



A Winter's Wish

Alice Ross

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A perfect, feel-good festive read about love, life and family.

Tis the season to be jolly...isn't it?

Amelia is at breaking point. She's just lost her job and Doug, the love of her life, still hasn't broken up with his girlfriend. Surely a trip to the quiet countryside is just what she needs?

Phil is about to leave beautiful Buttersley for the other side of the world! The sunny shores of Australia will mean a new life with his girlfriend, but something is holding him back...

Ella has never felt this way before – Jake O'Donnell is the most gorgeous man she's ever seen. And the more time she spends babysitting his kids, the more her feelings grow!

Stan should be happy. He loves his wife and their adorable baby girl more than anything! So why, when everything's finally going right, are they arguing more than ever?

One thing's for sure, even when Buttersley's first snowflakes begin to fall, it's never too cold for love to blossom...

A Winter's Wish Details

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From Reader Review A Winter's Wish for online ebook

Petra "Pippa" Q says

Although this is the third book in The Countryside Dreams, it can easily be read as a standalone novel. Alongside the more familiar characters from the previous instalment, we meet a brand new cast of colourful characters Amelia, Phil, Ella and Stan. I loved the way Amelia took on her new life in the charming village of Buttersley and couldn't help but felt for Phil and his cold feet about the big move to Australia. I saw myself warming up to Ella and Stan because who doesn't sometimes have dreams although Ella's took it to a whole new level Luckily for her it took a nice turn at the end. A Winter's Wish a beautiful festive read with the fast flowing plotline and interesting and well-developed characters that could just as easily be your next door neighbours. I am keeping my eye on Alice's next book!

Erin says

Earlier this year I read the first two books in Alice's Countryside Dreams series. I really enjoyed both of them, and as soon as I saw this Christmassy 3rd book I knew I'd have to read it. The third books takes us back to Buttersley and is about four brand new, very different and complex characters!

So the first thing I loved about this is actually the way Alice tells her story. I loved how the stories of the four characters intertwined and unfolded over the weeks leading up to the festive period. Everyone is gearing up for Christmas and have to deal with not only that but all of the other goings on in Buttersley and there is never a dull day, that's for sure! The story has the right mix of serious and light-hearted moments and has it's share of romance and humour.

Secondly, each character is unique and in this story and in the whole series. Amelia, who you might know as Annie O'Donnell's sister, has come to seek solace in Buttersley and after a rather tense start to proceedings she finds her fit in the village easily enough.

Stan's daughter is about to have her first Christmas but Stan's relationship with his wife is rocky to say the least. What I really liked about Stan was his determination to try and set things right in his marriage.

Phil, local pub owner and Buttersley's answer to a surfer dude, is being driven slowly crazy by the thought of leaving Buttersley. He's proud of his achievements with his pub, how it fits with the community and is afraid he's making a mistake by going down under.

And then of course there is Ella. Ella has the biggest crush and I really think she's a character everyone will be able to identify with. She has a naivety that is easy to sympathise and I really liked her progression throughout the story.

This book is the third in a fab series. It is self contained enough to be read as a stand alone but why would you want to?! Make sure you check out the other books in the series too, I promise it is more than worth it!

Karen says

Oh how I've fallen in love with the residents of Buttersley! It's like a British Stars Hollow from my beloved

Gilmore Girls. Since each book deals with a different set of characters with only a few overlaps, they can be read as stand-alones ... I, of course, can never bring myself to purposely do that so I've plowed through all three in the past week and I'm going to miss them!

One of my favorite things about the series is that it's not always sunshine and happiness. Alice Ross isn't afraid to write about the messy aspects of real life and she tackles subjects like infidelity and insecurity beautifully. Sometimes the stories are a bit predictable but, it being as realistic as it is, often I've found myself gobsmacked at the direction characters go in -- and seldom in a bad way.

I've heard that this is the final installment and I'm desperately hoping that it isn't the case. After all, we've done Autumn, Summer, and now Winter ... I need to at least get a Spring out of the deal!

