



## Flaherty's Crossing

*Kaylin McFarren*

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## **Flaherty's Crossing** Kaylin McFarren

From Pacific Northwest's award-winning author Kaylin McFarren comes a powerful novel about love, loss, and the power of forgiveness...

Successful yet emotionally stifled artist Kate Flaherty stands at the deathbed of her estranged father, conflicted by his morphine-induced confession exposing his part in her mother's death.

While racing home, Kate's car mishap leads her to a soul-searching discussion with a lone diner employee, prompting Kate to confront the true reasons her marriage hangs in the balance.

When her night takes an unexpected turn, however, she flees for her life, a life desperate for faith that can only be found through her ability to forgive.

## **Flaherty's Crossing Details**

Date : Published February 1st 2010 by Champagne Books

ISBN : 9781926681191

Author : Kaylin McFarren

Format : Paperback 235 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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## From Reader Review Flaherty's Crossing for online ebook

### Linda says

Kate Flaherty Was angry At The Father Who Withheld His Love When Her Mother Died In A Car Accident, Killed By A Drunk Driver. Colin Flaherty Stayed On The Road Driving A Semi-Truck While Her Aunt Sophie Raised Her. She Had Received A Call From A Hospice Volunteer That His Cancer Had Spread And He Only Had A Short Time To Live. She Was Angry That He Stopped His Treatments Without Choosing To Discuss It With Her And Without Thinking She Forgot To Leave Drew A Note, Not That He Would Care As They Had Argued Before He Left For Chicago From Their Washington State Home. Drew Gave Every Excuse In The World From Joining Her When Her Art Was Exhibited, Always Missing Her Achievements And Their Marriage Was Strained. Once At Her Father's Log Cabin She Was Fully Prepared To Rant At The Old Stubborn Man, But One Look At The Shell Of The Man Who Had Once Been So Robust And Full Of Life Her Heart Clenched And She Could Not Speak The Words She Longed To Say Stuck In Her Throat. From The Time Her Mother Died She Craved Her Dad's Approval That Never Came No Matter How Hard She Tried, And Now As An Adult She Learned To Closet Herself And Not Give Control To Anyone. Her Dad Was Fading And Doris Asked Her To Stay The Night To Spend As Much Time With Her Dad But She Had Not Thought To Bring Clothes And Was Not Sure If She Could Keep A Calming Face To Talk With Her Dad, He Was On Morphine And Thought She Was Her Mom. So She Promised To Return The Next Morning But As She Traveled The Three Hours Home, A Detour Caused Her To Travel On A Less Traveled Road And A Deer Stood Frozen By Her Head Lights And She Lost Control And Went Over A Cliff.....

Drew Coleman Hated To Issue His Wife An Ultimatum But He Knew They Could No Longer Act Like Roommates. Kate Spent So Much Time In Her Studio That He Wondered If She Avoided Him. To Be Honest He Preferred The Stuffy Parties Of His Dad's Law Firm, Now His Since The Elder Coleman Had A Heart Attack Than Her Art Exhibits Standing Around With Freaks Who Talked A Language He Did Not Understand. He Caught An Early Fight And Was Disgusted That She Would Not Stay When He Told Her They Really Needed To Talk About Their Future. He Repacked Fresh Clothes And Went To Crash At His Friend's Apartment To Think But He Left His Cell In The Car Thinking His Office Left A Message But Was Unprepared To Hear His Wife's Terrified Scream.....

Ms. McFerren Pens A Thrilling Story Filled With Dark Secrets, Misunderstandings,And Jealousy. Both Drew And Kate Sought Acceptance From Their Fathers That Never Came And It Was Only When Drew Thought He Lost Kate Did He Realized He Still Loved Her And That He Needed To Recaptured What They Once Had. Kate Thought A Stalker Was After Her And Refused To Let Drew Know While Drew Kept A Secret From Kate.

