



How the Cookie Crumbles

Jaime Samms

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After losing a rigged cooking show competition—and a potential lover—to another baker, Frederic Jackson packs up his considerable baggage and moves to Bluewater Bay. He uses the network's hush money to buy a new bakery where he hopes the small town's revitalized economy will let him start anew.

Blaire Caruthers never wanted to work for his father at Caruthers Industries. He should have known that fixing the company's show results was a mistake, and that choosing another man over kind, generous Frederic was an even bigger one. But the damage is done. As punishment, he's been sent to Bluewater Bay to oversee the company's interest in *Wolf's Landing* merchandise.

Stuck in a small, nowhere town doing a job he hates, Blaire wants nothing more than to prove to Frederic he's changed. However, Frederic struggles to trust the man who betrayed him once already. As Blaire loses ground with his father, and Frederic starts falling back into self-destructive habits, they both have to find the balance and control that's been missing from their lives.

How the Cookie Crumbles Details

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From Reader Review How the Cookie Crumbles for online ebook

Lelyana says

This was, surprisingly good and acceptable. Everyone who knows me, knows that I have a hard limit about cheating. But it was mentioned in a blurb, so I read it with my own risk. Because, this is Bluewater Bay. That alone saying much why I read this.

Let's picture this. Hollywood, anything could happen to anyone, even the strongest one. You know what I mean? The Jerry thing, that little sh**? So it happened. Unfortunately, with Blaire, a son of the producer, and Jerry won over Blaire and leave Frederic bleed. Not pretty.

Good thing with Blaire is, I can see how much he put effort to win Frederic back, he's all patient with Frederic's stubborn behavior. I can see how he tried to prove to Frederic that 'on his own way', he was sorry and regretted what was happened back then.

I also liked how Frederick not trying to complicated to stay away from Blaire. Because, yeah, attraction was there from the start.

My only complaint is this book felt too long, there are some thing doesn't need explanation or to be there. Just cut a few chapters will do.

Will I recommend this to my friends? I think so. If they're okay with Blaire's cheating that is.

But, I was kinda glad it was not on page and not after they get together again. Blaire is kinda determine, this time and forever, it's going to be only him and Frederic.

Lesson learned.

** I received the ARC from Netgalley in exchange of a fair review, no high rating needed.**

Aerin says

1.5 stars

This was my least favorite Bluewater Bay story so far; it was too long and it dragged to much, the characters were hard to connect with and I didn't care much for either of them.

Frederic seemed like too much of a pushover and it annoyed me that he allowed Blaire back into his life. I probably would've liked this book better if Frederic's love interest was anyone other than Blaire.

Blaire was an entitled asshole who didn't own up to his mistakes and wasn't truly sorry for what de did to Frederic. He was supposedly interested in Frederic, yet his thoughts and feelings in regards with the competition and everything that took place didn't convince me he cared about Frederic one bit. He spent well too much time fantasizing about the hot ass and the crazy sex he had with the man he chose over Frederic.

I didn't finish this book because it didn't hold my interest and my dislike for Blair kept me from enjoying it even a little bit. I read more than half (it was hard work, I'm not gonna lie) and the choppy writing style made this a chore instead of a recreation.

Angie Elle says

Thank you to RIPTIDE PUBLISHING and Netgalley for providing a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

How the Cookie Crumbles was a sweet story about a man who doesn't know when to ask for help because no one has ever been there for him, and the man determined to change that. This was the twelfth book in the Bluewater Bay series (all by different authors,) and I didn't feel lost while reading it. There were some characters that I found interesting, so I will go back and check the back list for the series so I can find out if they have books.

Frederic and Blaire are on the outs at the start of the story, as their history didn't leave them in a good place. But Blaire knows he made a mistake, and he's here to prove to Frederic that he loves him and wants to be with him. After being paid off to keep silent about a rigged cooking show, Frederic makes his way to Bluewater Bay and starts his own bakery – Cookie Crumbles. Unfortunately, the money Frederic made from the reality show isn't enough to keep him afloat and when his father bleeds him nearly dry, Frederic begins to work himself into the ground. Frederic was a bit scatterbrained, though I think this was more because he was overwhelmed by his to-do list than actually being ditzy, and he was incredibly clumsy. To be honest, this story reminded me very much of the billionaire trope saturating the market right now. Except this one happens to be about two men, and Frederic, while stereotypically clumsy (again, specific to this trope,) is way more likable and experienced than any of the clumsy heroines I've read. When Blaire shows up, it's under the guise of doing business for his father, but his work could have been done anywhere. Proximity is what he needs.

