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The Secret Of Orchard Cottage



Synopsis

The wonderful new novel from Alex Brown, bestselling author of *The Great Christmas Knit Off*, perfect for fans of Trisha Ashley and Jill Mansell. April Wilson is wondering what to do next – her life has been turned upside down after the loss of her husband so she’s hoping to piece herself together again with a visit to her elderly great aunt, Edith. Arriving in the rural idyll of Tindledale, she’s dismayed to find Edith’s cottage and the orchard behind it in a sorry state of disrepair. Edith seems to have lost interest completely, instead she’s become desperate to find out what happened to her sister, Winnie, who disappeared during WWII. April gets to work immediately, discovering that the orchard still delivers a bumper crop each year, and with the help of some of the villagers – including Matt, the enigmatic Farrier – begins to unravel the mystery of the missing Winnie. Slowly, April can feel things coming to life again – but can Orchard Cottage work its magic on her too?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was waiting for so long to get another Tindledale book fix! And finally, last week I stuck my nose in the third instalment in this series! I am a huge fan of Alexandra writing style. She has a unique way of engaging her readers with her inspiring storytelling and delightful characters. I must admit *The Secret of Orchard Cottage* feels slightly different than the previous two books, but it is without a doubt an emotional, inspiring and an amazing kind of a story! You do not want to miss this book gem! *The Secret of Orchard Cottage* tells us a story of one of the long-standing residents of the delightful village of Tindedale, Edith Lovell and her family history. Edith's great niece April Wilson

comes to visit her aunt after a rather concerning phone call they shared. April's life has been turned upside down after the death of her loving husband Grey. Then her stepdaughter Nancy encourages her to drive down to Tindledale and see her beloved great aunt Edie. When April arrives at the rural village, she is shocked at how poorly Edie is coping with everything so April focuses her mind on looking after her and solving the mystery surrounding the Orchard Cottage. I loved everything about this book. From the beauty of the rural village of Tindledale and its tight-knit community feel to the remarkable mystery enveloping the Orchard Cottage and the Lovell family. April Wilson is a fabulous leading lady. She is a loving, kind and a caring human being who finds her peace and happiness back at Orchard Cottage where everything reminds her of her carefree childhood and the love she shares with her aunt, Edie. Edie is finding hard to come to terms with her older sister disappearance during the second world war, and it breaks April heart to see her aunt so muddled up and anxious.

April is a young and sad widow. She misses her former life and her grief works debilitating. When she realizes she hasn't seen her great aunt Edith in a very long time she decides to travel to Tindledale to visit her. April loves the village and has many fond memories of the place. When she arrives at Orchard Cottage she can't find Edith and the house and garden have fallen into a state of neglect. April's aunt isn't able to keep things up any longer, she's getting old and is often confused. She thinks April is her sister Winnie. April soon understands that she can't leave after her short visit. She has to stay with her great aunt for a while, so she can restore order in and around the cottage. Orchard Cottage is supposed to be a place that will heal its inhabitants. The beautiful surroundings are helping April to deal with her loss. She slowly finds herself again in Tindledale. She makes friends, has fun recreating Edith's favorite recipes and she's busy making arrangements for repairs in and around the house. Matt is a great help and they instantly get along. In return April is there for his daughter when she needs someone the most. Slowly Tindledale and Orchard Cottage are beginning to feel like home, but April isn't there to stay or is she? The Secret of Orchard Cottage is another uplifting story by Alex Brown. Orchard Cottage is a stunning place and I immediately loved the house. Edith is an endearing old lady and I enjoyed reading about her past and her present. Her sister Winnie is an interesting person and it's a mystery what happened to her after she left home in the war. I couldn't wait to find out more about this brave girl. I liked the combination of the past and the present.

What a treat The Secret of Orchard Cottage by Alex Brown turned out to be! Sweetly intriguing with a sumptuously idyllic setting, I adored being back in Tindledale and couldn't wait to get stuck in, to

see what the author had whipped up for her readers this time. When the title and cover were revealed a while back on Twitter, I knew immediately that I had to read this book. It spoke of sisters, love and of deep longing, and so I hopped inside with great enthusiasm, eager to begin. In *The Secret of Orchard Cottage*, readers are introduced to April Wilson. After the tragic loss of her husband, Gray, she's off to visit her great aunt Edith in Tindledale, a place she has always adored visiting. But when she arrives, it's clear that her lovely great aunt hasn't been keeping on top of things. The cottage garden has grown wild and free, and the orchards aren't what they used to be either. Upon finding her great aunt Edith in a worrying position while peering through the kitchen window, April realises that perhaps great aunt Edith could do with a bit of help, and perhaps she should have come sooner. What follows on from April's arrival in Tindledale and Orchard Cottage is a charming and utterly enchanting tale. I was hooked from the very first page, reading way past midnight and even then, trying my very best to keep my eyes open in order to continue. Weaved within the intriguing mystery of Winnie's disappearance, Alex Brown includes a number of heart-warming issues for April to figure out. From Orchard Cottage and the orchards surrounding the gorgeous home, to romantic fizzes and unexpected advances, it really was a joyous read with so much heart, warmth and sparkle that I just adored.

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