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### Connie says

Wow! It has taken me a year to finish this beautiful story about trust; love; family; abandonment; and forgiveness. Last year a beloved family member lost his battle with cancer, two months before I won this book in a Goodreads Giveaway. I read the first few pages as Kate looked down at her father on his death bed and I knew it was too soon, for me, to tackle this topic. Now I am so glad I waited. There are so many beautiful layers within these pages: Kate's anger at her father's rejection; her anger at her husband's alleged adultery and her disgust with her surrogate mother's alleged betrayal. I say beautiful layers because Kate had

to face what we all do- that things are not always what they appear to be. Lots of surprises in this beautiful and heart-tugging story. I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Copy of this book (Goodreads Winner). Thank you.

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## **Quinn Barrett says**

Flaherty's Crossing is a good book about love, family, marriage and dealing with the loss of loved ones no matter how estranged. Author Kaylin McFerrin is an excellent writer and storyteller with tremendous descriptive abilities.

Kate and Drew are a married couple with successful careers who, not surprisingly, have drifted apart. Kate is an artist busy with painting and gallery exhibits. Drew is an up and coming attorney who is tempted to find comfort in the arms of another woman if Kate doesn't comply with his ultimatum to start a family of their own.

Her hesitancy towards parenthood lies in her own dysfunctional upbringing. Kate's mother was killed by a drunk driver after fleeing their family home because of an argument with Kate's father. Not only did Kate lose her mother, but her father became withdrawn and literally distant, preferring to spend his time on the road as a truck driver. Because of her father's chronic absence, Kate is raised by her Aunt Sophie who becomes Kate's closest family relation.

The novel begins with a powerful shift in relationship as Kate is confronted with the reality of her father's imminent death. He is in the final stages of his losing battle with cancer after years of chemo therapy. Kate learns more about her father in death than she ever did while he was alive. Ironically, his hospice caregiver knows more about Kate's father than his own daughter. His nurse is kind and becomes instrumental in also easing Kate's pain to eventually enable her to discover the paper trail which enlightens her understanding of past familial events. Her new found awareness, although shocking, is exactly the information Kate needs to finally begin to resolve all lingering emotional conflicts with the father she barely knew.

Flaherty's Crossing focuses on two primary relationships: Kate's strained relationship with her husband, Drew, and Kate's father's relationship with her mother. In a word, this book is about marriage. The dynamic of each relationship parallels each other as many marital relationships often do. The title Flaherty's Crossing is apropos. As Kate's father reaches the final stages of his own passing, Kate is at a crossroads of her own, which is choosing the life or death of her own marriage.

Once Kate receives word that her father is near the end, she drops everything to be by his side despite their mutual lack of warmth and closeness to one another. In her haste to go to her father, Kate leaves a rushed voice mail message which her husband fails to retrieve and listen to till much later. Drew assumes the worst about their own problematic relationship, but all of his reservations are quickly cast aside once he discovers his own wife is in need and rushes to find and rescue her physically and emotionally.

Family-driven novels such as Flaherty's Crossing may not be the most original form of dramatic fiction, but the author manages to hit on all the important notes. Marriage and family dynamics are difficult under the best of circumstances, but unions such as these are the binds that connect us. The author does a nice job of depicting these complex relationships without falling into the trap of creating trite, conventional characters.

McFerrin also manages to throw in a few twists for good measure, giving the story some compelling

suspenseful moments. There is also a suggestion of a quasi-paranormal event which is left for the reader's mind and imagination to interpret as they like. We didn't find it necessary to add these other off-genre devices, as the story can stand on its own. Without these curve balls, which distracted a bit from the real importance of Flaherty's Crossing, it was a terrific story about marriage, family, unconditional love, forgiveness, healing, and resolution.

This book was reviewed as part of the Wise Bear Digital Book Awards competition. Entry fees associated with the contest are administrative in nature and do not influence our honest, unbiased book reviews.

