



The Wishing Garden

Anita Stansfield

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The Wishing Garden Details

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From Reader Review The Wishing Garden for online ebook

Melissa says

This story progressed so slowly it was hard to keep muddling through it. I did really like the characters and even the premise, but it took FOREVER to get anywhere. Thankfully, there was a lot more dialogue in this book than in the last few of her works so it did feel a little more alive, that's something. I didn't love that she tried to fit all of the closure into the last 1 1/2 pages of the book. It left me feeling kind of confused. The story took a long time to progress and then the ending felt incredibly rushed, like it was just sort of slapped on to the back of the book. Still, for those that enjoy Anita Stansfield, this book is much vibrant than her last couple. There were parts that were very sweet and I wanted to like the book more than I actually did.

Angela Hunter says

I loved the characters in the book. Usually Anita's books feel more plot driven, but this was a refreshing change. The main characters Mary and Whitt both end up being caretakers for their parents. The contrast of service and being true to who you are while giving that service is challenging.

Amy says

It was ok. Kind of an unlikely plot several predictable "twists". Not my favorite of Anita's, and I normally really like her work.

Jaime says

I liked this book, but it ended very abruptly without tying up several story lines. That's one downside to reading on an e-reader, the end can just sneak up on you. It really needed an epilogue or something. I can only assume this means there will be a sequel.

Elaine Dransfield says

I've never read an Anita Stansfield book, probably won't read another. This book struggled so hard for a story it was difficult to turn another page. The likelihood of these two coming together in a relationship is very unlikely. If they were both considered as plotting a death they would both be arrested, but only one person was charged and tried. And the only "evidence" was his fingerprints on a gun and a past history of gang violence...not enough evidence for any form of proof. She was not to receive anything through a will so would get nothing if her father was dead so why would she kill her father?

Stansfield just really struggled to make a story in my opinion.

Debbie says

I liked this book. Anita Stansfield is a very good writer. This is the story of a woman and her adopted daughter who had to move in with her abusive father after the woman's husband and other daughter die in a car accident. The woman hires a Hispanic gardner to restore her mother's garden after years of neglect. They fall in love. The gardner has a criminal past. This is a good story.

I just read this book again. It is very good.

Amy says

Mary is forced to move in with her mean, bigoted father when her husband and daughter are killed. While living there, she decides to hire a gardener to make the garden look like it did when her mother was alive. She ends up hiring Whit Eden and a romantic spark is lit. I only give it 2 stars because I felt the writing was flat and the book just abruptly ends. The plot was moving along, and then it was tied up quickly in the end. Knowing Anita Stansfield it is the first in a series, but I did not like how everything was tied up in 2 pages.

Megan says

I have attempted one other Stansfield book and didn't make it past the first chapter. A friend gave me this book and I decided to give it a try since there have been several books previously and maybe the skill level has developed. It was pretty cheesy. There was so much lacking when it came to the story line. Why was her dad so awful, what were some of the experiences of her childhood, why did her mom marry him - I felt like this story line was ignored, but also seemed somewhat essential...

I realized why her books feel cheesy to me - because there isn't much character or story development. There is a lot of "I really love you" type conversation and that is basically the only dialog that happened and not many details on why the characters are who they are. The dialog was very repetitive.

Michelle Llewellyn says

Yes, only two stars, another yawn for Anita Stansfield. On the other hand, I just got off the horror ride that is *Fifty Shades of (Freakin') Grey* so I have to admit this kind of slow paced writing is VERY refreshing! I could sleep while reading this and not miss anything.

Just another Anita Stansfield formula where basic plot is set up and nothing even remotely interesting happens...oh, Whit/wait! Who ended up killing the Mr. Burns character? Never mind, I don't even care. It'll probably be buried somewhere in the sequel.

Apzmarshl says

Feeling absurdly generous I decided to go with 4 stars. At times I was able to forget I was reading Anita Stansfield! The dialog was plausible, the leading man had a job, emotional issues weren't beaten like a dead

horse.

Mary finds herself living at home with her bigot father after a tragedy takes the life of her husband and one of her adopted twin Latina daughters. She hires Whit to restore her deceased mother's large garden. Whit is a former Mexican gang member and felon turned LDS missionary and landscaper. Of course Whit and Mary become romantically involved despite her nasty father and What's shady background.

I enjoyed the thought that there are people out there having Ah Ha moments and realizing there's a life to be had despite their upbringing.

The ending was insanely abrupt so I'm assuming there may be more books to follow.

Kc7nan says

I'm not sure why I keep reading these books. I keep hoping for some of the spark I would enjoy in her older series. The last few years Anita's books have become so formulaic. If you want a light read then it is ok, the characters were fairly different in their background from her usual but could still be flushed out more.

Diane Mueller says

I like to be fair to a book and once I start it I rarely stop it. I did make it all the way through the book but it was painful. This book could have been 1/3 shorter and contained the whole story. The words after most commas were redundant. Not an author I would choose to read again.

Dorry Lou says

This was a story about Mary whose father was racist among other things. Mary had married and had 2 daughters. An auto accident took the lives of her husband and 1 daughter forcing Mary to come back home to live. Her father who was bedridden still made her life pretty miserable. She was able to hire a gardener to repair what once was a beautiful garden of her mothers. Whit the gardener was Mexican so Mary had to keep him a secret from her father. The story which was slow at times did have some good messages, however it was not one of my favorite books from Anita Stansfield.

Sheri says

Just an okay read for me. The emotional drama of the book drug on forever and was too redundant. When the climax of the story finally arrived, the story ended rather abruptly. An epilogue would have maybe made it a 3 star book.

Missy says

I haven't ever read any Anita stands field books but picked this one up on a whim at the library. I had heard that they were cheesy and unrealistic and I found this to be true. The base story was okay but the conversations between characters was just so fake and far fetched that it was hard to believe. It did hold my attention long enough to finish the book and I thought that the ending was way to rushed and abrupt. She even left the details of what happened to one character completely unfinished. Even though I did finish it I probably wouldn't have if I hadn't been substitute teaching and had nothing else to while the kids in 7 different science periods all watched the same movie.
