



## The Sound of Crickets

*Marissa Farrar*

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## **The Sound of Crickets** Marissa Farrar

New release at the low price of only \$2.99 for two weeks only!

Four women who have never met ...

Four lives inextricably joined ...

Four friendships that will last forever ...

Named after Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic, Amelia Thompson always thought life would have given her wings. Instead, she finds herself stuck at home with three small children, and a body she no longer recognises. Hoping to connect with like-minded people, she decides to reach out on a women's forum to try to find others with whom to start a blog.

To her delight, she gets a response. Sara, a romance author whose elderly mother has just moved in with her. Kelly, whose husband only wants to spend time down the pub, and Charlotte, who is suffering from empty nest syndrome now her daughter has left home.

Told in the medium of their blog posts and emails to each other, *The Sound of Crickets* is a touching novel of friendship in the digital age.

## **The Sound of Crickets Details**

Date : Published April 15th 2014 by Warwick House Press

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Author : Marissa Farrar

Format : Kindle Edition 258 pages

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Fiction, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review The Sound of Crickets for online ebook

### **Scarlet says**

The Sound of Crickets by Marissa Farrar is written as a blog and as e-mails between four women. They met online after one of the women (Amelia) put up an ad asking for people to join a blog to talk about everyday life. The women are from different places and each have a different home life and work situation. Most women reading this book will be able to relate to one or more of the women in the book. They have their ups and downs, adultery, cancer, new jobs and babies and share their experiences, through the blog and e-mails to each other.

I very much enjoyed this book, I could relate to one of the women quite easily and agreed with a lot of what she said and did. It is written well and will leave you feeling happy and sad for the characters depending on what they are going through at that point in their lives.

I totally fell in love with the book and its characters, the ladies are so witty, charming, caring and funny, they form strong bonds of friendship almost immediately despite the fact that they have never met face to face but only online. They support each other in their times of need but they also tell each other the harsh truths when needed. I found myself missing the characters once I had finished the book and wondering what was happening in their lives now.

It shows how important online relationships can be and how easy it is to make strong lasting friendships.

I would recommend The Sound of Crickets by Marissa Farrar to all those who love books about real life issues, and blogging and funny, warm touching stories.

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### **Linda says**

Having read most of Marissa Farrar's books I was delighted to receive a copy of her latest book for review.

As a fan of Marissa's books I was a bit wary of the fact that this book was so different from her usual style, but I was blown away! Written in the style of a blog following the lives of four very different women, I laughed, cried and often found myself wanting to comment on the blog posts.

A fantastic book with a very thought provoking ending, bringing everyone together, highly recommended read.

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### **tbear says**

Initially I wasn't sure if I'd like the blog and email format of this book, but it was so well written that I had a hard time putting the book down. The blogs from the 4 women, who have never met before blogging, were very believable and none of it was sugar-coated. In fact, most of it was sad...these 4 women pouring their

hearts out to the internet world revealing their struggles with their own personal problems. There were funny moments too. It was heartwarming how they got support from each other, even though they might approve of what their friend was doing, and their readers who left them comments. In the end, I was left with wanting more...to know more of the outcome of the women's lives.

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### **Belinda Frisch says**

The Sound of Crickets. It's what four women expected to hear when they started a blog about life. Each took turns posting about their day-to-day, ranging from the ramblings to a stay-at-home mom of three under-fives to a single woman facing the possibility of life alone (while humoring her disapproving mother who had recently moved in with her).

I know Marissa Farrar's writing from The Dark Road, an entirely different kind of story from Crickets. Her voice has always been succinct, her characters clear, but Crickets was an entirely different novel from what I'm used to. Let me tell you that switch in genre did nothing but prove beyond a shadow of a doubt she's a versatile author.

Crickets touched on the things women struggle with: the monotony of staying at home, a few extra pounds, finding your soul mate, aging, empty nesting, infidelity, and ultimately mortality. Charlotte's story became impossible to read without tears. Approaching forty, this one touched me in a profound way, echoing a lot of my own insecurities while making me count my blessings. That's what good stories do, right? They resonate. A job well done. I finished the book in two days. The blog-style format made it a super fast read. Kudos, Marissa.

