



Maybe for You

Nicole McLaughlin

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She's never had a no-strings fling. He's never had anything else. But maybe this time will be an exception?

After a year of mourning her fiancé, Alexis Parker has worked hard to rediscover what she wants out of life. Fresh out of the military and back stateside, her brother offers her a marketing job at the Stag Distillery. Ready for a new challenge, Alexis agrees to accompany her new co-worker Jake Cooper on a Stag cross-country promotional tour. He may have an infamous playboy reputation, but Alexis is surprised to find out that there is more to him than meets the eye. And she likes what she sees. . .

Jake promised Alexis's brother that he'd be an absolute gentleman. Of course, that was before he and Alexis hit the road, and they both agree that what Alexis's big brother doesn't know won't hurt him. The plan: to keep their fling confined to the RV, and everything will go back to normal once they head home. Things progress in ways neither of them could have imagined, and Jake realizes that he and Alexis make a perfect mix. Can he convince her that he's ready to shake things up and give true love a shot?

Maybe for You Details

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From Reader Review Maybe for You for online ebook

Alison says

Alexis Parker has never been lucky in love, her parents were killed in a car accident, she was brought up by her older brother Dean and his wife Amy as if she were their daughter, until the two of them separated over Dean's infertility, and then her fiancée Nate is killed only weeks before their wedding. After Nate's death she spends the final 12 months of her military career in Italy trying to make sense of her life.

Alex's brother Dean owns a whisky distillery with his two best friends TJ and Jake Cooper. Dean and TJ have recently found love but Jake is still a carefree bachelor. He is responsible for business development, promotions and marketing which usually takes the form of touring festivals and shows with an RV of promotional gifts and free whiskey. Unfortunately the distillery's instagram account and twitter feed are starting to appear more frat party than serious business.

Despite his playboy reputation when Jake comes across a crying Alex on the eve of her departure for Italy he can't help but comfort her. Over her 12 months abroad their friendship flourishes through sporadic texts - Alex feels safe telling Jake how she really feels about Nate's death and moving on.

After returning home Alex feels crushed by everyone's need to look after her and constantly check how she's doing. What better way to get away from the smothering than a two week road trip with Jake? But as their friendship segues into a friends with benefits arrangement are they really going to be able to walk away after two weeks?

I enjoyed this, I thought that there was sufficient angst and obstacles without being a ten handkerchief sob fest. Alex and Jake were both relatable and infuriating by turns - I understood the reasons why they came together, and why they pushed each other away, I even understood the reasons why each of them became angry on occasion.

Overall, despite the tragedy in Alex's past this was a life-affirming novel about second chances and the human capacity for love.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in return for an honest review.

Bumped for release.

Terri says

I loved the relationship between Alex and Jake in this book. Both characters have had a lot of pain and angst in their lives. Alex lost her fiancée in the military. Yes, it pretty much rules her life. It appears a lot of readers have problems with that. My husband was friends with a couple he met overseas while stationed in Kosovo. A couple of years after they married he was killed in Extortion 17. He was the helicopter pilot. I can tell you, that pain and agony does totally take over the lives of the one left behind. Seven years later, a big chunk of the wife's life is still dealing with the loss. Therefore, it was no surprise to me than Alex was still a big mess. Her life, love and expectation for the future were blown to bits.

Jake had his own issues and pain. He certainly didn't feel like his partners were ever going to fully accept

him as an equal contributing factor in the business. Especially not after one of them called him out for his actions. As he fights his attraction to Alex, he also finds himself drawn to her more. He's been warned off by her brother (one of his partners), but the feelings between them may just be too much to ignore. He's totally in, but she's determined to take a job out of state and keep him at a distance. Is there any way they can have a future?

I think this was my favorite book of the series. The insecurities of Jake really drew me to him and had me pulling for him the whole way. The compassion I felt for Alex made me determined that she find her HEA--with Jake. A very rewarding read!

Leslie aka StoreyBook Reviews says

I love the setting for this series - a distillery in KC that has a room used for weddings et al. Stag Distillery - owned and operated by three guys who were of course single when the series started. The first two books took care of Dean and TJ, now it is Jake's turn to meet his fate. Of course like most books, the road to true happiness is set with land mines and in this case it is Alex's memories of her dead fiance that was killed just weeks before their wedding. Sure it has been a year but she is dealing with a lot of emotions and guilt that she is still alive (even though she was no where near the helicopter crash) and living life.

