



The Little Village Bakery

Tilly Tennant

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Help yourself to a generous slice of Victoria sponge, a perfect cup of tea and a big dollop of romance. Welcome to the Little Village Bakery.

Meet Millie. Heartbreak has forced her to make a new start and when she arrives at the old bakery in the little village of Honeybourne she is determined that this will be her home sweet home. Her imagination has been captured by the tumbledown bakery but with no running water and dust everywhere, her cosy idea of making cakes in a rural idyll quickly crumbles.

Luckily the locals are a friendly bunch and step in to help Millie. One in particular, Dylan, a laid-back lothario, soon captures her attention.

But just as Millie is beginning to settle in, an unexpected visitor from her past suddenly turns up determined to ruin everything for her. It's time for Millie to face the skeletons in her closet if she's going to live the dream of running her little village bakery, and her blossoming romance with Dylan.

A charming heartwarming novel about love, life and new beginnings perfect for fans of Milly Johnson and Debbie Johnson.

The Little Village Bakery Details

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Author : Tilly Tennant

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From Reader Review The Little Village Bakery for online ebook

Elaine says

I thoroughly enjoyed every single page of this read which introduced me to the charming picture box village of Honeybourne and, in particular, newcomer Millie who has bought, sight unseen, a dilapidated bakery which she aims to renovate and re-open. She is a woman with a secret in her past which she is trying to keep hidden and hopefully this move means she can start again with a fresh slate. She is convinced that her secret is so fire that if anyone finds out about it, they will detest her and turn their back on her and so, obviously, the past is going to come back to haunt her at some point during the read.

I really liked reading about Millie who turned out to be a fascinating character but I also loved Jasmine, the bohemian artist who is determined to befriend Millie as well as keep her safe from the attentions of her drifter brother Dylan. The characters are colourful, varied and fun to read about and the plot is nowhere near as predictable as you might think. It is an extremely entertaining read and I cannot think of anything I didn't like about it. I received a review copy from the publisher via Netgalley.

Veronica ?? says

On a whim Millicent Hopkin (Millie) buys a rundown bakery in the tiny town of Honeybourne. It seems the perfect place to escape the constant harassment she has been receiving and start a new life. But Millie can't turn down anyone in need and when the villagers start knocking at her door she wonders if it's all going to start over again.

Jasmine Green is happily married to Rich and is content with her life, bringing up her children and selling her homemade jewellery. She immediately connects with Millie, a kindred spirit, but Rich is not so sure of Millie and thinks she is hiding something sinister. Will Millie drive a wedge through this happy marriage?

The Little Village Bakery is an enjoyable quick read. I was completely pulled into the mystery as the reader is slowly taken off track before the big reveal. It has the perfect blend of mystery, romance and humour.

Through a wonderful cast of diverse and likeable characters Tennant shows how easy it is for someone's life to go off track and not to judge others too quickly because bad things can happen to even the best of people.

The Little Village Bakery is a feel good, plot driven mystery which is, surprisingly, not about baking at all but about new beginnings, forgiveness and leaving the past behind.

With no coarse language and implied sex, behind closed doors, this book has wide appeal.

I received my copy from Bookouture via Netgalley and chose to rate and review.

Clair says

Loved it! Review to follow

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Thank you to both Kim Nash at Bookouture and the author.

The Little Village Bakery is centred around Millie, a newcomer to the wonderful little village of Honeybourne, who has purchased the local run-down bakery without seeing it or having it surveyed so is quite unprepared for the amount of work that it will need to get it back into working order. As it is a small community Millie soon meets Jasmine and Rich Green, a local couple with triplets who both run their own businesses following an inheritance from Jasmine's deceased parents. It also doesn't take long for Dylan's interest to be pricked by the pretty newcomer, Dylan is Jasmine's brother who is living off his inheritance rather than putting it to practical use, much to Jasmine's dismay. Dylan is also a bit of a ladies man!

