



## The Perfect Match

*Katie Fforde*

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**The Perfect Match** Katie Fforde

The wonderfully romantic new novel from the No. 1 *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *Recipe for Love*.

**Three years ago Bella Castle left her home town nursing a broken heart over Dominic Thane, the man she fell in love with but couldn't have ...**

Now she's made a new life for herself in the country, working as an estate agent.

Bella loves her job and she loves her boyfriend Nevil. But recently he's been preoccupied, and she's starting to question if his future hopes and dreams are a perfect match for hers.

And when Dominic turns up unexpectedly in search of his dream house, she begins to wonder if home is really where the heart is. But she's over him, isn't she?

## The Perfect Match Details

Date : Published March 13th 2014 by Century (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN : 9781846056567

Author : Katie Fforde

Format : Hardcover 357 pages

Genre : Romance, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary, Fiction

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## From Reader Review The Perfect Match for online ebook

### Lindsay says

A lovely book, I didn't need to engage my brain ? to read it but sometimes that's exactly what you want in a summer read!

It follows the exploits of Bella and her godmother and their romantic adventures. The pace is gentle and there are no major surprises and I was safe in the knowledge that nothing bad would happen to anyone. I would write a longer review but I've forgotten everything that happened in it already!

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### Leah says

Katie Fforde is an author whose books I always buy, and always look forward to. She's the author of a staggering amount of novels, and I was super surprised to find that The Perfect Match is her twentieth novel! That is immense, and not a lot of authors can say they've passed what is a massive benchmark. Of her twenty novels I must have read at least a quarter of them, if not more, and I like that I ALWAYS know how a Katie Fforde book will go, I always know I will get a very happy ending. Sure, perhaps her writing is a bit more proper and, perhaps, old-fashioned than the newer Chick Lit authors on the scene, but that gives her books character, and you always know when you're reading a Katie Fforde novel.

A Perfect Match tells the tale of two people, Bella and Alice. Bella is Alice's god-daughter and after falling in love with a married man, has moved in with Alice for a fresh start and a new job in an estate agents, and has also found herself a new boyfriend in Nevil. So Bella's in for quite the shock when her friend, and client, Jane's nephew, who's visiting and staying with Jane, turns out to be none other than the man Bella fell in love with – Dominic Thane. She's sure she's over him, but she can't help thinking about him, and wondering why he's suddenly popped back into her life again. Alice on the other hand is in her sixties, and the last thing she expects when she boards the train home from a day away, and ends up paying for a sandwich and drink of a man who's forgotten his wallet, is to fall in love. At her age, it's the last thing on her mind, but Michael is persistent and soon Alice is wondering if, indeed, you can fall in love at any age....

A Perfect Match is yet another wonderful little novel from Katie Fforde! There's a note at the beginning of the e-book where Katie talks a little about the research she does for each job she gives her characters, and in this case, she made Bella an estate agent, but not your usual estate agent. I always got the feeling that Bella actually cared about matching the right home with the right owners and that made me feel all happy inside. She wasn't all about the sell, and I absolutely adored the fact that she told Jane to not sell her house, under any circumstances, unless that was actually what she wanted to do. That she saw Jane as a friend, and was happy to go and water her plants and sit and just have a piece of cake. The care and patience she showed to the fussy Agnews. So unlike what you normally read of estate agents, and it rather endeared me to Bella, although there were instances where I wanted to shake her. Especially regarding her relationship with the hateful Nevil. Nevil was awful, and no woman should put up with being told she needs to lose weight, or told they're going to get married, rather than asking. He was just awful, and the second he told Bella to lose weight, I wanted her to tell him to get lost!

Alice's story was so lovely, I do enjoy reading about older people falling in love, and I do believe you can fall in love at any age, I would have happily moved into the house she and Bella shared, it sounded right up

my street! I quite enjoyed The Perfect Match. I will be honest, it rather lacked the romance of Fforde's earlier novels – I still remember in one novel, where the hero kidnapped the heroine, which sounds waaaaay more stalker-ish than it should, but it reads as very romantic, because they both loved each other, obviously. I was never utterly convinced about Dominic and Bella, because they didn't really talk or interact as much as I would have liked. I want sweeping declarations! But, I enjoyed the read and the pages rather flew by for me! I really liked Bella and Alice, they were two lovely, warm, enjoyable heroines to read about, and I just wish Bella had better self-esteem issues, because she should have kicked the awful Nevil to the curb way quicker than she did, because she deserved SO much better than him and his patronising ways. This was a wonderful read, and I loved that Katie Fforde keeps me hooked, book after book, after book and The Perfect Match is one of her warmest.

