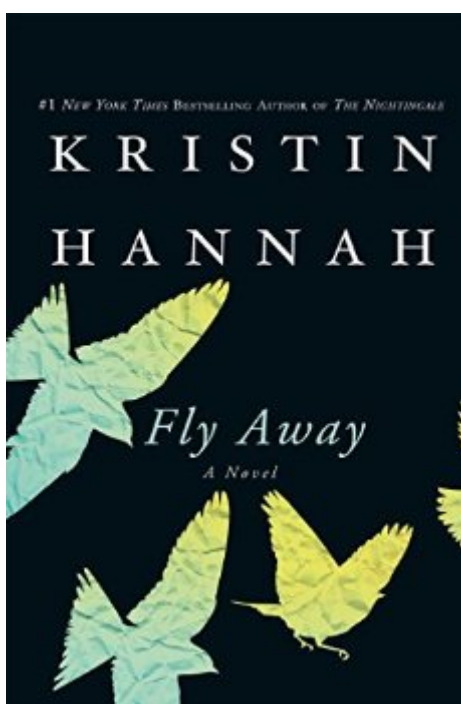


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# Fly Away



## Synopsis

Once, a long time ago, I walked down a night-darkened road called Firefly Lane, all alone, on the worst night of my life, and I found a kindred spirit. That was our beginning. More than thirty years ago. Tully and Kate. You and me against the world. Best friends forever. But stories end, don't they? You lose the people you love and you have to find a way to go on. . . . Tully Hart has always been larger than life, a woman fueled by big dreams and driven by memories of a painful past. She thinks she can overcome anything until her best friend, Kate Ryan, dies. Tully tries to fulfill her deathbed promise to Kate---to be there for Kate's children---but Tully knows nothing about family or motherhood or taking care of people. Sixteen-year-old Marah Ryan is devastated by her mother's death. Her father, Johnny, strives to hold the family together, but even with his best efforts, Marah becomes unreachable in her grief. Nothing and no one seems to matter to her . . . until she falls in love with a young man who makes her smile again and leads her into his dangerous, shadowy world. Dorothy Hart---the woman who once called herself Cloud---is at the center of Tully's tragic past. She repeatedly abandoned her daughter, Tully, as a child, but now she comes back, drawn to her daughter's side at a time when Tully is most alone. At long last, Dorothy must face her darkest fear: Only by revealing the ugly secrets of her past can she hope to become the mother her daughter needs. A single, tragic choice and a middle-of-the-night phone call will bring these women together and set them on a poignant, powerful journey of redemption. Each has lost her way, and they will need each one another---and maybe a miracle---to transform their lives. An emotionally complex, heart-wrenching novel about love, motherhood, loss, and new beginnings, *Fly Away* reminds us that where there is life, there is hope, and where there is love, there is forgiveness. Told with her trademark powerful storytelling and illuminating prose, Kristin Hannah reveals why she is one of the most beloved writers of our day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The Good: Flawlessly written, Kristin Hannah delivers another emotional roller coaster! I loved *Firefly Lane* and the story of Tully and Kate and was thrilled to see a follow up which further develops Tully's story. The character development (which I feel is Hannah's best talent) shines yet again in *Fly Away*. Hannah's characters are sooo real – their stories may not be fun but they are 100% believable and relatable! I was immediately drawn in to Tully's back story and wanted to know more. By the last quarter of this book I just could not put it down – I knew that something good was coming and it couldn't get there fast enough for me!) *Fly Away* as with many of Kristin Hannah's books really makes one think -Life and people's actions are not so black and white as they may seem. One never knows what true motivations and reasons people have for what they do and say. That cover!!! Need I say more!

The Not So Good: So full of angst and heartache, the first two thirds of this novel are gut wrenching, but if you can make it through – it is more than worth it.

Final Thoughts: Kristin Hannah knocks another one out of the park with this intensely emotional follow up to *Firefly Lane*. For those who love Hannah and don't mind a lot of intense drama and pain to get to the HEA, this is a must read. NOTE: Review Copy received from Publisher. All thoughts my own

I love the *Firefly Lane* book but thought this one was one of, if not the top, most depressing book I have ever read. Nothing but down, down, down. Depression, panic attacks and terrible abuse of both physical and mental to the mother. I can think of nothing to redeem this book. It was pathetic.

This is without a doubt the most depressing book I have ever read. Kristin Hannah seems to enjoy wallowing in the angst and horror of life, even in some of her earlier books. This book was joyless, without redemption, lame and not one of the characters was worth a crap, including Katie, the

person who died in the previous book "Firefly Lane". Just like the other reviewers said, the books jumped around and started with the main character, Tully, getting in an accident and having a near death experience throughout the ENTIRE BOOK. Tully and Katie with an afterlife is painful to say the least. There is certainly no comfort to be had, and the book jumps around to all of the characters describing what happened to them after Katie's death. Drugs, booze, extremely disturbed characters, and the only ones not self-absorbed and jerky were the twin boys of Katie and her mother and father. Other than that the rest were worse than worthless. Hannah likes to make a living writing books about female relationships, but this has to be the one with the least to connect you to anyone. The previous book, "Firefly Lane" was great until she dropped cancer on one of the main characters at the very end of the book....and I do mean the end! I was hoping that, after the crash of that book, she would pull something personal and uplifting for this sequel. Nope, way worse than the other book. I suspect all of this makes up the psyche of the writer. One of the first books I read of hers was "Angel Falls". It was uplifting and a little strange which is why I loved it. I've read several of her other books, but they all suffer from too much suffering!!!! I will not read another book of hers nor will I recommend her to others.

I am finishing this book because I bought it. I wish I had gotten it from the library instead. It is a very depressing book. So far I have read 200 pages of people with mixed up lives that don't seem to have any concept of life in a world with other people. This is the worst book I have read by Kristin Hannah and I have read most of hers. I will certainly think twice before buying the next one.

This is not a happy story. This sequel to Firefly Lane, which ended with Kate's death from cancer, relates emotionally and realistically how Kate's best friend Tully and Kate's extended family slog through their grief and self-criticism after her death. While largely presented from Tully's point of view, segments included offer background information about individual family members that form a backdrop for their reactions. Kate made Tully promise on her death to be there for Kate's family after she is gone. Kate's love and bright personality was the glue that held the Ryan family together. Her husband Johnny, twin boys Lucas and Wills, and sixteen year old daughter Marah will need Tully's presence and support. But Tully is too devastated herself to help them. Marah is so steeped in grief she retreats into herself, and her father reacts with anger rather than love. Each has regrets about somehow failing Kate; in their case it makes helping each other impossible. Hannah has a knack for writing about strained relationships. It would take a very cold person not to become emotionally involved with her characters. Many readers will recognize our tendency to blame

ourselves we think we have done wrong. We feel responsible even for things that are out of control. Taking this responsibility often leads to poor choices; thereby reinforcing one's self-blame - as it does here. This book is very well done; well written, with realistic characters. It may even make us think about our relationships and how to strengthen (or repair) them. Once I started Fly Away, it was hard to put down.

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