



The Sometimes Sisters

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A bittersweet inheritance reunites three estranged sisters in a novel of family, trust, and forgiveness from *New York Times* bestselling author Carolyn Brown.

When they were growing up, Dana, Harper, and Tawny thought of themselves as “sometimes sisters.” They connected only during the summer month they’d all spend at their grandmother’s rustic lakeside resort in north Texas. But secrets started building, and ten years have passed since they’ve all been together—in fact, they’ve rarely spoken, and it broke their grandmother’s heart.

Now she’s gone, leaving Annie’s Place to her granddaughters—twelve cabins, a small house, a café, a convenience store, and a lot of family memories. It’s where Dana, Harper, and Tawny once shared so many good times. They’ve returned, sharing only hidden regrets, a guarded mistrust, and haunting guilt. But now, in this healing summer place, the secrets that once drove them apart could bring them back together—especially when they discover that their grandmother may have been hiding something, too...

To overcome the past and find future happiness, these “sometimes sisters” have one more chance to realize they are always family.

The Sometimes Sisters Details

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Author : Carolyn Brown

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From Reader Review The Sometimes Sisters for online ebook

Dani C. (Paulette's Papers) says

I knew this is going to be a doozy of a book after I had only read 2 pages and I was already in tears...

Dana, Harper and Tawny are three sisters who are not close. Dana is their half-sister who was rejected by their father. Growing up the girls only spent time together when they were at their grandmother's lake resort. Granny Annie loved her granddaughters so much but when she knew her time on earth was coming to a close, she hatched a plan with Uncle Zed to bring her girls back home.

And they do come home. Each with their own baggage and broken dreams. Each of them hopeful that Granny Annie's will become the home they always wanted and needed. Along the way maybe these women would become more than Sometimes Sisters...

This family drama (with a little bit of romance) is an easy story to fall into. Each of the sisters has their own story to tell and this well written story makes it easy for you to follow each one of them. You will smile, and you will cry as these sisters learn how to become a family. If you are looking for a compelling story that is highly entertaining and enjoyable – this is the one to pick up.

Natalie says

I received this as a Goodreads First Read - Kindle

Unfortunately, I didn't like it. And couldn't finish it.

The three sisters (and daughter and other random people both male and female) were so similar it was confusing. There were not distinguishing characteristics. They talked the same. They acted the same.

Sure, the author told us that they were different - prissy, responsible, alcoholic - but then they acted and spoke the same.

To the point where 1/3 of the book in, I still had no clue which sister was which.

The trope of the wise, mystical black man who will 'rescue' and yet help guide the white characters, is in play here with the uncle Zed. Boo.

All in all, similar undistinguished characters, over-used tropes, and more stopped me from finishing it.

I didn't hate it, which is why it received 1.5 Stars. I just didn't care to read further. I kept rolling eyes when I did pick it up, which was rarely. So, letting it go.

DJ Sakata says

Favorite Quotes:

Granny used to say that the person who stirs the shit pile has to lick the spoon.

He made it in eight minutes and would have arrived there sooner if he hadn't gotten behind a pokey old woman who didn't have any place to go and a year to get there.

Did you think it was all rainbows and unicorn farts after you left? The only thing that changed was that I got all the bitchin' instead of sharin' it with you.

You can do better... He's not for you, Aunt Tawny. He's got a cat and he lives with his mama.

She'd worn a white robe and the preacher said that she was leaving all her sins in the water and would be a new creature when she arose from it. At ten years old, she'd often wondered how the water felt holding the sins of so many people and where it went when the preacher pulled the plug and let it all go. Did it wash into the rivers, where the sin jumped on people as they swam?

She loved the sound of his soft drawl. Maybe she could take him home. He could sit beside her bed and read the phone book to her until she fell asleep.

My Review:

I enjoyed this cleverly paced small-town family drama that was packed with quirky characters, heart-squeezing histories, irreverent homespun wisdom, and amusing observations. Three grieving and desperate women arrived at a small-town Texas lake resort with each hoping for a chance at a fresh start in life. They had previously called themselves sometimes sisters, although they were actually three half-sisters who were only together one month each summer while staying at the rustic lake resort of with their much-loved grandmother, "Granny Annie." Each was envious of the others but had never looked too deeply as nothing was as it had seemed.

But Granny Annie has just passed away, and the three women must return to run the resort together or get nothing at all, which posed quite the challenge, as they had not been successful in spending more than a few minutes together without an argument breaking out. Each arrived at the resort out of options, out of money, and weighted down with shameful secrets, regrets, and old resentments. Little did they know that Granny Annie had been keeping the biggest secret of them all. My favorite character was not one of the sisters but the elderly cook who had been known to them all their lives as Uncle Zed, I adored him, even if he was the cause of the first ugly cry I've sobbed out in years.

