



## Last Kiss of Summer

*Marina Adair*

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**Last Kiss of Summer** Marina Adair  
**He's one bad apple she just can't resist . . .**

Kennedy Sinclair never dreamed she'd own a pie shop and an orchard in a small town like Destiny Bay. But nestled between the mountains and the Pacific Ocean, it's the perfect place to cross something off her "Life's short so eat the icing first" list and start her life over from scratch. Her shop, Sweetie Pies, is famous for its hot, flaky apple turnovers and sinfully delicious deep dish pie. For Kennedy though, nothing is more enticing than the tall, strapping slice of temptation who keeps coming back for more.

Luke Callahan is determined to make his hard cider business a success. With his beloved father's cider recipe and the opportunity of a lifetime in his grasp, he'll stop at nothing to get this deal done. There's just one catch: he needs Kennedy's apples. At first, he thinks it'll be as easy as pie to charm those apples right off her trees. But Kennedy isn't falling for his tender charms or his wicked ways. When the negotiations start heating up, so do the feelings they have for each other. And it takes just one kiss to seal the deal . . .

## Last Kiss of Summer Details

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## From Reader Review Last Kiss of Summer for online ebook

### CJ - It's only a Paper Moon says

Luke is just....kind of a jerk.

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### The Romance Book Disciple (Samantha) says

Link to full review below! Cute, sweet, and funny! Perfect for fans of Jill Shalvis! See full review on The Book Disciple

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### Cyndi Becker says

How is the Last Kiss of Summer my first read by Marina Adair? I'm so happy it's a mistake that's been rectified. Last Kiss of Summer is one of my favorite types of reads. One that left me feeling that warm blush of love and hope. In it Adair provides all the angsty emotion that I love, a bit of hurt feelings and lack of communications, with a sweet and rewarding path to absolution. But more importantly, it's a story one where two awesome characters work towards their *happy forever after*. This was one of those reads that I wasn't able to finish in one sitting (due to real life getting in the way) and where I felt giddy just anticipating when I could get back to it. There are so many reasons why...

I'll start with the fact that I LOVE Luke Callahan. When it comes to sweet, sexy and considerate leading men he's among the top. The man simply made me weak kneed with his gallant charm and easygoing nature. But that's not to say he doesn't pull some idiot moves and put our heroine, Kennedy, in some distress. The story line sets up a contention between these two that unfolds at a perfect pace and is most definitely what called to me. But it's Adair's ability to capture the essence of her characters that made me LOVE this book.

Luke's strengths are also his weaknesses. He's hardworking and loyal and really has a heart of gold. What motivates him is family and when Kennedy moves to Destiny Bay, she's clearly an outsider. She also holds what Luke wants and he sets out to annoyingly charm it out of her. But he can't deny his attraction to her which creates an unusual emotion for Luke. If he gets what he thinks he wants, he'll end up on the losing end. Much of story is of Luke cycling through his emotions for Kennedy and the conflict he creates.

Kennedy is one of those heroines that I couldn't want to see happy soon enough. She has just enough sass and self-respect to take the necessary risks in order to change her situation; one that led her to Destiny Bay and the owner of the sweetest little pie shop. But at times my heart bled for Kennedy. She's been let down and there's this niggling little thought that she's not loveable and with her history, one that Adair paints so perfectly, that it's easy to see why. While she wonders if she's unworthy she doesn't wallow in pity and she's not a push-over. I love that Adair gives Kennedy a backbone. Luke may be an exception, he may come through for her, and Destiny Bay may in fact be her destiny, but there will very likely be some additional heartache along the way.

*"Luke had a way about him, a quiet confidence that set people at ease. Allowed them to hand over their problems and worry without hesitation. She'd seen it before around town, with his family. Now that she was*

*experiencing it firsthand, that same fierce capability directed at her, she wanted to let her worries go.”*

Luke and Kennedy have a steamy chemistry making this one sexy read. The tension between them is palpable so when the flirting heats up you'll feel it. Luke will simply make you swoon:

*“The man knew how to pull off the morning after with as much swagger as the night before.”*

I have so many highlights I want to share, but I think this book is just one every romance reader should consider. If you haven't read Marina Adair, start here. And if you have read her, *Last Kiss of Summer* is not one to miss. 5 #Sweetness stars and recommendation

**If you are in the US, do yourself a favor and make this your last beach read of 2016!**

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## Sunny says

ARC Review

Originally reviewed at Scandalicious Book Reviews.

