



# Firefly Lane

*Kristin Hannah*

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## **Firefly Lane** Kristin Hannah

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *On Mystic Lake* comes a powerful novel of love, loss, and the magic of friendship. . . .

In the turbulent summer of 1974, Kate Mularkey has accepted her place at the bottom of the eighth-grade social food chain. Then, to her amazement, the “coolest girl in the world” moves in across the street and wants to be her friend. Tully Hart seems to have it all---beauty, brains, ambition. On the surface they are as opposite as two people can be: Kate, doomed to be forever uncool, with a loving family who mortifies her at every turn. Tully, steeped in glamour and mystery, but with a secret that is destroying her. They make a pact to be best friends forever; by summer’s end they’ve become *Tully and Kate*. Inseparable.

So begins Kristin Hannah’s magnificent new novel. Spanning more than three decades and playing out across the ever-changing face of the Pacific Northwest, *Firefly Lane* is the poignant, powerful story of two women and the friendship that becomes the bulkhead of their lives.

From the beginning, Tully is desperate to prove her worth to the world. Abandoned by her mother at an early age, she longs to be loved unconditionally. In the glittering, big-hair era of the eighties, she looks to men to fill the void in her soul. But in the buttoned-down nineties, it is television news that captivates her. She will follow her own blind ambition to New York and around the globe, finding fame and success . . . and loneliness.

Kate knows early on that her life will be nothing special. Throughout college, she pretends to be driven by a need for success, but all she really wants is to fall in love and have children and live an ordinary life. In her own quiet way, Kate is as driven as Tully. What she doesn’t know is how being a wife and mother will change her . . . how she’ll lose sight of who she once was, and what she once wanted. And how much she’ll envy her famous best friend. . . .

For thirty years, Tully and Kate buoy each other through life, weathering the storms of friendship---jealousy, anger, hurt, resentment. They think they’ve survived it all until a single act of betrayal tears them apart . . . and puts their courage and friendship to the ultimate test.

*Firefly Lane* is for anyone who ever drank Boone’s Farm apple wine while listening to Abba or Fleetwood Mac. More than a coming-of-age novel, it’s the story of a generation of women who were both blessed and cursed by choices. It’s about promises and secrets and betrayals. And ultimately, about the one person who really, truly knows you---and knows what has the power to hurt you . . . and heal you. *Firefly Lane* is a story you’ll never forget . . . one you’ll want to pass on to your best friend.

## **Firefly Lane Details**

Date : Published January 6th 2009 by Griffin (first published February 5th 2008)

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Author : Kristin Hannah

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## From Reader Review Firefly Lane for online ebook

### Pouting Always says

This was the first Kristen Hannah book I read and it's about two girls who become friends in middle school in the 70's and it follows them through their lives. I really enjoyed the writing, I think Hannah is really good at telling stories because I kept wanting to read on. The characters were all complex and made the book feel real. The ending was not that great though and I can agree that some of the plot was derivative but I don't think there's anything wrong with using things in your book that have been done if you do them well, which I think Hannah does.

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### Heather 'Bookables' says

4.75/5

I think I'm going to have to limit myself to 2 Kristin Hannah books a year because her books EMOTIONALLY WRECK ME.

This is the 3rd book I've read by her and the 3rd book to make me sob.

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### Rita says

I finished this book in the beginning of January and I'm finally writing the review now. First, I was sick but even when I felt better I kept putting it off. Time to write the review of a book that I didn't expect to even like that much, but ended up loving.

Firefly Lane is the first book that I've read by Kristin Hannah. You may well ask what rock I've been living under? I do not read "chick-lit" she said in a condescending manner and this book sounded like that's what it would be. I still can't honestly see a man enjoying this book but maybe I'm being sexist.

Tully and Kate is what these 2 very different girls became. BFF only this was true. They went through pretty much everything together and because Tully's mom was a flower child total drug addict, Kate's mom became Tully's mom in practice if not in fact. They even went to the same college and lived together.

Tully had big dreams of being a famous news person and she had the personality to go with it. Unfortunately, she tried to make her dreams, Kate's dreams because they always did everything together, right? As it turns out Kate's dream was to be a wife and mother. So while Tully went off chasing her dream, Kate became Kate Mularky Ryan or Mrs. John Ryan. Unfortunately Kate could never be secure in Johnny's love because Tully had him and dropped him first. But Kate lived out her dream as a wife and mother while Tully became a superstar.