Aly says

You can run from the past but you can't hide indefinitely from it. That's one life's lesson that the "sometimes sisters" will learn when they'll be reunited after ten years for their grandmother's will. Harper, Tawny and their half-sister Dana will have to work together to run around Annie's place and each woman will have to face the mistakes they made before and deal with different guilt and feelings they drag with them over the years. But what happened ten years ago to make them dislike each other and keep their distance ?

Fortunately, they can count on Annie's old friend Zed to play referee and help them get back on their feet and find their way again. More than a place for the three women to heal, Annie's place will be the one where they'll find acceptance, support and love.

I'm glad I finally decided to read this book. I adore Carolyn Brown's cowboy romance and found this cover real pretty, but I almost miss out on this one because it was women's fiction and reviews talked about making you cry and I'm such a wimp. But it's not tears of frustration or despair so I shouldn't have let it influence me because this author's work always put a smile to my face and even when there's sad moments, the happy ones always trump the bad ones. And it made me realize that what I like so much in Carolyn Brown's writing is that it makes me feel as if she's (and her characters) still young at heart. That's why it's always a pure joy to read her books. :)

Lindsay Nixon says

This book is dripping in sickly sweet southern syrup. If you like overly "southern" small town backdrops with the tired family drama of someone having a secret baby when they were 17 or being white but loving a black person (basically everyone is Trump "conservative" and all the women need to be liberated from white-male shame) this is a great choice for you. I probably should have known what I was in for when I learned one sister's name was Tawny.

By the halfway point I felt like I'd drunk too much sweet tea and my teeth might fall out. By 70% I was starting to get offended by all these women who were so ashamed about their pregnancies and said things like "but I loved and respected Gran too much to tell her what I'd done"

I also have a hard time believing these towns/people/stories actually exist (Have these authors ever been to the real south?) feels so Hollywood fabricated. I feel this way about all the "Cape Cod/Nantucket/Hampton summer" and such stories too.

Lastly, I couldn't have paper-read this book because my eyes would be perpetually rolling from most of the lines and quips. I was able to let it go with the narrator.

I had read *The Ladies' Room* by this author and enjoyed it (at the time it was a vast change of pace from what I had been reading) and I'd been looking at other books by her to read but after this I think I'm all set (on her, and the genre).

Rissa says

4.5??

Grandma died and you don't get your inheritance until you work for it.

These sometimes sisters well are only sisters during holidays and now they are forced to work together and learn to love again.

It was beautiful and sweet and just touching.

Irene says

What a Great Read. I found tears rolling down my face at one point. I sure wish they would make this into a movie, what a great chic flick this would make. This was a Great Read for Gals of the Southwest Book Club. We will certainly be reading more of Carolyn Brown books. Found it on Goodreads Gals of the Southwest Book Club.

Bea Charmed says

"The Sometimes Sisters" is the story of three sisters who have grown part over the years. When their father's mother dies, they all come to gather. They find she's left them her property, divided up amongst the three of them but they will have to work together. Her hope is they will rediscover and rebuild their familial bonds.

All three women, Dana, Harper, and Tawny, are having hard times and their grief over their grandmother's death at first pushes them further apart. They sniped at each other and harassed each other and kept secrets from each other. To be honest, they were initially unlikable. Slowly, they start to open up, and to become more tolerable for the reader and to each other. Small town living, hard work, and homilies from their uncle Zed all help them find their way back. Along the way, they all find romance and learn a secret about their Grandma Annie. The romances could have been developed more, or even left out all together. They were sweet and tender romances, which I liked, but I would have preferred to see the women form their bonds and deal with their individual problems before getting romantically involved. One of the romances felt shoehorned in as if Brown realized she'd given romances to everyone and forgotten one sister. There were some quotes I seriously disagreed with and a factual error about a current show on TV, and the emphasis on the beauties of small town life got to be a bit much. Like many authors, Brown has a tendency to put small town life on a pedestal. I've lived in small towns most of my life so I know full well the downsides to them.

"The Sometimes Sisters" was a slow-moving, sweet story that had its share of tragedy and bitterness but ultimately it was hopeful and had a happy ending. Although the story frustrated me at times, I did get pulled in and rooted for the sisters to make peace with each other. If you want a character driven, sweet story that's a mix of family drama and romance, then pick up "The Sometimes Sisters".

I received a copy from the publisher for review.

Lisa says

This book was dull and slow-paced. I really disliked the repetitive dialogue and found myself skimming pages to get to the very predictable ending.

♥Rachel♥ says

4.5 Stars

I just loved this story so much! I shed tears, both sad and happy, **The Sometimes Sisters** brought out all the feels!