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### **Natasja Drost says**

Heerlijk feel good boek.

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### **Odette Knappers says**

Took this with me on a long trainride, read 3/4 of it, finished it the same night because I was afraid I would not finish it if I put it away. This is so predictable, and the things that are not predictable are so unlikely.. Did not really enjoyed reading this, bummer :(

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### **LindyLouMac says**

Regular readers of my reviews may remember that I admit to having been a fan of Katie Fforde's writing since 1995. Picking up her latest novel is always a guarantee of finding a story to provide one with perfect relaxation reading, romantic plots with a feel good factor. 'The Perfect Match' is her twentieth romantic contemporary novel written in her inevitable warm and witty style with the sort of ending one has come to expect! Cannot say that this was a favourite though as it felt superficial with no depth to the storyline, although I did enjoy the characterisations, particularly of 'wimpy' Bella and 'fiesty' Alice. Bella irritated me no end with her behaviour, yet Alice I admired, maybe as being of a similar age I thought go for it girl!

I will just give you a brief synopsis of the storyline, to tempt you to pick up 'The Perfect Match' if this is a genre you enjoy. The female protagonists are Bella and Alice, the former is Alice's god-daughter and they share a delightful home together in the Cotswolds. Bella had moved in with her god-mother three years previously when she left her home town after a disastrous affair, if one could call it that. Now successfully working as an estate agent in the area and dating her boss, Bella may well have thought she was settled but the balance is about to be upset. She finds her boyfriend is not all she thought and her ex love turns up in the village! As for Alice, in contrast to Bella a much more likeable character, still single at 60 she suddenly finds herself falling for a younger man after a chance meeting. Alice finds the situation difficult especially when she has to meet her lovers adult children, but she is a strong lady, who proves it does not matter how old you are when you fall in love.

To say more would spoil the story line, so I just recommend to Katie Fforde fans and fans of the genre if you

have not yet discovered her writing. Her novels are perfect for when you are in the mood for a touch of romance, presented in a readable novel with the inevitable happy ending that one can relax with.

<http://lindyloumacbookreviews.blogspot.com>...

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### **Dale Harcombe says**

Two and a half stars

I have often enjoyed Katie FForde novels. They are chick lit and they are usually light and a fun read. So I approached The Perfect Match expecting to enjoy it. It is definitely chick lit and it is light and frothy. Yet somehow for me this one missed the mark a little. I suspect it was the main character, Bella who is an estate agent and involved with Nigel her boss that was the problem. Too often I found myself thinking Bella needed a good talking to about not being such a twit. I couldn't believe the nonsense she put up with from Nigel and her compliance. Her excuses for putting up with them didn't ring true to me.

As for Nigel it was obvious from the beginning he was a creep and hard to see why she wasted time on him. The author is at pains to point out that Bella really drifted into this relationship on the rebound after having her heart broken by Dominic Thane, which is why she had left her previous home and job and moved in with her godmother. Then Dominic moves to the town where she has set up her new life. You suspect what will happen.

I did like the other characters, Bella's godmother, Alice, Michael, the man Alice meets on the train and some of Bella's clients we get to know through the estate agency. Bella has a kind heart and always wants the best for her clients, but even so I found her an unsatisfactory main character. However I still read it and will continue to read Katie Fforde books even though this one wasn't, in my opinion, up to her usual standard. Others may have a different opinion. I suspect it will depend on how much Bella either appeals or doesn't.

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### **Mairi says**

I am a massive Katie Fforde fan and greedily devour her new book every spring but this one just felt rushed and flat. I didn't care about any character really, and Bella's back story was really weak. No love affair gone wrong or massive misunderstanding, it felt very contrived, which is so unlike Fforde. Bella herself was pretty unremarkable as was Dominic.

Never mind, the next book will be wonderful I'm sure.

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### **Carol W says**

Bella has moved away from her job and family with a broken heart.

She has rebuilt her life with her boss/boyfriend, Nevil and lives with her aunt. Everything is comfortable. That is until her past catches up with her in the village.

Bella and her boss/boyfriend, seem to have a strange relationship. He doesn't like to mix business with pleasure and it is as if he is two different people. Bella is a lovely character who seems to have fitted into her

new life well but it lacks that sparkle.

I dont want to give too much away talking about the characters, but this novel has a few relationship storylines going that explore broken hearts, emotional misunderstandings and also finding love later in life.

Perfect spring reading from a great storyteller.

5 out of 5 for me!

Review copy

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### **Jacqueline says**

Meh.