The great thing about this relationship is that it starts off as a friendship over email, text, etc since Alex is in Italy and Jake is in the states. I firmly believe that a good relationship should be based in friendship first because it will get you over the tough times. Now that doesn't mean that Jake and Alex don't have issues because they do in spades! She still has her hang up over Nate and Jake has some of his own baggage from his childhood. And then there is Dean, Alex's brother and Jake's friend and business partner. Dean is a bit protective of his younger sister which can cause problems if he doesn't remember that Alex is an adult. Thankfully Charlotte (Dean's fiancee') steps in to calm the waters.

I enjoyed the story between Jake and Alex and was surprised at how one sided it appeared. Jake was there for Alex but was Alex there for Jake? Sometimes. BUT Jake wasn't as open as he could have been about what he was feeling. That's a guy for you. However, he did open up more especially when he realized he knew what he wanted in life and that was Alex.

There were some great scenes with Nate's family - he may be gone but they still welcome Alex in their home and their lives because while she wasn't able to marry Nate, they had a long relationship before his death and they considered her family no matter what.

I also enjoyed the witty comments from Joel, Dean's father, and his sage advice to Alex.

This is a fun series to read and while you don't have to read in order it is suggested since the characters are intertwined in the books and it makes more sense than reading them out of order.

E-Reader Addict says

3.5 Stars

After a slow start, and a pleasantly meandering middle, *Maybe For You* ended well.

Jake and Alexis forged a friendship through emails and Facebook Messenger while Alexis was stationed for a year in Italy. The friendship couldn't have come at a better time for Alexis. Having just lost her fiancé in a helicopter crash, Jake was there for her to work through her emotions and as sounding board for her thoughts and feelings. He was a safe place to share because unlike her older brother - who co-owns a business with Jake - he didn't feel the need to fix things for her. He just let her share, and feel all the feelings, with no judgement.

When Alexis finally comes home back to Kansas City, she's making plans for her new life out of the military. She's imagining a new future, one without the man she loved dearly, one she can decide all on her own. But the new job she just accepted doesn't start for three months. With nothing to do, she decides to accompany Jake on a two-week tour of the south to peddle the Stag's bourbon. In an RV. You don't need me to connect the dots on how the rest of this story goes down.

I'm not usually a fan of the best friend's younger sister trope, or the friends-to-lovers trope. Both were represented in this book. But Ms. McLaughlin never wrote any of the things that drive me bonkers about those tropes (namely, repetitive writing about how the older brother is going to hate the friend, or how the couple doesn't want to ruin their friendship by becoming more...). Yes, when a friend, who has previously been known for his playboy antics, gets involved with the sister, there's a legitimate concern there. This concern was expressed, but it wasn't harped on over and over and over. There was never a mention about their friendship being ruined by getting involved. HOORAY!!! Bravo to Ms. McLaughlin for moving the story along without continuing to beat the same monotonous drum.

Also, I appreciated that while the author may have gone the cliched route with the storyline, she stayed away from the cliched reactions and the unnecessary angst. (Being intentionally vague here - don't want to spoil anything!) While I'm a huge fan of the big gesture, there really wasn't one here. Instead, the person who was wronged didn't hold it against the other person when push came to shove. And I really liked it!

There was so much that worked for me in this book, but I would have liked to see the author give us more about our hero. Jake's insecurity played a large part in who he was, and while we as the reader were privy to his feelings, I would have like to see him hash things out with Alexis. She was so open with him about her feelings, I would have like to see them spend some time dealing with his.

All in all, this was another enjoyable book by Nicole McLaughlin. She's quickly becoming an author I can count on to write a solid, entertaining book that doesn't annoy me by filling her pages with redundant thoughts or actions. Her dialog is great. I adore her heroes - they are manly and have strong opinions, but don't act all alpha with bossy, grunting directives and chest pounding. The heroines are strong and relatable. You can't ask for much more than that!

** thank you to NetGalley and St. Martin's Press for providing an ARC in exchange for an honest review*

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Ang -PNR Book Lover Reviews says

Maybe for you by Nicole McLaughlin, is the 3rd Whiskey and Weddings novel.

Alexis, parents died when she was fairly young and was raised by her brother Dean and his wife, but then they split and then also Partner was killed only weeks before they were to wed. After his death she spends her final 12 months of her military career in Italy.

This book is a friendship. to lovers, with her brothers best friend. Second chance romance, heartbreak, and moving on.

I was gifted an e arc copy to review this for an honest review.

