



# Butternut Summer

*Mary McNear*

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## **Butternut Summer** Mary McNear

Return to the golden beauty of Minnesota's Butternut Lake in this emotional story that vividly captures the joy and pain of first love, as a mother and daughter each come to terms with the desires of her heart.

*Summer at Butternut Lake—a season full of surprises . . . and life-changing choices.*

Preparing for her final year of college, Daisy is crazy busy now that she's back at Butternut Lake. She's helping her mother, Caroline, run their coffee shop and trying to build a relationship with the absentee father who's suddenly reappeared. She never expected to fall in love with Will, the bad-boy from high school who works at the local garage. With every passing day she and Will grow closer to each other . . . and closer to the day they will have to say goodbye. As summer's end looms, Will and Daisy face heartbreaking choices that might tear them apart.

Caroline already has her hands full trying to make ends meet at the coffee shop without having her no-good ex suddenly show up. Now that Jack is back, he's determined to reconnect with the family he walked out on twenty years ago. But with the bank pounding on her door and Jack's presence reminding her of the passion they once shared, Caroline's resolve begins to crumble. As Daisy's departure looms and her financial worries grow, Caroline just may discover the support she needs . . . in the last place she ever imagined.

## **Butternut Summer Details**

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Author : Mary McNear

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# From Reader Review *Butternut Summer* for online ebook

## Alice Bola says

*Butternut Summer* is the much awaited second installment of Mary McNear's *Butternut Series*. I am so glad it is finally here because I really enjoyed *Up At Butternut Lake*. Truth be told, *Butternut Summer* had some pretty big shoes to fill and although I didn't think it was possible for the series to get better, Ms. McNear definitely delivers. Thankfully, there was no sophomore slump here.

*Butternut Summer* delivers two tremendous stories. We were introduced to Caroline in the first novel. As the owner of Pearl's, the best diner in town, Caroline is the mother hen of *Butternut Lake*. She's the one you can always rely on and everyone's confidant. I'm so happy Ms. McNear gave Caroline another chance at love and romance in this novel. Daisy, Caroline's daughter, is home from college for the summer and she is ready for some adventures of her own.

Both Daisy's and Caroline's arcs were engaging. I was wonderful reading about a 21 year old's first go at love. I loved that Daisy has her mother's moxie. She's level headed and wise. She trusts her judgement and understands exactly who she is. She's not afraid to take chances. There is so much possibility for Daisy in the future. Caroline's story was an amazing read as well. She was one of my favorite character's in *Up at Butternut Lake*. I'm so glad she gets her own novel where I can watch her be the star of her life, instead of a supporting role in everyone else's.

This time Ms. McNear handled the issue of alcohol and gambling addiction with such grace. Jack was a wonderful character, a man with too many flaws to count. The best part about him was he knows he's flawed and that knowledge makes him so tangible and human. There's just something about a man named Jack and this one was no exception. As the woman Jack betrayed all those years ago, Caroline is hesitant to trust and forgive him. She stayed true to her character. It was incredible to read.

Mary McNear is quickly becoming one of my favorite authors. In the first two novels in this series, she took real life situations and incorporated them in such ways that the characters who faced them handled them in realistic ways. It was authentic and it makes reading her novels a true joy.

I was expecting Allie and Jax to have much bigger supporting roles in this novel, but Ms. McNear kept their involvement at a minimum. Nearly every page was focused on Daisy and Caroline. It was a great idea to do that. I can't wait for the final installment in this series. I can't imagine it getting any better than this.

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## Andrea says

I am such a fan of Mary McNear's *Butternut Lake Trilogy*. Book one, *Up at Butternut Lake*, was a big, rich story, focusing mostly on Allie and Walker, both reluctant to take another chance on love. Allie had great support in her friends Caroline and Jax. Knowing Caroline was getting her own book made me so happy. The fact her daughter Daisy was to be heavily featured made it all the more appealing. *Butternut Summer* is a romance two-fer. I'm not sure if I've read a novel with both a mother and daughter falling in love, but as long as it's not my family, I'm cool with it.