Marina Adair's books are easy to read. They are the perfect prescription if you need a “feel-good” read. *Last Kiss of Summer* is book one in her new Destiny Bay series. This story, like the recipes within, is perfectly balanced with a blend of sweet and the right amount of tart. Interestingly, this is my third food related romance of the season and my second featuring a hard cider theme. This one stands out as a sassy mixture of farming goodness and with an endearing romance.

Kennedy Sinclair is a talented pastry chef who lives life conservatively and on the defense. Having been abandoned by her mother, she is afraid to put herself out there to be disappointed herself or to disappoint others. She mistakes stability as security:

She'd been trying to find a safe harbor in an unpredictable childhood, which left her a little uptight. Okay, she was obsessed with organization and order, but now that she had a secure future ahead of her, a stable man by her side, it was time to push the comfort of their relationship....

However, her best-laid plans fall apart after finding her fiancé having an affair with their South American dance instructor. Kennedy is already battling overwhelming insecurity. Her mother never made her a priority and eventually left her with her grandmother to follow yet another man out of state. Normally, a heroine with low esteem would start to grate on me, but the way the author portrays Kennedy, you cannot help but root for her success.

Hoping to start with a clean slate, Kennedy ends up in Destiny Bay, Washington, a little town in the southern part of the state. She is now the owner of Sweetie Pies, home of the 15-time Gold Tin winner for the best apple pie in the nation. Taking over for baking legends and home town heroes might be intimidating to some, but Kennedy is gambling on making this bakery and town her home.

Take the lumbersexual man and make him an apple farmer and you have Mr. Luke Callahan. Luke takes over the family farm after his father dies. He is an educated businessman with a hero complex and though driven to make some hard choices, he is still one of the good guys. He feels the pressure to cement his father's legacy. Unfortunately, although he is placed in an untenable situation that will threaten his budding

relationship with Kennedy. Admittedly, there is a “oh, no, he didn’t” moment, but as expected, they work out their differences with a beautiful ending and Happily Ever After.

I have read several of Marina Adair’s series and I love her small town settings. Her secondary characters are adorable with a quirkiness that makes them memorable. I also enjoy Ms. Adair’s writing. Whether it is giving downhome advice like, “Maybe this was God’s way of saying you need to let go of the future you planned and take some time to taste the icing”, or her reference to Saturday morning PSA of a certain age, “Knowledge is power!”, I love the way she turns a phrase.

I also like Luke’s voice. He knows how to articulate his interests for Kennedy: “She had a toughness that was impressive, a vibrancy that was exciting, and a warm smile that drew him in.” This perfectly describes the many dimensions of Kennedy.

Food, specifically pies, plays an enormous role in this narrative. The Apple Harvest Citrus Pie is described as “[m]ade from Bay View Orchards crispin apples the pie had a heavier crust cut from more butter than shortening, and scented with a variety of seasonal citrus, adding a zest of freshness to the rich, syrupy cinnamon filling. It was a complex and delectable pairing that tasted like all the best parts of coming home.” I cannot lie. After reading this book, I hauled myself over to the nearest Polly’s Pies to get an apple crumble pie. Surely, it was a poor substitute, but I managed to fulfill my apple-cinnamon needs.

If you love stories featuring small towns, unique characters, pie baking, or just a sweet contemporary romance, *Last Kiss of Summer* will certainly satisfy your craving.

