



## Five Unforgivable Things

*Vivien Brown*

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## **Five Unforgivable Things** Vivien Brown

Over twenty years ago, Kate's dream came true. After years of struggling, she was finally pregnant after pioneering IVF. But the dream came at a cost. Neither Kate nor her husband, Dan, could have known the price that they would have to pay to fulfil their cherished wish of having their own family.

Now, years later, their daughter Natalie is getting married and she's fulfilling her own dream of marrying her childhood sweetheart. Natalie knows she won't be like most brides in her wheelchair, but it's the fact her father won't be there to walk her down the aisle that breaks her heart.

Her siblings, Ollie, Beth and Jenny, gather around Natalie, but it isn't just their father who is missing from their lives... as the secrets that have fractured the family rise to the surface, can they learn to forgive each other before it's too late?

## **Five Unforgivable Things Details**

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Author : Vivien Brown

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# **From Reader Review Five Unforgivable Things for online ebook**

## **Amy says**

Don't let the title fool you: this book is not about unforgivable things. Rather, it's very much about forgiveness.

Dan and Kate's marriage feels pretty real. Some days they love each other deeply, other days they are distant strangers. They both make mistakes (one of them makes far more grievous errors, I do believe), and they have to figure out how to respond to those mistakes, both as a couple and individually. Vivien Brown doesn't just tell you about their relationship, but about their children, too. You get in their heads and see what they're going through, and not much of it is pleasant. Actually, I guess I should say that not all of it is pleasant. They have some good times, and they have some joy in their lives, it's just that they tend to focus on what's going wrong.

Ultimately, though, the point of this book is the power of forgiveness. Characters hurt each other, sometimes cruelly and heartlessly, But within them is a capacity for compassion and reconciliation. It is vital that we remember that and that we give each other the chance to ask for our mercy.

Some of the subplots work better than others, and some of the characters are better developed than others. Sometimes you will feel your emotions manipulated, and sometimes you will feel genuinely attached to characters. This book is not always evenly told, but yet it grabs you. The infertility subplot is poignant and relatable. I can see book clubs devouring this one.

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## **Gianna says**

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

One family. Five members. And five unforgivable things that lead to tearing a couple apart.

Thirty years ago, after many years of struggling, heartache and pain, Kate and Dan created their own family. With the help of IVF treatments, the two of them managed to have children. After that, it should have come to a happy ending for everyone. But it never did. Because there were five unforgivable things that happened between them. Five things that lead to the dissolving of a family that was created through pain.

Now Natalie, their daughter is getting married. But while everyone else prepares for the big event, her father announces that he won't be there. With everyone heartbroken and bitter, can anything be done to transform the broken pieces into a family again?

Five Unforgivable Things is a story of love, hardship, loss and persistence. It is the chronicle of two people that almost never met, and, had fate not intervened, would never have been with each other. It is the story of two people struggling to become parents, a documentation of everything they went through in order to achieve it, and the changes this struggle brought to their dynamics. The reader follows along as Kate and Dan come close and drift apart, again and again, and still try to keep together the family they worked so hard on creating.

But above all else, this is a story of forgiveness. It is a story of mistakes being made, of anger and of letting all hard feelings go. Through heartbreaking scenes filled other times with love and other times with sorrow, we arrive at a great life lesson, even if it isn't bluntly stated: in the grand scheme of things, is it worth it to hold grudge and bitterness in your heart for the rest of your life?

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### **Savanah Rae says**

I received this book for free from Netgalley in return for my honest opinion.

I absolutely loved this book and couldn't put it down. Make sure that you pay attention to the characters though. It took me a while to realize who everyone was but once it came all together it ended up being a wonderful book.

Kate and Dan are happily married. Before they were married, Kate had become pregnant but had a miscarriage on their wedding day. They planned for more babies in the future but Kate was unable to get pregnant.

Kate had become obsessed with having a baby and Dan was sick of wasting money and he couldn't deal with Kate anymore. He just wanted things to go back to normal.

After many years of IVF, Kate ends up getting pregnant with four children but only three children survive. She named the babies Beth, Natalie and Ollie. Rosie was the baby that died.

Dan and Kate continue to struggle through their marriage for many of years. Dan does something unforgiveable and Kate and the children have to live with it.

This book was so great! I couldn't put it down because I was so excited to read what would happened to the kids and to Kate and Dan themselves.

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### **Cassie-Traveling Sister- says**

This book was an emotional rollercoaster! I was crying! Dan and Kate are a married couple who have been struggling to get pregnant and when she finally does through IVF and this whole book was so up and down everyone dealing with emotional issues some mistakes bigger than others. There were times I had to put the book down for a relief.

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### **Vicki Bowles says**

Review to follow

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## **Tansy says**

### **Truth about families**

This was a well written book. I took one star off because there were many times I was like whaaaaat? I thought that person was dead. Make sure you pay attention to names and dates it will help you greatly. This book flips back and forth a lot. I did finally get them down but I still had another whaaaat moment about 17 pages before the book finished. This book is about love, marriage, children or lack of. I am so grateful that I had no problem getting pregnant or with my entire pregnancy. I did miscarry my first pregnancy and cried my eyes out for weeks. Doc said it happens more than people realize. Women that have to go through all kind of hormone treatments and how expensive it is. I truly feel sorry for them. This book has down and ups just like life. It is just a well crafted story and there are no loose ends at the end of the book. Like I said, pay attention to people and dates. Other than that (and that could just be me) it was a terrific read. Will read this author again.