In book one, we learn that Caroline's husband Jack left her twenty years before, when their daughter Daisy

was only a toddler. The marriage was not a happy one, and though it left her lonely and reluctant, Caroline has been happy raising Daisy and running her family-owned cafe. Knowing Jack left, and knowing how he acted before he left, drinking, gambling, womanizing, it seems pretty obvious that Jack was an awful man and doesn't deserve his family back. When Jack shows back up in Butternut Lake, Caroline is obviously skeptical, as was I. With Jack's point-of-view being featured as well, we get a good feel for his character now, his sorrow at all he lost, and his determination moving forward. It helps that Jack never excuses his past behavior, but simply offers his reasons. This gives us the ultimate second chance romance. I loved it.

Now for Daisy. Here's where the story gets even more interesting. Daisy Keegan is falling in love for the first time. Will is not the kind of guy Daisy imagined being with, and he's her mother's biggest fear. Will had a troubled childhood and wasn't much better as a teen. He's drifting, a bit of a womanizer. He has no direction, until Daisy. Caroline looks at Will and sees a young Jack, Daisy looks at Will and sees the man she loves. I really liked that the author could make Will a sort of bad boy, but he wasn't sleazy or gross. He just didn't know how to be the right kind of guy for Daisy, had never been challenged before. But what Daisy knows and Caroline doesn't realize is, Will is not Jack. He is willing to do whatever it takes to be a man worth Daisy's love. Even if it's the hardest thing they'll ever face.

I loved that we get this multi-generation, parallel-ish storyline between mother and daughter. Caroline, being a single parent for so many years, was overbearing and too pushy when it came to Daisy, but I got why she acted the way she did. Given that Jack had abandoned his young family, he stepped into their lives with respect and even helped bridge the gaps between mother and daughter. Daisy and Will were simply a young couple falling in love, trying to do everything the right way, to build a relationship and eventually a life. I just reveled in all of the emotions present in Butternut Summer.

The ending of Butternut Summer was...quite different. It was open-ended, but had a settled feeling as well. I got a sense that one couple had firmly begun down their path towards forever, and that the other couple was just beginning on the right path. Though it wasn't wrapped up perfectly tight, I liked that the author gives the reader a push in the right direction. The feeling was unique.

Butternut Summer was a beautiful addition to the Butternut Lake Trilogy.

### **Favorite Quote**

*"Are you in the habit, Daisy, of finding the world more interesting than it actually is?"*

*"But the world is interesting, Will," she said seriously. "Don't you think so?"*

*"I think you're interesting," he said. And, all at once, he realized he was exhausted. Talking, it turned out, took a lot of energy, and he and Daisy had just talked more in one evening than he and Christy had probably talked in the last six months.*

*So instead, he anchored his beer bottle in the sand beside him and did something he'd wanted to do since he'd first seen her again at the garage four days ago. He kissed her.*

*"What?" he said, look at her warily.*

*"Jack, I've asked you before not to smile that smile at me."*

*"You've asked me that. But I have no idea what you're talking about."*

*"You know exactly what I'm talking about."*

*"So I can't smile at you?"*

*"No, you can smile at me. You just can't smile that smile at me, that slow smile when you..." When you want something. Or someone.*

*"Okay, no slow smile," he said, his expression playful.*

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## **Andrea Guy says**

This is book two in the Butternut Lake Trilogy. If you are a fan of romances set in small towns, think Debbie Macomber and Robyn Carr, you will love these books.

In Butternut Summer we see the life and romances of a mother and daughter. We also get a cliffhanger ending that is making me wish for May of 2015, like right now!!!

But let's put that cliffhanger aside. (Well, I'll try) This book is about second chances and a bit of the old opposites attract as well as redemption.

I'm not sure which couple I liked the most. It was really interesting to see developing relationships for both the mother and the daughter. That doesn't happen that often in romance. I also loved revisiting the characters from the first book. I loved Allie and Jax, and of course, Walker and Wyatt.

This is a great read for those of us that need more than the blossom of first love as well as characters that feel like they could be part of your own neighborhood. (Well if you lived in a super cool town like Butternut). There were a lot of things that Caroline had to forgive and accept with Jack, and she had to deal with how she felt about her current beau, Buster.

