



**Miss Mary's Book of Dreams: A beguiling story of family, love and starting again, perfect for fans of *Chocolat***

*Sophie Nicholls*

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**Miss Mary's Book of Dreams: A beguiling story of family, love and starting again, perfect for fans of Chocolat** Sophie Nicholls

**Dreams, books and vintage fashion - the second book in the bestselling ebook series by Sophie Nicholls, author of *The Dress*.**

In historic York, Ella seems to have the perfect life. She's a published author, her bookshop is thriving, she's married to the man of her dreams and they've started a family of their own.

But Ella is struggling. Motherhood isn't quite everything she imagined it to be, and she's worried that there may be cracks in her marriage.

On the other side of the Atlantic, despite endless blue skies and a stream of eager customers in her vintage dress shop, Ella's mother Fabia finds that life in San Diego is not enough for her. She misses York, and can sense that Ella needs her, so she flies home.

And this is when they meet Bryony. With a complicated life and secrets of her own, Bryony may have some of the answers they're looking for.

Can Ella and Fabia help her find her way, whilst also working out how to find their own happily ever after?

**'A delightful, uplifting novel that, while unashamedly romantic and feel-good, nevertheless ponders some deeper questions.'** *Yorkshire Post* on *The Dress*.

## Miss Mary's Book of Dreams: A beguiling story of family, love and starting again, perfect for fans of Chocolat Details

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## **From Reader Review Miss Mary's Book of Dreams: A beguiling story of family, love and starting again, perfect for fans of Chocolat for online ebook**

### **Lisa Bentley says**

Firstly let me thank Ellie Burns from Bonnier Zaffre for sending me a copy of Miss Mary's Book of Dreams by Sophie Nicholls to review.

What a peculiar novel. Miss Mary's book of Dreams is a novel set in a book shop in Yorkshire. It has a colourful cast of characters and it has quite a few different threads to the story. We have shop owner Ella who is a writer struggling to write her next story and also finding it difficult to be a young mum. Then there is Bryony who is struggling with her mental health and an evil sister. Together they find each other and are helped to find themselves.

I enjoyed reading Miss Mary's Book of Dreams but I can't honestly say that I fell in love with the story. It was well written, I would never criticise Nicholls writing talent. Her ability to tell a story is evident I just didn't gel well with the book. I wasn't gripped and I didn't find myself consuming the book at the speed that I regular do but I can see how others may love this book.

Miss Mary's Book of Dreams by Sophie Nicholls is available now.

For more information regarding Sophie Nicholls (@wordsauce) please visit [www.sophienicholls.com](http://www.sophienicholls.com).

For more information regarding Bonnier Zaffre Books (@BonnierZaffre) please visit their Twitter page.

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### **Kirsty says**

Didn't realise this was second in a series. Will come back to if I can get my hands on book one to read first

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### **Cindy says**

This was an enjoyable read although at times I kind of zoned out. It just didn't hold my interest as much as I thought it would.

At the beginning of each chapter, there was a spell from Miss Mary's book of dreams. So Miss Mary is basically a book, not a character in the book. I enjoyed the magical parts but felt as if the story was lacking something. I didn't feel a connection with any of the characters. I think I liked the authors style of writing more than the actual story. I have to say that I would try another of her books.

\* I was provided an ARC of this book to read and reviewing it was voluntary.

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## **Karen Whittard says**

Thank you to Netgalley, Bonnier ZAffier and SOPhie Nicholls for the opportunity to read this book for an honest review.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance reader copy of this book.

You can find my review on both Goodreads and Amazon. On [goodreads.com/karenwhittard](https://www.goodreads.com/karenwhittard) and on Amazon under k.e.whittard from publication date.

I really don't know why this book has such a low rating on Goodreads. I absolutely loved it and find out utterly delightful. It has, love, family, friendship, books, food, fashion, drama, dreams and magic. What more could you possibly want?

Ella is a writer who has lost her way since her adorable little girl has been born. Trying to run her bookshop as well as raise a family and write a book is taking its toll. Plus Ella keeps being plagued by unsettling dreams and her self esteem has hit rock bottom. However she is such a lovely, kind and caring creature who is a wonderful leading lady.

