



## What the Faeries Left Behind

*Amber Michelle Cook*

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*Librarian's note: Alternate cover edition of ISBN13 9781301984602.*

After coming home from a monotonous office job to the apartment where she lives alone, thirty-something Abigail Watson is having a tough day in a hard week in a rotten month, and don't even get her started on the year. Until that night when something wonderfully impossible shows up at her door and rings the bell insistently.

You're not supposed to answer the door late at night to strangers who come knocking unannounced, right?

Right. But Abigail does.

Because how can you be scared of someone with translucent wings like those of a dragonfly?

WHAT THE FAERIES LEFT BEHIND is an urban fairy tale 'antidote' to those times when the dullness and drudgery of grown-up life seems inescapable, and to the misconception that wonder and play are just for children.

## What the Faeries Left Behind Details

Date : Published September 2014 by Smashwords (first published January 1st 2013)

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Author : Amber Michelle Cook

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## **From Reader Review What the Faeries Left Behind for online ebook**

### **Trish says**

A fun little novella with some wonderful moments showing the power of bubbles.

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### **Simone Cooper says**

This is a light and nicely imagined story, with some moments of threat driving the plot that seem simple but that carry surprising power. The book made for a lovely breather between heavier novels.

*What the Faeries Left Behind* is a fast read with an interesting, unexpected ending. I believe it could have benefited from expansion closer to novel length or at least into a longer novella, as a few scenes were summarized that I would have enjoyed witnessing through the protagonist's direct experience.

I can see from this first effort that Amber is an author whose work I will enjoy reading in the future, especially as she stretches her wings into longer formats.

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### **John says**

A short, charming, and uplifting fantasy with a few surprising turns.

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### **Evangeline Montoya says**

A fun, delightful story with an uplifting message.

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### **Harmony Kent says**

(This book was a free copy in exchange for an honest review)

This is a very short novella about a thirty something woman called Abigail. Whilst I could relate to the boredom of her life and her wish to escape it, I simply could not relate to any of the characters. They lack depth, and do not pull the reader in. This book would benefit tremendously from some thorough editing, and perhaps even a rewrite. The premise of the story is a good one, but it lacks in the execution. There is an abundance of head hopping, and at times it is difficult to work out what is going on or has just been described, forcing a reread. Just when the reader might be getting into the story another one of these many

flaws crops up and reminds you that you are simply looking at words on a page, words that are oft-times not too clear. The very best stories show us rather than tell us, which is a device this new writer could put to more effective use in getting her message across.

Sadly, when a book is published at this level, it serves to reinforce the bad name a lot of people give to indie authors.

I desperately wanted to like this book, and indeed to support this new author, but I do not feel I can rate it any higher than one star due to the sheer amount of work it needs.

All in all this book needs a lot of work; I can however see potential in this brand new writer, with a little application and further study.

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### **Katherine says**

This is an interesting take on the "drudgery" of life that most people seem to fall into with the fanciful hopes that the dreamers of our world wish could happen. I did feel that the ending was a bit abrupt, and was surprised that it was so short, but enjoyed it overall.

I thought that Ms. Cook did a descriptive job for this short story.

I received a copy of this in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Sophie says**

**Review also posted on my blog at <http://www.reviewedthebook.co.uk/2014...>**

I'm sure lots of people have at times wished their life could be a little less mundane and a little more exciting. I know I definitely have. What the Faeries Left Behind explores this fantasy and Amber Michelle Cook has written a quirky, entertaining, magical little novella.

When this book started, I wasn't sure what to expect but humour laced every page and made this a really fun, easy read. Abigail, in her thirties, is bored of her life and so when the opportunity arises to live a little, she's eager to do so. I thought Abigail was a really likeable character. Being 36 didn't have to be an excuse for her to be serious and sensible and it was amusing seeing how she responded to the new twists in her life.

I was a tiny bit confused at the beginning when Abigail discovered she was a Fae Changeling but soon became captivated with the story. I liked all the colours and imagery and the stranger Abigail meets at the beginning was a fun character that helped make this book really enjoyable.

What the Faeries Left Behind was a little eccentric and really fascinating story, really original and fun. I loved the ending and felt it was a fitting way to end what is a great little book to escape into. What the Faeries Left Behind was a joy to read.

4/5.

\*Book gifted for honest review.

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### **Kirstin Pulioff says**

This is a fun story that started out as a writing challenge for the author. How fun! To be able to take a prompt or idea, and weave an entertaining story like this. It certainly had all the elements- relatable characters, descriptive scenes, and adventure. It also has a great reminder about not losing yourself in the monotony of routine and responsibility.

