



# Grace Me With Your Presents

*Pippa Franks*

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## Grace Me With Your Presents Pippa Franks

With a yearning for another child as she approaches her forties and a daughter who has just flown the nest, Grace Carter must take stock of her life and confront a secret from her past.

A family crisis drives Grace back to Eskton, the (once) sleepy village just outside Whitby, where she grew up. While caring for her aunt after a fall, she encounters Terence (Tippy) Tippleton, the 'bad boy' of the village; Alfie Hammond, the Know-it-all grocer; an alcoholic vicar, and a transvestite farmer. She's almost too busy to miss her husband and their life in London. However, the physical distance between them highlights the emotional distance, and she vows that once they're back together, she will reveal the secret that's been smouldering in the back of her mind for far too long.

Grace falls in love with the village and its quirky inhabitants. Can she convince her husband that life will be better away from the hubbub of the city? Will she even have a husband once the truth comes to light?

## Grace Me With Your Presents Details

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# From Reader Review *Grace Me With Your Presents* for online ebook

## Joy says

What makes *Grace Me With Your Presents* such a special story?

*Grace Me With Your Presents* is a heartwarming story full of humor and yet intensely emotional at times.

The impetus for the turbulence in Grace's life is her daughter leaving home to attend university. Not long after Grace learns her beloved Aunt Jemima has been hospitalized due to a broken hip. Adding insult to injury her aunt is diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

Eventually it's decided that Grace is best able to drop everything to provide support while her aunt recovers. However, this means leaving her husband in London to attend to her aunt's needs.

The citizens of Eskton amaze Grace when they eagerly sign on to fix up her aunt's home which has begun to tumble down around her aunt. That's the positive side of life in a small town. The less than helpful and more often than not annoying aspect is having everyone in town up in her business.

The people she encounters have some challenges of their own. It seems amusing at first to consider a vicar with an obvious alcohol problem. Upon learning why, it becomes understandable and yet unfortunate that he believes secrecy is the answer.

A farmer, George, is a closet cross dresser. His closet conceals the trappings and secret of who he is in total.

The secret that Grace has held close to her heart for many years eventually is revealed and what a secret it is! How can she be open and honest with family and friends all the while keeping this secret closeted from others?

I laughed with Grace. I cried with Grace. I yearned with Grace to have her greatest wish come true.

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## Wendy Jensen says

A very enjoyable, easy book to read. Grace has a secret that she has kept to herself for 23 years. She had meant to come clean but the timing was never right. She is afraid this secret will ruin her marriage. A cast of enjoyable characters.

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

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## Robin Houghton says

An amazing cover, an amazing title, an amazing book. This book has the most emotive depth of any I have read. The banter, chuckles, mirth and laugh-out-loud passages are there, similar to the first two books, but Pippa Franks has taken this third book to new depths in the character's lives and pasts emotionally. This will play tunes on your heartstrings on all fronts; happiness, love, joy, sympathy, sorrow, and so many more. It starts quite simply, with Grace and Max's daughter, Evie going away to university. Then Grace's aunt in Yorkshire is taken ill and Grace goes to stay up there and we meet the wonderful mix of normal, eccentric and downright quirky village residents, all the time we are being hooked, wondering what Grace's secret is. Then the twists start, not just one, I lost count at four. Some not so gentle twists, more like bomb-shells that left me shocked and shaken. The ending is tremendous, pure pathos.

Stunningly different from the first two books, suspenseful with complex family intrigues, I found it very insightful regarding Grace's inner thoughts, before and after her secret is revealed. It will resonate with those who have been through similar circumstances. A book definitely written from the heart, by someone with direct, or close indirect experience.

Most parents will empathise with Grace and Max, having been through the familiar highs, lows, turmoil and transitions that parenthood and marriage brings. Not so many will have been through the trauma Grace's secret reveals.

This is a perfect book to savour, become absorbed in, read slowly and get into the feeling and atmosphere. Great to read on a rainy day, sunny beach or train.

All three books have been so different, and I am very curious how the talented, prolific and prodigious Pippa Franks is going to surprise us with the fourth book.