Ella's mother Fabia lives across the ocean in America but there dreams link them together. When Fabia realised Ella is having troubling dreams she know she must go and visit her daughter and burn some bridges. Fabia runs a wonderful vintage clothing shop. I love Fabia, her best friend and her partner. Such wonderful colourful characters.

Bryony stumbles into Ella's bookshop on a cold and Rainey day. Plagued by vivid dreams and cryptic messages. Bryony is desperate to find out what they all mean. Which is when she stumbles across Miss Mary's book of dreams. Bryony is in a relationship but isn't sure if it is right for her anymore. She also has a septic sister who loves nothing more than getting them both in trouble.

Can Miss Mary's book help Bryony and Ella more than they know and can their fleeting meeting turn into a wonderful friendship?

This is a wonderful book. Which sparkles from the front page to the very last. I absolutely loved it.

Let me know what you think in the comments.

Happy reading everyone

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## **Tonya Scott says**

Thank you NetGalley for the opportunity to read this ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review.

I rated this a 3 on here but I'm wavering in the 2.5 to 2.75 range.

I really enjoyed Sophie's writing style. I just wish the plot didn't feel so average and chaotic at times. The premise was great and I think with some tweaking it could had made it to a 3.5. I'd love to check out more of

her work and watch it develop.

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## **Lynne says**

Thank you Netgalley for an advanced copy of this book.

I didn't realize when I requested an advance copy of this book that it was the second book in a trilogy (my bad), and although I can say that this can be a stand-alone book, I think perhaps I would have enjoyed it more (and would have felt more of a connection to the characters) had I read Sophie Nicholls' first book *The Dress*.

That said.

Sophie Nicholls writing itself was excellent. My issue wasn't with that, but more with the plot. I had a hard time connecting characters, or their subplots with one another. It was almost like a series of short stories linked together by the "magical" aspect of this book: people (Ella, Bryony, Fabia and Zohreh) who see/feel the magic around them, a sixth sense of sorts. They stroll in and out of one another's lives, but the book could have been written without one or more of the characters and it wouldn't have detracted very much from the story.

This book wasn't what I thought it would be. It really didn't need to be called "Miss Mary's Book of Dreams" since the focus on Miss Mary and her book of dreams really felt as though they were an afterthought. Even though each chapter started off with one of Miss Mary's spells, the chapters didn't then tie it back together by having a scene or event that focused on those spells (example: a chapter starts with finding a true love – the chapter wasn't about that).

I wanted this to be a bit more like *The House at the End of Hope Street* by Menna van Praag – and it fell short. The dash of magic tossed into this book just wasn't developed enough. Why was Bryony so interested in Miss Mary? What happened to her before? Why wasn't a friendship between Ella and Bryony better developed? How is it that Ella had never met Zohreh – her great-grandmother? Too many loose ends, too many unanswered and under-developed aspects to the plot to make this more than a 2 star read.

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## **Carrie Jones says**

I was excited by this novel, potentially a perfect combination of books, magic and the lovely city of York – and indeed it is an enjoyable, romantic and thoughtful book.

Interesting characters develop, all with their own secrets and issues, and I loved the references to colours swirling round them, their dreams and the Signals, an area that I personally find fascinating.

At times, particularly earlier on in the novel, I found I was confused by some of the characters and their roles, and tended to race through the chapters where Maadar –Bozorg and Fabia were telling stories

It wasn't quite the story I expected it was going to be, I would have liked there to have been more development of the magic theme, but overall it was very enjoyable and left me with a warm glow, which on

a cold March day, can't be a bad thing!

Thank you to Readers First for giving me a copy of this novel in exchange for an honest and unbiased review

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### **Diane says**

I found this delightful; yes, a bit soppy and too good to be true. But what the heck - warms the cockles of your heart to read a book like this sometimes ?

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### **Pouting Always says**

Ella runs a book shop while taking care of her daughter most days and has started to feel restless. I didn't even know this was supposed to be a sequel apparently but I don't think it took away from the book, you can read this on it's own. The writing was good but I just don't think the plot was. I even liked the characters I just think the cohesion wasn't there. Nicholls tried to combine three story arcs and bring them together but they didn't seem to relate and the sense of suspense was so different for them that it felt jarring to alternate between the POV. I wouldn't mind reading other books by Nicholls I just didn't enjoy the plot to this one but her writing has potential.

