



Summer's Sweet Embrace: A Sweet Romance Anthology

Kim Stratford , Laurie Treacy , Christa MacDonald , Niki Mitchell , Michelle Ziegler , Jaylee Austin , Sheryl Winters , Melissa J. Crispin

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Summertime love is always the sweetest. These eight sweet tales of summer romance are the perfect companion for a day at the lake or the beach.

When The Sea Swallows the Sun - Kim Stratford
Ocean Dust - Laurie Tracy
The Beach Rose - Christa MacDonald
Love's High Tide - Niki Mitchell
Love's Nectar - Jaylee Austin
Truly Paradise - Michelle Ziegler
Above Reproach - Sheryl Winters
Linger - Melissa J. Crispin

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From Reader Review Summer's Sweet Embrace: A Sweet Romance Anthology for online ebook

Echo Shea says

Generally I'm not a sweet romance kind of girl, though I do make some exceptions. This one was well worth it. I enjoyed some stories I thought I wouldn't, and, well, the stories were just thoroughly enjoyable. Usually I like to give a blow-by-blow, but really, I just enjoyed it. <3

Lissyiszy says

Truly Paradise – Michelle Ziegler

This I thought this story was ok. I loved the introduction because it made me laugh. I couldn't connect with the main character on an intellectual level. She seemed to be unable to deal with her problems on her own. I understand she made a mistake but I couldn't understand the way she handled it. Just tell him up front and/or tell your friends so that they can help you. She didn't and her friends didn't bother reading the signs either.

I also thought the love interest was too hands off. I would have liked to see him do more to help her or see her reach out for him. It just seemed the communication seemed to be on the wrong wavelength between them. I guess it's because they just met but still, I didn't understand. The writing is a bit choppy and not as smooth as I'd like.

Ocean Dust – Laurie Treacy

I found this story difficult to get into and found myself skimming to get to the point. It's really only half way through do I truly get invested. I liked the idea of paranormal elements taking place but I feel the characters are too young and things aren't explained clearly.

I like the background of the love interest but it seems that this is the beginning of a whole story in itself. I don't quite get the end of the story but I think that it could be continued into something else. I would have liked to had a full story arc instead of just an introduction to another story.

The Beach Rose – Christa MacDonald

This story is nice with a contemporary feel. The theme is a "second chance". I thought it was sweet but the story didn't thrill me as much when I read. Nothing interesting really intrigued me as I read. What I got out of the story is wistfulness of the characters about their lives and regrets they had in the past. Maybe I'm not the right target audience for this yet because I didn't find this story exciting, but I can appreciate the idea of wanting a second chance and to make a better choice than the first time around.

When the Sea Swallows the Sun – Kim Stratford

This story I enjoyed. I liked the tension between the characters and how the characters changed during the story. It was quick but enough development for me for a short story. I particularly enjoyed the banter between the characters. I found myself chuckling at them and found myself immersed in the story. The writing is short but straightforward and more up my alley when it comes to writing.

The plot advanced quickly and my favorite part is that the characters communicated with each other. Well they bantered, but during that banter they were able to discuss and learn things about each other that they may not have noticed if they didn't talk like so many other characters in stories. I thought the writing could be polished just a bit but I still enjoyed this story.

Love's Nectar – Jaylee Austin

This story is ok. I can see how relationships could be complicated but I don't really appreciate these types of complexities even though they happen in real life. I couldn't relate to any of the characters. Except for the child. Overall, this story is probably for those who enjoy complex relationships and deception.

Love's High Tide – Niki Mitchell

I liked this story but I didn't love it as much as I had hoped. I've seen the cliché of making a bet with a friend to get the girl but this story doesn't really do anything to twist the cliché. It was fun to see but nothing really happened to make me care as much for the story. I liked Skye and how tough she is but I didn't like how she melted just because Harley was hot and helped her a few times. It just didn't seem enough for me that he did a few things and her shield just melted. It seemed unbelievable to me. Also the big thing at the end didn't seem to be enough for me to believe he was worth it then either. Perhaps I'm also not the type to enjoy public displays of affection.

Linger – Melissa J. Crispin

I liked this story. It was interesting. I did get a bit confused at first at what was happening in the story but overall I liked it. I do have a few questions about the story but I don't want to spoil it. There seemed to be a plot hole that was missed during edits that still bothers me. If you ignore that fact then you'll probably be fine. I like the theme of the story and thought the end was sweet. Also there was a cute dog and I'm a sucker for dogs.