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## **Crystal says**

I thoroughly enjoyed Flaherty's Crossing while reading it and I already miss Kate and Drew as characters. This novel was such an exploration of what love is, what it is like to lose a parent and forgiveness. How is this done? Drew and Kate are married but seem to lost track of each other and their marriage, they are both at the breaking point, but after an accident and as time passes the two start to work together and talk together again. But can some secrets that still remain ruin the reigniting love between them.

Kate also has issues with her father in the beginning of the book and he is at death's door. The book goes through what Kate does after his death and how she learns more about her father and herself and how to go on with life.

This book is full of emotion and characters that really come to life. I feel like Kate and Drew are a part of my family now, and that is pretty amazing for a 250 page book. Also I found this book kept surprising me. As soon as I thought I had something figured out, it was different than I thought. But it was the relationships that kept me reading above and beyond the plot, even though the plot was wonderful, the relationships were outstanding.

I look forward to reading more of Ms. McFarren's work in the future.

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## **Charline Ratcliff says**

Normally in my reviews I start with information about the book but in this case I am going to start with the author. I found Kaylin McFarren to be a very descriptive writer. She is able to describe people and situations in a clear yet interesting manner without becoming too wordy or boring. I would liken her writing style to that of Danielle Steele and I think her works will make a wonderful addition to the romance genre.

“Flaherty’s Crossing” is a heartfelt story about a woman whose entire life seems to be in turmoil. Kate Flaherty, the main character, is a woman in constant emotional pain. Because of her life experiences, her upbringing and the death of her mother when she was a small child she refuses to allow anyone completely into her life. Instead she keeps everyone, including her husband, at arms length preferring to hide behind the façade of a perfect life.

We first meet Kate at her father’s house where his losing battle with cancer is almost over. Kate is unsure how to feel at this point. On the one hand she is angry at him for shutting her out of his life ever since the death of her mother. On the other hand she is still daddy’s little girl; desperately wishing for his love and

affection or at least a sign that he is proud of who she has become as an adult. He passes away while she is not there which leaves her adrift; warring with feelings of guilt, sorrow and anger.

Kate is also battling with a marriage that is falling apart and neither she, nor her husband Drew, seems to know how to reach out to the other to fix it. They are both at an impasse. She feels she cannot trust him because he is always letting her down and he feels that she no longer wants him in her life.

Several key events transpire which force Kate to face previously unknown truths; force her to question the validity of the reality she thought she knew and force her to realize that no one is perfect. Armed with this new information can Kate rescue herself, her life, and her marriage before it is too late? The answers to that and the "rest of the story" can be found on the pages of "Flaherty's Crossing."

(Reviewed in association with Rebecca's Reads).

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### **Terri Patrick says**

"Flaherty's Crossing" by Kaylin McFarren is an award winning novel, a poignant story of Kate Flaherty's journey through the death of her father and saving her marriage. The texture and beauty of Ms. McFarren's writing brings the characters alive within the space and time of the story. The sensory style and attention to detail absorbs the reader into a personal connection with Kate and her husband Drew. These points alone justify the awards and rave reviews of "Flaherty's Crossing".

"The journey begins..." are the opening words and is the promise from the author to the reader who will join Kate Flaherty through her story. For the next 85 pages, the story unfolds with rich imagery, deepening emotional connections, lighter reveals, and some mysterious chills. Every detail is clean and has purpose. Then the honesty of the story truly gets its voice.

Kaylin McFarren presents Kate and Drew's story with an emotional openness, no stone is left unturned, as these characters reveal their issues and philosophies to love and faith. There's a poignant simplicity to the events and revelations that take the characters one-step closer to inner wounds never acknowledged before the moment they appear on the page, that lead to the next issue to resolve. Many are issues developed through the eyes of a child that now are revisited with the understanding of an adult. Kate and Drew explore how these wounds can be healed, and are led to understand more about themselves, and each other.