I cried through the last one hundred pages Partly because it hit so close to home. All the way through jr. high and high school, I had a friend like Kate only her name was Ann. While I went off to college, she got married and had kids. While I didn't become a superstar, our lives went in different directions but we remained friends. (view spoiler)

I ended up giving Firefly Lane 5 stars. Kristin Hannah is a fantastic writer. She made all her characters come to life and they still live in my heart. I am looking forward to reading the sequel, Fly Away.  
Posted on Goodreads and Amazon 1/24/2018

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### **Holli says**

I really and truly thoroughly enjoyed this novel. Thank you very much Lisa for letting me borrow this! What a great book. It began the year I was born and ended in present day and followed the lives of two best friends named Tully and Kate. I loved reliving the 70's and 80's and 90's with them, all of the pop culture references made this a fun journey. The book is much more than just pop culture though as it follows two young girls who grow into wonderful women with very different personalities. Their lives separate and entwine over and over again through the years and the adventures that ensue and the memories they create with each other are priceless.

I really think the author hit the best friend/as close as a sister relationship two women can have on the head and I saw a lot of myself in Tully and a whole lot of my friend Brooke in Kate. I could identify with so much in this book and for that I truly loved it.

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### **Karen says**

We are reading this book in my book club. I listened to it on audio book. It is the story of Kate and Tully who meet as teenagers and then remain friends for 30 years. They are bff's and it is the story of friendship between two women and a betrayal that almost destroyed it. A few CD's into this I asked another lady in the club "Where is this going? How will she fill 15 CD's with this story?" I kept waiting for the big betrayal / twist at the end. So, I couldn't stop listening.

The story however, was way too long for what she had to say. My favorite "girlfriend" book is Sula. And so I compared this book to it automatically, and it just doesn't come close. Sula is much shorter and much more poignant. I also felt like I was listening to the same story again when Kate's daughter was a teenager. Also, I would have killed that girl.

There were a few things in this book that did not work for me. The first thing is that it seems the author just stereotypes women. Either you are the sexy, hot working woman, or you are the frumpy housewife. In the beginning of the story Mrs. M (Kate's mom) tells the girls they can have it both. The author then seems to prove that you can't. Women have to choose between working and staying at home? Sorry, I have been a working mom for 15 years, and we can do it!

Also, Kate is always talking about all the money her best friend has but then her husband was making a lot of money as well. At one point she even says that they were almost as rich as Tully. So, why couldn't she get help with the household if she is that overwhelmed? Why couldn't she take better care of herself? My best friend is a stay at home mom, and involved in everything, with 3 little girls. And she always looks good!

The other part that didn't jive is that Mrs. M tells Tully her dad was an alcoholic, and talks about how much she hated it. Yet she herself was "making it though with alcohol". My grandfather was an alcoholic and I can tell you the kids that hate it, do not use alcohol to make it though the day. They know how much it can hurt

their families.

The book had an important message about inflammatory breast cancer. I had not heard of it, and am like Kate where I do my regular exams. So that is a bit scary for all women. A powerful lesson, and makes this book worth the read.

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### **Elyse says**

Read years ago when the book was released!

Read Stephanie's review...it's beautiful!!!

I was deeply moved - surprised I liked it so much ---mailed it to my sister. She loved it just as much. I immediately read one more book, by Kristen Hannah...but when it didn't 'wow' me.. I didn't continue reading more of Hannah's books - but FIREFLY...has a very authentic feeling to it - not pushed - not overly schmaltzy.

Sincerely touching!

Read Stephanie's great review!!!

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### **Crumb says**

[ You will need a box of tissues, handy! (hide spoiler)]

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### **Alice Kellen says**

Hacía muchísimos meses que no leía una novela que me llegase así y me ha dejado tan tocada que no sé ni qué decir. Tiene 600 páginas y yo me he pasado unas 500 llorando y con el corazón encogido. No me gusta nada desvelar detalles (siempre creo que con la sinopsis es más que suficiente y, en ocasiones, incluso demasiado), así que solo diré que "El baile de las luciérnagas" es la historia de dos amigas, Kate y Tully, durante más de tres décadas; a través de ambas conocemos el amor, los sueños, las decepciones, las dudas, la familia, la música, el dolor, la risa..., ¡la vida!

