



Summer with the Country Village Vet

Zara Stoneley

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When Lucy Jacobs is made redundant from her inner-city teaching job she fears her career is over. Teaching is all Lucy knows and she's determined to get back in the classroom as fast as she can.

Except the only job on offer is at an idyllic village school in the middle of nowhere – Lucy's idea of hell. Where are the disadvantaged kids who need saving, where is the challenge?

But as Lucy finds herself welcomed into the warm-hearted community of Langtry Meadows, she begins to realise new challenges await – like frogs in the classroom, a rather difficult donkey, and a very brooding local vet...

Local boy Charlie Davenport has his own issues about living in the close-knit village of Langtry Meadows. His private life is already fuel for the well-meaning gossips and the very last thing he needs is to get close to the new school teacher...no matter how lovely she is.

But as summer days drift away Langtry Meadows weaves its magic, Charlie and Lucy both get the chance to turn over a new leaf and start anew...maybe with each other?

Summer with the Country Village Vet Details

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Love says

The Cover

I love the cover, it's bright and inviting. It really stands out and if I saw it on the shelf I would pick it up.

My Thoughts

So my preconceived notion that the book would a quick easy enjoyable read, was incorrect. Yes, it was enjoyable but it wasn't the quick read I expected, in fact, it was so good I didn't want it to end. I loved the country village of Langtry Meadow, I would move there tomorrow.

The book although light-hearted at times with an array of jovial animals and adventures actually covers some deep rooted issues. Zara Stoneley, has a marvellous way of weaving a story. In the Summer with a Country Village Vet, we learn about Lucy and Charlie and their fight to battle life's troubles and the past, that continue to haunt them. Will they succeed? You will have to pick up a copy of the book to find out.

To summarise my review, I would start by saying I would recommend this book to my friends and family. I enjoyed the writing style and I wouldn't hesitate to pick up another novel by Zara Stoneley. The only thing I didn't love, was the title. It didn't speak to me and I felt the book had so much more than the title makes you expect. But that's just a personal feeling. The book takes you on a varied path of mixed emotions. One minute I was laughing out loud the next a trickle of tears rolled down my face. Everything you could possibly want from a book. A story with a beautiful core. I am hoping there will be a sequel. I definitely want to visit Langtry Meadow again and again.

Petra "Pippa" Q says

Summer with the Country Village Vet is yet another serious contender for my book of the year 2017! What a zingy, romantic and fabulously heartwarming book and on top of it the story is wrapped up in a very hard to miss (vibrant cover).

Lucy Jacobs is my kind of girl. She is a devoted teacher, loves her profession, supports her pupils, and she is also super enchanted (yes I picked this word to described a leading character). Everybody loves Lucy! So when Lucy loses her dream job, she doesn't hesitate to contact an agency to find her another teacher post. When a temporary job in a village called Langtry Meadows comes available, Lucy grabs the chance to earn a living and explore the idyllic country village.

But she certainly did not bargain for finding much more than a teacher position in Langtry Meadows! Lucy is a truly fabulous character who I bonded with from the first chapter, but there is much more to Lucy than what is show on the outside. Lucy has insecurities, and when she so seamlessly adapts her rural lifestyle, she suddenly finds herself thinking of the past and her rather confused and lonely childhood.

Luckily for Lucy, she finds herself surrounded by a very friendly, charming and VERY tight-knit community

who are there to guide Lucy through some uncertain times as well as some fun times.

The whole theme of the book is just so heartwarming and with characters that are so easily to fall in love with and you can help but feel like a huge part of Langtry Meadow community. There is the grumpy/delectable young vet with a secret, and there is a group of friends that make Lucy experience some long deserve fun times (at the local pub). And as per usual with every village comes one busybody/nows it all residence who keeps secrets and loves to steer people in the right directions - in the case of Summer with the Country Village Vet is the stylish Elsie Harrington and the procession of adorable animals also add a humourous side to the storyline.

?

Zara Stoneley is an author who creates captivating books set in picturesque locations that are splashed with buckets of romance and charming characters that you can hep but root for. My ultimate summer read!

Nicola says

2.5 stars.

This is the first book I've read by Zara Stoneley and everything about it sounded right up my street: the idyllic village setting, the brooding vet, the city-girl out of her comfort zone, close-knit community and romance.