Anne says

I did enjoy this book. I love the variety of characters: a lovely quirky family saddled with a relative they hardly know at Christmas, Amelia's coming to terms with the changes in her life and the shock of rural Yorkshire after the big city, the young babysitter realising what is important in her life, a host of wonderful village people trying to make the right decisions, plus those delightful kids Sophie and Thomas. And I want to adopt little Thomas myself, he is just adorable!

Karen Whittard says

Amelia has been estranged from her family for as long as she can remember. It through her own choice. She didn't go to her sisters wedding and she never visited her nephews or neices when they were born or growing up. But now that she is out of a job and she has broken up with her boyfriend her life is falling down around her and she knows that her sister will take her in. I know things change with her over time and she comes to realise how utterly selfish she has been. But I could never bring myself to like her as I thought she was minipulative and self-centred she only cared about herself and she had missed out in so much not even caring about it but she expected her sister to open her into her home with open arms. Which she does do but I just couldn't warm to Amelia.

Jake has been the love of Ella's life for as long as she has known him a reclusive writer she has fallen head over heels and the more she babysits for him the more she likes him. I never warmed to Ella either I mean you should know when to leave well enough alone and when a guy is happily married with wife and kid that should be big neon lights to leave well alone. She should never have continued babysitting when she knew there was no chance in them getting together better to walk away before you get too embroiled. Things only start to get worse when Ella reads far too much into Jake being nice to her.

Phil is having cold feet about selling his beloved pub and moving to Australia to be with his girlfriend who has just got a new job there but isn't man enough to admit things and talk things over.

Stan is working really hard and seems to be attracted to a new woman at work. All because they have just had a baby and his wife wants to spend more time with the baby then him and he feels left out and forgotten about. But then things do change when you have a baby what else was he expecting.

Jake is acting a little weird for me and it seems like everyone has a secret to keep and are acting very oddly I mean no one acts like this in the real world.

I found this really hard to relate to. I found myself skipping over bits because I found I had no interest in the story or the characters. Plus this book doesn't seem to have been proof read very well and there were lots of errors every where. If it was the authors first book that might have been ok but as it is her third book it's not great.

All in all I was left disappointed with this book as I have heard rave review about it.

Hope you enjoy this more than me. Happy reading everyone.

MaryElizabeth says

This was a great story, set in a small town in the UK. This story was not what expected it to be and I am quite happy that it wasn't. Each different storyline progressed and tied into each other. The characters provided a journey that propelled the story to where each character was meant to be.

I am glad that Phil and Rachel were going make it through. Though for a while there I thought Amelia and Phil would end up together. I had a feeling that Phil and Bea wouldn't make it but that plot twist was not how I expected their relationship to end.

I am immensely happy that Ella found out what she wanted to do for her life and her deep infatuation with Jake was resolved and she can move on.

Lastly, for Amelia, her journey through the book was the most rewarding for me. She discovered a lot about herself and shook off things that would only drag her down in the end. I wish however, she finds relationship like her sisters.

I received a copy of this book from netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Kim says

This was a lovely return to Buttersley. When Amelia loses her job she makes a trip to see her sister and her family. Her boyfriend has promised to leave his girlfriend but the excuses keep happening. She is at a really low ebb - will the magic of Buttersley manage to weave it's powers?

Lots of the residents are having problems of their own. Phil is due to join his girlfriend but keeps delaying signing paperwork to let go of his pub. Stan thinks his daughter hates him and his wife doesn't seem like the lady he married.

I love the characters in the village. There are misread situations, lovely parties being planned and family life carrying on throughout. It really is a great, comfy read- curl up in the armchair with a lovely cuppa and lose yourself with everyone in Buttersley.

I'm looking forward to the last book in the series

With many thanks to the publisher and Net Galley for the opportunity to read this one.

Mel says

Not much depth, but still a pleasant read.

Sally Coles says

Amelia has sacrificed her life for work - always determined to be the best when she is made redundant she is devastated - unexpectedly, as they have never been close, she turns to her older sister Alice and accepts and invitation to go and stay with her in Buttersley. Alice has two young children and at first Amelia is at a total loss of how to deal with them - she has never interacted with children before!