Through Kate and Drew's eyes we meet other characters like Brian, Wanda and finally Sophie, that add more depth and light to this journey of a daughter, learning about her father, that touched my soul. The final chapters are exceptionally satisfying as they add new twists and powerful truths.

"Flaherty's Crossing" is a page-turner book, but not the nail biting kind though there is something challenging happening on every page. This story compelled me on an intimate level to share in the trials and fears, delights and doubts, sorrows and joy. I highly recommend this novel. It is also a novel I will promote to writers to review to see how good storytelling and strong writing can merge with exceptional honesty and create something that will live in readers hearts for many years, and be reread many times.

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## **Gina Harper says**

Kate Flaherty stands at the deathbed of her estranged father....but when the night takes an unexpected turn, Kate is forced to look into herself for the true reasons her marriage is failing, desperate for the faith that can only be found in forgiveness.

This book was given to me by a friend (Thanks Jaclyn!) I would have never read it hadn't "found me". I am so glad it did. This book drew me in from the beginning and kept me emotionally invested in the characters till the very last page. It may be because I felt a kinship with Kate, but the story made me take a look into my self and the forgiveness I was withholding, and why...

Make sure you have a free night and a box of kleenex handy and enjoy Kate's emotional journey as she learns to trust again through faith and forgiveness.

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## **Melissa at My Chaotic Ramblings says**

I am a sucker for books about love and forgiveness. When I was sent a copy of this book, I fell in love with the cover. I wasn't expecting what I got when I started reading. The main character Kate, was someone that I can identify with on certain levels. I never forgave my father for all the things he done wrong and most of my relationships have suffered for it.

From the moment Kate has her accident until the end of the book, I couldn't put it down. I laughed, I cried and I was terrified right along with Kate.

My favorite part was towards the end of the book:

" She sighed. "I guess we've covered just about everything, haven't we, Daddy? For now, anyway." She kissed the floral stem and laid it across the middle of the coffin. She took a few steps back, the words from her dream crystallized in her mind: Love, Faith, Forgiveness. The stained-glass elements now shining in her life. Elements once forgotten, but always there under the surface, awaiting the chance to bring her parents back together again."

Kate feels that her father never loved her enough to stay around after her mother died, and soon finds out the real reason and just how he truly felt.

If you love a book about finding yourself and the love and forgiveness in you then please run out and pick up this book when it becomes available in print!!

I was sent a copy of this book for review, I was not required to write a positive review and the opinion expressed here is just that, my opinion:)

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## **Julie Baswell says**

Kate goes to see her dad for the last time, as he lies dying of cancer. In the hours and days following, revelations will test her sanity and marriage. Will she come away stronger, or will it destroy her?

It's always hard to learn that things aren't just black and white, that there's usually a story behind it. I love the way Kate's life makes full circle. I liked Kate but I have to say that the neighbor Wanda Finch was my favorite. This story brought out strong emotions in me, and had me crying by the end. I also liked the quote,

“a photograph could capture the perfection of the model...but not the emotions the image evoked. These are very true words.

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## **Betty-Braden says**

3.5 stars

"From Pacific Northwest's award-winning author Kaylin McFarren comes a powerful novel about love, loss, and the power of forgiveness...

Successful yet emotionally stifled artist Kate Flaherty stands at the deathbed of her estranged father, conflicted by his morphine-induced confession exposing his part in her mother's death.

While racing home, Kate's car mishap leads her to a soul-searching discussion with a lone diner employee, prompting Kate to confront the true reasons her marriage hangs in the balance.

When her night takes an unexpected turn, however, she flees for her life, a life desperate for faith that can only be found through her ability to forgive."

McFarren's first book is a success! The way she describes characters is fabulous. She opens them up and exposes them- flaws and all. Not the most entertaining read, but it has a "realness" to it that I enjoyed. I'd read something by McFarren again.