"...being here was a temporary fix for both of them. They'd both be moving on soon, so what was the harm?

I can't really put this any other way, I found this particularly steady going. I really don't mind a slow burn romance but if that's the path an author takes, the couple need to hold me captive by other means and sadly, despite hoping, that never really materialised. What kept this going for me was the secondary characters who brought some humour, and whose love lives I found myself more invested in than the couple in question.

"I meant just taking it slow, getting to know each other, you know, seeing how it goes."

I think much of this boils down to length—at over 300 pages a will-they-won't-they romantic dynamic can run out of steam and this was the case here, affecting my investment in Lucy and Charlie's plight. But, I am in the minority with my thoughts, so I'd definitely judge this one for yourself as this may well work better for you, it simply wasn't for me, although based on my like of the secondary characters and the potential, I wouldn't rule out reading their stories.

Copy received courtesy of HarperImpulse for an honest and unbiased opinion.

Catherine says

Cute easy read.

booksofallkinds says

If you want an entertaining read full of captivating characters, a picture-perfect village community, hilarious antics, and a little romance thrown in for good measure, then **SUMMER WITH THE COUNTRY VILLAGE VET** by Zara Stoneley is a perfect choice.

Lucy Jacobs is stunned when she is laid off from her teaching job in the city. Ever since her tumultuous childhood, she has planned and controlled everything in her life to ensure that massive upheavals like this do not happen. With a mortgage to pay, Lucy takes a teaching job in the countryside of Langtry Meadows. While for some this would be the perfect setting to settle down and start a new chapter, this is not the case for Lucy who likes to lose herself among the hustle and bustle of city life. But it is not long before Lucy realises that Langtry Meadows has a lot to offer, including the devilishly handsome Charlie Davenport who also seems to be struggling with elements of his past. Who knows, maybe this city girl could become a country convert if she could just take a risk...

I really enjoyed all of the characters in this story, and am already eagerly anticipating my next visit to Langtry Meadows. The plot is well-paced throughout with plenty of laugh-out-loud moments along the way. **SUMMER WITH THE COUNTRY VILLAGE VET** by Zara Stoneley is the perfect summer read and I highly recommend it.

*I voluntarily reviewed this book from Netgalley.com

Jane Linfoot says

I love Zara Stoneley's books. When I read her last series I was desperate to move to Tippermere, but after reading this story, Langtry Meadows has gone straight to the top of my Rightmove searches. If you're looking for idyllic village settings, this book literally makes you feel like you're there – think cosy cottages, characterful pubs, village greens, wildflower meadows. There's a fabulously colourful cast, a lovely heroine, and a leading guy who's hunky enough to make you want to ditch your Hunters and run barefoot across a field to grab him. The pacy storyline means you can't put it down, but what takes this book to another level are the animals. There are a huge variety, some definite show stealers, but best of all the detail is truly authentic. This book is warm and funny, bursting with charm and romance. And so evocative you can practically smell the Barbour jackets. For anyone who loves animals and the countryside, you won't find a better summer read. Best of all, it's a series. I can't wait for the next visit to my new favourite place.

Christie Barlow says

If it's a cosy heart-warming read set in a picturesque location, sprinkled with oodles of charm then Summer with the Country Village Vet by Zara Stoneley is the perfect summer read for you.

When Lucy Jacobs is made redundant from her inner-city teaching job she fears her career is over. Teaching is all Lucy knows and she's determined to get back in the classroom as fast as she can.

Except the only job on offer is at an idyllic village school in the middle of nowhere – Lucy's idea of hell. Where are the disadvantaged kids who need saving, where is the challenge?

But as Lucy finds herself welcomed into the warm-hearted community of Langtry Meadows, she begins to realise new challenges await – like frogs in the classroom, a rather difficult donkey, and a very brooding local vet...

Local boy Charlie Davenport has his own issues about living in the close-knit village of Langtry Meadows. His private life is already fuel for the well-meaning gossips and the very last thing he needs is to get close to the new school teacher...no matter how lovely she is.

But as summer days drift away Langtry Meadows weaves its magic, Charlie and Lucy both get the chance to turn over a new leaf and start anew...maybe with each other?