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## **Amber Hughes says**

*Last Kiss of Summer* is the first book in Marina Adair's new Destiny Bay Series and it's a wonderful start to the series! Kennedy Sinclair leaves her home town (after catching her boyfriend cheating on her) to start a new life in Destiny Bay and take ownership of the beloved and award winning apple pie bakery Sweetie Pies. She wants to continue in the tradition of the original owners, but also make it her own. After meeting hottie Luke Callahan things are about to get really interesting...She needs the special apples that have always gone into the famous/award winning pies and to keep the business going and he needs those same apples for his Hard Cider business. Without them, the business deal and his late father's dream won't happen. What Luke isn't prepared for is the feelings he develops for Kennedy and what that means for his future. As with all of Marina's books, the chemistry between the characters is felt right from the beginning. Kennedy and Luke have it in spades. I loved that this was a slower build though to the relationship. I loved Kennedy's character. She is no push-over and she won't let Luke charm is way into getting her apples. But can she fight off the attraction and heat between them? Can Luke find a way to save his business deal without costing Kennedy her dream? This book was another winner from Marina Adair and I'm very much looking forward to reading more in this series!

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## **Jo says**

I'm a big fan of this author but unfortunately I really struggled with this one.

I really liked the heroine, Kennedy Sinclair, and how hard-working she was. She didn't have an easy childhood and because of this she's always tried to play things safe but fate decided to derail her safe plan and instead of falling to pieces she decided to start her life over in Destiny Bay and buy a pie shop. I loved how determined Kennedy was to achieve her dream of being a success and how she'd didn't allow other's negativities to get her down.

Luke Callanhan, the hero, on the other hand I really had a problem with. He was so determined to make his hard cider business a success that he used charm and lies to gain Kennedy's favour, not caring that it would put her out of business. I really have a problem with guys like him basically lying and being fake to get what they want.

And then near the end when Kennedy found out just how far he went to stop her from succeeding instead of making him grovel, of having him prove that she really meant something to him, she just forgave him because he told her he loved her. Maybe I've become too cynical but this didn't work for me. At all.

I've read quite a few books by this author and I love her small town settings and sometimes very emotional romances. And although this one didn't work for me, I still love the way this author writes. If you love heartfelt small town romances, this author is definitely for you.

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## **The\_Book\_Queen says**

This was my first time with Adair but it won't be the last. I had such a fun time with this one. Like, smiling like a fool while out walking, that kind of fun time. There was some good banter here, and the two played some fun jokes on each other. I also liked many of the secondary characters, and especially the two who will be the next couple in the series.

Also, I am a sucker for bakers. That is my (delicious) catnip, so that alone made me a happy reader.

The steam level here is mild to moderate, nothing explicit but it was still decently hot and I'm not complaining.

Yes, at times I wanted to smack the hero and make him see reason before he tried messing with things (in order to save his family's business), but it all works out in the end so I'm mostly okay with him now.

Also, the audio for this one is great, I really enjoyed Helen Wick's narration and her performance. Would definitely listen to her again, too.

All in all, this was a sweet and fun small-town romance about a baker and a cider brewer/orchard farmer and I am so looking forward to book 2 (former hockey star and his ex-wife's sister -- with a dash of fake relationship catnip -- aka, I'M IN!).

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**If you wish to look at some quotes/thoughts I highlighted, please check out my Twitter feed**

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## **Wendy's Thoughts says**

### **3 Pies, Cider and More Pies Stars**

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This is who gets the land and apples.

In this corner the perky, talented pie baker who was sold a bill of goods including the pie shop, apples and land...

On the other side is the son of the original owner, his need for the apples for his award winning cider and wanting it all...

These two face off and it is a battle of wills and kisses...

Can't they all just get along and share the apples...

Adam and Eve thought they could...Maybe this couple will have better luck!

*A gifted copy was provided by Forever (Grand Central Publishing) via NetGalley for an honest review.*

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## **Danielle says**

Last Kiss of Summer is the first book in a new series by Marina Adair and I seriously fell in love with it. From the new and exciting characters to the storyline this has to be one of my favorite books this year.

All Kennedy ever wanted was a home and love she thought she had that but when she finds her boyfriend with another woman all her dreams disappear. Packing up all her valuables she heads to her grandmother's house where she gets an offer she can't refuse. One of her grandmother's dear friends is selling her bakery and if Kennedy wants it. Traveling across the country to start a new life and make a home is hard enough as it is but when Luke shows up to buy the orchard that is home to the apples she needs to run the business things are about to get interesting.