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### **Jamie Sadler says**

I wish it were possible to give this more than 5 stars. I would give it at least 10. This is the best book I have read in a very long time. The idea of four women who have never met starting a blog together kind of threw me at first. The format of the book was very interesting and difficult to get into. However, once I did I literally could not put it down. I finished it today during my lunch break and I know half my office was wondering the hell was wrong with me. This story took me through every emotion possible.

As I started to read I kept looking for the mouse so I could click on the comment section and respond to the blog posts. :) Some of the responders, Robert, made me want to punch them and others made me laugh and cry. The everyday lives of four women were written so truthfully it would be simple for anyone, man or woman, to relate to the stories; two affairs, a woman realizing she wanted a child even though she had no significant other, a mother going through empty nest syndrome, and a family losing their wife and mother.

Marissa Farrar is certainly an author I plan to read more often.

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### **Tammy L Warchol says**

#### **Thought provoking**

This book was intriguing and explores many different subjects. It is not your standard novel. I was hooked from the start and had tears in my eyes at the end.

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### **Sarah says**

I've read a few books by this author now which are very different to this one. What can I say about this book apart from I absolutely loved it. A great storyline that had me sobbing at the end. Feel a bit sad now I have finished this book as the characters felt like my friends and am already missing their blogs. One of my favourite books this year.

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### **Shawn says**

Told through occasional emails and blog entries, four stories unfold from four women who, despite being surrounded by people and living the lives they chose, are very lonely. Through the anonymity of the internet these four women find support and friendship and themselves.

At first I was thrown by the format of blog posts with reader comments and occasional emails sent between the four women. It took me a few days to get into the flow and I'm still sure that the first 20% of the ebook is somehow longer than the remaining 80%.

Once I got into the flow of the style, I really got into it. I sometimes found myself trying to scroll through the webpage instead of swiping to the next page. Once or twice I looked for the "add a comment" section because I had something I wanted to say. Needless to say, I really got into this story and feel like these were real people and their life stories I was reading, which made the ending somewhat devastating. I think the only reminder that I really had that this wasn't a real blog was getting into their emails and the fact that all the comments were grammatically correct and devoid of rape threats.

I highly recommend this book, I think it might even be one of the author's best, but I warn you, it leaves you reeling and wanting more.

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### **Fiona Wilson says**

I absolutely loved this book. The premise behind it, women coming together to create a blog, is right up my street as I also blog. I know a lot of people who have blogs, so I couldn't wait to start this.

The book is written, in the main part, in the form of blog posts. These were very well written, emotional at times, and openly honest from each of the 'authors' of the blog posts.

As we go through the book the relationships between the women develop into something more than when first started. This is, for me, what makes the story what it is. These women know each other only online, yet the friendships they build will last a lifetime.

The story isn't all hearts and flowers, the stories which begin to unfold from the women give us an insight into what goes on behind closed doors. It also gives us a lot of heartwarming moments, along with a few

teary ones.

A brilliant read, highly recommended.

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### **Lori says**

I liked the idea of women blogging to help each other through happy and tough times! I saw it as an outlet for seeking advice without being inhibited to share embarrassing or difficult details with close friends or family.

At first I found it difficult to believe anyone could do this when they had never met or were not first in-person friends. By discussing this book with others, I learned there are numerous groups of blogging friends all over the world due to shared illness, careers, heartaches, religions, travel, etc.

This was a beautiful book of four women who, over time, enhanced each other's lives and were therefore forever changed!

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### **Darlene says**

Bittersweet blogging. Those are the words that stand out in my mind when thinking about this book. I finished it last night just before Sandman Time. So I was left hoping I could remember to do the review justice when I finally put fingers to keyboard.

For my blogging friends, the scenarios presented are not so far fetched. We find people we consider friends, from all over the world, with differing opinions, who we have never met. We care deeply when they report of illness or loss in their lives. We feel anger when we see that they are making mistakes that we know they must to learn who they are. We feel elation at those finding love or giving birth. We share 'Ah ha!' moments together and wonder, "Why didn't I think of that?" when they present simplistic marvels within their blogs. Most of all we enjoy support and support others in the process. The Sound of Crickets embraced it all.

Spoilers keep wanting to slip out as I write this. Though at times in the book, you can see what is coming, still it is lovingly fed out to us, byte by byte. There are a few laugh out loud moments and others where you might need your kleenex, but it is worth the ride.