Overall It was an ok read, it was a little too long and Liked where I thought this was leading but in the end there were a couple things that annoyed me.

Laurel says

I was given an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest and independent review.

A sweet, romantic and sexy story about friendship, family, heartbreak, love and moving on. A well written, in places emotional story with realistic characters.

This was my first book which I have read by this author but definitely will not be the last.

Sarah says

4 Stars

When I first read the back cover copy of this book, my first thought was, sign me up! A road trip romance? Yes, please!

Unfortunately though, I was a little disappointed which is why I only gave this book four stars. My slight disappointment (and I do mean slight, this book was fantastic in almost every other way), was that I expected the road trip to be the main part of the story. In reality, its less than half of the book. The remaining part of the story is Alexis and Jake figuring out how to be a couple, and like I said, it was fantastic. I just wanted more road trip.

This was a great story of two people who both coming from very different places, trying to find each other and their way in the world. During the second half of the book, they are thrown a very big curve ball and have to learn how to deal with a situation that neither of them had planned on.

I adored both Alexis and Jake. Alexis is dealing with the death a year prior of her fiance and there are some very heart-wrenching moments in this book. My heart broke for her. Jake is having to deal with his image as a playboy bachelor, and while some may not consider it to be a big an issue as Alexis', it is still something that bothers him a great deal.

This book was the third in a series and I have not read the previous two, but found no issues being able to follow the story. You are introduced to a lot of characters and in the beginning I did find it a bit confusing, but you soon realize who is who and where they fit into the story. I definitely plan on going back and reading the first two in the series.

I received a digital review copy of this book from St. Martin's Press via NetGalley.

Challenges:

♥ 2018 Where Are You Reading - #17. Kansas

Beth says

Two people, not looking for love, find it in the most unexpected place.

Whether you are emotionally scarred or don't even realize what you looking for to fill that whole in your life, **Maybe for You** gives us a marvelous story about grabbing what might be right in front of you. The quintessential slow building relationship. The characters, mostly Alexis, are a bit over the top with drama and their emotional vacillations but overall it is a strong romantic read. In the end, **Maybe for You** rings the bell with a great story of finding that the second chance at love was what you really needed when let go of the the past.

I received this ARC copy of **Maybe for You** from t. Martin's Press. This is my honest and voluntary review. **Maybe for You** is set for publication August 28, 2018.

My Rating: 4 stars

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Debbie says

Maybe For You

Whiskey and Weddings #3

Nicole McLaughlin

McLaughlin's #3 in her Whiskey and Weddings trilogy is a poignant friend to lover tale about love, loss and second chances. Starring the Stag distillery playboy co- owner Jake and Alex, the returning vet and younger

sister of another owner, Dean (Maybe I Do) who has experienced more than her share of loss in her young life. The road-trip in the Stag RV was wonderfully done and showcases the burgeoning relationship between Jake and Alex beautifully. The storyline is emotional, the landscapes are impressive and even though the focus is on Alex's loss for most of the read it's Jake that's the real stand-up, stand-out in this tale. The read stands well on its own but as in all series/trilogies its best read in order.

SUMMARY:

A year after losing her fiancé Alex Parker is finally ready to make a new start, she's left the military and has a great job that starts in a few months lined up. Until then she's heading home to KC where her brother and his two partners own a popular distillery and wedding venue. One thing that's helped her over the past year is the friendship that she developed with Jake Cooper, one of her brother's partners via text messages, so when the opportunity arises for her to accompany Jake on a marketing road trip she jumps at the chance. Not realizing it would wake up things she thought would stay dormant forever, things like her libido.

Jake has taken some criticism about his playboy status lately especially while on the marketing road trips so he's happy to have Alex come along on this one. Maybe she'll keep him out of trouble and it'll be nice to spend time with the woman he's gotten to know so well over the last year via their text message friendship. Plus it never hurts to have a pretty woman along to keep things interesting. He just never imagined just how interesting things could get.

Madison Warner Fairbanks says

Maybe For You by Nicole McLaughlin

3rd in the Whiskey and Weddings series. Can be read as a standalone romance.

This book is an emotionally wringing story starting from the recovery of a lost love to friendship and then new love. Of course, complications in the relationship put added strain on the couple.

Honestly, I didn't like the drama of it all. Yes, I conceptually understand lose and how devastating it would be. She gives up any career options for a year to exist as a part time receptionist for a family business. To dwell on things? Although her view is to avoid thinking or planning for life.

