



## Beach House No. 9

*Christie Ridgway*

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## **Beach House No. 9** Christie Ridgway

When book doctor Jane Pearson arrives at Griffin Lowell's beach house, she expects a brooding loner. After all, his agent hired her to help the reclusive war journalist write his stalled memoir. Instead, Jane finds a tanned, ocean-blue-eyed man in a Hawaiian shirt, hosting a beach party and surrounded by beauties. Faster than he can untie a bikini top, Griffin lets Jane know he doesn't want her. But she desperately needs this job and digs her toes in the sand.

Griffin intends to spend the coming weeks at Beach House No. 9 taking refuge from his painful memories- and from the primly sexy book doctor who wants to bare his soul. But warm nights, moonlit walks and sultry kisses just may unlock both their guarded hearts....

## **Beach House No. 9 Details**

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ISBN : 9780373777402

Author : Christie Ridgway

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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## **From Reader Review Beach House No. 9 for online ebook**

### **Janga says**

The conflict between Jane and Griffin is equal parts humor and poignancy. The reader is convinced that these two stubborn people burdened with baggage from their pasts belong together, and watching them reach this conclusion is fun. A strong cast of secondary characters gives the central story greater dimension. All the characters from a drama queen teen to a curmudgeonly Pulitzer Prize-winning neighbor to a wimpy kid grown into a hot firefighter add their own appeal. Hints about a connection between beach house landlady Skye and Griffin's photojournalist, adrenaline junkie twin brother ensure interest in the series continues.

The subplot of Tess's marriage in trouble rivals the main story for interest. It was this that kept the book a four-star read for me. At times I found myself more engaged with Tess and David's story, more eager to know what had created the change in David, than I was in what was going on between Jane and Griffin.

If you've read Ridgway before, you won't be surprised at the mix of heat and heart in this book. (There's a storeroom scene that is a gem.) If you have never read Ridgway, Beach House No. 9 is an entertaining introduction. With the prequel novella, "Beach House Beginnings," offered for free download at the usual outlets, and this first book to be quickly followed by Bungalow Nights (February 26) and The Love Shack (March 26), the Beach House No. 9 series is a great way to include some California sunshine with your particular winter mix.

See full review at The Romance Dish:

<http://www.theromancedish.com/2013/01...>

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### **Katie\_la\_geek says**

For this review and more my blog

A while back I read the second book in this series (Bungalow Nights) and I wasn't a fan. When I was given the opportunity to review the first book in the series I was unsure but decided in the end to give it a go, Bungalow Nights could have been a one off. Unfortunately for me that was not the case and I am finally throwing in the towel where this series is concerned.

My first big issue with both the first and second books is that writing. Christie Ridgway is by no means a bad writer, she writes well and more than adequately. My issue is with her style, some people will love it but it is down to reader preference. For me her writing is just too wordy, it is full of stuff that I just do not care about. It lacks flow and excitement and makes the books just feel really, really long. Some people like a slow pace but it is just not for me.

My second issue is characters. Again there is nothing wrong with them but I find them bland. Jane is the better of the two leads. She is quite smart and sometimes I quite liked her but she still lets herself be talked down too by the men in her family. Griffin was less likeable he has been through some tough times but I found him selfish and rude most of the time. When his distraught sister and her children turn up on his doorstep after her marriage fell apart he acts as though she is wasting his time and tries to get rid of her. He does have some sweeter moments but mostly I found him irritating.

There was also a second storyline concerning Griffin's sister and her husband who I found unnecessary and hard to understand. David (the husband) didn't make much sense to me, he loves his wife and kids but he is pushing them away. It just all seemed out of place to be honest.

I wanted to give this series another chance but have come to the conclusion that it is not for me. Beach House No. 9 is a little better than its sequel but it is not enough to keep this reader interested.

