

Far From the World We Know

Harper Bliss

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Far From the World We Know Harper Bliss How far must you run to escape the past?

Laura Baker has just moved to the small Texas town of Nelson for a life of solitude and recovery after a traumatic event that has scarred her irreversibly. But her chosen isolation is difficult to maintain after she meets Tess Douglas, the charming editor of the town paper. Tess is determined to break down the walls Laura has built up around herself. As their friendship develops, so do their feelings for each other.

Will Tess be able to get past Laura's defenses? And will Laura allow herself to love, and live, again? Find out in this powerful new novel by the chart-topping author of Seasons of Love, Release the Stars and At the Water's Edge.

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Far From the World We Know Details

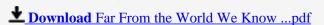
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From Reader Review Far From the World We Know for online ebook

Dee says

This story is told in first person present tense, which is not my preferred style of narration but when done right I can cope. Harper gets it right, although I will suffice to say in this story, at times both heroines sounded so much the alike I had to remind myself who was who.

I've read numerous books by Harper, she most definitely knows how to tell a compelling tale. The story of Laura and Tess is a long slow burn, which is understandable given the horrendous event Laura lived through prior to moving to Nelson to take care of her sick Aunt. I can only begin to imagine the guilt a survivor of such a thing would endure. My heart went out to her.

Tess saw something in Laura long before she forgave herself and deemed herself worthy of finding love. The amount of times Laura pushed Tess away frustrated the hell out of me, even though I understood her reluctance to let down the walls she'd built around her heart. Tess's patience and unwavering support endeared me to her more. She was a real sweetheart!

To add to the harrowing event Laura endured, we then discover her parents are fundamentalists who cut their daughter out of their lives years ago. While I'm sure this is all too common an occurrence, the book took a turn for the worst when it entered into religion. I avoid debating the topic like the plague so don't care for such content in a fictional world either. That ones on me, I'm sure many others will be nodding along in understanding and/or sympathy.

There's no heat factor until well after the 60% mark, but again given the nature of the story it wouldn't have been right for the ladies to fall straight into bed together. And in true Harper fashion once the ladies did become intimate the pages sizzled.

I very much enjoyed reading about more middle-aged women, who dealt with life's issues in a mature way.

The story is very moving, and will be sure to tug at readers heartstrings and melt their panties. I recommend it to lovers of emotional reads with a little bit of heat thrown in for good measure.

Copy provided in exchange for an honest review.

Marissa R Van Ryzin says

Finally, a good lesbian romance

It was very nice to get to read a nice lesbian romance without an utterly ridiculous, contrived situation. Yes, one of the characters does have an unusually dark past, but it's not unbelievable (except that friends and family didn't know). Also, Tess hits the nail on the head by joking that her and Laura are the only two eligible lesbians in town. These plot points can be chalked up to twists of fate, especially as you get to know

the infectious Tess. She is by turns hapless, irritating, sincere, bumbling and charming. She is the life of this story and her family members, what we read of them, are nearly as charming. Laura takes a bit of getting used to, but once you do, you can't help seeing her through Tess' eyes. The story does drag a bit in the beginning. Will Laura let Tees in. It's a foregone conclusion. Even though the relationship has inevitable written all over it, it's still fun to watch. Sex scenes have a curious remote intimacy to them. While the inner thoughts of the characters feel almost intrusively intimate, descriptions of the actual act seem a bit clinical. Despite the few short cummings, Far From the World We Know is well worth reading.

Kim says

I've gone on a bit of a Harper Bliss kick lately, and I think Far From the World We Know is the best of her books that I've read so far. I feel she has created very relatable characters in Tess and Laura, especially Tess. What woman in the lesbian world hasn't seen a beautiful woman and prayed "Please God, let her be a lesbian", and then done the internal (or sometimes external) happy dance when it turns out she is on the team. I like Tess' family, and especially enjoyed the dynamic between Megan and her husband. Perhaps the most impressive part of this story is Harper's delicate handling of Laura's abusive past, and acknowledgment that many times the victim feels culpable for the consequences of the relationship.