Phil runs a pub that has been his life's dream so when his girlfriend Rachel is offered the job of a lifetime in Australia he is struggling with signing the papers to sell it so that he can go out there and join her and the longer it goes on the more doubts he starts to have

Ella is a teenager who works for Alice but she is completely besotted with Alice's husband and starts to read things into his every move, suffering from low self esteem she laps up any kindness shown to her by him

Stan is finding home life very difficult and he can't quite understand why - his wife is totally besotted with their baby and has no time left for him - he works very long hours and so does not relate quite as well to the baby but is there more to it than meets the eye

Great warm story - lovely to be back in Buttersley - and great to re-meet some of the old characters from the previous books. Perfect for curling up in front of the fire to read

Tracey says

Thanks to Carina and Netgalley xx

When people say you should "never judge a book by its cover" I am one of those who thinks "But I like it, let me judge" A cover of a book always draws me to a book, then I'll dive in and start to read.

This was one of those "dive in" kind of books. I adored the gorgeous wintery cover and couldn't wait to start the story.

This has great characters and we get to know all about them, there are ups and downs in this quaint village tale. There is love, laughter, a few tears too but all in all this book really has a nice feel about it, one which makes me want a duvet day, with cookies and hot chocolate.

michelle Simons says

A heart warming story of love, misunderstandings and festive shenanigans.

Nothing like heartbreak to take you home to your sister and once there everything changes for Amelia.

A great book. Well worth a read.

Karen Mace says

This is the 3rd in the Countryside series by Alice Ross, but can easily be read as a standalone - and is just the perfect festive read!

Life isn't working out as Amelia had planned - her perfect job and perfect man have now gone and she is extremely unsure what is next for her. So she jumps at the chance of visiting her sister, Annie, and her family in the gorgeously cute Yorkshire village Buttersley, despite the fact that the sisters' have never been that close but it just feels right for her at this time.

When she arrives she is thrown in at the deep end with her super cute nephew and niece who first describe her as a scary auntie! Not the best start! But as she starts to mix with the locals and settles into village life, maybe things aren't as bad as she first thought!

We also get to follow a few different characters in this story, who are each suffering their own personal or professional battles. From Ella the babysitter who has a crush on her boss' husband, to Phil the pub owner who doesn't seem keen on giving up village life to join his girlfriend in Australia, there really is a little bit of everything in this book and that makes it such an easy and fun read!

Ria says

Jumped right into the book, without any forethought, since my last visit to Buttersley was a pleasant one. The fabulous Christmassy cover piqued my interest even more. A WINTER'S WISH is the third instalment in Countryside Dreams series, written by Alice Ross.

This festive book tells the story of four residents at Buttersley - a fictitious English village. Amelia has come to Buttersley from London to recover from a heartbreak, Stan is discontented with his family life devoid of love, Ella is infatuated with her boss's husband, and Phil is unsure about whether or not to leave Buttersley for Australia, where his girlfriend resides currently.

The author has created a simple, fast-paced and easy-to-read story of love, life and family in this book. Her writing is tinged with humour, which I found amusing at times. However, it didn't deliver any of those special "Buttersley Charms" this time, neither was it Christmassy as I anticipated. I expected the characters to fall in love with Buttersley and the locals. Instead, I watched them leaving the place without any hesitation. It was a tad disappointment, to be candid. Also, I pick up each festive book in the hope of getting into the mood for the festive season and this book was a tad let-down in that case. Nonetheless, A WINTER'S WISH is good, a quick chick-lit novel with that can be enjoyed at any time. The twists and turns at the end were unpredictable and joyous ones. And for me, revisiting a few characters was delightful. I urge you to give this book a try if you enjoy chick-lit books. You will find it pleasurable.

Rachel Gilbey says

It is always a pleasure to return to Buttersley, and the village in the winter in fact gains in its charms. There

are some familiar characters in the mix, but the focal characters we switch between are all brand new. Hence although this is book 3 of the Countryside Dreams, it can easily be read as a standalone book.