While this was told from both points of view, it was clearly Frederic's story and Blaire was just along for the ride. Parts of it felt a bit slow; it centered mostly around Blaire trying to win Frederic back, and the back and forth was sometimes a bit much. While we are given a resolution to Frederic and Blaire's situation, I feel like at the end of the book, Frederic was pulled out of character and maybe just a little too brazen for me to buy. My favorite parts of the story were their pasts – Frederic's upbringing was very sad, and Blaire's father was such a jerk there was no pleasing him. I did like what tore Blaire and Frederic apart, and Blaire's revelations as he finally realized how much he'd hurt Frederic and that he'd taken much more from him than some reality show prize.

As I mentioned earlier, there were some interesting characters I'd like to read more about, and I liked the author's writing style enough to read more from her. There was nothing extraordinary about **How the Cookie Crumbles**, but it was entertaining and I'm glad I read it.

This review was originally posted at Badass Book Reviews.

Shirley says

Each time another book in this series is released I end up shuffling around my favorites. I wasn't sure exactly where *How the Cookie Crumbles* was going to fall because... well... frankly Blaire sounded like an unredeemable jerk. I love it when an author can change your opinion about a character. ;)

Frederic wasn't hard to fall for. I loved him from the beginning. I could appreciate him wanting to do everything on his own, I'm kind of the same way. Basically because I hate asking anyone for help. He took that trait to a whole new level though. On the flip side, he had a lot of amazing people jump in and insist on helping him... including Blaire.

Blaire had a lot to make up for and he knew it. Frederic wasn't easily won over and he had a lot more going on than just his mixed feelings for Blaire. He tried to be everything to everyone and came dangerously close to falling into a position where he couldn't even help himself. Blaire had no idea what kind of inner demons Frederic was fighting, but he was determined to prove that he had changed enough to be the kind of man to help fix it.

As with many of the books in the Bluewater Bay series, *How the Cookie Crumbles* can be read as a stand alone. I've read them all though and have found few I wouldn't recommend. There were a couple of familiar characters that popped up, which always makes me smile. This is also the first book by Jaime Samms that I've read, but I doubt it will be my last. *Selfie* by Amy Lane is next in the series.

I received How the Cookie Crumbles in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Racheal says

A guy opens a bakery and relies on a Walgreens within walking distance to supply it with flour and the like? These are the kind of details that drive me up a wall.

Wart Hill says

Things I Find While Shelving

I received a free ARC via NetGalley

After all of the hoopla surrounding "Selfie" and my own attempt to even start the thing let alone get to the overtly racist part, almost turned me off to Bluewater Bay entirely. Which would have saddened me as the Bluewater Bay books have been some nice feel good stories for me. Go-tos when I'm having a bad day and need a pick me up. They're like reading a RomCom which is right up my alley because hey I like a good RomCom, okay? Ain't nothing wrong with that.

Now since I had a couple more Bluewater Bay arcs, I decided not to write them all off because of one author's poor behavior.

Very glad I did decide to give this one a go.

I'm gonna get the bad out of the way first: there seems to be quite a bit of emphasis on Blaire and Frederic's relationship somehow "fixing" Frederic. I mean, later on in the novel Frederic seeking professional help does come up so there is that, but up til that point both Blaire and Frederic think about it in terms of their relationship being the thing that will fix everything for Frederic...

Life doesn't work that way. Relationships don't work that way. So yeah, just. That's why it's not a 4 star read for me, because that bothered me.

That being said. Frederic is a cutie. He's got some issues he has to work through, particularly issues with his father that he's been avoiding for pretty much his entire life. He's started a bakery and while he should be making a profit he winds up sending a lot of money to his father who has a lot of medical bills due to drinking himself quickly towards an early grave. But for Frederic, it doesn't matter how bad of a father his dad was or how he got where he is, he's family and you don't abandon family.