**The publisher provided me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review**

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### **Susan says**

Fantastic book. There's always a lot of humor and emotion in Christie Ridgway's books and this was no exception. I loved both Jane and Griffin. Jane has been sent to get Griffin back on track in writing his book about his year with the troops in Afghanistan. After the trouble she had reaching him by phone or email she wasn't expecting to find him in the middle of a party at his beach house. She also wasn't expecting the immediate zing of attraction she felt for him - something that was very unwelcome. She had just ended a job with another author with whom she had developed a relationship and then gotten burned. She needs this job with Griffin to work out. Griffin hasn't done any work on his book since he returned home. The memories of his time there, of the things he saw and the people who were lost, are too painful for him to revisit. He surrounds himself with people and noise trying to drown them out. He has also shoved his emotions deep so that he won't feel the pain. He lets Jane know that he doesn't want her around and does everything he can to drive her away. I really liked the way that Jane refuses to be dismissed. She is determined to make this job work and is very creative in her ways to try to prod Griffin into doing what needs to be done. I loved the way that she got to him with her unpredictability and refusal to be ignored. Besides her need to make this job work, she is also dealing with some issues stemming from her relationship with her family. She was raised by her father, an emotionless scientist who was constantly putting her down, calling her silly and emotional. She decided to take advantage of her attraction to Griffin and enjoy the physical relationship but keep her emotions out of it.

Griffin doesn't want to face his memories by writing his book. He tries to drive Jane away, but she won't go. He also discovers that she has invaded his thoughts and he can't get rid of her there either. She has read all the articles he wrote while he was in Afghanistan and knows that he has the ability to write a fantastic book, but tells him he has to put his emotions into it. When he finds out why she has to be successful in getting his book done he decides to go ahead and do it. He also realizes that having her there has made the process more bearable for him. He is still trying to convince himself that their relationship is just physical, but spends a lot of time doing things for her and to her to try to counter the effects her father and others have had on her. I loved the way that he was verbally so gruff and rude at times but if you watched his actions you could see the true Griffin that was under the ice. His final facing of his life and emotions was excellent and he was able to go after what he really wanted. I also loved all the secondary characters and stories. His sister Tess and her husband were having problems that had to be faced and I loved how real it felt. There was also a storyline with Skye and Griffin's twin Garrett that I suspect will be the focus of book three. The second book with one of Griffin's friend and the daughter of the other soldier looks to be fantastic. I also hope that we'll see more of the firefighter "Tee-Wee".

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## **Lisa Filipe says**

Truly missed my Christie Ridgway romances, but she is back and I am LOVING this new series so much!!

Jane and Griffin are fun, sexy and just freakin adorable!

Full Review Posted on <http://atastyread.blogspot.com>

For anyone who doesn't know, the book that lured me back into reading romance after I finished college was NOT ANOTHER NEW YEARS by the very amazing and talented, Christie Ridgway. It was naughty and nice, and was the raunchiest book I had read, well, up to that point in my life, AND I borrowed it from my MOTHER IN LAW...I know...took me a few days to be able to look at her in the eyes...haha.

Anyway, after finishing the very sexy Ridgway Romance, I was HOOKED...and I ran right over to the library and read ANY and EVERY romance I could get my hands on. This was the point where I discovered the wonders that are Rachel Gibson, Susan Elizabeth Phillips, Kristan Higgins, Susan Mallery, Nora Roberts and the list can go on and on.

So, as you can see, I owe Christie Ridgway for taking my "V" Card when it comes to Romance Novels. Thank you Christie...I am forever grateful!!

Now, onto the good stuff...BEACH HOUSE NO. 9, the first in Christie's new Beach House Series, where we meet Jane Pearson, the book guru, who is supposed to be helping the ever handsome, Griffin Lowell, get out of his own head and get his memoirs onto paper, but Griffin is doing anything he can to get away from Jane and his memories of the time he spent in Afghanistan. Jane burrows her way into Griffin's head, and maybe even his heart, but Griffin isn't looking for any entanglements and Jane doesn't want to fall for another man who doesn't see everything that makes Jane special.

Not only did I LOVE Griffin and Jane, who reminded me so much of my all time favorite Romance couple, Jane and Luc from Rachel Gibson's SEE JANE SCORE, but I LOVED all the wonderful secondary characters we meet, like Skye, and Rex Monroe, Tee Wee, Tess, David and ALL the kids. As usual, Ridgway spins her magic and has you falling in love with a broken hero and a heroine who is one of a kind, I mean...remember the bows!! Haha!

The secondary story with Tess, Griffin's sister, and her husband David was heartbreaking. Each time he would turn away my heart broke a little more. I do love a man who loves his family that much though, and for taking care of them when they REALLY NEEDED HIM.

