoping for a happy outcome and a final answer for Izzy as to what did really happen the night of the accident. I liked this book but I didn't love it. It as a very easy read but a little bit too predictable and twee. The kind of book that's ok but if something more interesting had come along, I doubt I'd have given it another thought.

MB (What she read) says

3/12/15 3 stars first read. Cute. Slow starting and a little more boring than her normal. I liked it, but found myself irritated by the many times law enforcement should have been notified but wasn't. (Okay, it's a cozy. But in reality, things like this are not likely to turn out so happily.)

Reread 11/26/16. I think I enjoyed it a little more on the re-read. Bumping it up a half star.

Jenny Schwartz says

I've been describing Trisha Ashley's books as cosy, quirky British reads. "Creature Comforts" is cosy but less quirky than some of her others. It's an easy read where I had no doubts the hero and heroine would get together, but the development of their relationship still had a relaxed charm.

If you're not a dog lover, I'm not sure you'll be as happy as I was with some of the supporting cast -- rescued dogs who need rehousing.

The book was a pleasant meander through village life, friendship, family and dealing with our pasts. I found it perfect Sunday reading.

Damaskcat says

Izzy is returning home to the village of Halfhidden in Lancashire after a stint working for charity in India. She has split up with her fiancé Kieran who expected her to move to Oxford where he is joining his parents' GP practice. Izzy intends to set up an internet business selling her own designs of clothes. Her old friends, Lulu and Cameron are starting their own new ventures too and everything is looking good if Izzy could only find out exactly what happened when she nearly lost her life in a car accident which killed a friend and alienated several of the villagers.

Izzy is threatened with reprisals if she keeps trying to talk about the past and Debo and Judy, who run a dog sanctuary and with whom Izzy lives are also threatened. Then there is the unknown Rufus Carlyle who is moving into the village and who has enough reasons not to like Izzy. This is a well written and interesting story, narrated by Izzy herself. It is quite light-hearted in places but all the characters must face their problems before they can reach their happy endings.

I found it absorbing reading and wanted to know, just as much as Izzy did, precisely how that fatal accident occurred. If you've enjoyed Trisha Ashley's previous books then you will almost certainly enjoy this one. If you've not come across her books before then you have a treat in store. I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley for review purposes.

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

I always eagerly look forward to Trisha Ashley's books, and Creature Comforts was no different – I couldn't wait to start reading!

After breaking off her engagement to her fiance Kieran, Izzy returns to her childhood home, the sleepy village of Halfhidden. Back in her home village, she soon realises that life there is anything but peaceful, and Izzy still has a lot of unanswered questions. When she was a teenager, Izzy was involved in a terrible accident involving various members of Halfhidden. As she tries to discover what actually happened that night, she realises her past is standing in the way of any future happiness. Can a handsome stranger help her let love back into her life?

I really enjoyed reading Creature Comforts! Izzy in particular is a very likeable character. What I liked most about her is that she is very realistic and I think many readers will relate to her. I loved Izzy's personality, and I especially admired her determination and bravery in revisiting her past and wanting to find out more about the accident and discover what really happened. Rufus is a fantastic addition to the novel, I very eagerly looked forward to his scenes with Izzy and I raced through the story because I constantly wanted to know what would happen next between them!

There are a wonderful selection of characters to get to know! I really liked Izzy's aunt and all of the dogs in her life...I am a huge dog and animal lover so this part was a big hit for me! There are also a vibrant range of villagers who appear and whilst reading I really felt part of the community of Halfhidden. I really loved the village life and the atmosphere, and as I read further I felt so much at home among all of the residents! The descriptions of Halfhidden are beautiful and it truly sounds like a lovely place to be. I could picture Halfhidden in my mind, the homes and the little shops and the landscape make it seem like a magical place!

Creature Comforts is a delightful story! Trisha Ashley has created a romantic, warm story set in a beautiful village and it is truly an absorbing novel that you can completely immerse yourself in! Thoroughly enjoyable.

Anne Harvey says

After being involved in a fatal road accident as a young girl, Izzy Dane has never really been able to move on. In the hope of laying the ghosts of her past to rest, she returns to her home village of Halfhidden in Lancashire. There, she quickly becomes involved in the Regeneration of the Haunted Village scheme and her aunt's Desperate Dogs Refuge. Having sworn off men, she is more than a little disturbed by the presence of newcomer Rufus. There is a slightly wacky side to this novel, a whole host of interesting characters but by far the stars of the show are the canine characters. This is the first Trisha Ashley book I've read but I shall definitely be looking for more.