I enjoy Harper Bliss' writing, and look forward to reading more of her work.

Glynnis Haynes says

Blissful Read

I really did enjoy reading this book. It made me realize a lot of things about myself and my relationships. Laura's parents made me think of my own parents, and how they would respond to my coming out. I've also been in an abusive relationship, so it made Mr reflect on my past. Thank goodness for the love of a good woman.

Ty says

3.5 stars. I read three Harper Bliss books in a row this weekend. This was probably my favorite of the three. All three were well written, all three told plots I've not encountered often, and all three were fairly enjoyable. But I also had a really hard time connecting with the characters in all three.

Corporate Slave says

Definitely not my kinda book! I gave it 2 stars because no one can deny that Harper bliss writing style is just amazing! Other than that, the story was very boring, characters had 0 chemistry, story was not believable at all.. One woman chasing another for the first half of the book for no reason whatsoever!Unfortunately I couldn't wait for this book to end so I start reading another gone.

Tara says

Far From the World We Know is beautifully written, with perfect pacing, and a story that is interesting and emotional. The sex is very well written, but it's not overly erotic, which was exactly right for this book. Harper Bliss doles out information about Laura and her past so carefully that to talk about it would spoil the experience of reading the story (so much so, in fact, that I was tempted to turn in a review that just said "Don't read anything about it; just read the book!"). I'm notorious for reading ahead, but I never did with Far From the World We Know because I knew it would be a mistake.

Full review here: http://www.thelesbianreview.com/far-w...

Amanda says

I chanced upon Harper's books via a free read and have been devouring them as I can afford them. Harper's characters are real, honest and I love reading her work. This one hit a little close to home regarding some similarities to Laura and the things you go through when a partner is cruel. I loved the build up to Laura & Tess and their trials and tribulations as they navigated their way through life. We need more people like Rachel & Tess in this world and more parents like the Douglas's! I read this book in a day thanks to a long haul bus ride! Can't wait to read another of Harper's amazing stories full of characters that come to life reading the letter in the story made me cry!

Ginger Miller says

Pretty good

I did really like this book. Unfortunately Harper Bliss spoiled me with the very first book of hers that I read. "In the Distance There is Light". I compare every book to that one and each one disappoints me more. My fault not hers. She is wonderful. However after reading the best nothing else will do. I was spoiled and cannot shake it off. Bliss is great. This book is pretty darn good but I can't shake a sense that every book of hers will leave me searching for something more. Again that is my fault. Enjoy her books for she is really something else as a writer. I think I will leave it all right here.

Netty says

Umm, what to say....

Not a typical Harper Bliss story, very slow burn "sort of"

I didn't really feel any chemistry between the two main characters, very one sided for a good proportion of the book, understandable considering this book touches on a very horrible subject of an abusive relationship that ended in tragedy for the victim....

Unfortunately I wasn't a fan of this book, not because of the subject but because unlike all Harper's other

books I just didn't feel the lust, excitement, that adrenaline you get when they finally do get together, don't get me wrong this book is good but was lacking in a lot of chemistry....

Eydie2 says

Very good book, a different writing for Harper. I love the fact that our dear Harper wrote an American novel.. And it was truly enjoyed. Great work, Harper.

Very good book, a different writing for Harper. I love the fact that our dear Harper wrote an American novel Way to go Harper, Good work to a talented author.

Nikki "The Crazie Betty" V. says

By far my favorite Bliss book to date. Right up front I'll let you know that this is a romance. It is NOT erotica. There are a couple very tasteful sex scenes, but this story is far from being about sex.