Dana, Harper, and Tawny are the “Sometimes Sisters” who had gathered for a month during each summer at their Granny Annie’s lakeside resort. Dana is the oldest, a bastard child of their father he refused to acknowledge, but Granny Annie wouldn’t stand for her son’s behavior and accepted her as the true granddaughter she is. Harper and Tawny were the legitimate daughters, but didn’t mean they weren’t abandoned by a parent too. These girls only got along sometimes, and there’s been a lot of years since that’s happened. Each one of the sisters has a sad tale and a sort of a chip on their shoulders, but they’ll need to get over it to work together after their Granny’s death. It’s Granny Annie’s dying wish to make it so, and Uncle Zed has been tasked to transforming these women to the “always sisters” instead of “sometimes sisters”.

At the death of their Granny, all three sisters gather at the Lakeside Resort, to mourn her passing and take over running the place with Uncle Zed, Granny Annie’s best friend, and their as-good-as grandpa. We gradually discover why each need this place to call home as the story progresses. I loved watching these women heal and draw close, while their Granny whispers encouragement or snap-out-of-it statements in their heads. I had to laugh at some of her sayings! Uncle Zed is quite the peacemaker, too, and I just loved him to pieces! My heart broke for his loss at the beginning of the story, but I was glad he got to stick around and witness these sisters putting aside their differences and becoming a real, solid family.

The setting is exactly the kind of place I’d love to spend the summer, a beautiful lakeside resort with old-fashioned cabins, a little snack, bait and tackle store, and a café serving all the good home-cooked favorites! This place sounded like a dream escape to me!

This is more of a women’s fiction story, but there are romances for each of the girls, including Brooke, Dana’s daughter. Even though they were side stories and not the complete focus, each of them was sweet and lovely, and a welcome addition! There’s also a back story, a touching one, about Granny Annie and Uncle Zed that I suspected, and then was revealed in the end. Like I said, tears, both happy and sad were shed with this heartwarming, lovely story!

A copy was kindly provided by Montlake Romance via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Sarah Yee says

DNF - Couldn't bear to finish. The writing was just that cheesy and awful.

Heidi says

Four stars: A touching story that reminds us of the importance of family.

Dana, Harper and Tawny are sometimes sisters. They have never gotten along, and they have never seen eye to eye. Dana has trouble relating to her two half sisters, not only because they are younger, but also because she thinks they are spoiled. Harper has not seen her sisters in a long time, ever since she left home at sixteen, she has been lost. Bouncing from job to job, trying to find her way. Tawny, the youngest, is reeling after she was recently kicked out of college for a drug infraction. All three sisters are looking for employment and a

place to call home. When they receive the tragic news that their beloved Granny Annie has died, the trio head to the one place they used called home to pick up the pieces, claim their inheritance and hopefully find a home. Will they ever be more than sometimes sisters?

What I Liked:

*Carolyn Brown is best known for her sweet cowboy romances, but every now and then, Ms. Brown delivers a touching, contemporary story. This book is about three sisters who lost their way. They come home after their sweet grandma passes away. They work to claim their inheritance, and over time, they recognize the importance of familial bonds. This is a moving story that will tug at your heart strings. Don't miss it.

*I liked that all three of the sisters take time to grow on you. As the story opens, all three of the women are struggling with their professional and personal lives. In fact, they are all train wrecks. When they reunite, they are quick to find fault with one another and to speak harshly. As the story moves on, the reader learns the secret burden that each girl is carrying. Once the girls open up and let go, beautiful things happen. I loved watching each sister grow and evolve. By the end, they will win you over.

Zed and Brook round out the cast, and they are the show stealers. Zed is an old African American who was the best friend to their beloved Granny Annie. Zed loved Annie from the time he was a little boy, despite the fact that Annie was blonde and white. Love does not see color. After Annie passes away, it is up to Zed to see that Annie's dying wishes to reunite her granddaughters is met. Zed is steadfast, kind, patient and devoted. How I loved this kindly, old man. Brook is Dana's teenage daughter. She is more grown up than her mom and aunts a lot of the time. I loved how she often talked sense into the feuding girls. She is a sweetheart, but don't think she is a pushover, she can throw a punch and hold her own.

*At the heart of the story is the message of the importance of family, whether it be your blood relatives or the family you make with your heart as in the case of Zed. I loved seeing all the characters grow closer and closer. Even when they were feuding, the girls were quick to defend one another to outsiders. By the end, the girls are always sisters.

*For all of you who love romance, there is romance in this one. I liked though the the romances were not the central focus of the story, they are fun side stories.

*This is a heartfelt book. I loved exploring all the relationships, especially the one between Zed and Granny Annie. There are so many heartfelt moments. I dare you to read this and not get teary eyed.

*The ending is sweet and satisfying. I loved that there was an Epilogue a year down the road that caught the reader up on everything that had transpired for the sisters. It was wonderful to see them content and happy.