Then there's Daisy and Will. Daisy is your All American Girl, smart, pretty and athletic. She's about to start her final year in college, when she meets a former bad boy, Will. Her goodness somehow makes Will care about where his life is going, and how he treats people.

I adored Will. At times their relationship felt a bit like a fairytale, because he changed so much so fast, but that didn't stop me from loving them.

But now for that ending....AH...let's just say the cliffhanger involves one of their relationships!

It is nice when the second book in the trilogy is as good as the first. Now I really really can't wait for book three, because of that ending!! ARGH! (I Argh in a good way)

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## **BJ says**

I read the first one in this series quite a while back and don't remember it that well, but I enjoyed this one. It is the story of a family finding their way back to each other and expanding to include new people. Jack and Caroline were married too young and had a child, Daisy. Jack left. Now Daisy is a beautiful, poised, 21-year-old who has allowed her father back into her life. She is soon to graduate from college and has her first serious boyfriend this summer, Will, who has not had a picture-perfect childhood and more or less raised himself. It is their story, but it is also Caroline and Jack's story as they find their back to first a friendship and

perhaps more. Enjoyable read.

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## **Kate Olson says**

Loved it just as much as book 1 in the series! I'm now moving onto the novella in between this book and book #3 called "Butternut Lake: The Night Before Christmas - so thankful to someone on Instagram who told me about that one :-)

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## **Arlena says**

Title: Butternut Summer  
Author: Mary McNear  
Publisher: William Morrow  
Series: The Butternut Lake Trilogy #2  
Reviewed By: Arlena Dean  
Rating: 4  
Review:

"Butternut Summer" by Mary McNear

### Book Description....

"Return to the golden beauty of Minnesota's Butternut Lake in this emotional story that vividly captures the joy and pain of first love, as a mother and daughter each come to terms with the desires of her heart.

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### What I liked about this novel....

I liked how this series is still in this small town of Butternut Lake, Minnesota where most of the town people know of each other as this author presents to the reader several well written stories. This story was a fast

paced read of mainly three people...

Caroline, owner of Pearls coffee shop, a very caring person, but she has some secrets of her own and is the need of help that she is trying to hide. Will she trust her ex who is now back in town trying to be in there life's?

Daisy, the daughter who was home for the summer from college, now twenty one years old struggling for her own identity, and she is in love with a 'former bad boy.' With all of this going on will she be able to get her parents back together after being apart for eighteen years?

Jack (ex husband)who has come back to this town bringing with him some real bad memories of the pass dealing with alcohol, gambling and cheating. Has he changed from his former life?

Put all this story together with some other secondary characters and you will see how each one has some flawed, sympathetic, very believable and some intriguing moments in how this author will solve and bring it all out in this authentic and entertaining story. There will be some sexual content that was presented very well.

I did find some of "Butternut Summer" a little straightforward and predictable as it reconnects some to the past to new beginnings. However, if you are looking for a engaging romantic read you have come to the right place that would lead me to recommend this novel to you.

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### **Melodie says**

First love and second chances are the primary focus in the second installment of the Butternut Lake trilogy. Caroline, the owner of the local diner and her daughter, Daisy share the romance spotlight. Caroline has done just fine raising her daughter and keeping the popular eatery afloat. When her ne'er do well ex-husband returns town, she is a strange combination of outraged and curious. Of course, she is going to have absolutely nothing to do with him and wastes no time in telling him so. Much to her chagrin, she finds that the good for nothing so and so has wrapped her Daisy right around his finger and she has to interact with him. And Daisy is worrying her to pieces, taking up with that boy from the garage! Daisy, home from college for the summer finds herself drawn to the good looking bad boy at the local garage. Passionate about cars, Will avoids serious involvement. And when Daisy rolls into the garage with car trouble, he figures no harm can come from an evening at the beach and a casual fling. This a great beach read. Whether reading as part of the trilogy or as a stand alone, the story will satisfy.

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### **Brenda says**

Although this is book 2 in the Butternut Lake Trilogy, it is a stand-alone read. This book takes place 3 years after the first one and the two main characters from the first one (Allie and Jax) make only a brief appearance in this one. The author does a better job of character development in this one, so I upped my rating from 3 stars to 4. I don't typically read many romances because too often romance=sex. This author tries to delineate the two with the way Will and Daisy each feel about their budding relationship. I'm still old-fashioned

enough to be bothered by premarital sex; so I should probably continue to avoid the romance genre. Although, I did read the brief excerpt of book 3 and am intrigued to find out who Mila is and what her story is in Moonlight on Butternut Lake.