And Tee Wee...let's get more of him...Thank you very much!! I am also VERY intrigued to know what the deal is with Skye and her pen pal, Gage, who is Griffin's twin brother. There is something going on there and I soooooo hope that Skye and Gage are getting their own book.

BEACH HOUSE NO. 9 takes you away with scenery so descriptive that you could feel the warm sand beneath your toes and the cool breeze across your face, and a pair of mix matched lovers who keep the pages turning long into the night! Ridgway is back and ladies, she has come out swinging!!

This is a highly recommended Top Tasty Read!!

Available now: Beach House Beginnings #.05 AND ITS FREE!!!

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## **Romancing the Book says**

Posted on Romancing the Books blog

Reviewed by Molly

Review Copy Provided by Netgalley

So, I wanted to read this series really bad. I loved the sound of the beach, the romance, characters that would become friends. But, sadly this was not quite what I was expecting.

Ms. Ridgway captured me in the beginning with Jane and her witty charm. She hooked me with the sexy Griffin and his tortured self. Then the story started to drag on for me with Jane and Griffin's issues. Towards the end, however, it did pick back up and kept my interest. But, in the middle, I had a bit of issue staying focused on the story.

Jane's character is well developed as she struggles with getting Griffin to meet his deadline. Griffin's character is one you want to be mad at , yet be happy for. He was suffering from PTSD and so many times I wanted to tell him to wake up! But, I also was happy for him when he started to realize what Jane was all about and his feelings for her.

Ms. Ridgway does do a good job at working in the romance. When Jane and Griffin felt the pull of attraction, so did I! I wanted to be right there where Jane was.

Despite the slow middle, I would recommend this story to anyone looking for a good romance story. It's sultry, summery and sparking with passion! I am looking forward to reading the next two books in this series and visiting Crescent Cove again.

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## **Isha Coleman says**

In order to find our strengths, we must face our weaknesses. Never have I come across more powerful words than that statement. Almost Always is a proclamation of those words amplified. Ms. Ridgway speaks to the heart and mind with the courageous journey of Griffin Lowell. His adventurous spirit and inquisitive mind has taken him all over the world. His experiences have broken his heart, opened his mind and haunted his dreams, but his greatest challenge is born from writer's block. One woman is determined to change all that and maybe find a little adventure of her own. Jane and Griffin learn the value of facing fear while following the heart and end up delivering a little balm to the soul.

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## Romanticamente Fantasy says

### 3.5 - Voto

“Parole in riva al mare” è il primo romance contemporaneo, scritto dall’autrice Californiana Christie Ridgway, che inaugura la serie “Beach House No. 9”, così composta:

- 0.5 – Beach House Beginnings (Prequel);
- 1 – Beach House No. 9 – PAROLE IN RIVA AL MARE;
- 2 – Bungalow Nights;
- 3 – The Night Shack.

Ho iniziato a leggere questo libro perché cercavo un intrattenimento leggero, qualcosa di facile che non mi entrasse troppo dentro. Ebbene, ho sbagliato libro. Perché è vero che ha molti momenti ilari ed altrettanti erotici, ma affronta anche delle tematiche piuttosto importanti. Immagino che leggendo la trama, non ho dato il giusto peso alla parte in cui si citava l’esperienza in Afghanistan.

Jane Pearson (per tutto il tempo l’ho immaginata quasi identica a Scarlett Johansson, con le sfumature descritte dall’autrice) è la protagonista principale, intelligente, ma con un po’ di complessi causati dal padre. Con gli occhi argentei, la pelle candida, i biondi riccioli ribelli e quella bocca a forma di cuore che sembra appartenere all’attrice ideale per un film muto. È una professionista che si occupa di revisionare, correggere, editare libri, ma anche e soprattutto, di aiutare gli scrittori in difficoltà, per ispirarli, per incoraggiarli, per far loro superare i momenti di stallo per poter alla fine rispettare le scadenze.

Segnata da un’esperienza difficile con un suo precedente cliente, che, dopo averla sfruttata le infanga ingiustamente la reputazione, Jane cerca ripulire la sua immagine ed accetta di andare in soccorso dello scrittore Griffin Lowell.