Meanwhile Blaire has lots of money, but that isn't going to help him with Frederic because he already messed up very badly once. When Frederic was on a cooking show, Blaire was going to start things with Frederic but instead wound up sleeping with another contestant.

Now Blaire is in Bluewater Bay on business for his father, and in search of a second chance with Frederic.

One thing I really liked is the emphasis that throwing money at the problem doesn't fix it. Blaire is completely okay with just. Buying Frederic things, paying for things he needs, etc. But Frederic doesn't want to be bought by Blaire, he wants to run his business on his own. Unfortunately Frederic is super stubborn and has a tendency to not realize when he's taken on more than he can handle.

But Bluewater Bay seems to like him and when things go awry, his customers are understanding and some willing to step up and help out at the shop. And Frederic realizes he doesn't have to do it all on his own, that he isn't alone.

How the Cookie Crumbles is another cute Bluewater Bay title, definitely a feel good piece I will be revisiting.

Kristie says

Gosh, I really enjoyed this one. Fredric and Blair have very good chemistry. They have this sad history that starts off the story, it's repercussions weaving throughout. Blair works to rebuild a trust that was broken, while also trying to help Fredric help himself.

Poor Fredric is a frazzled pastry chef, working hard to overcome all the crap that he went through with Blair, while trying to deal with family issues. On top of his father siphoning all the money he can out of him, Fredric is also suffering from his own personal addictions. He's seriously taken previous problems in his life and turned them into a working addiction. He works himself to death. It's so sad to watch. On the other side of the coin, Blair is also dealing with his own father issues, all the while trying to build back that trust that he so carelessly broke.

This was a very good story and I had so few issues with it that they're not worth mentioning. Another great addition to the Bluewater Bay Series.

Thanks to NetGalley for the ARC in exchange for my honest review

UltraMeital says

3¾ stars

I'm not sure how to review this book. I liked it, I did enjoy it, but I somehow had too many misgivings about it. I considered DNFing it about half way in, but decided I SHOULD give it a better chance because I liked the idea behind the story and WAS interested in seeing how things would work out between Blaire and Frederic.

Blaire and Frederic have history, and not a positive one.. while participating in a Reality TV Show about baking, Frederic falls for Blaire who not only deceives him, but chooses someone else, not only for his bed, but for winning the big prize (since he was one of the producers). Even though Frederic was compensated for what happened it basically screwed with his big plans.. He needed more than money, he needed the equipment because having money means his father will be at his door asking for more and more to buy alcohol. While for the most part Frederic's father was a HORRIBLE dad, Frederic is incapable of pushing him away though he deserves it for sure. He also can't leave his grandmother with the liability which is his father - her son, so he does what he can, and even what he can't really and works himself almost literally to death in the bakery he opened in Bluewater Bay.

Blaire is so very sorry about EVERYTHING that happened on that show. He made all the wrong decisions and now he is determined to UNDO them ALL and even see if he can have another chance with Frederic. He has his issues himself, also father issues, but his are different. His father, also his boss, swims in money and enjoys using it to control people as he is TRYING to do with Blaire, this time not so successfully.. Blaire had enough and coming to Bluewater Bay means working for his father but not directly under his thumb and so he has more time to consider what he truly wants for a future, if possible with Frederic by his side.

Though Blaire is VERY controlling himself, and though he made really bad decisions in the past, I DID come to like him. In the end, he was doing everything he could to help Frederic and make him forgive him. That means he was trying to use the money he obviously has to help but Frederic wasn't liking it one bit. He WOULDN'T be "bought" again by him. Thing is, Blaire really doesn't know any other way, he was doing what he did best, he was REALLY trying to help, to support Frederic, be there for him, care for him. At a certain point I felt Frederic should have realized this is FOR REAL. But it kept dragging with Frederic's distrust in Blaire, second guessing him at every step. Yeah Blaire did things behind his back, things that could be considered controlling, but in the end, I think he would have told Frederic if he thought he would accept ANY help. So I can't really fault Blaire for everything Frederic was accusing him of.