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### **Aimee Walker Editorial says**

Firstly, what a clever title! It keeps you guessing throughout – what could the next unforgivable thing possibly be? However, I wasn't expecting the emotional rollercoaster that this book took me on. It's a suspense novel with a difference. With themes of infertility, pregnancy loss, IVF, multiple births, disability and more this story of a family trying to stay together and forgive each other will resonate with so many readers. For some people it may be cathartic but if you are going through any of the above issues it could be upsetting so have the tissues handy!

The family relationships are convincing and relatable and it is a charming well written story. Ultimately it is about a family learning to forgive each other for certain mistakes and wrong decisions and also a 'be careful what you wish for' warning!

Thanks to NetGalley and Harper Impulse for the opportunity to read and review this great book.

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### **Fluff Smut & Murder says**

Perhaps I'm daft - perhaps I am reading way too quickly that maybe I'm skimming over the parts that have to do with the tag line on the cover that "she wanted to make a family, not break one," but what I'm getting out of this book are Three Unforgivable Things - and they weren't done by Kate but rather Dan.

The chapters that focus on the children in present day would have been enough to be a typical chick lit book - the tale of 4 brothers and sisters finding their love and path somewhere in London. Every chapter but the last from Kate's point of view are so bitter, so angry, so resentful that it's hard to read. In the first sibling's POV chapter they make their Mum sound like a hippy-dippy free love woman trying to find herself out on a communal retreat - nothing like Kate of her chapters.

While there may be some forgiveness at the end.- I'm not sure if it's out of pity, guilt or love.. I was just so fricken happy the book came to an end,.

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## **Debra says**

This is an emotionally charged story - Dan and Kate are striving for a baby through IVF. Their life is an emotional rollercoaster.

This is a difficult and emotional subject matter for a matter. The entire books was quite emotionally charged & people may want to refrain from reading this in public places. Unfortunately I found that much of the power was lost by the disjointed writing. The story frequently chopped and changed between people and events meaning that the reader had to stop and take stock frequently to keep up with the changes. I found that this rather spoiled the story & I lost the desire to complete the book as a result.

I received a free copy of this book via Netgalley

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## **Dina says**

First thank you Net Galley

A book about, love, growth, family, loss, pain, triumph, and forgiveness.

What happens when you are young in love and begin your life together already with loss?

With that the characters dan and kate grew together, they loved, they grew apart, they existed together until they could not exist anymore.

Told from the point of views and experiences of Kate and the children, you can experience the loss, loneliness, and judgement cast. Can you eventually forgive to come full circle?

Read this heart warming story and find out.

An enjoyable read that is easily relatable.

Definitely recommend.

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## **Gina says**

Thanks to NetGalley for the ARC copy for my Kindle.

Kate miscarriages on the day of her wedding. Dan and she then have infertility issues and end up with IVF which leads her pregnancy with 4 babies. Even though 1 baby is still born and the couple struggle with the expense of raising and coping with 3 babies, they try to make their marriage work. When it looks like their marriage may survive, Dan brings home his 3 yr. old daughter from an office affair. The marriage still has its ups and downs and struggles to survive throughout the book. But the most interesting part of the book for me was the lives of the children once they were grown and left the home. In all, this was a good book especially for young, married couples with infertility issues.

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## **Meriel Hart says**

I was so excited to read this, and it did not disappoint!

I devoured this in a weekend-probably neglecting my own 'motherly duties' somewhat!

This was a timely read, this being Baby loss awareness week.

What I love about this book (in common with Brown's previous book Lily Alone) is the relationship between the characters. Mother and child, Husband and Wife (both before and after children) Sisters, Brother and Sister, Grandmother and Grandchildren, Auntie and Child and the one I particularly liked-Stepchild and Step Parent. It's unusual that an author convincingly writes any one of these relationships let alone all!

It was a great decision to let Kate tell her own story and that of her family in 'her time' and leave her children to tell their stories in 'their time'-it seemed right and made it truly generational.

A moving but at the same time heartwarming and thought provoking read, I would heartily recommend this book.

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### **Elisabeth Soane says**

Twenty years ago Kate and Dan were planning their perfect family. These dreams had to change but thanks to IVF Kate becomes pregnant.

The book is written from the POV of Kate and her children as they fight their own battles to become independent and follow their dreams. Kate is talking to someone and explaining the unforgivable things that shaped her family and their lives.

I loved this book and found it an easy but gripping read. I quickly found myself enthralled with the lives of Kate and her children rooting for them to get their dreams.

Thanks to Harper impulse and NetGalley for an ARC

#FiveUnforgivableThings #NetGalley

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### **Diane Merritt says**

This book was the first for me for this author and won't be the last. All the feelings in this book were real. Tears good and bad. Love this book!

Thanks to netgalley and the publisher for an early release of this book.

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### **Lucia says**

This story got under my skin as soon as I started it. I was thinking about it whenever I wasn't reading it and having just finished it now, I miss being involved in the story. Simply put, that is how really good this book is.

There are two concurrent story lines running throughout the book. One is from the point of view of Kate, wife of Dan, a couple who in the very beginning of their marriage learn they are unable to conceive a child naturally and decide to use IVF to have their family. After several attempts they are ultimately successful and have three children. The second story line is from the point of view of the children as young adults and beginning to make their way in the world. There are many ups and downs in the book, just like real life, and they are thoughtful and well written. Having known people who lived through the same sort of IVF roller coaster ride as Kate and Dan, I can say that this is very realistic writing and shows how difficult the entire

process with its successes and failures can be. The toll it takes on Kate and Dan is enormous and lifelong.

I strongly recommend this book and am very grateful I was able to read it. It will stay with me for a long time. Many thanks to NetGalley, the publisher and the author for a review copy. This is my honest opinion.

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