Luke is smoking hot and has this charm about him that just won me over. He's determined and a family man and I really loved how he wanted to help Kennedy yet he couldn't let his fathers last wishes go. Kennedy has the fire inside her to make Sweetie Pies even more of an success it is. I really loved her character and how determined she was. She was also hardworking, generous and had a lot of courage.

I thought these characters had great chemistry and tension from the beginning. They are both attracted to one another but they can't let that get in the ways of each of their own goals. During the story I couldn't help but laugh at the things they did just to get one up on the other. I thought Adair was very creative with the things they did and it definitely added lots of humor and lots of fun to the story.

The romance between Kennedy and Luke takes some time which was a plus for me. They were both trying to make their businesses work and trying to out do one another which actually gave them the time to get to know one another a little better before any bedroom time came into the picture. There are some love scenes that were done tastefully but also gave more details than I actually expected. They weren't overly done but showed actually how much these two were starting to care for one another.

There wasn't a lot of drama which was also another plus for me. I was expecting the ex to come back in the picture at some point and something big to happen but this story was pretty straight forward and turned out to be a fun and flirty romance novel. The creativity that Adair showed in writing *Last Kiss of Summer* is what made it so special.

All the characters were likable even the secondary characters. I had no problems with any of them and thought they were all well written and showed each and every personality that Adair wrote them with. This was a close knit town that comes together no matter what and I really loved that about *Destiny Bay*.

The *Destiny Bay* series has a lot of promise and I can see it taking off. It might have a small town feel but the characters are fun and bring the story to life. Overall, I'm really looking forward to reading all the future books that will come. If you're looking for a fun, sweet romantic story that has humor and heart you won't want to miss out on *Last Kiss of Summer*!

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## Michelle says

I loved the second book in this series, which I read actually read first (whoops), but one of my complaints about it was that I felt like we didn't get enough backstory on the male lead, Hawk. I thought that perhaps, despite being standalones, I should have read them in order for more about his past and the story behind his family. I was wrong. While there is slightly more setup of Hawk and Ali, none of it was super deep or would have given me what I wanted from *Feels Like the First Time*. I'm ultimately glad that I read them out of order because this book was fine, but nothing special for me, and I probably would have never bothered to read any further in the series.

After catching the man she thought was going to be her happily ever after cheating on her, Kennedy Sinclair decides it's time for a fresh start. A fresh start that includes buying a quaint pie shop in the small town of *Destiny Bay*. A hobbyist baker all her life, Kennedy thought this new life would be easy as pie. Despite having had a rough childhood, one where her mother was never there for her and then having her abandonment and self esteem issues become front and center once again when she caught her boyfriend cheating on her, Kennedy was still fierce as can be. Which was absolutely why I loved her. Moving to a small town and then taking over a pie shop that the locals expect to forever stay a certain way wasn't easy for her, but I loved the maturity and grace that she handled things with, especially when other people weren't nearly as mature about things.

Like Luke Callahan. Kennedy didn't just get the shop when she made her purchase, she also got the right to the apples from an orchard that has always been used to make Sweetie Pies' most famous pie. Apples that Luke also desperately needs to be able to take the next step in his cider business. I had a hard time liking Luke, he was too calculating and cocky for me to have any sort of positive feelings for him. I understood his



motivations, he needed Kennedy's apples to expand his business and be able to buy back a home and piece of property his mother loved. But at no point did he actually talk to his mom to really find out what she wanted and he wasn't willing to let his business partner, who had financial means, help him. Instead he resorted to playing games with Kennedy, despite knowing that her entire livelihood was at risk. It made it hard to forgive him, or even trust his feelings and motivations when Kennedy was concerned.

Despite an instant attraction to each other, Kennedy and Luke each think of each other as the enemy, the person standing in the way of their dreams, which made for an interesting dynamic, at least at the beginning. At a certain point though, I was tired of the will they/won't they (obviously they will, it's a romance novel) back and forth. Their banter was fun, but I quickly got tired of the enemies aspect of their enemies-to-lovers romance. Especially when their behavior wasn't just having an affect on each other, but also their businesses and professional reputation. Even when their relationship did become romantic, I never really felt the emotional chemistry, perhaps because I felt like it had taken too long to get there.

