



Hidden Treasures

Fern Britton

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The best-selling novel by Fern Britton author of *The Holiday Home* and *The Seaside Affair*. Perfect for fans of Katie Fforde and Celia Imrie.

Helen Merrifield decides to start afresh and put her old life behind her in the picture-postcard Cornish village of Pendruggan. Throwing herself into the local scene, Helen finds herself at the mercy of the rather desperate Vicar, but she is secretly drawn to the brooding local historian, Piran.

Meanwhile, Helen's best friend, Penny, decides that the village is the perfect setting for her new TV series. When the cast and crew descend, the village is thrown into a tizzy, but Helen has her hands full fending off her philandering ex-husband, who seems determined to charm his way back into her bed.

Should Helen hold on to the past? Or will Cornwall give her something new to treasure?

Hidden Treasures Details

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Author : Fern Britton

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From Reader Review Hidden Treasures for online ebook

Siobhan Johnson says

Helen Merrifield appears to have had enough of her wayward husband and her life in the city and swops it all for a new life in the Cornish village of Pendruggan before long she has settled into her new life and has even made friends with Dorrie Queenie and Don. Along the way Helen finds herself with an admirer in the guise of local vicar Simon and local historian Piran. During the story we find out more about an old Edwardian chest and its secrets! Meanwhile Penny who happens to be a friend of Helen decides Pendruggan would make the perfect setting for a new TV series and descends upon the village! as if Helen doesn't have her work cut out for her fending off her ex! Never a dull moment!

This book is written in a friendly warm and chatty way just like your having a natter with friends over a cuppa. The book is quite fast paced and lots happens quite quickly but all the same an enjoyable read I will give this 5 stars

Nicola Clough says

This was an excellent book I just wanted to read more to find out what was going to happen next. Helen moves from London to Cornwall for a new start after leaving her husband. Can she find the house of her dreams or can she find a house and settle into work life and find friends and even live life. Highly recommend is book.

Jo says

Loved it. Did get a bit silly in the middle with the film crew etc - but Fern Britton knows what she is writing about - and set in the gorgeous Cornwall - can't wait to head down there in the summer.

Smelleykins says

I'm giving this book four stars purely based on parts being silly. This is a great book, it's a light fun read. I honestly never knew Fern Britton wrote books and I won this via a giveaway just before christmas.

Anyways, the story is of Helen, who is going through a divorce, ups and leaves london for the quiet life in cornwall. The start of the story goes on about an old lady who lives in the house Helen buys, we don't hear anything of said lady until probably a few chapters before the end.

There are some lovely cute moments, but some really cringeworthy ones too. The start of the book, i really disliked Simon, i thought he was so creepy. He just seemed like one of these guys who had never ever known how to interact or interpret anyones actions. He was so full on. But he was likeable towards the end, although i still think he was a little far fetched.

The cornish village sounded lovely and then suddenly a filming of a TV show appeared and thats when things became a little OTT. I can imagin it happening as i'm sure TV shows do film on location obviously, but how nice everyone was to the locals seemed dramatic.

I think my favourite characters were Chloe who really grew up into someone amazing and also Piran. He was mysterious and a times a little evil but there was something about him that made you want to know more.

I would recommend this book to everyone, like i said its cute, its readable in a day or two. Just ignore some of the over dramatic parts.

Aileen says

Newly divorced Helen Merrifield moves from London to Pendruggan in Cornwall she has bought a cottage and is ready to make a new life for herself. Helen soon makes friends with the Villagers. Simon (the local vicar) and Piran (the local Historian) has "the hots" for her however after her Ex Husband Gray Helen is off men or is she? Best Friend and Producer Penny comes down to Pendruggan to film her new Tv Series, Penny's PA has had an accident so Helen is covering for her she has never worked so hard in her life. Gray wants her back home where she belongs but can Helen let the past go? or is she happy with her new life? This book is told in 2 parts It was brilliant better than the previous book definately recommend couldn't put it down also very funny.

Mizzo73 says

Perfect for a cold day, a long train trip and a cup of tea. It stirs very strong pastie cravings though....

