



Winter's Children

Leah Fleming

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But Wintergill is far from the quiet refuge that they expected. Devastated by Foot and Mouth, Nik Snowden and his Mother Nora are facing a bleak future. The two are at loggerheads. Nora has had enough of the hard life but Nik wants to keep the house and lands that have been in his family for generations.

But Nik is not the only one attached to the house. In the distant past, a terrible tragedy occurred and ever since a restless spirit has haunted the land, seeking a child that once was lost. Through the generations, the ghost has brought misery and pain to bear on the inhabitants. But where one spirit has sown despair, others have sought to protect the children of Wintergill.

Winter's Children Details

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From Reader Review Winter's Children for online ebook

Kate says

This book is totally atmospheric. Wintery-old rambling house, old cozy farms, country farm living, small town community-old times. So if you like that, dive right in and you get a bit of a mystery to boot!

Ramona Lazar says

Such a brilliant book! A real book, you know what I mean? With real people and their problems, trials and tribulations (of, I love this expression!), a couple of ghosts, a troubled story from the past, lots of love and lore. And of course, a happy ending.

I think I will re-read it during Christmas...

Yaroslava Yakovenko says

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Marlene Lewis says

What a delightful tale Leah Fleming tells in a Winter's Children. The reader is transported to Wintergill Farm and can almost feel the warmth of the hearth against one's legs - and smell Jacob's Yorkshire Christmas pie baking away in the oven! It is definitely a book to read during winter!

On the surface, it is a story about Kay and her daughter Evie, who have lost the man in their lives due to a fatal car accident. Kay wants to avoid the sorrowful emotions of their first Christmas without him so she sets off, with her daughter in tow, to the isolated Yorkshire Dales. What she thought would be an uneventful break from routine turns out to be the complete opposite.

On a deeper level, it is a tale about the need to deal with the past in order to fully embrace the future. Because if one does not, it is likely to come back to haunt you- literally!

Ms Fleming does an exceptionally good job of interweaving the present day stories of Kay Partridge and Nora Snowdon with those of the two earthbound spirits, Hepzibah and her wayward cousin, Blanche. All these women have issues that they must overcome if they are to become unstuck from their current anguish and move forward. Evie, provides the catalyst for this to happen.

It is an unusual and quirky story that sets it apart from many current novels. I found it engrossing and delightful. It contains nothing overly ghastly or exhausting for the reader to deal with, just a very enjoyable, comfortable read. I'd thoroughly recommend it to anyone who enjoys a good tale, and wants something a little different. A great read.

Susan Hampson says

This is a beautifully written book that I just didn't want to end. It is a story of hardship through the Winter months in the Yorkshire Dales. Wintergill isn't just a sheep farm, it is an heritage that has pass down through many generations, a lot of which are visited in this novel. It looks like it could be the end, in present day, as Nik is the last in the blood line of Snowdons.

How I loved this book with brilliant descriptions of the rugged, bleak yet beautiful Dales and wonderful farm steeped in history. It was such a cosy read as the author included many traditional recipes from the past, all woven into this story. It made me want to bake these wonderful creations and sit and read while the aroma of the past filled my home. A lovely book I could read again and again. A book perfect for anyone that likes history with a bit of romance along the way.

Colleen Sutcliffe says

Good read...

A well written modern story... I wasn't sure when I bought it that it was something I would like, but I have to say I couldn't put it down.

Donna Boultwood says

This story took a while to get going for me but on the whole I enjoyed it. Would probably rate it 3.5 if there were halves! Not quite a 4 as I got a bit confused who all the previous residents were and their importance, but all became clear in the end. What a house! It's the sort of book that would make a good study as there are lots of themes running through and interesting characters. Lovely ending, you feel Kay's excitement!!

Uzma says

A beautiful story full of tomorrow's promise and hope

Its a 'complete' story in my eyes. It got me straight away from the start and didnt let go till I read the author's brief at the very end. Lancashire is now known to me via my children's University. I have sat on the banks of the Ribble and dreamed away some hours so the same river must be shining in the snow upstream. The visualization was just enough for me to insert my ideas of the setting. It was a somewhat sensory experience, almost. The ghosts or spirit were adorably portrayed by the author. And just enough plot twists to keep me turning the pages. A brilliant beautiful book, where, the romance was in the setting rather than the people who were believable down to earth characters. I fully understood the plight of the farmer due to the catastrophic and devastating effects of the foot and mouth outbreak. Well done to the author.

Elena says

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AvonBooksUK says

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and his Mother Nora are facing a bleak future. The two are at loggerheads. Nora has had enough of the hard life but Nik wants to keep the house and lands that have been in his family for generations.

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Georgina Hynd says

Nice story about people moving forward following loss. I liked the way Leah Fleming broke up the chapters at times with a recipe though not sure I'd try more than 2 or 3 of them - those Yorkshire recipes don't quite suit my Australian palette. Learning the long history of a family who have inhabited the same lands for hundreds of years also added a nice touch - I envy them that deep connection to family and community. Heart breaking in places, sweet in others, Leah Fleming obviously has respect for her readers by not adding the '8 years on' epilogue but leaving it up to our imaginations at the conclusion. Nice fireside or sunny afternoon (Christmas in Australian never covered with snow) read.

Fran Mewse says

I really enjoyed this book but got a little confused with the ancient ancestors. I would love to know if Kay did fulfil her wish and if the farm was restocked. I loved reading about Christmas traditions from the past and about farming in the dales.

Amalia Gavea says

[a sudden death on Christmas Eve (hide spoiler)]

Julia Wilson says

Winter's Children by Leah Fleming is a contemporary story set in the Yorkshire Dales in 2001, following the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. Whilst mainly set in the present, the story spans four hundred years as past and present collide to preserve the future.

Young widow Kay, and her daughter Evie escape from Sutton Coldfield to Wintergill farm in the Dales. Kay is running from Christmas and its memories. Eight year old Evie is still waiting for her Daddy to come home. Wintergill farm has been in the Snowden family for centuries, now only Nora and her middle aged son Nik remain. Nora wants to leave. Nik is determined to rebuild the farm following the devastating foot and mouth. The novel deals not only with the theme of physical rebuilding, but also the relationship between mother and son needs rebuilding. Nora lost the love of her life, daughter Shirley in childhood before Nik was born. Nik has always felt unwanted and second best. Can he do anything to gain a place in his mother's heart?

The main theme of the novel is that of loss and searching. In the seventeenth century a tragic incident meant

Blanche Norton lost her child. Four hundred years of searching and taking what is not hers. Her sister Hepzibah protects the main house from Blanche's dealings but she cannot protect the surrounding hills and dales. The sisters need to find peace, but there is no sign of this happening.

Christmas in the Dales should be idyllic but many years have passed since Josiah Snowden owned Wintergill farm and truly knew how to celebrate Christmas. In those times the farm threw open its doors to the community. It was warm and welcoming. Can it ever be the same again?

Tragedies can split families apart or draw them together. Memories can be warming or painful. Within the novel Leah Fleming explores both sides of the same coin.

In Winter's Children the action alternates between present day and the past four hundred years, until the past catches up with the present. It is an intriguing novel and I was well and truly hooked. I did not guess the outcome, but the story wrapped up nicely for me.

Leah Fleming is a new author to me, and I enjoyed her style of writing. I shall certainly be seeking out more by her.

Little Red says

While beautifully crafted, this novel took me a long time to read. I think due to the number of characters from the past coming to the fore to tell part of their story. By the time I had pinned the character, and was hooked by their story, it all moved on. It took a lot of concentration and needed more sustained focus than I was able to afford it.