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### **Andrea says**

Hmm... well, I've never read "Beaches" (the book many reviewers compared this to) and I'm pretty sure I won't now. Firefly Lane was... meh. Two girls stay "best friends" through four decades and widely divergent paths. Only thing is, emotionally, they stay girls. They never really become women, never break their stupid patterns (and they really are stupid), never evolve.

The characters are 2-dimensional at best: Kate is spineless and weak, Tully is narcissistic and bitchy.

They consider themselves "best friends" when in reality, they are just enablers to the other one's personality weaknesses.

And yet ~ I read the whole damn thing because Kristin Hannah, despite her storyline and emotionally stupid characters, is a good writer! Hence the 3 stars. A quick and easy read. Honestly, if you want something brainless, this is a good beach read (ha, no pun intended), but I wouldn't recommend it if you're feeling even a smidge intellectually and emotionally smarter than the rest of the world. 'Cause it'll really annoy you then.

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### **Theresa Alan says**

I enjoyed this novel about two girlfriends spanning from the '70s to the early 2000s. It alternates points of view between Kate who, when the novel opens, is 14 years old and closely watched by her mother. Tully, on the other hand, has been abandoned by her drug-addict mother and moves in across the street with her grandmother. Tully is rebellious and ambitious, and Kate longs to be cool like her. Kate is stunned when Tully becomes her best friend, and their friendship lasts 30 years.

They are flawed people with likeable attributes, like everyone I've met on planet earth. While Tully is completely focused on launching her career into the stratosphere, Kate has never been as career driven and, when she finds herself accidentally pregnant, decides to spend all her time being a mom and giving up her career. She finds both the joys and toils of this choice, just as Tully finds there are joys to having a success career at the expense of nurturing other relationships. You see both of their points of view, and neither is necessarily better than the other (depending on your own point of view about what's important in life).

There were portions of this book that dragged on longer than necessary. Particularly the issues Kate had with her oldest child when her daughter became a pre-teen and then a teenager. It was important to the story line, but I wish it hadn't gone on for as long as it did.

But at the end, I found myself teary. I could definitely see this being made into a movie. Also, without giving anything away, I learned about something I had not heard about (and now get to be scared about something new).

It's an important book about what friendship means—like any relationship, it has its ups and downs. I recommend it.

For more of my reviews, please visit: <http://theresaalan.net/blog/>

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### **Jan says**

I cried so much throughout the last 20 or so pages of this book that my husband became genuinely concerned for my well-being. The conversation went pretty much like this:

Me: /trying not to sound like I'm crying

Him: "Are you ok?"

Me: "Yes, I'm fine."

Him: "Are you sure?"

Me: "Yes, it's just sad."

5 minutes later...

Him: "Are you sure you're ok?"

Me: "Yes! Leave me alone!"

Him: "It's just that you're crying really hard."

Me: "I know. I'm just a big sap."

5 minutes later...

Him: "Are you going to be all right?"

Me: "I'll be fine. Quit asking!"

Him: "It's just that you're crying like I died or something."

Me: "Are you kidding? When you die I'll be dancing on your grave." (Don't feel bad; we joke with each other like that all the time.)

Eventually, I went into the bathroom so he'd stop asking me.

At any rate, a lot about this book was extremely cliched, and some of it was rather annoying (i.e. the constant in-your-face cultural references), but I liked it anyway.

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## **Cleo Maranski says**

This book was such a disappointment. The characters were completely one dimensional and not at all interesting. The storyline was filled with cliches from every bad Lifetime movie. About three quarters of the way through, I somehow knew how it would end (because it was the one cliché that hadn't been hit yet). The book itself is primarily dialogue and not good one at that. Avoid.

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## **Carolyn says**

(audiobook version) I read this at the insistence of a friend. I had a feeling I wouldn't like it very much; even though she's a friend we have some very different taste in books. She went on and on and on about how good it was, but it was only so-so for me, as expected. Firefly Lane tells the story of two girls who become best friends at age 14. It follows them for over 30 years, from the 1970s into the 2000s. The book doesn't break any new ground, really. For instance, did you know that being rich and famous doesn't guarantee happiness? How about this: Putting your career above all else might ensure that you end up being lonely because you don't make time in your life for LOVE! Here's a revelation: Sometimes stay-at-home moms get overwhelmed and depressed. Oh, and I also learned that teenage daughters oftentimes don't get along with their mothers! The book wasn't offensive, but it was nothing special.