I really enjoyed all four characters storylines, and although I could see a few plot twists a mile out, it was finding the story surrounding them so much that I wasn't too bothered.

Amelia is Annie's sister, and when she comes to visit her sister and Buttersley for the first time she is surprised by the village and how it makes her feel. Amelia is considerably younger than Annie, and has worked hard all her life, so she is finding the news of her redundancy hard to deal with. Add in not much of a personal life, and a very messy love affair and she finds herself seeking solace with her family.

Amelia though needs to win them all over, as she is fairly estranged, and seeing her attempt to connect with Annie's children is amusing, if a bit painful.

Phil is meant to be moving to Australia for good, giving up his pub and his home, to be with girlfriend Rachel. But he is starting to have second thoughts, and who can blame him after meeting the potential new pub landlords, who wanted to rip out the heart of this pub.

Ella has very low self-esteem and a huge crush on a married man, but her story takes on a lovely turn as she starts to have a bit more confidence in what she can do. Finally there is Stan, although it was hard to be sympathetic to him at first, given he seems to spend more time at work than with his young baby. However as the story progresses, I found myself warming to him more and more.

A Winter's Wish just had a lovely small village book feel to it, and its always quite comforting as a reader to return to a place, that you are starting to know quite well. It almost felt like a homecoming, and with the various ups and downs in the village, it was a very pleasurable read.

Thank you so much to Carina and Netgalley for this review copy. This is my honest opinion.

Kaisha (The Writing Garnet) says

All reviews can be found on my blog at <https://thewritinggarnet.wordpress.com>

I feel a little bit sad writing this review as it is a little bittersweet. 'A Winter's Wish' is the third and final instalment of the Countryside Dreams series. We first took a trip to Buttersley with the first book 'An Autumn Affair', we went back to Buttersley in the summer with 'A Summer of Secrets' and now we return to Buttersley one last time. Along the way we have met some very colourful characters with some being more memorable than others, and 'A Winter's Wish' is no different.

Amelia, Stan, Phil and Ella are the focal points in this storyline as they try to deal with their own consciences and drama's. However, one thing in particular brings them all together; Buttersley. Will they be able to put their lives back on the straight and narrow? Or will they soon realise the charms of Buttersley are stronger than the residents give them credit for?

I squealed ever so loudly when I read this book as both myself and my daughter, Eva, are in the acknowledgements and dedication of the book! I am truly honoured and thankful to Alice for doing that, it was such a lovely surprise. I do enjoy reading Alice's stories as they're always cosy reads and have the essence of speaking to a good friend through the words. I was hopeful that this particular book would feel like that too, especially with it being the last book. I needn't have worried, straight away we are pushed into

drama that gives The Real Housewives of New Jersey a run for their money! I couldn't seem to work out why Amelia wasn't liked by many people, she wasn't exactly the most bubbly of people, but is that always a bad thing?

When the story delved into Phil's life and his new journey, I couldn't help but think 'oh just grow a pair!', you'll see why I am sure! As for Ella, definitely playing with fire as a character but I feel that the situation was written brilliantly and highlights a situation that is more common than people realise. Finally, there is Stan. Stan the man...except he was being more of a mouse than a man! I quite enjoyed reading Stan's story as it was extremely unexpected and made for juicy reading!

It was lovely returning to Buttersley and trying to see if any old favourites reappeared in the storyline. Alice Ross has been very clever in writing the three books as even though they're a brand new story overall, every time, there is something so comfortable about reading the books as it's like visiting an old friend. I became curious about the other characters and what they were doing now, especially when their houses or workplaces got mentioned. Part of me was thinking 'stop the book, I need to pop in and see them!', but of course I couldn't, because it was a book...ahem.

Another funny, warm and real read from author Alice Ross, one that I am going to be rather sad to see the back of. I hope that Alice decides to return to Buttersley in the not too distant future!

Thank you Netgalley/Carina for my copy of the book