Anne Harvey says

A nice little romantic read. After separating from her philandering husband, middle-aged Helen moves to a village in Cornwall where she quickly becomes involved in village life, including the piratical Piran. The hidden treasures of the title are in a box she finds in her garden but, if I'm honest, they didn't seem to contribute much to the plot. The book is populated with likeable and believable characters, including a real sweetie, vicar Simon. When a film crew comes to the village to film a tv show the village is inevitably turned upside down with far-reaching consequences.

There were, for me, one or two little niggles, hence the 3-stars. A pet hate of mine is when the point of view changes in the middle of a chapter. Somewhere else, someone is given a point of view then doesn't have an opinion after that. And NO maiden names are included on any census records as any family historian knows.

Ria says

Helen is looking for a "new life" after a split from her husband, the philandering Gray she decides to move to the Cornish village of Pendruggan.

She isn't sure how she will fit into the community at first but she finds the residents, charming and so welcoming and doesn't miss her life in London at all except for her best friend, the feisty Penny who works for the BBC.

When Penny comes to visit she is in love with the village and resolves to set her new period murder mystery there and the villagers are ecstatic.

Penny like Helen seems to be totally accepted in Pendruggan and she adores Helen's new friends, Queenie the local shopkeeper, "Simple" Tony a sweet natured lad, Simon the diffident vicar who ends up catching Penny's eye as more than just a friend, the local publicans and then there is the enigmatic Piran who is Helen's love / hate interest!

But Simon has his eye on Helen!

How will all these tangled love triangles work out and how with the village cope of the stress of all the filming?

Can Helen find long lasting happiness in her new life and will London loving, jet set Penny be taking a leaf out of her book???

A whimsical, happy tale of village life introducing a wonderful set of characters that you meet in Fern's other novels.

Unfortunately I accidentally read them out of order but to be honest it didn't even matter as every story is a slice of domestic drama that is perfectly fine to be read as a stand alone but to read them all enhances the overall story and gets the reader more "into" the lives of the characters.

A wonderful read to curl up with on a cold night.

Rea Cobb says

I read Fern Britton's New Beginnings last year but I put it down just after half way through as I was finding it a real challenge to carry on as it wasn't gripping my attention. I decided to give Fern another try and so decided to read Hidden Treasures.

With her children now off hand it is time for Helen to leave her cheating husband and make a new life for herself. Helen is making her new life in a quaint Cornish village of Pendruggan. Before long Helen is making a new set of quirky friends and has also caught the attention of more than one man's eye!

Thing is romance is not on the top of Helens list as she wants the chance to be free and independent. Helens best friend from London Penny, is soon heading to Penduggan to start shooting a new T.V series which also brings the help of Helen's ex, who is intent on getting Helen back but will Helen open her heart to any of these men she has caught the attention of?

I was pleasantly surprised how much I enjoyed this book I am glad I gave Fern Britton another try. The book gets off to a great cosy start and introduces us to some typical quirky country folk who were a joy to read. I really loved Simple Tony and I wish he had featured more in this book but maybe in this case less was more.

If you are looking for romance this is a great read for you with a love triangle turning into a steamy love square! The author really kept us guessing when it came to who Helen would end up with, if anyone, but the big shock for me was a relationship which formed between Helen's best friend Penny and a certain someone!

I really enjoyed this book and found it very hard to put down. I did find the first half of the book was a lot better than the second half because as soon as the whole television slash fame part began in the book my attention started to waiver but it picked up again towards the end. I hope Fern's next book will leave out any kind of fame/celebrity content as her writing is much more enjoyable when this is not included.

I will be picking up another of Fern Britton's books in future as I enjoyed this one even though I was a little hesitant to read another one of the author's books, but this is a pleasant read one that is worth picking up.

Julie Lees says

'Hidden Treasures' is a second novel by Fern Britton (TV presenter, turned novelist) and tells the story of Helen Merrifield, a forty-something, well-preserved wife and mother who decides to turn her life around when she, inadvertently, discovers another of her husband's infidelities.

Her intention to leave her disastrous marriage in the new year is superseded when, as a Christmas present, she receives a pair of lacy knickers and a sewing machine from her errant husband instead of the Tiffany bauble she spotted some weeks earlier.