And The Not So Much:

*One of the aspects that intrigued me the most was the relationship between Granny Annie and Zed. I was desperate to know more. Finally at the end, there was a revelation to the girls about the true nature of the relationship between Annie and Zed. I still wanted more. In fact, I would love a whole book with Granny Annie and Zed.

*Granny Annie even though she was dead throughout the book, still was one of the most fascinating characters. She is ever present in all the characters' thoughts. I loved her witty sayings and her advice. I wanted so much more from Granny Annie. I found myself wishing that she could have been alive. I needed more of her!

The Sometimes Sisters is delightful and touching story that explores the bonds of family. I loved the characters, the story lines, and the focus on the importance of familial bonds, whether they be blood relations or those you choose with your heart. If you want a sweet story with memorable characters and one that will make you shed a few tears, grab this one.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own, and I was not compensated for this review.

Posted@Rainy Day Ramblings.

Wit & Wonder Books says

****ARC provided for an honest review****

The Sometimes Sisters by Carolyn Brown is a touching and heartfelt novel about trust, forgiveness and family.

Brought together by the death of their beloved grandmother Dana, Tawny and Harper must learn what family is all about by running a lake resort. Never ones to be super close all three girls bind together to help their Uncle Zed to run the lake resort which was in their grandmothers will as a stipulation of their inheritance.

Along with Dana's daughter Brook, the family learns to overcome their secrets that they have been hiding in fear of letting down their beloved Granny and Zed. Zed gives each girl a piece of advice and a piece of his heart, to help them come to terms with their guilt. Things like a sham marriage, a baby given up for adoption, and a drug conviction that wasn't the persons fault, but they took the blame all come to the forefront. These maybe huge to some people but this family learns while big to the person the guilt and love surpasses all.

Valuable lessons are learned by all by the time the lake house is handed over to the girls. Heartache follows these lessons, but each girl comes out ahead and takes the heartache head on, ready to face what she must take care of at the lake resort.

A timeless tale that interweaves both racial relationships, and broken sisterly bonds, this is a book you will want to pick up this year. I give it five stars, it was beautifully written and each subject that is brought forth is tackled with ease and understanding. You will laugh, cry and cheer as these girls find their way to one another.

Sophia says

A laid-back resort by the lake welcomes back three half-sisters when their grandmother dies. Grandma Annie's last wish is to see these three Sometimes Sisters work past whatever made them all go their separate ways as teens and become a family again. With the help of the resort, old Uncle Zed, memories of Annie, chances at new and old love, the Clancy sisters return to the lake.

I enjoyed this touching story that focuses on the lives of three estranged sisters who have all hit rock bottom and need a do over on life and a new chance at being family. The death of their grandmother and the summons from beyond the grave for them to all return to the lake resort where they used to spend their summers is the catalyst that is needed. Dana, Harper, and Tawny, along with Dana's precocious teenage daughter must now run the resort together per Annie's wishes.

It starts out really rocky with these three and I was ready to hose the lot of them down. They each come burdened down with secrets and baggage and poor Zed has his hands full fulfilling his deceased love's last wishes and his own before he is gone, too. I wasn't sure if I was going to make it through the acrimonious snipping the sisters did, but the author found a good balance there and started having them begin to heal and change just at the right moment. It was gradual and just the right pace to be believable for the type of past

hurts and pains these three were suffering.

The author's usual wry country humor, engaging characters, and charming nostalgic setting was all there, but it was pared with touching family issues of these three women and young woman who have all had the bitter pain of disappointing parents to deal with and Annie, the grandmother, being the one who held them all together for a while and the one they could count on. Now, they are slowly learning to count on themselves and each other even as their healing brings the chance for old romance and new romance opportunities.

The romances were sweet, but I was definitely more attracted to the sisterly relationships and the coming back together as family. Old, darling Zed was my favorite character. I enjoyed those bittersweet moments where he 'talked' and 'listened' to Annie while he tried to corral those younger women and know just how to handle them all particularly in the beginning when they were so hostile.

All in all, this was a gently-paced story that tugged at my heart, made me chuckle a little, and tear up once or twice. It had lighter qualities, but it was a little bittersweet, too. This will match up for those who enjoy stories of family healing and a side of sweet romance.

I rec'd this book from Net Galley to read in exchange of an honest review.

Cali Jewel says

Heartwarming, homespun, quirky, emotional and entertaining adventure for three sisters with a lot of real life regrets and secrets keeping them apart.

Dana, Harper, and Tawny are the "Sometimes Sisters" each with a different yet sad history and only one summer together at their Granny Annie's lakeside resort (their dad's mom). When Granny Annie passes it is her dying wish they come together to run the resort and make a go of it as a family. Uncle Zed is on hand to help them become the sisters they are meant to be. (Granny's best friend) I just adored him so much. This story made me cry, laugh and sigh almost at the same time. Just loved it!