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### **Ilaria says**

Le scelte della vita prosegue la storia raccontata nel precedente romanzo inserendo nuovi personaggi. Stavolta a essere protagoniste della vicenda sono Caroline e sua figlia Daisy. Caroline ha cresciuto Daisy da sola, ma l'improvviso ritorno dell'ex marito Jack, pentitosi di averla abbandonata, rimette in discussione tutto. Daisy è una ragazza posata, una figlia modello. Quando incontra Will, un ragazzo dal passato non proprio limpido e dall'animo ribelle, tutto cambia. Madre e figlia si ritroveranno a fare i conti con i loro sentimenti mentre un'altra estate trascorre tranquilla a Butternut...

Il secondo romanzo di questa trilogia segue la scia del precedente, raccontando una storia per certi versi molto simile e che sicuramente non brilla per originalità.

La storia di Caroline e Daisy è una storia di seconde opportunità e di nuovi inizi. La nuova opportunità che Caroline e Daisy concedono a Jack, ex marito che le ha abbandonate e che adesso è tornato a Butternut per cercare di fare ammenda, e l'opportunità che Daisy concede a Will, il ragazzo ribelle che ha sempre evitato e che adesso sta facendo breccia nel suo cuore.

La cosa che più mi infastidisce di questi romanzi è la solita prevedibilità con cui si sviluppa il racconto. I personaggi e la storia in sé sono praticamente identici a quelli del precedente romanzo. Non c'è nulla di nuovo in questa storia, tutto si svolge secondo schemi ben precisi e che di originale non hanno nulla.

La storia si sviluppa in maniera molto semplice, non ci sono svolte né colpi di scena, anzi tutto il romanzo si svolge in maniera piuttosto noiosa. I personaggi sono poco approfonditi, estremamente stereotipati e scialbi. Sicuramente non consiglieri la lettura di questa trilogia, a meno che non soffriate di insonnia e vi serva un libro che stimoli il sonno!

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### **Natasja Drost says**

Heerlijk feel good boek.

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### **Betty says**

Butternut Summer: A Novel (The Butternut Lake Trilogy)

By Mary McNear

Harper Collins

August 2014

Twenty-one year old Daisy Keegan is home for the summer before beginning her senior year at the University of Minnesota. Daisy works at Pearl's, her mother's café. When Daisy was three, her father, Jack, walked out on her and her mom, Caroline. Two years ago Jack contacted Daisy at school, and this past year Daisy agreed to meet with him. Jack has inherited a run-down shack and property from an old drinking buddy and it comes with a gorgeous view of clear, blue, Butternut Lake. With three years of Alcoholics



Anonymous and sobriety to his credit Jack knows he needs to come back home and make amends to Caroline. He doesn't think she will ever forgive him, but he hopes and prays that she will let him in her life in some small way. Rehabbing the shack he inherited keeps him away from temptation.

Daisy has caught the attention of Will Hughes, a twenty-three year old mechanic and a female magnet. Will doesn't expect much out of life. He was abandoned by his mother as an infant and left with a mean, non-caring father. He spent much of his youth at Jason Weber's home, whose mom just took Will under her wing. Will graduated from high school, but that is about it. Daisy agrees to go out with him, not knowing he expects to end the evening at the beach and in the back of his truck on a blanket. While she is tempted, she refuses to have sex with him. Will has never had a real date – movies, dinner, etc. – in his life; just the beach and blanket routine. Daisy agrees to teach him the fine art of dating, conversation, and so on. No one in Will's life has ever paid him much consideration, but before Daisy he really didn't care. Now, he wants to be worthy of her.

Caroline is conflicted. Nobody, other than the bank, knows that she will not be able to meet her second mortgage on time. Also, seeing Jack again makes her realize that she cannot continue dating Dusty, her beau for two years. And, Caroline does not approve of Daisy's involvement with Will.

