



The Holiday Home

Fern Britton

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Two sisters, one house, a lifetime of secrets.

Every year, the Carew sisters embark on their yearly trip to the family holiday home, Atlantic House, set on a picturesque Cornish cliff.

Prudence, hard-nosed businesswoman and married to the meek and mild Francis, is about to get a shock reminder that you should never take anything for granted.

Constance, homemaker and loving wife to philandering husband Greg, has always been out-manoeuvred by her manipulative sibling. But now that Pru wants to get her hands on Atlantic House, Connie is not about to take things lying down.

When an old face reappears on the scene, years of simmering resentments reach boiling point. But little do the women know that a long-buried secret is about to bite them all on the bottom. Can Constance and Pru put their feuding aside for the sake of everyone else, or will this family holiday push them all over the edge?

The Holiday Home Details

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From Reader Review The Holiday Home for online ebook

Liz Cody says

Dreadful. Whoever has encouraged Fern Britton to write novels really needs to go away and have a long, hard think. Horrible spoilt characters, ridiculous dialogue (really cringy at times) and a plot that bounces off in so many different and irrelevant directions that the reader ends up not really caring about any of them. The dialogue in particular is quite peculiar and old-fashioned (e.g. relatively young men calling each other "old man") and who on earth would have a "rumpus room" ? I kept with it hoping it would improve, but I really should have gone with my initial reaction and put it straight into the pile for the car boot sale.

Lisa says

I was sent a copy of The Holiday Home to review by Harper Collins. I haven't read any of Fern Britton's previous books, so I was intrigued to see what a book written by such a big TV personality would be like. I have to say I was quite impressed by her writing style. Easy to read, but engaging and filled with larger than life characters, this is the perfect book to take away and read on a sunny beach somewhere.

Pru and Connie are sisters, brought up in a family with wealth. It is obvious from the start these are two quite spoilt girls, and it carries on into adulthood. Every year, they holiday in the family holiday home, Atlantic House, a place that seems to bring out the worst in the sisters. This latest holiday is filled with arguments, secrets, infidelity, and lies.

I enjoyed reading The Holiday Home, even though the two sisters were not my favourite characters throughout most of the book. There were lots of storylines entwined into one that kept the book interesting every page. There were a lot of twists and turns, especially towards the end, which led to some drastic events happening in the lives of the sisters.

The only thing that knocked the fifth star off this book for me was how fast the ending happened. There were so many dramatic events that happened in such a short amount of space that could have been given much more detail to give the ending more of an 'oomph' but I felt it was rushed through and led to an almost weak ending that could have been a lot better.

Chrys says

A great read, I love the fact that these novels are set in Cornwall and especially at this time of year, they are fabulous holiday reads.

Great characters and an interesting plot - unfortunately not her best, still very enjoyable.

Jo says

First Fern Britton book I've read...a lovely easy read will def read more of her books!

Angelina Kalahari says

I was very curious to read a book by Fern Britton, because I had watched her on television for years. I knew she was a great presenter and a brilliant journalist, so expected that she would be able to write very well.

When *The Holiday Home* fell into my email inbox via Bookbub, I took it as a sign.

It does what it says on the tin: the book is about *The Holiday Home*, it's about a holiday and it's a lovely, easy read. But it's also about so much more.

Fern expertly shows the start and development of sibling rivalry. It started when they were children, choosing a room each in *The Holiday Home*, one sister always manipulating her way into getting the best, including the best room. But their rivalry intensified and caused a real rift when during their teenage years, a boy got into the picture.

As adults, dragging along their husbands and children, their rivalry continues with the race to get to *The Holiday Home* first, in order to get the best room. Thankfully, their children, a son for one sister and a daughter for the other, get along far better than their mothers and seem far more sensible.

When the boy of their youth, now a man, reappears, simmering emotions surface and we understand more about what drives the characters. But the tension rises even further when the mistress of one of the sisters' husbands arrives uninvited and his infidelity becomes public knowledge.

There is a twist in the tale at the end and all in all, I found *The Holiday Home* a satisfying read.

