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Field Day



Synopsis

After getting into some trouble in the big city, Jane Cairns is sent to live with her aunt and uncle on the family farm. She's lost in life, worried, stranded, living in a state of arrested development as she ambles through her young adulthood. A normal twenty six year old woman should be able to flourish on her own, but Jane can't seem to make things work. Farm life begins to show Jane a different side when she meets Sally Harris. Sally is a proud farm girl, in love with her country life, and happy to work at her family's cherry orchard. Things can be a bit stifling in the country, however, when it comes to love. And coming out from behind that barrier isn't something Sally knows how to do. Each battling their own issues of identity and place, Jane and Sally struggle together to find out what it means to be free and happy. Will they be able to survive Jane's dirty past, secret love, family and friendship, and even death? Love is a tender and delicate thing, and it's something we all deserve. But the path to get there isn't always as straight as we might think.

Book Information

File Size: 1030 KB

Print Length: 256 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1521894388

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: July 19, 2017

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0743NCM24

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #20,574 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #68 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Lesbian Fiction #70 inÂ Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Fiction > Lesbian #74 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender eBooks > Romance > Lesbian Romance

Customer Reviews

I received an ARC in return for this review. I have read at least half a dozen books by Nicolette Dane, and this is probably the best one. It is the story of a country girl, Sarah, and a city girl, Jane, who discover each other when Jane is exiled to the country, where she meets Sarah, a member of a farm family for 5 generations. The girls quickly discover that they are both gay and they are quite attracted to each other. The book is written in 3 "chapters" or parts. The first part is somewhat slow, as Ms. Dane helps us to understand the countryside and the background to Jane and Sarah's relationship. The story starts moving when they go to the dunes with a bunch of their friends. Their relationship becomes apparent to both them and some of their closer friends. The third part of the book shows how they react to a number of life altering events; the death of one of their friends in a car accident, their near outing by one of Sarah's close friends, the renouncing of the exile from Chicago, and a significant opportunity in the evolution of Sarah's family's farm. Through all of these events, Sarah and Jane's relationship grows and flourishes. Jane grows in her confidence as a person by being in the country where things aren't so fast paced. I also have a feeling that while there is an HEA, there is also an opportunity to continue this story. What happens to their new business venture? How do the girls continue to grow while Jane lives in the little house that Sarah's family has constructed? Although this is a wonderful stand-alone novel, I hope that Ms. Dane decides to answer some of these questions in a follow up novel.

Field Day by Nicolette Dane was a wonderful read. The book gave an accurate depiction of farm and country life and showcased the first few months of a relationship between city-girl, Jane, and cherry orchard farmer, Sally. In addition to their budding relationship, the book depicted Jane's growth as a young adult while on her aunt and uncle's farm, and Jane and Sally's reaction to the death of a long time friend of Sally's. The book definitely exhibited more depth than Nicolette's previous works. I look forward to a sequel to this book since the ending left a number of possibilities for future stories (i.e. Sally's parents reaction to her coming out, the continuance of the relationship between Jane and Sally, and Jane's progress in her personal growth and work life).

This story is really about a girl who is trying to find a new path for her life. She's made mistakes in the past and obviously wants to figure something out, but at first she thinks her time at her Aunt and Uncle's farm will just be a break before she moves on to whatever that life might be. Then she meets a local girl who shows her something new. A grittier, slightly darker story than most of Nicolette Dane's previous works, Field Day is, in the end, an uplifting and sweet story. I received an

ARC copy of this book.

Jane Cairns is in her mid-twenties when her parents discover she's been posting sexual videos of herself online, and she's forced to move out of her parents' house in the city to her aunt and uncle's farm in the rural country. There she meets Sarah, a closeted country girl who works at her parents' cherry farm. This being a romance novel, the two women fall in love. The experience of being a twenty-something with no idea where one's life is taking you is one many of Dane's readers can empathize with, and she evokes it well with her characterizations. There's a number of conflicts facing our lovers--Sarah's being in the closet, a community who may not accept their love, a creepy guy with the hots for Jane--but most of them are still unresolved at the end of the novel, and those which do become resolved do so due to forces outside the control of the protagonists. Jane and Sarah don't overcome their problems so much as simply navigate around them. There is a turning point moment which gives the novel some sense of structure with a beginning, middle, and end, but it doesn't really rise from the conflicts at all. Dane puts her characters up a tree (quite literally, in one scene) but then forgets to throw rocks at them before letting them get down. That said, even if the novel isn't entirely satisfying as a story, it's still eminently enjoyable experiencing the two women first falling in love and then beginning to build a future for their relationship. It's warm and sweet and indulgent in the best way. But I can't help feeling that there's still something missing, that it doesn't really tell a story in the sense of having conflict, crisis, and resolution--and as E.M. Forster famously wrote, "Yes--oh, dear, yes--the novel tells a story." I received an ARC copy of this book.

I have read several of Nicolette Dane's books and each and every one has been well written and interesting reads. This book was about the simple life of a farm girl and the angst of a "city girl". I can well understand the quiet and simple farm life could pull someone in and make them want to stay. This storyline made me wish for a sequel...I know they have a HEA, but would like to read about their journey together. Good Job Nicolette...as always.

I love all of Nicolette Dane's romance novels. That being said I have to admit that this book was just a bit lacking in the romance part of the story. There seemed to be too much philosophical discussion and there should be more story of the relationship as it developed. Also it was a bit of a let down after the beautiful last book about tiny houses and here in Field Day the mention of the tiny house was of a very different nature, As if She had to be forced to settle with a tiny house. Overall though a very good book and thank you Nicolette for a wonderful story.

Sweet, saucy and sexy! Jane, a city girl, and Sally, a country girl, live totally different lives but their hearts didn't care. This is sort of an "opposites attract" book but it is very easy reading and both ladies are very endearing. Very enjoyable to read a lighter romance for a change. I liked the book.

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