I haven't read a Katie Fforde for ages, but I was bored with smut and fancy something frothy and easy to read and this was fairly undemanding, just as all of this author's books are, but it missed the mark for me I'm afraid.

There were two romances going on - and I use that word in the absence of another word to describe the indifferent coming together of four very uninteresting people - and a bizarre sub plot centering around the dodgy dealings of an oily estate agent that was quite daft.

Where I've enjoyed books from this author before the love interest has been a brooding, manly man, flashing his dark eyes at her angrily whilst she flits around being an absolute sweetie to all and sundry, but in this one, the love interest was easy going and reasonable from the start and spent next to no time with our plucky gal, so I didn't get to see whether there was a connection there, let alone wallow in the romance.

Not my favourite from this author - I preferred Stately Pursuits. Ah well.

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### **Claire Robinson says**

3 - Time Warp Stars (Warning Slight Spoilers Ahead).

It pains me to write a less than stellar review for The Perfect Match, but although I loved 50% of the storyline, the other 50% for me was a little disappointing. This is only my opinion, and as such would not stop me from recommending the book to other people, just this time it wasn't wholly my cup of tea!

For me, the secondary characters and their storylines were absolutely adorable, they were the enjoyable part of The Perfect Match, and are exactly what I would expect from a Katie Fforde book.

I loved Alice and Michael's love story, cake-baking Jane Langley, Mr & Mrs Agnew and the many and varied clients that Bella deals with in her line of work as an estate agent.

What I really didn't like, and it really does pain me to say this, was Bella. In the world we live in today, I as a 30 something woman don't really ever want to read of a female character meekly accepting it when a man

insinuates that she is fat and intimates she is stupid and to be indulged, what is even worse is the man in question is her boyfriend/fiancé Nevil. Yes Bella does eventually come to her senses, but really this is meant to be an intelligent, modern woman....not-so-much in my opinion.

I also found several aspects of the story a tad sketchy, firstly as a supposedly intelligent, modern woman, would you really up sticks, leave your job and relocate to another area, just because the man you have a crush on at the office announces his wife is pregnant. Yes there was a one-off under the mistletoe kiss but other than that nothing happened between them. Now I have had plenty of office crushes, and yes a lot of them are married, but I have never felt the urge to up and move away just because it turns out that, yes as a married couple they are having sex and having children together. This would have been ok as the story goes, but not when it turns out that after you have relocated due to your "broken heart" you then up and get into a rebound relationship with your new boss Nevil, who is an absolute tool to put it mildly, comes across as all a bit contradictory for me!!

Unfortunately it doesn't stop there, the guy you originally up and move your whole life to get away from due to your "crush", then turns up unexpectedly. Now divorced from said wife (no longer pregnant, the child is 2 years old) and after initially being angry at you (no real explanation as to why he is at the time) you share a couple of passionate kisses. Again, as an intelligent, modern woman (I know I am harping on with this phrasing) would you then think it is acceptable behaviour to approach the ex-wife of your "crush" "(a woman you don't really even know) and extol to her the virtues of her ex-husband in an effort to help along his custody woes.... I mean seriously!!!

Don't get me wrong *The Perfect Match* is in the main an enjoyable read, and thankfully all of the aforementioned irregularities are pretty much cleared up in the last 5% of the book. But for all that, there were just too many things that made me feel like I was reading something that had been written back in the 60's or 70's, when women were happy to consider marrying a man in exchange for stability and a good house. And it was considered ok for your husband/partner to tell you that he thinks you are carrying a little excess baggage, so you can whip out the Jane Fonda exercise LP in between ironing and getting the dinner on the table, to make sure that you don't become an embarrassment to him when you are out in public together....

This isn't the first Katie Fforde book I have read, it won't be the last, but it is the only one I can honestly say I didn't truly love to bits, however I am sure that there will be plenty of other people that will, this time it just wasn't 100% for me.

ARC provided through Netgalley in exchange for the above honest review.

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### **Katey Lovell says**

Katie Fforde is one of those authors who rarely disappoints. *The Perfect Match* is her 20th novel and I've read pretty much her whole back catalogue. Her style is fun and fresh, often with slightly more mature protagonists than in 'chicklit' titles but still with an emphasis on romance, community and friendship.

*The Perfect Match* introduces us to Bella Castle, an estate agent who ran away from her home town to escape the feelings she harboured for married man Dominic Thane. She's happy enough with her lot- country life with boyfriend Nevil- but when Dominic turns up looking to buy a house she starts to have doubts. Is she

settling for less than what she really wants?