I also felt their individual stories were far more compelling than their romantic one. All of the side characters and their relationships with Luke and especially Kennedy were what made the book interesting. I loved the push and pull of the various townspeople adjusting to Kennedy being new in town and changing things up at Sweetie Pies. I loved the aspect of "found family" that was explored with Kennedy. But Fiona was absolutely the bad apple in that situation. I found her obnoxious and grating and hated that I felt like she was supposed to be a feisty, old lady comedic relief and instead just frequently felt mean-spirited and like the worst kind of unnecessary roadblock for Kennedy.

All in all, this was a mostly fine and occasionally fun love story, just nothing that's going to really stick with me past writing this review. Because I did enjoy the second book, I'll probably give any future books in this series a shot, but they won't be the kinds of books I'm clamoring for as soon as they're announced.

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### **Stacee says**

I loved Marina's other series, so I was super excited to see the start of a new one.

I loved Kennedy and Luke. She's stubborn and sassy and he's probably a bit of the same. They're arguing over the same patch of apples and it's amusing as hell to read it. Throw in a couple of older women and some snarky friends and I couldn't be happier.

The chemistry is fantastic, the banter is delightful, and the ending {although a bit rushed} is adorable. I would have loved to get an epilogue, but where it stopped worked.

I can't wait to see who the next book is about.

\*\*Huge thanks to Forever and Edelweiss for providing the arc in exchange for an honest review\*\*

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### **TeriLyn says**

**\*\**Last Kiss of Summer* generously provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.\*\***

## **2 "What I want is her apples." Stars**

*Last Kiss of Summer* turned out to be just okay for me. It started off slow and the romance never really picked up. The story seemed flat and there were a lot of games being played behind the scenes that became overwhelming for my reading tastes. Disjointed transitions and some choppy writing in spots were things I fumbled over. Although overall I think the third person writing gave good perspective to the story. However, feeling connected to the love story between the hero and heroine is obviously major and there wasn't a point for me that I thought "oh they belong together forever", something felt disingenuous about their coupling. More engaging were their individual stories coupled with the infused humor, friendships, and good will of several secondary characters.

The connection between Luke and Kennedy just never accelerated and then the end and resolution came so abruptly I couldn't justify it for myself. The premise of the story held interest and I enjoyed the small town vibe we get from secondary characters, the settings, and the values of everyone involved. Fi and Paula were bright spots as well. And there are some genuine moments between Luke and Kennedy where I felt respect and friendship between the two but I just never felt the spark to get me completely invested in their relationship. Many friendships developed very thoroughly throughout this book though and I found those to be very sincere and great reading spots. Destiny Bay has lots happening and there is lots of potential for Luke's partner, Hawk, to have a very interesting story.

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### **Ami says**

#### **2.75 stars rounded up**

I wasn't impressed with the romance. Kennedy was sweet (which is why I round the rating up rather than down) but Luke, I had trouble liking him. He seems determined to achieve his goals -- and his reason is to do *something* for his mom, who is already been a fan of Kennedy in the first place.

Luke knows he could hurt Kennedy, a woman his mom **LIKES** but he does it anyway. There wasn't enough groveling for me in the end. After what happens to her with her boyfriend, I wish Kennedy doesn't give in to Luke apology that quick!

Oh and Fiona aggravated me. Which was similar to my experience reading Adair's *Sugar, Georgia* series -- how I hated the elderly characters there! Couple of years ago I might still be able to enjoy the hero/heroine but this time my tolerance level was not so high.

I'm not sure I want to check out the next book, even if I thought Hawk was a better character than Luke. I'll wait and see \*shrugs\*

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### **1-Click Addict Support Group says**

I am an absolute sucker for a small-town romance, and *Last Kiss of Summer* is pretty much the definition of

why.

It's sweet.

It's sexy.

It's quirky.

It's endearing.

And it's chockful of secondary characters who'll charm the pants right off you.

Not literally, of course. Unless that character is Luke Callahan. In which case, all bets are off. He was swoons and shivers and summer breezes, and a *good* man that tried to do the right thing, even when he was doing the **WRONG** thing. And that just made me love him more.