The trust issue was a HUGE part of the story, and while it made sense it was also VERY tiring. It mostly made Frederic's character sort of redundant. Though he should have had a lot of sweet and caring characteristics, I found him to be mostly foolish in his behavior. It took him TOO LONG to realize basically EVERYTHING, not just how much Blaire cares for him, but how much the people in his community do. His back story was HORRIBLE, and I didn't even have time to pity him because he was making everything SO difficult for himself..

I enjoyed seeing a little bit of characters we've met in the 5th installment "The Burnt Toast B&B", but I gotta say, Blaire's assistant and Frederic's best friends were SO annoying. I didn't like their characters AT ALL. Frederic's best friend was not only too nosy but SO judgmental! and Blaire's assistant was "evil" right up until he sort of wasn't? his whole behavior was unclear to me.

So as you can see I had MANY issues with this book which is why I can't give it a solid 4 stars rating, but I DID enjoy the way the romance built between Blaire and Frederic, the way the trust was slowly established, how much Blaire did for Frederic, how much Frederic wanted all of it to be true. How Blaire changed and grew as he started not only focusing on Frederic but making a different future for himself. Frederic also had to make a few difficult decisions about his life, those took longer and in a way we didn't get to see them happening it's more of a promise he will be better now with so many people on his side.

I really liked how independent Frederic was, and how much he accomplished on his own and the fact he WOULDN'T let anyone take over his life. He wanted Blaire the lover, not Blaire the huge bank account. He wanted a partner. Blaire wanted it all too, but not using his money to make things better isn't something he is used to, not to mention, since he is independent as Frederic is, he was used to doing things HIS way and Frederic wouldn't accept that. It took them time to realize what the other one needs. I enjoyed seeing it evolve throughout the book. Sadly there were too many things distancing me from the MCs, I can't even say I like Frederic, but I did come to appreciate Blaire. Considering the other supporting characters I was left with too little to truly enjoy this novel which is really a shame because the issues the MCs were dealing with really appealed to me. So, yeah, I guess a nice read, though not a favorite for sure.

More Reviews [HERE](#)

Sarah_loves_books says

\$8.67 is far too much! I have no choice but to wait till the price drops. I wanted to read it now, but not gonna pay that.

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

I've been familiar with the Bluewater Bay books for some time now. One of my reviewers (who quit me recently) devoured the series. She was completely gaga over these books. I was very excited to get my very own chance to visit this quiet little logging town.

The cooking show disaster that left Frederic devastated and heartbroken left Blaine in an even more awkward place with his father within Caruthers Industries. Blaine wants nothing more than to get out from under his father's thumb and get Frederic back in his good graces, hopefully in his life. Frederic took his hush money and used it to live his dream. He now has his own bakery in Bluewater Bay. Nothing seems to be going smoothly for Frederic or Blaine though. Frederic has some obsessive/control issues that he is not dealing with well. Blaine is discovering that his father's claws extend far and too close to home. Frederic has to work on delegating. Blaine has to get Frederic to trust him, again. All in all they are both in a big mess that just keeps getting crazier.

I was left wanting a little more closure with the ending. I really needed an epilogue. Perhaps what Blaire was up to with his career will pan out in a future book with another couple, but still a few month ahead glimpse would have been a nice wrap up with where he was going with his plans.

The Bluewater Bay books definitely work as stand-alones. This is the twelfth installment and the only one

that I have read. A few of the characters and couples from the previous books make tiny appearances but none of them have significant enough roles that they require reading the previous books.

Christi Snow says

My Review:

I've enjoyed most of the Bluewater Bay novels, but this one rates up there as one of my favorites in the series.

Blaire and Frederic have a history, but it's not a happy one. Blaire was in charge of a cooking show/contest that Frederic was participating in. He **thought** that he and Blaire had a connection so it was a blow to him to find out that not only had that not been true, but that Blaire rigged the contest so the guy who he was sleeping with won. It all came out and was a huge fiasco...one that Frederic got paid off so he'd never talk about it. But he needed the kitchen equipment, not the cash...for his bakery. His father wouldn't have been able to guilt him out of the equipment...like he has every bit of money Frederic has earned.