Aoife says

Fern Britton is a great TV presenter and I think she seems like a really lovely woman but after reading this book, I think she should stick to the television.

I felt this book was awkward and sloppy and if it had been a normal person trying to be an author, sending this in to the publishers, they would have hot it back with a big fat rejection ribbon.

From the get-go, Pru and Connie are abhorrent characters. There's more maturity seen in the pair of teenagers in the family, then the two mothers. The way they fight and get riled up over the smallest things is pathetic. It made me grind my teeth in frustration but I had started a book and I never leave a book unfinished. And the way these grown women call their parents, 'Mummy' and 'Daddy'. Give me the puke bucket. It's all very hoity toity British if you ask me and maybe I don't get it, cause I'm not British.

The men in this book were one word: wimpy...now, I'm not saying that a man can't be a stay at home husband but I think men are perfectly capable of doing this and not being a doormat. I found Francis so weak and eager to please, blegh...and Greg was a pompous A-Hole. And when he started crying cause his mistress showed up and he was so afraid of being caught and then proceeded to sleep with her on the beach a few metres away from his daughter's birthday party....come on. The ending with Abi and Greg was also far too 'The Lucky One' by Nicholas Sparks for me except in that case the drowned husband actually seemed

somewhat redeemable where in this case, I felt nothing for Greg's accident. And the whole 'history repeats itself' thing going on. No.

Just a big fat NO for this book. And I think my rant may be over now.

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

I had read Fern Britton's previous novels before and very much liked them, and so I was looking forward to the release of her latest book, *The Holiday Home*.

The Carew sisters, Pru and Constance are very different from each other. Prudence is a businesswoman who is used to always getting what she wants, and is married to the mild kind-hearted Francis, who is used to being walked over and attending to Prudence's needs. Constance however, is a loving wife to her husband Greg, unaware of his philandering ways. Every year they all holiday at Atlantic house, and as tensions and resentments reach boiling point, this is going to be a summer holiday that will change things...

I really enjoyed this! One thing that I love most about Fern Britton's novels is how easy they are to get into. From the first page I was instantly drawn in and I spent a wonderful afternoon reading...I was so lost in the story that before I knew it a whole afternoon had gone by and I had nearly finished!

I don't want to say too much about it because I don't want to spoil it but this really is a book that will have you turning the pages wanting to find out the next part. I had no trouble getting into the story, and I had absolutely no idea what would happen next. There were a few surprises along the way so I was keenly turning every page wanting to find out where the story would take me. The ending in particular was brilliant and I am so pleased I read this book, I really hope everyone else gives it a try, because I'm sure any readers will thoroughly enjoy it as I have.

The characters were very real, and lifelike which helped the story spring to life and jump from the pages. The characters themselves were very straightforward in the sense that it easy to understand their identities and personalities, and so for me, I knew instantly who I liked, and who I didn't warm to as much. Even though I didn't like some characters, their actions and personalities had me engrossed throughout.

I really enjoyed the setting of Cornwall, it was one of my favourite elements of the book. The setting was captured perfectly, and was the perfect setting for such a realistic story. *The Holiday Home* is a very well-written and enjoyable book, full of bold characters and a brilliant plot line. The *Holiday Home* would be a wonderful accompaniment to a summer holiday, for a beach read or even just for relaxing with at home. I would highly recommend this, and I truly hope Fern Britton writes more novels.

Ria says

A charming novel that shows how past recriminations can destroy life in the present.

Pru and Connie are sisters, they have ALWAYS since children argued and never got on well and due to something major happening in their lives as teenagers, this bitter resentment was never quashed and has spilled over into their adult life where rows and petty jealousies are the order of the day.

Now just like every year they spend a few weeks together as one big family including their husbands, children and parents in the old family home, Atlantic house in Cornwall.

And just like every other year the squabbles start over inconsequential things, that is until a couple of blasts from the past turn up, family secrets are revealed and a tragedy all teach the warring sisters that there are bigger things in life than harboured childhood rows.

Can they every fully put aside their resentments and get on at last or will what is all revealed this summer finally split the family asunder?