It is clear from the outset that Millie is running away from her past however it takes a while for the secrets to come out, influenced by the arrival of someone she would really not see. However Millie isn't the only one with secrets, Spencer, the local teacher, and Dylan clearly have some unresolved conflict whilst appearing to be acquaintances to strangers.

I loved this book, Tennant has written a story which is a thoroughly enjoyable, light-hearted summer read (perfect for the holidays!) which has hidden depths. The way in which the burden of secrets is conveyed is great, I had to keep reading to find out what Millie was running from and exactly what was with Spencer and Dylan!

Honeybourne sounds quite an idyllic place to live, even with the 'helpful' neighbours who are always cropping up. Ruth lives next door to the bakery and unfortunately doesn't seem to realise when she has overstayed her welcome! There is a real community spirit in Honeybourne which is welcoming of the newcomer, this terrifies Millie even more in case the truth comes out. The Little Village Bakery is more than a romance novel; it's about new beginnings, new lives, new friendships and most of all, being able to let go of the past in order to move on.

A fantastic read with both humorous and serious elements interwoven – this is the first book I have read from Tilly Tennant, I look forward to reading more from her and the Christmas Honeybourne instalment.

Steffi says

The cover is an absolute eyecatcher which shows the cosy atmosphere of the little village.

"The Little Village Bakery" is a really nice story with a cute setting in the little village Honeybourne. We follow Millie who bought the old bakery and is starting her new life while escaping from her past.

The story is mostly predictable but really sweet, still I had some problems with it. I found things developing too fast and I missed some depth in the story and with the characters. The book also failed to really touch me emotionally. Yeah, it's a cute story but unfortunately not more to me.

Millie was a sweet person which I really liked but I had my difficulties with Dylan. There was too much change of character in a very short time and his past was only a short marginal note. I think there was a lot more potential in his character.

I liked that the story didn't only concentrate on Millie and Dylan but also on other members of the village.

The writing style is fast-paced and very enjoyable to read.

Agi says

2.5 stars.

I didn't hesitate long to request "The Little Village Bakery" from Bookouture on NetGalley - it is written by Tilly Tennant, author that is already known to me, whose books I've enjoyed before, it has a wonderful, colourful cover and it has the word "bakery" in the title. I love books about food, I love them even more when the synopsis promises a new start for the characters and hints at lovely, helpful locals and some hidden secrets, and if Tilly wanted to try herself in following the trend about writing a foody novel, why not? It is also the first book in the series taking place in the small village of Honeybourne.

So full of expectations I started to read the book. It started promising and kept me hooked but soon, very soon, the book went only downhill for me. The synopsis tells us mostly about Millie and this is what I've expected - Millie and her work with the old bakery to turn it into a new one, with running water and filled with wonderful aroma. However, I had a feeling that this soon became only a sub - plot, as we were introduced to many other characters who quickly took over the scenes. I'm not saying it's wrong, of course not - it's just that I felt that synopsis promised us something different to this story. Also, the tagline on the lovely cover suggested it's going to be "a feel good romantic comedy with plenty of cake" but I found none of those. Maybe there was a cake or two mentioned but for me it was not a romantic comedy. The story was heavy, not at all light or fluffy, full of serious moments, and the writing also didn't help the case, as I personally missed the lightness and humour that comedy promises. The romance aspect also didn't work for me, and I couldn't bother with the characters' running around themselves in circles and complicating things more than they were worth to complicate. The romance was for sure not the sole focus of the storyline, but neither was the bakery, and I wanted so much more of the bakery! It is what the title suggested, right, and really, I felt robbed of thousand sorts of bread and cakes, getting instead some "magic" potions, and the magic element to the story felt like an afterthought to be honest, like something added hastily to ... I don't know what. Drag our attention away from the bakery or rather lack of it?