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### **Tracie Banister says**

It's been quite a while since I've read any British Chick Lit, and this book really hit the spot! I flew through it, chuckled a lot, and got teary-eyed over several scenes. The heroine of *Grace Me With Your Presents* starts the story by dropping off her beloved only child at uni. She is bereft and not quite sure what to do with herself. She decides to turn her attention to rekindling the flame in her marriage, but just when that seems to be going well, she's called out of town to help an ailing relative.

The ensuing scenes set in the small Yorkshire hamlet of Eskton are gold. The author does such a wonderful job describing the area and its quirky inhabitants; I got a real sense of the place and how charming it is and now that I've been told what chips and scraps are I am dying to eat some - YUM! While in Eskton, Grace comes to grips with a secret from her past that affects all those closest to her. The way this storyline unfolds feels very organic, and there's a big plot twist along the way that actually made me gasp out loud. So, kudos to the author for that!

This book has so much heart. I found myself caring not only about Grace, but all those in her sphere as well. So, I was very pleased with how the story ended and closed the book with a smile on my face. I look forward to reading more from Pippa Franks. I think she's an author to watch!

I received a copy of *Grace Me With Your Presents* in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Goodlittlewitch says**

FULL DISCLOSURE: I was provided a complimentary copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Grace Carter is nearing her 40th birthday and her only daughter has just left for college. She's unsure about reconnecting with her husband and wrestles with a secret she's kept since before her marriage. As she's about to tell her husband her secret, she's called away to her childhood town to help her aunt recover from a broken hip.

While there, Grace rediscovers things about herself and learns quite a bit about her family and neighbors. Ripe for personal change and growth, Grace evolves quickly and so does her involvement in the little town of Eskton. The secondary characters are richly drawn and have distinct, quirky characteristics. The way that each relationship is explored, and each character revealed, from Grace's interactions with her college-bound daughter at the very beginning of the book, to her conversations with the drunk vicar, have so much relatable truth to them. The interactions between Tippy and George are wonderfully written, and I very much enjoyed getting to know Jemima, Grace's aunt.

I did have some issues with the way the plot developed. In my opinion, there is a good deal of foreshadowing and it becomes fairly heavy-handed at times. I found myself wishing, when I finished the book, that there was less lead up to the big reveal and more exploring its impacts on the characters involved. There is a second surprise that's very well designed, but I wished it had been explored more. As a U.S. reader, I both enjoyed and was confused by some of the colloquialisms used in the narrative. The language gave the story a flavor that I liked and, since I wasn't accustomed to some of the words, made me more aware of just how universal the themes in this story really are.

All in all, I enjoyed the book very much and will read other books by this author, but I do feel that a bit more editing in some places, and a bit more exploration in others, would have done this book good.

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### **Colette Kebell says**

Haven't read a book so quickly in quite some time. What a lovely story and a real page turner...I was even brought to tears once or twice, though not necessarily sad ones. I can highly recommend this book and hope that the author continues to write such lovely stories for us all to enjoy. A genuinely fabulous feel good book, with a twist you don't see coming.

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### **Samantha Smith says**

Good heartfelt book with some tearful moments!

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### **Nikki LeClair says**

The synopsis of this novel intrigued me. I had a feeling it would be more than just your average 'chick flick'. Despite this story holding some very predictable clichés,  
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I was pleasantly surprised by it in the end. More so, surprised at how much I fell in love with the supporting

cast. Not only had Pippa managed to invent characters colorful and interesting but also very genuine. They brought humor into the story in a unique way.

Grace herself was easy to like and I found my heart bled for her undoubtedly. Feeling lonely that her only daughter left for school, unsure of the future of her marriage and upset that her aunt was injured and battling a disease of which there is no cure, it was easy to see how anyone could be lost. She was a realistic character; I could picture her, understand her and agree with things she said and did.

There were a few surprises along the way that caught me off guard, in particular Grace's big secret which rounded the story nicely. By the last few pages this story put me in the Christmas mood and I can only rightfully describe this story as completely charming. Pippa Franks has a new fan in me that's for sure!

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### **yvonne says**

#### **Story of secrets love and family reunion**

Loved the characters in this book from the start, loved the plot in the end, experienced happiness, and heartfelt warmth when I completed reading this book, I would recommend.

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### **Vickie Richens says**

I enjoyed this book plenty of action going on, would recommend

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