On the flip side, I fell in love with the hero. He's not confident in his value to the business but works tirelessly for it. He's grown tired of the casual flings that occur on the Marketing tours and continues to act and work professionally even when knocked down. And he recognizes those that just want to use him or his firm. He stands by the heroine throughout the storm of her ups and downs and lack of moving forward.

Basically he is just a great guy.

In the end the two work out the issues and get their HEA.

Overall, angsty but worth the love story read.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley

Dianne says

Jake was the carefree bachelor of the trio of founders of the Stag Distillery and never had a reason to change. Alexis lost her fiancé mere weeks before their wedding. For a year they had corresponded, for a year Jake had been Alex's rock, confidant and long distance best friend. Now Alex is home, still nursing her broken heart, lost in the past, the pain and the regrets of all she lost.

When Jake's footloose approach to women threatens the distillery's success and reputation, Alex becomes his babysitter as well as his shield against the onslaught of women who want a night with the handsome flirt, but is there more to Jake than meets the eye? Will he be the man who gives Alex a reason to look to the future once again and to let go of her past?

MAYBE FOR YOU by Nicole McLaughlin begins as a solid tale of romance budding when it is least expected and most needed by two people who have gaping holes in their lives. Alex knew what hers was, but Jake never realized he wanted more than the life he was living or maybe never let others know. Yes, he was a player, but isn't that what people expected from him? Only with Alex was he the caring and warm person he kept hidden.

Their romance blooms slowly and by itself is warm, with Jake truly the hero. While Alex's pain was so raw and understandable, it became a bit much, particularly as she seemed to use it to avoid living her own life or making a fresh start.

A sometimes overly dramatic love story, it still proves that with love, one can move on for a second chance at happiness with the right person, who just might be the last one others would expect!

I received a complimentary ARC edition from St. Martin's Press!

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Julie says

Reviewing for Harlequin Junkie. 3.5 stars

Emotional and heartwarming!

Sissy's Romance Book Review says

Maybe for You by Nicole McLaughlin is book Three in the Maybe for You series. This is the story of Jake Cooperon and Alexis Parker. I haven't yet read the previous books, so for me this was a standalone book.

Alex had her life planned out with her future husband but he died before they could marry which left her lost and heartbroken. Now out of the military she working to try and start over. After building a connection with Jake she goes with him to help promote Stag Distillery. Of course Alex's brother want Jake who has casual flings/no commitments to not do so with their sister. But what happens during the road trip they plan on letting that stay there. But things don't go as planned when they attraction starts to turn into more. Really enjoyed this sweet romance!

Jennifer Ritter says

Maybe For You is Nicole McLaughlin's third book in her Whiskey and Weddings series set in Kansas City, Kansas. This story addresses the third distillery owner, Jake Cooper, head of marketing and internet presence. At 32, Jake is well known as a swinging bachelor. His road trips promoting their brand are somewhat notorious, to the point there has been a complaint.

When co-owner Dean Troyer's sister, a military veteran, returns home for a brief stint before beginning a new CIA position, she readily asks to go with Jake on a marketing mission. What she does not state is that Jake has been her touchstone over the past year since her fiancé, Nate, was killed in the downing of a helicopter. Over that year Jake and Alex wrote regularly through messenger and his calm presence and strong support are what helped Alexis get to the point she is now.

As Alexis volunteers for the marketing trip, her brother swears his friend to protect his younger sister. Making this vow, Jake and Dean may have very different definitions. Because it isn't long before Jake and Alex become a friends with benefits couple. Alex is gearing up for her new CIA position, not looking for a lifetime commitment, just a pleasant dalliance to help her over a rough spot. Neither are looking for love, but what they find is a new world opening to them.

I have enjoyed everything I have read by Ms. McLaughlin. They are steeped in personal warmth and have threads of current headlines woven throughout. The characters are rich and well drawn. The relationships are deep and true. These stories are intricately stitched together and bring wonderful folks into the reader's purview. I do recommend this book.

Isha Coleman says

When life doesn't turn out how you planned, maybe it's time to head in a new direction. Maybe For You is a tale of heartbreaking loss, surprising new beginnings and witty dialogue. McLaughlin stages the ultimate road trip for a brokenhearted almost bride and playboy on the mend. Alexis is learning how to live again after a tragic loss. Her second chance comes in the form of a dashing coworker with a reputation for playing the field. Jake and Alexis take a business trip that changes the course of their lives when their hearts become fair game for love. Maybe For You is a sentimental tale that brings out the laughter and perhaps a few tears.