I simply adored this book, Lucy was my type of girl, I bonded with her from the very first chapter but there was more to her character than meets the eye. In the classroom she was a confident teacher, adored the children but on the outside she was battling her own insecurities. As she adapts to village life, these insecurities begin to creep in when she suddenly finds herself questioning her own childhood, what really did happen in her past?

The whole of the book is so heart-warming, you can't help but fall in love with each character and feel part of the Langtry Meadow Community. This book had everything from the grumpy gorgeous local vet, the village busy body, Elsie Harrington who doesn't miss a trick and the parade of fabulous animals who provide that little extra humour to the story.

This book is not only animal magic but warm and wonderful, full of quirky characters and the perfect summer read all wrapped up in a stunning summery cover.

Agi says

There is a popular saying at the beginning of "Summer with the Country Village Vet": "Never work with children or animals". Well, I work with both, ha, so this here plus the fact that it is Zara Stoneley that has written this novel, made me feel sure that I am going to love it. This book really has it all - beautiful, idyllic setting, more than likeable characters, funny animals with their antics so realistically written, adorable children with their belly - aching banter and the wonderful atmosphere. This all written with this lovely, warm and inviting Zara Stoneley's writing style - it is already so recognizable, that I can bet if you were given this book not knowing the author, you'd guess it immediately.

I loved our main character Lucy's passion to her job - the same as Charlie's, to be honest. They were the right people in the right places. Lucy, just like most of Zara Stoneley's heroines, was just my kind of a girl. She was a great teacher, she loved her job and she thought about her students and not the bureaucracy. She was clever, witty but she had her own demons and skeletons in the closet and this all made her character so beautifully complex and adorable. There is this brilliantly interwoven subplot of Lucy's childhood, so we get a chance to learn where all her insecurities are coming from - I really liked that she finally started to ask questions. However, she didn't let the insecurities to overwhelm her and on the outside she was a sunny, lovely girl that everybody loved and nobody could say "no" to her. Really. You'll see for yourself when you read the book.

And let's not forget Charlie, the moody and broody village vet. Oh my, he was GREAT! I've no idea how Zara Stoneley does it but with every new book her male characters are even more gorgeous, with a swoon -

factor. Absolutely devoted to his job and also with past demons that suddenly start to surface... To be honest, there were moments that I wanted to bang his head on the wall, not too much of course, but that he stopped brooding and behaving the way he behaved towards Lucy because he made her feel so confused, and better don't mess with me when you confuse Lucy, because Lucy is too nice to be messed with. So there. But apart from that Charlie was perfect, guys, but not perfect in this boring way, no, he was adorable, gorgeous and had a distance to himself and all the pets' female owners.

I also adored the banter between Lucy and Charlie and the way they were around each other - it was so, so realistic! The will they/won't they was brilliantly solved, you really couldn't be sure what's going to happen, as there were so many obstacles in their way, and even though there were moments that I SO wanted to bang their heads together, especially Charlie's, I still could fully understand their reluctance and uncertainty.

But not only the main characters were brilliant, Zara Stoneley writes them all so well. The whole Langtry Meadow community, starting with the school staff, the nurse in Charlie's surgery, the village busy body, knowing all and everything Elsie Harrington - they were all larger than life, warm, quirky and so true and genuine.

There wouldn't be Zara Stoneley's book without some gorgeous, mischievous animals. Next to newts we have all the animals that Charlie looks after in his surgery (the chihuahua. The chihuahua!) and also the bunch Lucy is baby - sitting. I absolutely loved the fact that each and every one animal that Lucy was baby - sitting was given a scene or two. We have Gertie the Goose who is very attached to very pink wellies, we have a pony Mischief, a pig that likes to be taken on walks, and many, many others. Again, they were written with so much heart and understanding, it was a real joy to read about them. Those animals have more than once stolen the show, really, but this all had such an authentic feeling to it. As much as they say "never work with children or animals", we could advice some authors please don't write about animals and children because it's not as easy as we could think, but Zara Stoneley has mastered it, and both animals and children feel so authentic and genuine in this book.