Lui è un reporter che ha trascorso un anno durissimo in Afghanistan, ha affiancato i soldati armato di carta e penna, ma ha visto esplodere bombe, proiettili che lo sfioravano, gente che moriva o restava mutilata. Ha respirato polvere e sangue, ha ingurgitato pastiglie perché potesse trovare finalmente un po’ di riposo. Poi, alla fine è tornato a casa, fisicamente sano e salvo. Psicologicamente, inevitabilmente cambiato.

Fa praticamente di tutto per evitare di affrontare il dolore che sente, per anestetizzarlo. Arriva anche a negarlo completamente, a negare di avere sentimenti. Rifiuta di ammettere di essere affetto dalla Sindrome Post Traumatica da Stress.

Già solo l’affrontare il tema di un giornalista che soffre di PTSD anziché di un soldato, pone l’accento sugli effetti della guerra su chiunque ne venga a contatto.

Fra i vari e spassosissimi scambi di battute fra Griffin e il “vecchio brontolone”, alias il vicino di casa Rex Monroe – che ho adorato -, anche lui cronista inviato in guerra, troviamo anche momenti in cui le loro schermaglie colpiscono al cuore il lettore.

Ci fu un attimo di silenzio, in cui Griffin fu certo di avere messo a tacere il vecchio vicino, ma poi l’uomo fece un gesto con la mano.

◇

Infastidito da quel tono altezzoso, Griffin incrociò le braccia al petto.

◇

Un’altra delle mie scene preferite (indovinate un po’.. è dolorosa!) è quella in cui lui, dopo aver accettato di mettersi finalmente al lavoro per finire l’autobiografia così da dare nuovo lustro alla carriera di lei, entra nell’ufficio allestito a tal fine in cui Jane aveva appeso le foto da lui scattate in Afghanistan.

" In versione apatica com'era al momento, entrò nella stanza ed esaminò la cinquantina di foto che Jane aveva sistemato. Per lo più erano dodici-diciotto e venti-venticinque. Raffiguravano soldati che si azzuffavano, dormivano, mangiavano. Che facevano la ronda, che usavano armi, che erano di guardia. Dall'altra parte della stanza Griffin guardò Jane.

◇

Già. Be'. Cercava di risparmiargli delle emozioni, naturalmente. ◇

◇ suggerì lui, sorprendentemente freddo.

Jane si strinse nelle spalle e sentì un brivido scorrerle lungo la schiena. Griffin tornò alle foto. Dopo averle studiate ancora un po', allungò la mano e ne staccò una dal muro. In quella, c'era un ragazzino seduto sul suo letto che suonava la chitarra.<< E così lui. Morto.>>

fece de passi e si fermò davanti a un'altra immagine. C'era un giovane che stava flettendo il bicipite, e mostrando un tatuaggio aggressivo. ◇

Oh, Dio. Un altro passo. ◇ Afferrò l'immagine di un soldato che faceva delle smorfie davanti all'obiettivo."

Il libro ha molteplici punti di vista, ed è interessante scoprire anche le storie che girano attorno a quella di Jane e Griffin.

La Ridgway, infatti, ci racconta anche di Tess, la sorella di Griffin. Ci parla del suo matrimonio in crisi, dei suoi quattro figli, di come si evolvono queste cose. Le due piccole canaglie di mezzo sono davvero adorabili!

◇

Vi ho parlato principalmente dei momenti emotivamente emozionanti, almeno per me lo sono stati, ma ci sono una miriade di momenti molto divertenti, e mi piace tanto la sagacia di Jane nel rispondere alle battute del Griffin, scorbuto ed aggressivo.

Mi è piaciuta moltissimo anche la delicatezza con cui l'autrice ha saputo descrivere le scene di sesso. Ha saputo renderle passionali senza mai cadere nel volgare. Molte di queste scene, sono inoltre fondamentali per comprendere come Griffin cambi lentamente e come cambino i suoi sentimenti.

Come dicevo, cercavo un libro "da ombrellone" e ho trovato un libro davvero molto bello. Consigliato!

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## **Renaë says**

This was...okay. Most of the plot centers around the fact that the hero OBVIOUSLY has PTSD but has no idea. Which...duh. There's also a beta romance about the hero's sister/brother-in-law that's 100% #MasculinitySoFragile. Eh. Well-written, but lots of filler and the plot sort of meanders.