Laura has just moved to a small town in Texas after a devastating event that occurred with her ex. She is almost immediately spotted by fellow small town lesbian, Tess, who immediately comes off too strong for Laura's liking; given that she is nursing a very, very, very broken heart. As well as battling some serious demons from her past. You find out pretty early in the book the kinds of events that have led her to where she is now, but just in case you don't want to know, here's the tag: (view spoiler)

While Tess is ever vigilant in her chase of Laura, Laura eventually has to come clean to her so she can understand why she has so many hang-ups, and no desire to get into a relationship any time soon. Realizing how damaged Laura is, Tess resolves to be the best friend she can be to Laura, while trying to keep her ever growing feelings for her in check. She understands how badly Laura needs someone who won't judge her for things that have happened in her past, and allow her to see herself as a worthwhile human being, who deserves love and honesty.

I loved Tess's character. The way she's there for Laura, even though she is developing these really hard to contain emotions, is so wonderful. She puts herself aside to be a good friend to someone who needs it, at the risk of their own heart. She is patient and understanding with Laura, and when Laura finally tells her the dark secrets she's been keeping, she even keeps the secret from her twin sister. Whom she never hides anything from. Serious respect for this woman.

I seriously enjoyed the character development and thought Harper wrote very realistic people with realistic problems. The things that go through Laura's head, with regards to her past relationship, can be understood and felt by anyone who has been through a violent relationship. I would daresay that even if you've never experienced it before, Harper has written the character so well that I feel it really does give an accurate portrayal of the mental and emotional health/stability of someone going through that. The feelings of betrayal, never being good enough, or feeling like you deserve the treatment you've received; that you're not worthy of real love. To be so madly in love with someone, but be able to hate them with the same veracity. It's all there, and is represented so well.

The ending is also very well done, and I really appreciated the "time-lapse" epilogue so we can see how far they've come.

I would highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys f/f romance, and a good, solid character driven story.

Many thanks the Harper Bliss and Ladylit Publishing for providing me with an ARC of Far From the World We Know, in exchange for my honest review.

Lex Kent says

This was just OK. It's was written well, Harper Bliss obviously is a talented author, the book just didn't really go anywhere. One character was broken down and dealing with her last abusive relationship. The other was an overly excited bubbly woman with a perfect life (except for being single) and perfect family. They were such opposites, that it was difficult to picture them together. I didn't really feel the chemistry at all. And the relationship was very one sided. One character seeming in love, the other not wanting any part of a relationship. It was like 'can we date?' 'No!' 'Can we start dating now?' 'No.' 'Well what about now, can we finally date?' 'Okay, you twisted my arm, yes we can date.' Next the book changed to 'no we can't have sex yet', then 'nope we still can't have sex.' Until, 'Oh you actually look hot in a t-shirt and panties, so we can have sex now.' Ugh, this was not what I'm looking for when I read a LesFic romance.

Maybe others will like this better than me, it wasn't bad, just not what i was looking for.

Rach (Les Rêveur) says

Far From the World We know By Harper Bliss

Laura fled Chicago after a life changing and traumatic event that has left her life in turmoil. She literally bumps into Tess. Tess is attracted to Laura for the moment she see's her but Laura isn't interested in anything more than friendship. Tess knows what she feels and isn't ready to give up on Laura

This book had me hooked from the start. The story had an awesome twist and identified a rather large issue between Laura and her former life. Harper has done this in other novels like 'At the Waters Edge' which highlighted a mental health issue. This is a brave move and leaves you feeling like the love story is more true to life and i identify better with the characters.

I loved the characters but especially took a shine to Tess. She is everything that makes a good Lesbian heroine. Her non stop 'Douglas' personality made me laugh but also made me cheer her on every time she tried to win Laura's heart.

As seems to be the trend with anything i read from Harper Bliss i've given this novel 5*****
Can't wait for the next Harper Bliss novel.

Sarah Hobbs says

After immersing myself within a few of Bliss's novellas I wanted to test Harper and read one of her full novels, and I must admit I was not disappointed. When looking through Harper's other books this one peaked my interest, hence my reasoning for choosing it.

Click here to read my full review of this book. :)