



Synopsis & A Little More Detail...

When the woman you love is ripped from your life without warning, how do you pick up the pieces if you think it's all your fault?

Chris Darcy is a mountaineer on a mission to scale the world's summits, but when his world is shattered on a climbing trip with his fiancée Daisy, he is crippled by guilt, and dealing with demons that have plagued him all his life. Bereft and broken, he goes back to Teapot Cottage, where he'd been once before, with Daisy.

Tezzie Bostock is finally home from travelling. She is reeling from a badly broken heart and reluctantly drifting towards a career she doesn't want. When epiphany strikes, she decides to do something different. She knows she has to regain her self-esteem to make it happen, but she doesn't know where to start.

As Chris and Tezzie's lives intersect, they realize they've met before. Reeling from heartbreak of different kinds, they forge a solid friendship, and form an alliance that helps to push them both forward, towards an exciting future.

But even as they find themselves edging towards romance, Tezzie has plans to be somewhere else, where her own life will be at risk. Can Chris even contemplate losing another love? Can Tezzie make a compromise that can still let her have her chosen career?

Or is it all too much of a challenge for two lost souls who seem to want different things?

Come and spend some quiet time in a little house of healing in the Lake District, where lives get reinvented, with the help of a little bit of magic!

This novel, the 6th in the Teapot Cottage series, is essentially about two young people who are dealing with different kinds of heartbreak, and trying to find a way forward. When they meet unexpectedly, at Teapot Cottage, they realise they have met once before, in a different place, under very different circumstances.

They are both struggling, in their own way, to redefine their futures. They form a friendship that enables them to support one another to make choices that they are too afraid to make alone. Teresa Bostock (Tezzie) is Adie Raven's daughter from her previous marriage, and readers who are already familiar with the series will already know a little of her – but not much. She quickly becomes a central character in *The Choice Between Safe and Brave*, as she tries to figure out her future, but she finds herself having to cope with a lot of backlash and negative judgement from a few surprising places, in the process. Chris Darcy is dealing with demons of a different kind, both from childhood, and from a more recent tragedy for which he blames himself. He struggles to find the courage to put everything into its true perspective, and forgive himself and the people who have hurt him, and move on.

As usual, in the Teapot Cottage series, the town's much-loved and endlessly wise matriarchs offer guidance and support, and through their observations and wisdom, the pathways and their consequences become clearer for Tezzie and Chris. One of those matriarchs is Miranda Quirk – Adie's best friend – who readers of the series will also know a little about already, and she also has a chance to make a big, brave decision about something that has scared her all her life. Just like Teresa, Miranda comes to life in this novel in a stronger way than she has in previous ones too, and she must also make the choice between living a 'safe' life or a 'brave' one.

As ever, nestled within the storylines are themes that address many issues that are relevant in society today. The subjects of misogyny, voluntary childlessness, controversial careers, battles against family influences, and the struggle to remain true to the self while trying to do the 'right thing' for others, are all covered in this novel. We also see Teresa's father struggling with the consequences of his own folly, and Adie remembering a time when misogyny cast a big shadow over her life. Interwoven, throughout the story, are the small things; the gentle words, the random little acts of kindness, the hospitality, and the offers of friendship and support that make the people of Torley Town extra special.

And let's not forget the absolute joy and specialness of Teapot Cottage itself, and its wonderful way of healing the people who stay in it, from grief, trauma, indecision and despair. As usual, everyone ends up in a much better place than they were in the beginning, and where they end up is surprising, even to themselves.

Again, the cottage has worked its magic on people who didn't even know they needed it.

Stories of Hope and Healing –
"With the Help of a Little Bit of Magic!"

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