I had a feeling that the author wasn't sure which story she wanted to write, Millie or Jasmine's, as the book mostly switched between those two characters, and their stories were so different that I had a feeling as if I were reading two different books. Tilly Tennant wanted to add some tension by introducing us to Millie's nemesis (who was a little too far - fetched for my liking and a little on the not possible - side) and Jasmine's problems, but both of those subplots seemed either too far - fetched and not at all gripping or too clichéd and annoying. However, I warmed much more to Jasmine than to Millie, that is to the moment when suddenly Jasmine's marriage went jeopardy, and the way it happened spoiled her story to me very much. It just felt so forced and artificial. There was something in Millie that just didn't let me like her and warm to her the way I like to with my characters and I'm not sure why to be honest. Maybe it's because I had a feeling that she didn't want to give anything about herself and from herself, and even revealing the truth about her (so late. Too late probably?) didn't make me warm to her. Millie and Jasmine are complete opposites and hats off to Jasmine for always trying with Millie and never giving up on her.

This could be a lovely story about finding friendship, love and a forever place but so very sadly I couldn't connect with the book and it just didn't deliver for me. I eventually found myself skipping some passages and skimming through the chapters as it didn't keep my attention. However, it might of course be only my problem, as I expected something like Alex Brown's Tindledale series - light and feel good, which I didn't get here, even though I felt the synopsis promised me, and those are my expectations and disappointment speaking, so whatever you do, please try the book for yourself, you may fell in love with Millie and

Honeybourne.

Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for a review.

Luise says

Aah man.

What I expected: a wonderful story about build-your-cute-little-bakery in a wonderful little village with the help of a bunch of friendly locals to cure your heartache from the past.

What I got was nothing like that. It was a mix of 'an episode of the life of Jasmine', 'Dylan transforming from male-slut to perfect guy' and 'the great mysterious awful thing that happened in the past'.

The restoration of the bakery itself was just an immensely minor matter and found its by-the-way-style end in the epilogue. No cute baking, no cute customers, nothing.

The story is told from Millie and Jasmine's points of view. (Jasmine = one of the friendly locals) With a larger focus on Jasmine and her family. You get to know so much about her family, her feelings and her life.

And all you get about Millie is: 'I'm never gonna make this work.', 'That bad bad thing I did in the past.' and 'I strongly believe in ancient mystical stuff.' Yay! This made me impatient.

Then, finally, the bad bad thing from the past is revealed. It's a very very bad thing. And it gets even worse when Rowena appears. The lady who is tracking Millie down through half the country destroy her life - again. Because her brother couldn't handle a refused marriage proposal. Well, some people just have a serious lack of hobbies, I guess. At least she was a very good amount of evil. That was quite nice.

And then, while Millie's life is crashing down again/ reaching a new low point, Jasmine and Rich get into their own fight and he disappears. And the most logical conclusion is that he went to the village's exclusive gallows spot. (Just like Millie's boyfriend did, of course.)

I couldn't help but feel sorry for the author at that point. It must have been a horrible traumatic childhood, if she thinks that go-hang-yourself is a normal reaction to a fight.

Apart from this all, the story is kind of ok. A little clumsily written sometimes - it had some expressions that were repeated too often.

So, if you are in the mood for a cute little story just as clickbaited by the description of this one, I recommend to continue your search :)

If you haven't read this one already: 'The Little Flower Shop by the Sea' by Ali McNamara perfectly represents what I expected from 'The Little Village Bakery'.

Liina says

Millie moved to Honeybourne to get away from her past and to have a new start. She bought an old bakery

and due to that she got to know a few locals very fast. Millie was secretive about her past, but nobody pushed her to open up, which helped her to settle in. Millie got to know Jasmine and also her sister Dylan, who was a well known playboy. As it is with small villages, all news spread very fast, so when Millie's secret was revealed, she faced a difficult situation-to run away again or to stay and not let her happiness be taken away from her.

I really liked the Honeybourne village, the residents were so sweet, caring and helpful. All the characters were likeable and easy to relate to with their own ups and downs. The main focus was on the village life, friendships and love, but I also enjoyed the mystery aspect what surrounded Millie, I was eager to know what happened to her in the past. It was a pleasant start to the series and I can't wait to read the next part.