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## **LaFleurBleue says**

I liked the premise of this new series, with an almost tropical beach in California where bungalows are rented to different people and bungalow number 9 bring out the romance in the air.

However I'm not a huge fan of double romances, with two couples in one book, as it always feels to me like the author was not able to develop either story and the characters of each couple enough to really fill in a book.

Moreover the beginning of this one was rather difficult to overcome: Jane was supposedly intelligent and professional but never behaved accordingly, while Griffin seemed to have the maturity of a 14-year-old. And it took them a long while to finally come to their senses.



Ok as an introduction to the series but not as good as some previous books written by this author.

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## Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: C

Jane Pearson needs to save her reputation and career as a “book doctor”, helping authors in any way she can, to get their books done. Her past client, and lover, decided to end their personal relationship but when Jane wasn't too keen on keeping their professional relationship going, he bad mouthed her to anyone who would listen to his bestselling words and now Jane needs to get her career back on track, fast. Her current assignment is getting Griffin, a reporter who lived with the troops overseas, to write his experiences down for his book. Trouble is, Griffin absolutely, positively does not want to relive that experience through the process of writing.

Griffin is struggling with the year he spent overseas. He lost someone close to him who was also there reporting on her experience. He saw war up close, death, trauma and he's trying to forget by living a life with too much partying, too much alcohol, he's shutting his family out and he wants nothing to do with Jane. He's growly, and I have to say it's not a hot kind of growly early on. He's tough to be around and he was a hard hero to like at first. He wants nothing to do with Jane, he ignores his niece, nephews and his sister, the only person he remotely seems to care about is his twin brother Gage. But Gage isn't present in the story as he's chasing his own thrills taking photos in high risk areas.

For as hard as Griffin was for me to warm up to, I liked Jane from the start. She's trying to do the best she can and she's also trying to ignore the unsupportive words her father used to say to her growing up. She does any and everything to get Griffin to focus on this book and when he doesn't, she befriends his sister and her kids when they move in next door. Her romance with Griffin grows slowly but Griffin holds back through much of the book. He's scared to love and eventually Jane starts to break those walls down.

Even though I found Jane to be interesting, I really struggled to get into this story. I can't pin point why, other than Griffin didn't grab me early on. When more of his experiences and feelings started coming out, it was easier to “get” him, but before that happens, he comes off as a bit of an ass. I have a hard time liking a hero when he ignores his family, especially cute little nephews! It's mentioned that he had been doing things off page with them when he thought no one was looking, but I guess I just needed to actually see that side of him for it to work.

There's a side story with Griffin's sister Tess and her rocky marriage to her husband David. David has been standoffish for months now and Tess has no idea why. She moved out to Beach House No. 8 and now David is trying to get his family back but has no idea what Tess truly wants from him. I was really interested in this supporting story, even though I wanted to smack David a few times. There was something about the dynamic between David/Tess and their family that hooked me in.

This was a good read, I can't say I was blown away by Griffin and Jane's story, but it was a nice set up for this new series and my interest in the characters coming up in the next book is enough to keep reading. I would recommend reading this for Jane. I enjoyed her character and seeing her try to get Griffin to open up and deal with his pain that he's been holding in put me in her corner.

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## **Shawna says**

2 ½ stars – Contemporary Romance

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## **Cherise says**

3.5 Stars

Jane Pearson is a Book Doctor. She helps authors keep on task, and organizes their thoughts and notes. When she is assigned to Griffin Lowell she arrives at Beach House No.9 expecting a hermit but finds her new author surrounded by 20somethings and the host of party central. Griffin doesn't want to work, Jane needs the work. The fun begins.

First I have to say I am a Christie Ridgway fan. I love her books and her characters. I loved the characters in this book but found myself getting frustrated at their obstacles and struggles. With the side story of Tess and David, I loved them and their brood, but found that their relationship resolution would have been a hell of a lot quicker had Tess went into a wife like rage like any normal woman would have done. She was way too calm and composed.

The story is romantic and heartbreaking at times. Their chemistry is undeniable and sexy. The pace moved a little slower than I would have liked, but in the end it was worth it. This is the first of a three book series and I am excited to read the next two. This book does a great job of introducing you to the players and setting up the next books. I am especially excited for Skye and Gage's story.