I loved this book! I found Bella a likeable character and I desperately wanted her to have a happy ending. And Dominic...I definitely developed a bit of a book crush on him. He isn't the perfect, clean cut type- he's a bit moody and enigmatic at times- but he won me over with his charm and I could totally understand why Bella found herself bewitched by him. The country setting of the book made for a cosy environment and I loved getting to nosy around other people's houses when Bella was doing the viewings. I am one of those weird (for weird read nosy) people who love looking around houses. I was actually a bit disappointed when we found the house we eventually bought as I knew that meant an end to my househunting adventures, so to find a book where I can see dated kitchens, decorating disasters and overgrown gardens was quite a thrill to my inner house-viewing geek.

I just love Katie Fforde. She deserves all the success she has for her beautiful, easy to read writing style- her books are accessible tales about believable characters. They are full of heart and spirit, and *The Perfect Match* is one of her best. Not only is she a wonderful writer but she is a genuinely lovely person- check her out on twitter @katiefforde.

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### **Heather says**

I've always enjoyed Katie Fforde's stories. They are humourous, have relateable characters and are a way to pass a couple of hours quite agreeably. However, *The Perfect Match* didn't come close to any of her others for me. It felt rather dull, I really didn't like the main character and there seemed to be more cases of characters repeatedly explaining things to the reader, instead of the author allowing us to make connections and infer motivation ourselves. Overall, a bit disappointing considering how much I've enjoyed her previous books.

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### **Angelnets says**

Katie Fforde is a solid pair of hands in the Chic Lit genre. This is her twentieth book and I've read and enjoyed quite a few of them.

*The Perfect Match* is the story of Bella who leaves her job and home because the married man she fancied was having a baby with his wife. And this is pretty much where this story all fell apart for me because I just couldn't imagine anybody I know doing that! This is supposed to be a modern day story but it just felt as though it was an episode of *Mad Men* gone wrong!

As usual it is very well written and the other characters are lovely and beautifully described. I just found myself despising Bella and everything that she stood for and I couldn't really put my finger on why she riled me so much. Don't let this put you off but it just wasn't for me.

Supplied by Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Damaskcat says**

I have been reading Katie Fforde's novels since the first one was published and have thoroughly enjoyed the majority of them. She did go through a phase of having a very high proportion of dialogue in her books to the extent that it was almost like reading a film script and I found those not so enjoyable. This latest book is excellent and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Not too much dialogue and not too much description – interesting characters of different ages and an interesting background. What more could anyone want from a book read for entertainment?

Bella moves away from her home town to live with her godmother, Alice. She has a job she loves – selling houses and she is sort of engaged to her boss, Nevil. Then Dominic moves to the area and she is reminded of her past which makes her question whether Nevil is the one for her, she suspects Nevil is up to something dubious and he seems to be railroading her into marriage.

The book has a background of gorgeous houses and a trip to Marrakesh and there are plenty of sub plots and likeable – and dislikeable – characters. No one is all good or all bad and even Bella has her moments when she is not the perfect heroine. It's nice to see that the sixty year old Alice and Dominic's elderly relative, Jane, get a look in too.

I'm sure Katie Fforde's many fans will love this book and maybe it will attract some new ones too. I recommend it to anyone who likes women's fiction which doesn't concentrate on younger women.

I received a free copy of this book for review purposes.

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## **Jill's Book Cafe says**

I received this title free as a review copy, and was delighted to do so, having read most of Katie Fforde's previous novels.

The central heroine is Bella, she loves her job, her boss Nevil and living with her godmother Alice. However, all that is about to change as a result of an unexpected proposal and the re-appearance of Dominic. Dominic is not only the nephew of Jane, one of her favourite clients, but also the married man she fell in love with, which led her to run away to find the life she has now. In true Katie Fforde fashion, the course of true love never runs smooth, and we have to wait and see whether we'll get the outcome both we and Bella wants.

What I particularly liked with this novel were the different relationships we encounter that give rise to the Perfect Match title. Not only could it apply to Bella and her relationship with Dominic, but also of that between Bella and her clients; her godmother Alice and her fledgling romance; and also the relationship between Jane and the solution to her house problem. Very often in books the sub themes and plots are merely fillers to the main story but for me with this book they were equally as important in that I wanted to have them all satisfactorily resolved, because the characters were real. I was particularly taken with the relationship between Alice and Michael, because as an older woman, her hopes and fears were something I could empathise with. Also because of the genre we know that the heroine will usually get what she wants, and that isn't necessarily going to happen for other characters, so I really wanted to find out what happened.

I'd recommend this book for all women who want the ideal book for curling up on the settee with, for relaxing with on holiday or just for taking to bed on an early night. If you want a comfortable, warm read this book is a "Perfect Match".

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