Anja says

'The Little Village Bakery' is about Millie Hopkin. In a snap decision she leaves her hometown to buy an old, dusty bakery in the tiny village of Honeybourne. She struggles with reopening the bakery at first, but her neighbours and the other villagers are all very keen to help out, especially her handsome neighbour Dylan. She seems to finally settle down and get some rest from everything she ran away from, when her past finally comes to haunt her down and make a mess of everything she tries to build for herself...

I very much liked this book. It was cosy and lovely and warm. There's really nothing bad for me to say about it!

Millie and Dylan and all the other people were such lovely characters. I liked that you slowly got to know Millie's secret, the secret of her running away from home. There were more and more hints thrown into the story, so it never got boring.

In the end it even got a bit dramatic, which I really liked. Also, the 'bitch' of the story, someone from Millie's past was just the right amount of bad and terrible, not too annoying, not too nice or anything. I was very pleased with that.

All in all, the book is just very nice and lovely, a wonderful and easy read for in between. ♥

Karen Mace says

I received a copy of this via NetGalley in return for a fair and honest review.

This was an absolutely delightful read! I thought it was going to be cakes galore, but the bakery was a small distraction in this book as it followed Jasmine Green and her family, and Millie who moves into Honeybourne to try and revive the Old Bakery while escaping sadness and trauma.

Millie is such a sweet character but you sense immediately that something dark has happened in her life, and she is finding it very hard to move on. Baking has always been her escape so when the chance to move to Honeybourne into a neglected old bakery, then she jumps feet first without really taking into consideration costs and problems!

Jasmine, has triplets and a seemingly perfect marriage to Richard and they do seem so well matched as we get introduced to them. Her brother, Dylan, also lives in the village and she's always looking out for him as he has tended to make some dodgy life decisions since they lost their parents. She just wants the best for him

and is hoping that he'll settle down and find a purpose!

The village of Honeybourne is such a sweet community full of some interesting characters, and they all seem to know everyones business so it doesn't take long for Millie to find her feet even though you get the impression that she would just rather be left alone!

A lovely heartwarming book, with a slightly darker edge than some books as we learn why Millie was keen to escape and tries to put the past behind her. That isn't always possible and sometimes the past doesn't want to let go of you.

The way that the community pull together is endearing and seems to start to help Millie gain some confidence and belief in herself. Really enjoyed the journey she takes in the process of having the Bakery renovated and loved the glimpses into the lives of some of the other villagers too.

highly recomended!!

DJ Sakata says

Despite how frustrating he could be, there was something infection about Dylan's personality. Infuriatingly, he was cool; there was no other word for him. Everything he did, everything he said, was effortlessly charming and impressive.

Oh, it's still got about fifteen years' worth of dust in every room, the ovens are coated in enough grease and grime to waterproof a Viking longship and I've had to get an eviction order for the larger spiders... but I think it's ok.

If only I were a few years younger... I'd love to get a good rogering from that one. I hear he's quite energetic.

Yes, we're an item... No, she doesn't need a guide dog and she is quite sane, thank you. Any more jokes you want to trot out about my suitability as a boyfriend...

Ruth appeared, teleported to the scene of new gossip like a magnet drawn to an iron girder.

My Review:

The Little Village Bakery was an entertaining and relevant read yet a bit heavier than I was expecting. The story is a mixed genre - best described as humorous women's fiction... part British charm, part angst, part intrigue and secrets, part romance - while liberally sprinkled with fun banter and amusing humor. This odd little English village feels very small town with tongues wagging and reputations turning on a dime. Everyone tries to avoid the elderly gossip that seems a bit obsessed with talking of "rumpy-pumpy," yet she is always there in the thick of things. Wanting a fresh start in life, a new resident arrives after purchasing an ancient bakery sight unseen. She is more than dismayed to realize its state of decay and need for more renovation than she planned. Imagine her surprise when the village of strangers springs to her aid, although a storm that seems to have followed her. The story was laced with heart squeezes, interesting characters, and fun bits of Brit vernacular to add to my list.

Sky says

Firstly thank you to a NetGalley and Bookouture for a ARC in exchange for an honest review which I am more than happy to give.

I really liked the cover of this book and thought that it was definitely my kind of read.