Above Reproach – Sheryl Winters

This story is good. I liked that Margaret is established and has a life of her own but she seemed to be extremely moody. I suppose it's because she's pregnant but still her anger is a bit much in my opinion. Then again, I've never been pregnant so I don't know. Garrett is nice, he didn't seem much at first but I liked how the author gave both characters a weakness to make them stronger. They both developed nicely and they become stronger because of that and I appreciate the thought behind it.

Overall, a good selection of stories. The stories are all diverse in age and romance so you're bound to find something you'll like. There is no LGBTQ romance in here just so you all know. I would have liked to see

one to help make it more diverse but this is still a good variety. If you're looking for sweet, cute, and beachy romance then you'll like these stories.

3.3 out of 5 rating for me!

(A copy was provided for an honest review. I was not compensated in any other way.)

Kelly says

This book was a nice mix of eight tales of summer romance. This book is a perfect for light reading while visiting the a lake.

Jessica says

I received an ARC of this set in exchange for an honest review

When the Sea Swallows the Sun: I wanted more of this story. it has the potential to be a great story. I hope Kim Strattford has more Emma and Rick for readers to enjoy. I want to know more about the party where the two first met....then the relationship both had until they meet again.

The Beach Rose by Christs MacDonald this is another story I would like more of. Annie feels like a failure and loser in life. Her family doesn't really have faith in her and what she wants in life. Craig a successful business man hadls loved Annie for years but she didn't know. they knew each other long ago but haven't seen each other for years. would love to get more of these characters

Truly Paradise: Hailey is wanting romance so she starts seeing Cliff hoping he will sweep her of her feet. Instead she walks in on him with another girl while in Mexico for her friends wedding. Her friend wants her to meet her soon to be husbands cousin and wanted it before she hooked up with Cliff.

Justin sees a beautiful women sitting and crying on the beach. he is here for his cousins wedding.

I would like more of this story as well

Love's High tide: this story is of Skye a hotshot surfer who own a surf shop in California. She was hurt in her last relationship so swears of tourists. Harley is from Idaho and visiting his cousin Jack. He spots Skye surfing and asks Jack to introduce him. He said no way at fisrt but then they made as bet.

will Harley win the bet? Will Skye fall for the Idaho boy? this story was cute.

Ocean Dust: I couldn't get into this book

Love's Nectar: this story is about the truth coming out after years a secrets. the truth can destroy several relationships and lives. Will it set them free or destroy?

Above Reproach: this story was a little hard for me to read. It deals with cancer and it's a tough subject. the story was good

Linger: this is a tear jerker. would have liked more of this story

Sharon Hughson says

My biggest disappointment with these stories is I didn't get a "summer" vibe from them (which is what I was expecting based on the title). I still give them 4.4 out of five stars.

Each story is the perfect length to read when you're taking a short break from regular life. They were sweet romances with just enough heat to get my heartbeat up. Who needs cardio when you can read romance?

The last two stories are by authors who I've been wanting to read for several months. I wasn't disappointed. They were worth waiting for.

The last story is a tear jerker, but in NO way a sad story. Figure that one out. Or better yet - read the book.

Rebecca Hart says

What a fantastic mix of summer stories. I laughed, and yes, I cried. Good stuff.

Michelle says

Fun reads that revolve around the beach. How can you go wrong?

I walked away smiling from this book, well most of this book. There was one story that wasn't a good fit for me although it was very well written, but there were still 7 other stories that were wonderful and left a smile on my face.

There is one story that's paranormal in nature, a shifter story. This was an unexpected surprise, but most are contemporary romance stories. There were a few stories that involved a second chance at love or missed opportunities and several that were love at first sight.

The heat level is pretty low in this book, hence the "Sweet Romance" disclaimer. That is not to say there isn't a lot of romance, because there is. Every story has a lot of feeling from the initial tingles of attractions to the pain of unrequited love. I am always impressed at how much feeling can be packed into short stories. I didn't feel any story was lacking, although there are several I would love to read more about.

If you are looking for something light and clean these will fit the bill, and although they are beach centered, I can see myself pulling it out when I need to bring back the heat of a beach in the middle of winter.