So, Frederick is in Bluewater Bay doing everything he can to make his struggling bakery a success. He works 18-22 hours a day and is exhausted. But he keeps thinking if he does one more thing, then he can make enough money to catch a break, hire a helper, or fix the oven that keeps malfunctioning. Then something else happens and it all comes crashing down.

And then Blaire walks back into his world...making everything just that much worse.

Screwing Frederic over was the biggest regret of Blaire's life. He's in Bluewater Bay hoping to fix that mistake. But he quickly realizes that Frederic needs more than just a boyfriend (one that he doesn't want anyway...there's no way he's going to trust Blaire again), he needs a keeper before he ends up dead from exhaustion or the klutziness that comes with that exhaustion. Blaire is also working to set up his own business out from under his father's thumb...so he has a lot on his plate too.

I really liked these two. I loved how much Frederic really needs Blaire, although he is so stubborn and independent, he refuses to give in. I love that Blaire is this totally put together gorgeous executive who should have it all together, but he's completely taken down at the knees by his need for Frederic. I loved that Frederic is so determined at the same time he's barely surviving, but that will of his was so freaking strong. I loved him and his determination...until it became dangerous. I loved that Blaire was able to see what Frederic needed and despite everything, he'd rather have Frederic mad and hate him than see Frederic suffer for his stubborn will to do it all himself.

There's a lot happening in this story...for both men and their family situation on top of them both struggling to get businesses off the ground. Top that off with a fledgling relationship...and yeah, they have way too much on their plates. A lot of stress. But even when Frederic was falling-down exhausted, they connected and wanted them to find their HEA in the worst way. It was a really good book. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Jennifer says

3.5 Stars

I am always happy to return to Bluewater Bay and this was another decent read in the series. I liked the premise of the couple knowing each other from a rigged reality show and being reunited. Frederic was fascinating especially with his bakery obsession. I really felt for Blaire as he tried to prove himself to Frederic. I just wanted more romance development before the I Love Yous. Still I had a good time reading this and recommend it for fans of sweet M/M contemporaries.

I received a free eARC of this book from Riptide Publishing via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Chris, the Dalek King says

While a lot of things in this story actually worked really well for me I could not get past the fact that Frederic was an annoying asshole. Like there seriously comes a point where all the bad stuff that has happened to him stops making you wanna hug him and just turns into white noise in the background of his ever increasing idiocy and stubbornness. I get that Blaire did him wrong. I even think Blaire deserved to grovel a bit for it. But even after the groveling Frederic kept slapping him down like the dude had stabbed his grandma with a whisk. The way everyone around Frederic was basically forced to take care of him because he couldn't be bothered to ask for help just got too damn annoying for me. I stopped caring.

2.75 stars

Tam says

I'm not sure if there was one before this that outlined why these two are at odds or not, but you can figure out what happened based on this. So it seems Blaire has had a personality transplant now that he's out from under his father's thumb and Frederic is working himself to the bone to support his alcoholic father's lifestyle and refuses to listen to reason. I found that very frustrating. There is being supportive and being a door mat. I liked the stuff in the bakery and the fact that his best friend kept trying to pound it into his head, but he needed some therapy to deal with the father issues.

So it was okay but I just kept shaking my head and in the end, did not have a whole lot of sympathy for someone who keeps beating their head against the wall and then wonders why it hurts. I'm harsh. Sorry.

Justin Nova says

This was a long, slow moving book. While it was nice to visit the town of BlueWater Bay I found the overall plot to be boring. I was more interested in the bakery stuff like "Pancake Day" than any of the characters. The writing used some really awkward phrasing which made it difficult for me to pay attention. There was very little tie in to the Wolf's Landing show and not many characters from other books aside from the guys from Burnt Toast. I hadn't read this author previously and this has not encouraged me to seek her other

works. If anything I will be more cautious when buying books from this series unless I know the author already. Total letdown for me as I enjoy books with cooking themes as well as exes reunited but this book just wasn't for me.