Even though this was an easy and enjoyable read, there were some parts that confused me. I didn't quite get enough reason to suspend reality, and the conclusion seemed a bit rushed. This could easily be expanded and I would love to read more... about this Fae world, what needed to be fixed, etc...

I was also disappointed when the story ended at 60% on my kindle. I gauge the length of a story, based off that, so when it ended, I was still expecting something more to happen...

I give this one a solid 3.5

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### **chucklesthescot says**

\*I received a free copy of this novella from the author in exchange for an honest review\*

Abigail has a boring life that is transformed when she is told that she is a Fae Changeling who is to return home. As she is taken to the meeting place for the journey Home, she starts to imagine what her life will become.

This was a funny and entertaining novella about a young woman who longs to be different and have some meaning in her boring life. Abigail has no doubts about the wisdom of agreeing to leave for a new life. You can understand how she feels. Who wouldn't like to leave a dull job and non-existent social life to live in a new world where you have magical powers? Abigail herself is someone I could relate to and I liked her story. You learn a lot about her as a person through her interaction with other characters, giving her reasonable depth. There was a good amount of humour and her Fae guide was an amusing character. I also liked the fact that the author put her own spin on the classic homecoming story.

I don't want to put any spoilers in so I'll just say that I did expect what was coming, but it did not detract from the story at all. I really liked the ending which was perfect. I liked the way the author told this story and followed it through and I'd certainly look at the rest of her work when it is available.

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### **✿Claire✿ says**

*Disclaimer: I was given this book by the author in return for an honest review*

This book was so close to being five stars, it was a really interesting idea and a great read. I just felt it was a little short and was over before I realised it!

I liked the fact that there weren't too many characters introduced although I would love to know more about the Fae and the world they live in and what Abigail's role will be in the future :)

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### **Teresa Lavender says**

Won this here on goodreads. This definitely qualifies as short and sweet. Loved the story. Made me laugh, and definitely could relate to the monotony of life. Wish there had been more!

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### **Rebecca says**

I loved this little novella. It was short and sweet and open-ended, and it really reminded me of growing up in the 90's for some reason.

It's about a girl who comes home from a crap day at work to find that the faeries are there to collect her. She was switched with a human baby at birth, which explains a lot.

Just when I was really getting into it, the story was over! I didn't expect that because I was only halfway through the book, but the second half of the book is excerpts from some of the author's other work.

I will definitely be checking out more writing from this author. A few pages into the excerpts I was hooked on her storytelling style!

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### **Magiccats says**

This is a delightful little story about Abigail, who in an attempt to escape from a life of depressing predictability, as most of us lead, reaches within her imagination for both a novel experience and to revel in the beauty and joy of life

The author comes across as well educated. By using magical beings and descriptive imagery she enables the reader to experience the beauty, sadly overlooked, in the simple things of life.

The description of the soap bubbles made by an ordinary wand presents an image of a magical world full of colors and sensations. The author enables the reader to reflect that sometimes we just need to pause and contemplate as there is a wealth of beauty and joy to be had in the ordinary things in life.

Although I found this story delightful, I disliked the constant use of the first person in the story as it impeded the natural flow .

I obtained this short story free of charge from the author for an honest review.

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### **Pam says**

What the Faeries Left Behind is by Amber Michelle Cook. It is a science fiction concerning faeries. I wasn't sure if I would like it; but I really did. It is a cute story and one which would make a great longer book. Abigail Louise Wingate has always felt she didn't belong anywhere. She doesn't see the world like others do. This evening as she is relaxing in her house, she gets a phone call from someone who says they are outside her house. She peeks out the window and then opens the door and allows the person to come in. This is against all the rules for a single woman living in the city by herself. However, Abigail doesn't think twice about it because the "person" had translucent wings half the length of her body. Abigail thinks this is so cool. She has always wanted something extraordinary to happen to her.

The "person" tells her that she is actually a faerie child who was left on Earth. They had planned to come get her much earlier but things happened and they were not able to. Now it is time for Abigail to come home with her. Abigail is more than willing to do so. After grabbing a few vital belongings, Abigail leaves with the "person".

What adventures will she have with this 'person'? What will she learn to do? That is, if she is finally able to leave.

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### **Jan farnworth says**

I thoroughly enjoyed this story i wanted it to keep going and was disappointed to find their was not more to the story. I loved the description of the fairy and the whole park scene with the bubbles was delightful. Quick and sweet.

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