Well, that and his seriously **HOT** chemistry with Kennedy. These two were electric from their meet-cute (which was adorably small-town quirky, and made my mouth stretch into a big ol' grin), and their banter was completely on point. Add to that Kennedy's spine and strength, her sass and her pluck—something sadly missing from a lot of female characters—and you have a winning formula.

But that's not all. I haven't even mentioned the *town* and its residents yet!

Fi, the old coot. Paula, who I completely adore, and did from the first. Ali and Hawk—Bring. It. On. There's enough allure in Destiny Bay to keep me coming back for more, and more, and then more again...

So, it turns out I am not just a sucker for small-town romance; I am a sucker for *this* particular small-town romance. And I think you will be too. ~ Beth, 5 stars

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Welcome to Destiny Bay, where the apples are a favorite and the men are good guys! I absolutely adored this sweet little town and want to go visit!

**“Sometimes the best opportunities presented themselves in the most unexpected ways.”**

Kennedy is starting her life over again. She just wants to be happy and enjoy her life with someone by her side. She thought she had that with Philip, but he thought the tango with their dance instructor was more fun. Acting on a whim, she buys Sweetie Pies in Destiny Bay and is starting to finally write her own destiny.

**“Yep, Luke Callahan was big, badass, and so mouthwateringly male she felt her cheeks heat. Both sets.**

Luke Callahan is one of the two partners in Bad Apples, a hard cider business and he is not happy with Kennedy coming to town and stealing his apples. But that won't stop him from flirting with her.

**“Every once in a while you come across something so memorable, you only need one taste to know.”  
And he already knew that, with her, one taste would never be enough.**

The connection between these two was sizzling! Even their fighting was sexy! I absolutely loved Luke and his good guy ways, even when he was being an asshole. Destiny Bay is such a perfect place for this story, and I love that entire cast of townies.

*Last Kiss of Summer* was sweet, sexy, and at times, laugh out loud funny. I have come to love Ms. Adair's

writing style, and I especially cannot wait for Hawk's story next! ~ Tiffany, 4 stars

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Kennedy Sinclair never thought starting over included owning and operating an award winning pie shop, but here she, in the middle of down town Destiny Bay, Washington, doing just that. Sweetie Pies was owned and operated by two of the town's beloved citizens, Fiona and Paula Callahan—and their specialty is The Humdinger, an apple pie that has won the Golden Tin award sixteen times. But keeping enough Humdingers in stock is the least of Kennedy's worries—especially once Luke Callahan comes a-calling, wanting to get his hands on Kennedy's apples... and not just the fruit.

Luke is a man on a mission. He's way ahead of his five-year plan for making his hard cider business a success. His dad's prized recipe is the heart of the business, now all he needs to leap into the big leagues is to secure the heirloom apples Kennedy bought when she bought Sweetie Pies. How hard could that be?

Oh Luke, you have no idea what you're up against. Kennedy's been taken advantage of in the past by a pretty face and charming promises; she's not going to fail to recognize the signs again—no matter how tempting the package is...

I plan to move to Destiny Bay. Seriously. There's pie, hard cider, friendly neighbors and a lot of apples. Oh, and hot men and the strong, gorgeous women who love them. Most of the time...

I loved Kennedy's strength, loved that she didn't just "roll over" and give up on her dream—that she fought: for herself, for her vision and for her future. I also adored Paula and Luke's mother-son relationship, loved how his soft and gooey center was exposed just for her. The relationship between Paula, Fi and Kennedy was a hoot too—Fi trying to keep everything status quo, Paula in the middle, and Kennedy just trying to make the business work for her.

And, of course, the meet-cute that started Kennedy and Luke's relationship was a classic small town misunderstanding that steam rolled into some seriously steamy shenanigans. I found myself laughing, swooning, sighing, drooling (with all those pies and pastries, how could I not?) and absolutely falling in love with Destiny Bay, and I cannot wait to visit there again. ~ Missy, 5 stars

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### **Mandi Schreiner says**

Cute, but their romance didn't 100% work for me...review coming

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