Well written, great characters you fall in love with, I particularly liked Francis as a character within the novel.

Great storylines and fast paced drama make this a wonderful, light read.

Heidi says

This is the second time I have read a book written by someone I see regularly on a TV program. I know of Fern Britton though hosting Ready, Steady, Cook many years ago and more recently through her fabulous new show The Great Allotment Challenge. So I was unsure about her being an author until reading The Holiday Home. I will be reading her other books now knowing what a fun book she writes.

This book combined a beautiful Georgian house on the coast of Cornwall, a less than perfect family, two sisters who to spite their sibling rivalry obviously love each other, the characters of the Cornwall village and a number of surprises thrown in to stir things all up. A recipe for a good summer read!

Julie says

This is about the Carew family on their usual summer break at Atlantic House in Cornwall. Three generations, who don't always see eye to eye, particularly Pru and Connie. Lots of skeletons, as there are in any family. Great story.

Stephanie~jumbo says

Choosing to read this book came down to the plot outlined in the blurb. It sounded interesting and I expected the sibling rivalry to give foundation to interesting and believable characters. However, this was not the case, and the very things I looked forward to as part of the book were the ones that let it down the most.

To me, the ending was way too rushed. Throughout the entire book, the "family secret" to be unveiled was what kept me at it, and allowed me to ignore the fact that every character (except maybe Francis) was petty, childish and, to me, downright unlikable. I understand that there is this whole sibling rivalry thing going on, but somehow I imagined that as women in their 40s, Connie and Pru would resort more to side comments, careful (and necessary!) manipulation, and the occasional self-promotional brag rather than a childish race to see who will get to their holiday home first to claim the biggest room. Then came the ending. It was rushed and contained a string of major events that seemed like the author did not even glance at. I was nearing the end of the book, maybe only one sixth to go, and the 'secret' had not yet been revealed. Maybe it was so small that I had missed it? But no, with barely one hundred pages to go it was revealed as news to the two sisters.

When I saw that there was an epilogue, I was at first relieved. Then I read it. It was just about the most poorly executed use of a painfully cliche and irrelevant end to the story, which just spoiled it for me. Needless to say, I was disappointed by many aspect of this book.

Despite these flaws, it was not all bad. The IDEAS behind the plot were nicely woven if poorly executed. Francis was a lovely and interesting character, and I found the use of the behind story to the holiday home an interesting addition of depth to the whole tale. The descriptions of the village life were well done and captivating, and the relationship between cousins Jem and Abi was very nice to read about. There was quite little about them as characters with their stories and idea in the book, except for what we know from Connie and Prudence. This is a shame, as they were the realest characters to me and would have added more depth to the story.

I would recommend this book as a very light holiday read.

Grace J Reviewerlady says

I don't normally go for 'celebrity' authors, but I am glad I read this book. A really good storyline, characters which came to life, and plenty going on throughout the book. I loved the Cornish setting and would have no hesitation in reading another of Fern's offerings.

Sarah says

I am often wary of reading books written by a celebrity as I tend to find myself disappointed. However, I can cheerfully say this book written by Fern Britton was the exception to the rule. I thoroughly enjoyed it. The Holiday Home was a fairly easy read, quite suitable to pack in a suitcase to take to the readers holiday home. Actually I wouldn't be at all surprised if Fern was on the payroll from the Cornish Tourist Board. The book brought back some very happy memories of Cornish holidays of my own, she made it sound glorious. I did figure out the twist in the tale a little earlier than I would have liked, but to be honest my guessing didn't spoil my enjoyment of what basically was a sweet story.

Susan says

Enjoyed this book the more I read. Was a bit slow in getting to the proper storyline and thought at first I wasn't going to like the characters but by the end I was pleasantly surprised that I was enjoying it. A bit of a twist and some loose ends not tied up but a pleasant read.

Hilary Atkins says

I would not have got past the first few pages of this if it had not been a reading group book. I guess it is an easy read for summer but what a total waste of a few hours. I don't give it any stars at all. I feel sure this would never have been published if Fern Britton was not a well known person. Don't waste your time on it!