The blurb says there is a betrayal in the story. At least I didn't guess what it was; that was one part that wasn't predictable. It was totally unbelievable, though. I wouldn't accept in a million years that one of the women does what she does to her best friend in the whole wide world. It did not work for me at all.

At times I felt assaulted by the information the author used to set the time and place. It's like she had a

checklist and had to mention a certain number of phrases, events, clothing styles, etc, from different time periods. Yes, we understand that time is passing. Yes, we get it that now it's 1974, or 1982, or whatever. Stop hitting me over the head with your historical references. It seemed really forced, awkward, and out of place at times. One part of the story turns into a mini public service announcement. It was kind of jarring. I understand from the author's notes that a certain cause is important to her, but the preaching seemed kind of out of place.

I wonder if my sister A would like this book, only because the main characters were born the same year she was, and one of them really liked JRR Tolkien as a teen, as did A. I couldn't really recommend it to anyone else.

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## **Megs ♥ says**

Wow. Another emotional sucker punch book by Kristin Hannah. If you are in the mood for a tear jerker she truly never disappoints.

I wanted to read this one for a while, but only actually read it in anticipation of the next part, "Fly Away" being released soon. Also, I follow Kristin on Facebook, and this seems to be the book that all of her fans adore the most. I can see why.

I love books that tell a story through multiple decades. If the author does it right you can almost feel transported to a certain time, and I love that! Hannah, in my opinion, does an amazing job.

The story starts out in the 60s with two girls who live completely different lives, yet are searching for the same things. Tully is the girl who raises her pot-head mother, and Kate is the goody goody with parents she often feels are smothering. She soon realizes that Tully has the freedom she longs for and she has the loving family Tully dreams of. The girls live out their lives with a lot of twists and turns that they could have never seen coming. As young girls they planned to be anchorwoman together doing news broadcasts, but life doesn't always turn out the way you think it will, does it?

I finished this book with a face full of tears, and to me that shows that Hannah really knows how to touch her readers. She says in her afterword that this is a story that was very personal to her, and you can see why. The characters are very well written, and you always find yourself rooting for these girls to get what they want out of life. The best part about this book is how it shows that sometimes you DO get what you want out of life, and you can still be unhappy or feel as if you are missing something. This is a struggle that so many people deal with, and I think Kristin wrote this story beautifully.

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## Brina says

Chick lit is not my thing. If I feel the need to clear my head after reading a deeper book, I'll pick up a mystery, or maybe a middle grades kids book. Yet I had seen two friends, Elyse and Stephanie, write poignant reviews about *Firefly Lane*, so I let my curiosity get the better of me, and picked it up.

*Firefly Lane* is about the 30 year friendship of Kate Mularkey Ryan and Tully Hart. These two girls were brought together at age 14 when they were so vulnerable and needed a friend to help them through the turbulent teen years. The book follows their life journey and included myriad references to the pop culture, news events, and music of the times. Even though the book is nearly 500 pages long, it read quickly because I allowed myself to get emotionally involved in the characters, so of course I could not put the book down. Kate Mularkey is the serious one. Coming from a stable family, her one desire is to find true love. Tully Hart had been abandoned by her drug addict mother too many times to recall and eventually moved in with the Mularkey family. The last thing she knew about was love, and her only desire was to be a news woman at a time when women were finally beginning to break the glass ceiling. Being the novel that it is, Tully shatters that glass ceiling forgoing family life for stardom while Kate marries Johnny her former boss and settles into not so blissful life as an at-home mom. Yet through thick and thin, the women remained best friends. What I liked about this book was the musical references, the strength of love between Kate and Johnny, and the layers to Tully's character. I also liked being reminded of a simpler time before computers and Internet and social media where kids could stay out late and parents did not need to worry much about where their kids were. After reading this, I realize why I do not read much chick lit: my life like Kate's is that of a busy at-home mom and I don't have the time to get too emotionally involved in the books that I read. As poignant as this story is, I am happier with my mysteries and detective novels.

I noticed that Kristin Hannah wrote a sequel that I am interested in reading as well as *The Nightingale* which brought her many accolades. I recommend this to those looking for a read about friendship, and perhaps those people who enjoy the chick lit genre more than I do will enjoy it even more than I did.

2.75-3 stars. Book served its purpose as a filler.

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