I absolutely liked that everything was so neatly wrapped up in the end, that all things were explained, that Lucy had this huge talk with her mum and that she started to feel better after that. It was a fast - paced story and there was all the time something happening and I more than often found myself thinking, only one page more, and then, hours later, realised it's time to bring the little one to bed.

I love all Zara Stoneley's books, she really can do no wrong and I hope she'll keep them coming and coming. There is always such a feel - good factor to them all, they so effortlessly transport you to the fiction world of the characters' and you immediately want to move to the place where the book is set. It was the same with Langtry Meadows - I immediately fell in love with this place, with all the villagers and the author has so easily brought this place to life - with May Pole dancing, with the pub and cosy cottages, village greens and the cosy school. "Summer with the Country Village Vet" was so heart - warming and it was so easy to fall in love with the place and all the characters. I loved all the challenges they were facing, some of them very normal ones, such as what kind of animal are the children going to bring in their pockets to school, or more difficult ones, such like coming to terms with a difficult past, finding peace and letting the demons go. I had no problems to immediately feel a part of the Langtry Meadow community, they were all so easy to fall in love with. This story was a real breath of fresh air, it was as colourful as cover of this book but with a depth and some emotional moments.

But what is best is that this book is the first one in the series! I can't wait to visit Langtry Meadows again as soon as possible!

Copy provided by the publisher in return for an honest review.

Monica Mac says

Oh my goodness, what a lovely book :)

It has been a while since a romantic story has swept me away like this one has, I just loved the story of Lucy and her handsome beau. However, it wasn't just the romance of the two main characters which made me enjoy this story, it was the whole package. This story had a lot of depth, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

This book has all the charm you can imagine - a book set in a country village with a bunch of country kids doing what they do best, nosy but caring villagers, lots of animals of different species doing what they do and of course there is romance in the air, for several of the characters.

I, quite frankly, didn't want this book to end and I am very happy that this was only the first book in a series of books. Can't wait to read the next one :)

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book. Thank you to THE Book Club.

Sharon Mckinlay says

Lovely heartwarming story. Loved all the characters & can't wait to read the next book in the series.

Kelly says

The title of this book caught my attention as who doesn't love a good Summer based read about a nice little village.

This book has bought many a smile whilst reading it and I got to the point where I couldn't put it down.

The story is set in a lovely village where everyone knows each other, the descriptions are brilliant and the book jumps off the page as you keep reading. I was disappointed to reach the end as I really enjoyed the book and characters from beginning to end.

Would love to see a follow on from this book as it ended too quickly.

Michelle says

I absolutely loved this book – a perfect Bank Holiday read where you can sit back, relax and imagine you are in the idyllic village of Langtry Meadows.

Lucy Jacobs is made redundant from her inner-city primary school teaching role and, after only just buying her dream house, she is desperate to find another teaching job. Unfortunately for her the only job on offer is

a supply teaching cover role in the middle of nowhere.

All of the characters in the book are likeable – especially Lucy and the local vet who also happens to be working in the village on a temporary assignment.

A fun story (I found myself laughing out loud quite a bit) with plenty of romance and a charming country village full of nosy, gossipy busy-bodies.

I have never read any of Zara Stoneley's previous books so will certainly be checking them out and adding them to my ever increasing “to be read” pile.

Thanks Netgalley and HarperImpulse for supplying me with a copy of the book ahead of publication in exchange for an honest review. I definitely rate this book 5 stars.

Jackie Roche says

I would like to thank TBC for giving me the opportunity to read this which I voluntarily reviewed. Anyone who knows me will be aware that this is not my usual genre, but I felt in need of something lighter than my usual diet of blood and murder.

This was absolutely perfect. There were characters I could relate to, particularly Lucy as I used to be a teacher. The setting was idyllic. Throw in a few animals and you've got the ideal summer read.

I will certainly be reading more by this author.

Mandy Baggot says

Another FANTASTIC read from Zara Stoneley. I want to move to Langtry Meadows right now! This is the perfect summer read that will have you wanting to up-sticks and find your own country idyll and gorgeous Charlie. Highly recommended!

Jo says

A lovely light and humourous read - perfect for a holiday read. A great cast of characters - some larger than life. Mix in some cute little schoolchildren and some cuter animals and this author has got a winner. Can't wait to read more in this series. Thank you to the author and TBC for the chance to read this title.