Cherise Everhard, February 2013

Book provided by and reviewed for the Amazon Vine Program

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## **Donna says**

I really enjoy these stories from Beach House #9. It's such a magical place.

It was the best place for Griffin to end up when he came home after spending a year in Afghanistan as a Journalist witnessing the horrors of war. He comes home a broken man who puts up walls and shuts down, spending time around partiers, listening to loud music and drinking and whatever he can do to shut out his thoughts. He can't sleep at night, and he does everything to avoid writing the book that Jane is sent to help him write. She has her work cut out for her.

The relationship between Griffin and Jane sneaks up on them. There's definitely attraction, lots of attraction. Then lots of sex. But both of these characters have problems with relationships and so they fight their feelings and deny their feelings, until you want to scream at them.

But once they did admit their feeling, it was THAT MUCH SWEETER!!!

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## Elizabeth (Liz) says

3.5 stars

Book doctor Jane Pearson arrives at the beach house of reclusive war journalist Griffin Lowell NOT expecting him to be hosting a party and surrounded by beauties in bikinis! She's been hired to help him through a case of writer's block, but Griffin makes it abundantly clear that he needs no help, especially from someone so prim and proper. Jane needs this job, though, and stands her ground. Who will win in this battle of wits...and reluctant hearts?!

Beach House No. 9 by Christie Ridgway is a fun and fairly lighthearted contemporary romance. The plot is straightforward and moves at a comfortable pace. Too comfortable on occasion, perhaps.

Aside from Griffin referring to Jane as 'honey-pie' throughout the story, their platonic relationship is sharp, funny and entertaining. Their sexual chemistry as a couple is adequate, but not entirely believable. I still find myself unconvinced that these two characters would be attracted to one another.

Christie Ridgway has long been an author I enjoy, and, while I \*did\* find much to enjoy about this latest release, I also felt the writer's voice was a bit lackluster. It was missing some of the spark that used to infuse this author's best stories.

In the end, I do feel like this is a good first entry in this series, and I'm looking forward to reading the books that follow!

\*\*ARC courtesy of Harlequin via Edelweiss\*\*

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## Asheley says

I first saw **Beach House No. 9** when I was browsing my library's online catalog. I was very new to the adult contemporary romances at the time and noticed that the wait list was miles long for this one. Despite never having heard of the book nor the author, I put it on hold for myself since everyone else seemed to be reading it too - I figured I'd see what all the fuss was about.

This excerpt is taken from my full Three-Things Review on Into the Hall of Books. Read more here: <http://www.intothehallofbooks.com/201...>

The first thing you need to know is this:

**Jane Pearson aka the Book Doctor is sent to Beach House No. 9 to help Griffin Lowell finish writing his war memoir.**

Jane has no problem with her assignment; she's worked with some of the biggest names in the industry and can handle herself just fine. She was prepared for Griffin to be reclusive and a bit broody. She was not prepared for him to be a handsome party animal with a very rude attitude - who doesn't give a darn about his deadlines.

Jane arrives to Beach House No. 9 in the midst of a party and can't seem to get Griffin's full attention as he is too busy being host and seeing to his guests. Frustrated, she comes back the next day - only to find another party. It seems that Griffin is so uncaring about his deadlines and basically everything else that people generally walk all over him and use his Beach House as "Party Central" because they know he just won't care.

Somehow Jane snaps him out of it - she decides to join the party. *If you can't beat them, join them - right?* Griffin makes everyone leave and just like that - SNAP! - no more parties. The book does mention a time or two or twenty that both Jane and Griffin are very attracted to one another.

The second thing you need to know is this:

**It takes some BIG WORK on her part to get him to do his work.**

Griffin keeps saying over and over that he will work on his memoir, but it becomes clear that either he can't or he isn't planning on it. So Jane sets up a home office and makes herself very available (she's already moved into the Beach House next door, much to Griffin's annoyance) so he can meet his deadlines.

As Jane and Griffin begin to pour through Griffin's old journalism work from when he was embedded with the military during wartime, Jane begins to understand exactly why Griffin is having such a hard time and why he is exactly how he is. Griffin has some issues resulting from his time spent over there that he hasn't dealt with properly and this is affecting his entire life, including his interaction with everyone. Still, Jane is determined to meet those deadlines. And with her help, Griffin is able to work. He battles his demons and begins to produce the memoir that he is supposed to. It isn't easy, but that's what Jane is there for - it's her job to help him. And good grief, it takes practically everything she has to get the job done.