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## **Tami says**

Sometimes, the deepest darkest moments allow us to finally recognize the light in our lives. Only when we face our pain can we move onto something better. So it seems for Kate Flaherty.

Kate was at a crossroads. From the moment her mother died, everything changed. Her father became distant. As she watches her father succumb to cancer, Kate realizes that she was very much her father's daughter. She'd lost her mother, would soon lose her father, and if she wasn't careful her husband would give up on their marriage. She had to make some changes and fast.

Flaherty's Crossing is an inspirational story about learning to let go and love fully for the sake of love. Who are we under our masks of pain? How would it feel to have those burdens lifted?

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## **Aubrie Dionne says**

Flaherty's Crossing by Kaylin McFarren

McFarren's latest novel, Flaherty's Crossing, is about so many crossings on physical and metaphorical levels. The story delves into complex relationships between a husband and wife and a father and daughter, and explores how the past can affect the future. McFarren unravels a rich history of events that lead to the

decisions that the characters make throughout the novel. She weaves in complicated topics of death and religion in a masterful manner that helps shape the plot. Told from a rotating viewpoint, the story illustrates how there can be two sides to an argument, and how both parties must set aside pride to pave the way toward forgiveness. McFarren's writing is powerful and detail oriented, making the story come alive and creating a suspenseful atmosphere that sustains to the last page. A brilliant exploration of women's fiction.

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## **Jennifer says**

From my blog...

Flaherty's Crossing by Kaylin McFarren is a deeply moving novel of not only love, but also of forgiveness. Kate, a fiercely independent married artist with a longing to be loved, receives a call she has been dreading, her father, Collin Flaherty, has passed away. Kate is already struggling with her marriage and is now faced with doubts about who her father truly was and if he stopped loving her when her mother passed away. Kate's husband Drew, a high-powered attorney rapidly moving up the corporate ladder yet still overshadowed by the achievements of his now deceased father, is striving to make their marriage work and to convince Kate that he can indeed be there for her, believes in her, and loves her. Flaherty's Crossing is a rollercoaster ride of events and emotions as McFarren delivers a delightful cast of characters, which include friends, family, hospice workers, and Kate's gossipy neighbour Wanda, each delivering a special message to the narrative. The diner scene is a stroke of literary brilliance as Flaherty's Crossing reminds the reader it is never too late to change, apologise, and forgive; a narrative that reminds one that love transcends time and place and can never die. To anyone looking for an insightful and uplifting novel, I highly recommend Flaherty's Crossing.

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## **Jaclyn says**

I won this book through the First Reads Giveaway and I'm glad I did. Kate Flaherty is at a crossroad in her life. Her estranged father is on his death bed and her marriage is at risk. Tired of not being needed or feeling wanted, Kate's husband Drew is ready to call it quits. Despite the fact that Kate doesn't want her marriage, she doesn't know how to allow herself to trust Drew either. Once upon a time Kate's mother trusted her father and he broke that trust and now she's dead - Kate blames him for her death.

On the night her father dies, Kate has a bad accident on her way home - this accident can be the turning point in Kate's life, if only she'll let it. It'll take learning to trust and have faith in her husband to save her marriage, and a belief in an experience she can only take on faith, to heal her heart.

This book had all the elements of mystery, love, forgiveness, and hope. I definitely recommend it and plan to reread it again soon myself.

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## **Phyllis says**

A FirstReads win. Kaylin McFarren has written an emotional book that draws you in and keeps you attached to the characters. After you finish, it leaves you reassessing relationships in your own life.

After losing her mother at a young age, Kate has an estranged relationship with her father and is left with many trust issues in her life. At her father's death several events happen that make Kate face truths in herself and come to terms with issues in her own marriage.

Flaherty's Crossing is about 'crossings' in many areas of life - Kate's relationship with her father, trust in her marriage and accepting the love of her husband, learning to forgive herself and those around her, and finding her faith again. It is a wonderful exploration of life.

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