Kudos and a standing ovation to Mary McNear for her second "Butternut" story, which is a beautiful, relationship narrative. Ms. McNear has created near perfect characters that are flawed and sympathetic and believable. Her prose is smooth and mesmerizing and her storylines are credible and skillfully woven together. On a scale of one to ten, Butternut Summer truly rates, in this reader's opinion, a fifteen.

Betty Cox, Staff Reader for ReaderToReader.com

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### **Anna says**

It's summer at Butternut Lake and love is in the air. Unknown to her mother, Caroline, Daisy has been meeting with her father, Jack, for the past year. Jack and Caroline divorced years ago due to Jack's cheating and drinking. Caroline has harbored a lot of resentment against Jack, but shielded Daisy from her anger. When Daisy invites her father to Pearl's, the dinner owned by Caroline for lunch, sparks fly. While driving to the fated lunch encounter, Daisy has trouble with her truck. When she stops to have it looked at, she runs into Will, the high school bad boy, Will. Will has harbored a secret crush on Daisy since high school. Is now his opportunity for a relationship? Caroline worries that Daisy is making the same mistake she did in falling in love with a "womanizer". Jack has come back to prove he has changed and to win back Caroline's heart. Can he? Is it true love for Daisy and Will and for Caroline and Jack, or just a summer fling? A sweet read. Looking forward to the next installment of Butternut Lake.

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### **Denise says**

So saccharine sweet it made my teeth ache and eye-rollingly trite. Anyone who knows me would be shocked by this review. I LOVE a nice story and sweet romances make me smile, so why did I dislike this book so much? There is a difference between sweetness and unrealistic naivete, between romance and just plain

stupidity. As a "for instance", a beautiful 21 year old virgin, while probably not falling out of the trees, I can buy into. Said virgen who is in college, has had a normal dating life, and yet has never felt anything sexual until her "hero" shows up (I mean seriously). Also, an alcoholic, gambling, cheating man who has left his wife and 3 year old daughter, and shows up 18 years later but is totally redeemed, the poor man just made a mistake and is now back to pick up where he left off, becomes father of the year and is an all around catch.....I am sorry but puuuullllleeeeeaaase!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Lastly, and this is not the writers fault, but listening to a "romance"/coming of age story being read with a Minnesotan accent is just a bit weird.

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### **Karyn Niedert says**

I was completely charmed by this sweet little story about romance and family set in small town Minnesota. Main character Caroline is keeping ex-husband Jack at arm's length after he returns to the area. After leaving her and their daughter Daisy 18 years ago, he doesn't stand a chance of squeezing back into her good graces.

At 21, Daisy is falling head over heels in love for the first time in her life. Is bad boy Will what she wants and needs, or is he going to break her heart?

This story wove all of the characters together perfectly without the "forcing the pieces together" feel that I sometimes have a hard time swallowing. All of the characters grow and learn throughout the book, and I enjoyed the arc of their development throughout the book.

Looking very forward to book #3 in the Butternut Lake series, "Moonlight on Butternut Lake".

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### **Cheri says**

Unlike the first book in this series, it took me no time at all to be invested in the characters in this book. Probably because I met most of them in book one, but I even fell in love with Will immediately.

Unfortunately, there was too much talk again. So, once again, my rating got bumped down from a 4 to a 3 star. Last time there was too much conversation between the characters that wasn't necessary (in my opinion). This time, there was WAY too much inner dialogue. It's a good thing Mary McNear weaves a good story and had me invested in these character's lives or I may have given up during one particularly long thought Caroline was having toward the middle of the book.

As for this story, it was heart-warming and rang true. I have found, in real life, that no matter how well behaved your child is there is still bound to be some rough patches. Although Caroline ticked me off in many ways in her handling of Daisy's relationship with Will, I loved seeing the dynamics change in that relationship the way they should. Moms tend to always think of their children as just that...children. It's often a struggle when we realize they are really adults!

Again, I will continue this series. For one, the next in the series is a Christmas novella that features all of my favorite characters and I'm a sucker for Christmas books. Also, I'm dying to see what happens with Frankie. He doesn't say much, but man do I love him. I just wish the author would take a cue from the way she writes Frankie and scale back the dialogue (inner and outer) of the other characters a bit.