By the way, don't feel like you wouldn't know what to do with a book that blogs out the lives of four women. If you love books using letter, email, or tweets to convey the story, this works just as well. The fact, that these four didn't know each other at all when they set up this blog leads us all through their getting to know each other and themselves while living their lives.

I wanted a book that would help me relax and go to sleep. The title drew me in. But this book isn't boring at all. No, it isn't a thriller/suspense novel, but the characters draw you in and lead you down roads that you might not expect. It gives a glimpse of humanity at its best and most human. I do hope others will pick it up as it is worth the read.

Dear Marissa Farrar (author), PLEASE, a sequel??? I want to see the characters grow even more, maybe add a few more bloggers?

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### **Elaine says**

Good. Touching. Heartfelt. Part of it was a bit predictable. Too soon finished.

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### **Vicious says**

The epistolary novel may be a form that belongs mainly to our past, but there is still something to the form that is uniquely compelling to a reader.

Email and blogging are the new letter writing. We email to share the short pieces of information and the better blogs reveal the thoughts and feelings of the author in a concise, entertaining way.

That is what "The Sound of Crickets" does so well. We meet the four main characters immediately - Amelia from Britain, Kelly from New Zealand, Sara from the USA and Charlotte from Canada. Each woman is at a different moment in her life, and together, they build the blog "Life's Too Short for Bad Wine."

What follows is a wonderful glimpse at four unique journeys, and the power of words to grow friendships, even around the world. In our information based society, when so much of us spend huge portions of our lives online, is it any wonder that we are capable and eager to form the bonds of friendship - or that they can be every bit as real as people we meet in our daily lives?

To speak about any one of the womens' experiences would be to spoil the fun of compulsively peeking into the public diary of four special characters.

Marissa Farrar does a great job of giving her main characters a unique voice, and makes us, the reader, an equal part of the action as we are exposed to each new blog post. Comments appear at the end of the articles - and this is one of the only areas that the story falters a little. By giving us reactions to each new piece, the reader is robbed a little of the ability to form their own reaction. However, as the story goes on, we realize that we ARE commenters, and that whether or not we agree with what the women are doing, our opinion is just as valid as any of the others who chime in. (Some of the commenters actually become minor, recurring characters, so their presence is made more and more important as the story goes on.)

The other (small) thing I would point out is that, at points, the individual plots line up a little "too" perfectly - each story has its own beats that never seem to falter, but instead march on to a proper and fitting conclusion. However, this doesn't take away from the fun of reading the stories. After all, Romeo and Juliet begins by spoiling its own ending - and the journey is no less interesting as a result. The same is true here - we keep reading because we WANT to keep reading.

The Sound of Crickets is at once a fun, quick read in a format that most of us are familiar with outside of books - and a beautiful statement on the growing interconnected-ness of our world.

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### **Sheri says**

The Sound of Crickets by Marissa Farrar

Amelia Thompson mother of three small children, bored with herself and life decides to start a blog. She seeks out women to help her. Sara, a romance writer whose mother just moved in with her, Charlotte is an empty-nester whose daughter just moved out and Kelly whose husband spends all his spare time at the pub, all decide to join Amelia in her blog.

All four different women in different countries, United Kingdom, United States, New Zealand and Canada, living different lives find themselves bonding and becoming "internet" friends. The blog is a hit as each woman slowly opens up and soon they discover no one is perfect and they may need someone to lean on. They form a strong bond, something none of them expected.

A well written heart felt story, told though blog and email format. We get to know each character, see their flaws, and see how they connect in our cyber world. A story of hardship, struggles and friendship. Those who like drama and women's fiction, should enjoy The Sound of Crickets.

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### **Terry says**

Although these four women have never met face to face, they start an internet friendship. A place to talk about the frustrations of their daily lives. As the book progresses their frustrations turn into more serious problems. Women of all ages can relate to both their frustrations and their more serious problems as most of us have met women with these issues in our own friendships. Perhaps you might even recognize yourself. Even though they may not approve of what someone is doing, they temper their honesty with love. It is true friendship minus the hugs and comforting physical presence in times of trouble. Will recommend it to my book clubs and hope the author will sometime in the future try this genre again.

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