I found it very easy to get lost in the pages of this book, the plot was charming and the characters were all very loveable. It had the perfect mix of fun, laughter and romance.

The Little Village Bakery was a fun, easy and enjoyable read that did not disappoint.

Frenchorchidea says

Everything about this book is charming... the little village of Honeybourne, the heat of the summer, the settings, the kind villagers who all want to help the main character Milly who just came to Honeybourne and bought the old bakery. We understand that lovely Milly has decided to come to this little village and to buy and renovate the old bakery because she wants to get away from her past. We learn that she has done something bad and doesn't want to get involved in a new relationship with a man as she is afraid to do something bad again. This book is a page turner, I loved the characters and also loved this mystery that goes around Milly. I turned the pages like a crazy woman because I wanted to know what happened in Milly's life. I really recommend this book! I can't wait to read another book from Tilly Tennant!!!

Holly says

This was a nice light-hearted summer read. Perfect for a day of reading out in the sunshine! The characters were great--my favorites were Ruth and Jasmine. Millie was just okay for me. She moves to Honeybourne to get away from something dark from her past and we're left wondering what that could be and will it follow her. As the story progresses, we learn more and you just want to root for Millie and hope that she gets the happiness she deserves. What I loved most about this story was the quaint little English village of Honeybourne. I love stories where they take place in this kind of setting. I can feel myself there and knowing everybody and their personal business! I think Tilly Tennant has created a wonderful place to come back to. I wouldn't mind reading about the next installment:)

**Thank you to the publisher and Netgalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Kim says

When Millie moves to Honeybourne to take over the crumbling bakery the locals are interested to meet her. She is very cagey about herself and that sets warning bells with some of them. She slowly gets to know everyone and Jasmine is very keen to know her better.

There are hints that Millie has escaped from a very troubled place in her life- but as the villagers crowd round keen to help her turn the disaster zone into the perfect Village Bakery she starts to let them closer to her.

It's a lovely heartwarming story full of friendships, romance, learning to trust amidst mystery and some villagers with troubles of their own.

I adore books set in villages lending itself to a great set of quirky character to explore more and scope for the next book which I think is being released around Christmas time. The cover would have immediately drawn me in knowing that I was guaranteed a lovely read. This one is ideal to curl up with a cuppa and a slice of delicious cake and while away an afternoon. Add this one to your summer reading list- it's the perfect read. With many thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Rachel Gilbey says

It was a combination of both the gorgeous summery cover and the author that seduced me into reading this book, and that was easily one of the best decisions I have made.

I did have one slight fault with the book that I am going to go into before I sing the stories praises, and that is purely that for a book about a bakery, there were almost no baked goods mentioned, no feelings of hunger as I read it, and it does go against the slightly expectation that perhaps the cover gives.

What this book does do very well, is tell the stories of Millie who is moving to the village of Honeybourne (and what a lovely name for a village that is), having bought sight unseen the old bakery. It isn't until she arrives that the enormity of what she has done becomes apparent, as there is a lot of work to do, to make the bakery workable or livable in.

There is also Jasmine's family who we see a lot of, Dylan her brother is a loveable rogue with the ladies, but seems to have taken a shine to Millie. Jasmine seems to be the sort of person who takes people under her wing, and soon provides Millie with a much needed friendship.

Honeybourne itself is a cosy sounding village, with a fabulous local gossip network, and one particular villager springs to mind to add colour to the tale. Ruth is clearly lonely and latches onto Millie to talk very regularly, and seems to go into great detail about her every single health complaint.

There are secrets in this story that must be revealed, and for the whole the surround exactly why Millie moved to Honeybourne, and I couldn't guess the exact details, but once the reveal on that started, so did a lot more high action scenes in the story, adding to the already brisk pace of the book.

I believe The Little Village Bakery is the first of a new series and I already want to return to Honeybourne to meet more residents and see Millie and Jasmine again. I felt instantly at home reading this book and really enjoyed every second of it.

Thank you to Bookouture and Netgalley for this review copy. This was my honest opinion.