By Boxing Day, her decision has been made public and she has set the ball rolling to start a new life in an area a far cry from her native London roots.

Enter: a quaint cottage in a pretty, little hamlet...(the last two books I have read are both situated in hamlets and focused around a church, but I thought the definition of a hamlet was a smaller village without a church - but what do I know? Anyway, I digress!)...near the Cornish coast. This 'hamlet' is packed to the rafters full of friendly villagers who engineer a social life for our heroine that even Kate Moss would struggle to keep up with.

Add to the mix a love-sick vicar and a local historian, who makes Razor Ruddock seem like John Inman, and along with the added complications of an ex-husband, two adult children and TV executive best friend (along with production crew), you are presented with all the ingredients for chick lit at its best.

My only small whinge is that I found the description of 'chocolate-drop eyes' alongside almost every introduction to the vicar a little nauseating, and the ending is suitably predictable and crass, yet wonderful.

If you are entertained by this particular genre I guarantee that you will not want to put this book down until you have read it in its entirety. It is the perfect read to snuggle down with before the fire on a winter's day, or relax into by the pool on your hols. Don't miss it and enjoy!

Trudy Cutts says

Hidden Treasures By Fern Britton

Helen Merrifield appears to have had enough of her wayward husband and her life in the city and swops it all for a new life in the Cornish village of Pendruggan

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Christina Rochester says

I'll admit this wasn't the best book I've ever read, but it was exactly what I expected it to be.

Fern Britton has created a beautiful chicklit gem which focuses on Helen as she navigates really living her life for the first time after leaving her cheating love rat husband Gray.

The storyline felt somewhat confused in the middle, and the small storyline with the ashes was a bit of an anticlimax.

However the characters were well written and I loved Gray's ridiculous attempts at getting Helen back.

Laura Dickinson says

This book is a perfect lift your spirits kind of book.

Okay, it isn't going to win any literary awards, but it also is not a badly written book; it's totally readable and engaging and the kind of book you can really get into on a holiday etc.

The setting is lovely and it and the local Cornish characters seem real and genuine (I know Fern Britton does live there and you get the impression she has tried to make the detail authentic).

The plot is quite unoriginal in the sense that you can have a good guess at what might be the resolution, but that really doesn't detract from the experience.

Serewyn says

Lots of stupidity, lots of alcohol, funny characters.

Pros

- ~ British humour (love it)
- ~ Quaint little village
- ~ Winter
- ~ Light read
- ~ Endearing vicar
- ~ Cute cottage, yay!

Cons

- ~ Very slow paced
 - ~ Not much going on but mundane stuff
 - ~ Way too much brand naming!
 - ??it's not a dress, it's a *Med Man* dress
 - ??it's not a shawl, it's a *Danna Koran* shawl
 - ??it's not a cloud of perfume, it's a *Thurry Miegler* cloud of perfume
- and so on and on and on..... I find this very off putting and boring :|

So I definitely set a new skim record right after I wanted to slap the *Arther Millerusque* glasses of the vicars head in chapter 31 or so.

Sue says

'Hidden Treasures', which I downloaded free for my Kindle, starts with an intriguing prologue about an elderly lady. However most of the book is about a middle-aged woman called Helen who has just moved to a small village after leaving her philandering husband. She meets local folk and settles in, then her friend Penny comes for a visit...

There's a lot of potential for a pleasant light village-style book here, but unfortunately, it doesn't work. After the first chapter, which I enjoyed, the writing meanders into irrelevant and tedious details of day-to-day life, a village talent night, and a long, drawn out description of a TV production which takes place in the village.

By the time I was half-way through the book I was almost ready to give up - except that I had been intrigued by the start, and I was rooting for the nice Vicar character, one of two people who felt real in the early stages of the book. I didn't much like the outcome or the ending, but I did, at least, keep reading.

My overall feeling is that it's a great pity that this book was not thoroughly edited, as it could have been a great story. There are some interesting and memorable characters, and the hint in the prologue could have been so much more significant than it was.

But clichés abound, viewpoints switch almost at random, and the majority of the book is irrelevant and unnecessary. Cut to about half its length and with some significant editing of the remainder, it could have been so much better.

Not recommended. But at least I didn't pay for it.