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### **Bookread2day says**

Review by [www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com](http://www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com)

I thought that the author Sophie Nicholls had a lovely writing style and a beautiful way with words.

Ella is a busy wife, a mother and a successful novelist. It was her mamma that encouraged her to write.

Being a mum, running a business and writing a novel, she hardly got any time to think. As we all know there isn't quite enough hours in the day to get everything done.

Ella's mamma sold her dress shop and Ella had taken the shop over as a book shop. The shop bell still dangled in the same way just like it did when Ella's mamma had the shop. Bryony Darwin came into the book shop looking for a book about dreams.

Who is this Bryony Darwin? And why was she looking for a book about dreams?

I now know why this book is named Miss Mary's Book of Dreams.

A Dream. A Bookshop. And a little touch of magic.

Sophie Nicholls is the bestselling author of *The Dress*, which is next on my to read list.

I do hope that you all enjoy Miss Mary's Book of Dreams as much as what I did.

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### **Milie\_Baker says**

Un bon roman, mais qui ne m'a pas enchanté plus que ça.

J'ai eu un peu de mal avec Ella, le personnage principal. Elle a tout pour être heureuse et ne fait que se plaindre. Même si elle le remarque elle-même, j'ai trouvé ça plutôt agaçant, quand je lis un livre je n'ai pas envie de suivre l'histoire d'une personne qui a tout et qui se plaint pour un rien.

L'intrigue n'est pas très passionnante. J'ai quand même apprécié pour la proximité avec les livres et pour Billy, que j'ai beaucoup aimé.

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### **Sam Poole says**

I found I kept getting lost in the story with all the different characters but towards the end it all came together. Lovely ending

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### **Astrid Johanne says**

I really liked the book, it is different somehow and I have love books where you follow different people at first, and in the end there different life's and perception comes together in one story that you didn't think about when first reading. This Story has this quality together with a sprinkle of magic.

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### **Shel says**

Thank you to NetGalley and Bonnier Zaffre for the ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

If Goodreads would allow I'd give this book a solid 2.5 stars. The actual writing in the book is very good. I'd like to read more of Sophie Nicholls if all of the writing is this good. The plot on the other hand needs a little bit of refinement. The plot wavers between being a supernatural chick lit book and just your everyday run-of-the-mill chick lit book (you know, women bored with wife/motherhood; looking for more fulfillment). But the two themes didn't really jive that well together. I was super interested when it was about Ella with *The Signals* running the super cool bookstore but less interested when it was passive aggressive Ella who was questioning her choices as a mother.

Overall, the book seemed a little messy to me and I found I lost interest in it.

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## Simona Dreca says

Thanks to netgalley for the preview.

I've expected a different story, a story in which books had a more important role. The protagonist, in fact, runs a bookstore, so everything suggests that the novel would be set there. The bookstore is there, and it is also a very cozy place where the customer is offered coffee (books and coffee are a perfect match). But the story revolves around four generations of women, linked by a kind of magic, a housewife magic. This group of women is joined by a fifth one, who is "magic" too.

Passages from the book of Mary are found as exergue of each chapter.

Although I've expected a different book, I've liked the novel, this magic of storytelling ...

Mi aspettavo una storia diversa, in cui i libri avessero un ruolo più importante. La protagonista, infatti, gestisce una libreria, quindi tutto lasciava supporre che il romanzo sarebbe stato ambientato lì. La libreria c'è, ed è anche un luogo molto ospitale, in cui alle clienti viene offerto anche il caffè (libri e caffè sono un binomio perfetto). Ma la storia ruota intorno a 4 generazioni di donne, legate da una sorta di magia. Una magia casalinga. A questo gruppo di donne se ne aggiunge una quinta, anche lei "magica".

Bрани del libro di Mary si trovano ad esergo di ogni capitolo.

Pur aspettandomi un libro diverso, il romanzo mi è piaciuto. Questa magia del raccontare storie...

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