The third thing you need to know is this:

**Needless to say, there is a massive amount of chemistry between Jane and Griffin.**

Well, of course there is - this is a romance book! And Jane is beautiful, with her odd sense of style, her confidence, and her stick-it-to-him/I'm-getting-this-job-done-no-matter-what attitude. Even though Griffin acts like he is irritated by it, he also finds it very sexy. Even when he doesn't let Jane know, he thinks about her non-stop and *he wants her*.

Jane is really no different. She is so very attracted to Griffin because he is so very handsome. To tell the truth, she was taken aback by his good looks from her first glimpse of him - acting goofy at his party - but she's a professional and would've never let him know it. But man, she thought it!

After working closely together for a little while, the walls start coming down and the little jokes begin between the two of them. They become more comfortable around one another, which is saying a lot where Griffin is concerned. They start standing closer together and there is a brief touch to an arm here, and a hand on the small of a back there. And there are walks and she attends a function with him and so on. The

attraction grows and *good gracious*, so does the talking and the thinking of what one wants to do to/with the other one. It basically just never ends with these two once it starts. (It made me giggle.) But I promise there is a ton of good story in there.

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**Beach House No. 9** by Christie Ridgway is a nice, indulgent romance that has a great, great beach setting, a strong female lead, and one of those males that needs to be fixed. It's kind of a typical romance story with tons of steam mixed in and I found it fun and quite perfect for a summertime read.

Jane Pearson is a funny character, in my opinion. She's a bit wound-up. She's so wound-up that it's actually good that she ended up coming to Beach House No. 9 - so she could learn to let loose a little bit, let her hair down and have a little bit of a good time. She's been brought up by a father that expects no less than absolute success at all costs, so that's what her goal has always been as well. When she meets Griffin 1) she realizes that she may not actually achieve success this time and 2) she begins to question the importance of *all success, all the time* as she learns more about him - why he is the way he is, how difficult meeting his deadline will be for him, how she might prefer a personal relationship rather than a professional relationship with him - and she begins to re-evaluate everything her father taught her, which is actually a really good thing. As Jane helps Griffin with his work, she falls for him. She falls HARD.

This could be a problem, you see.

The problem with falling for a guy like Griffin Lowell is that he does everything in his power to push everyone away and keep them there. He holds everyone, everyone, everyone at arm's length to keep from getting close to them - even his own family. He just can't deal with another loss like he endured once before, first of all, and he also has never even coped or dealt with the tragic things that happened to him when he was embedded, so there are some definite post-traumatic stress issues going on - Griffin is almost *unable* to care about and love. Almost. Slowly, slowly as he finds himself having feelings for Jane that go beyond purely sexual, he also finds that he is experiencing feelings for other people: love for people in his family, respect for his neighbors, etc. This is such a shock for Griffin and so incredibly uncomfortable that he kind of flails a bit, and I love this vulnerability in him as a character.

I love Griffin's character. I know people in life like Griffin - scared to open their heart up to people for fear of getting hurt. I found that while Jane almost seems to be written as comic relief (I said almost, when compared to Griffin), Griffin felt very real and had much more depth, and I just loved him and connected to him and felt for him.

This book has an amazing setting - right on the beach, couldn't be any better! - and a great, great secondary cast. I love the great neighbors, and Griffin's sister and her bunch of children end up coming to stay at the Beach House unexpectedly when they have some issues at home. (This story line is really great as well and weaves into the Jane/Griffin story line perfectly.)

It's true that I felt like **Beach House No. 9** is a little bit cheesy throughout the book because for some reason the sexytime/steam factor made me chuckle. But I also loved the indulgent fun-ness of the story. In fact, all of the story lines were good. At the end, each plot line had good resolution but there is just enough left open to make me want to pick up the next book at some point fairly soon, since it is summertime and these books take place on the beach.

I recommend **Beach House No. 9** to fans of adult contemporary romance, great settings, and good family relationships. This series continues with companion novels, I believe, so I'll be checking out the next one in the near future.

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