



## Play Dates

*Maggie Wells*

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For single parents, life is often more diapers and daycare dilemmas than dating. But for three dads going solo, a little flirting can lead to a whole lot more than a fling . . .

Colm Cleary lost his wife just moments after his son Aiden's birth, and it's been just the two of them ever since. Dating is his very last priority—until he spots gorgeous Monica Rayburn on the playground with her little girl. Suddenly finding a woman sympathetic to the demands of single parenthood seems like a great idea—especially if they agree to a no-pressure, no-strings date . . .

Dazzled by the hot “Saturdaddy” who asks her out, Monica doesn’t get around to mentioning that little Emma is her niece. She’s in commodities, not children. A gambler to the bone, she’s going to take a chance on an adult evening with Colm—and worry about the details later. But when their casual connection deepens into something more solid, the truth will have to come out—and both Colm and Monica will have to throw caution to the wind to hold on to a future together . . .

## Play Dates Details

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Author : Maggie Wells

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## From Reader Review Play Dates for online ebook

### Terri says

Review Also found at <https://kristineandterri.blogspot.ca/...>

I received an advanced copy of this book from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

It is hard to provide a review on this story as it was so short so I am going to review a little differently from how I normally do. Instead I am just going to jot down random thoughts that come to mind after reading this story.

1. As mentioned, it is pretty short. This was a good thing as I needed something to read that was not going to be a time commitment.
2. The story is very steamy. The bedroom (or hallway) scenes left little to the imagination. Any couple looking to spice up their love live should read this. Seriously it was that hot. If you like your stories a little or a lot on the "dirty" side then this is the read for you
3. Combining point one and two means that the majority of the story is the physical relationship between Monica and Colm. The rest of the plot gets crammed in to the remaining pages.
4. Aiden was adorable. As someone who is a lot like Monica and may be missing the nurturing gene, I loved this kid!
5. I'm not sure but since there are three Saturdaddies, I would expect that we should see a couple more stories to make this a series.

Overall, a short and hot hot hot story.

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### B. says

If you don't mind a heroine who lies, or at least lies by omission, to the guy she's interested in, then you'll enjoy this book. I did find the heroine a little exasperating since, as her sister points out to her, it wouldn't have been a bit of a problem to tell the hot guy she meets at the park that the kids she's with is her niece, not her own. Instead she is so attracted to the hot, single dad, Colm Cleary, that she lets him think that she's a single mother. Actually, she's a commodities trader who is devoted to her job and thinks that she'd make a terrible wife and mother.

She will grow during the book and become less annoying. What really makes the book is Colm and his fellow bachelor daddies who work together and also have regular poker nights where they play for high stakes of gummy bears and cookies. Who doesn't love hot, single daddies who will do anything for their children?

I was given a free ARC of this book from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Katie(babs) says**

Play Dates starts out in a very adorable way with single dads at a playground watching their children play. Monica is there with her niece, and taking pictures. She's an independent single woman who's not interested in marriage or having children. She ends up meeting Colm, who mistakenly thinks her niece is her daughter. Monica doesn't correct him because she doesn't think she'll see him again. But Colm is interested in Monica and they do meet again. He wants to take her out on a date. She agrees because she thinks it will be a one time thing, as in a one night stand. But Monica has made a big boo-boo. Colm doesn't want a one night stand, and wants to see her again and again. She really likes Colm, but she fails to tell him she's not a single mother, which makes their relationship over before it begins.

Play Dates is about deception on the part of Monica. She lies and fibs, making Colm believe she's a single mother, which I find disgusting. If she had been honest from the beginning or at the very least before she jumps into bed with him I would be more sympathetic to the reasoning. Because she's a liar and fraud, there is no way I can believe in their love or a HEA, even when she comes clean, which is not from her being honest because of the guilt, but because Colm finds out when he goes to his dentist, who happens to Monica's brother-in-law.

Play Dates is a big fail of a romance that could have really shined, but it's full of deceit from the heroine who doesn't deserve Colm. Selfish heroine makes for a bad romance.

Pass on this one.

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### **Alex ? says**

Interesting story. Unusual set-up: single dad and single anti-commitment woman.

I like them different, anything but not the 'standard' storyline. This one delivered it.

It's my personal preference, but I don't like to read about a woman, who was made guilty and needs to apologize again and again. Yes, she didn't tell him that she didn't have kids, but their communication was clearly set to no-kids-rules. And even if... Well, I prefer the man doing apologizing and chasing.

The hero was actually a decent guy, but he acted like a drama queen sometimes. I enjoyed his relationship with his son and I actually liked to read about his doubts and insecurities, coz it's human. But it became a bit too much for me toward the end.

Safe! Safety-gang gals will like him: he was celibate for 4 years and wasn't looking for an easy lay. Yes! So rare in romance! No OM/OW drama.

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## **Heather says**

This book completely stands alone and \*does not\* end on a cliffhanger. There is a lot of cursing (including f-bombs) and a lot of sex in this one so if those things bother you, you should skip this one. There is a specific sex act alluded to during their first sex scene that might make some readers uncomfortable, but that act does not actually happen in this book so if that makes you nervous, you don't have to worry about that.

Let me start by saying, I did not like Monica for most of the book. I. Did. Not. Like. Her. She was selfish and petty, and every time she lied to Colm I wanted to smack her. Hard. But when she was taken out at the knees by her lies coming to light, I found myself really impressed by the character growth we saw from her. Although I would have loved for her to have that particular epiphany sooner so that we could see Colm and Monica together without lies between them, I was pleased by their happily ever after.

Colm and Aiden's relationship was the highlight of this book. Every scene that they were in together made me smile – I would happily have read a book that just featured Colm parenting his precocious little boy. Their conversations were so full of humor and love that I couldn't help but adore Colm.

If you enjoy a book that is laced with a ton of humor and a sweet single dad who plays poker for the funniest stakes and who unashamedly loves his adorable little boy, you will probably enjoy this book. Just...give Monica time. She eventually comes around.

I requested and was granted a copy of this book via NetGalley and the publisher. I was under no obligation to write this review.

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## **??Trea says**

**FTC DISCLAIMER: I RECEIVED AN E-ARC FROM THE PUBLISHER THROUGH NET GALLEY. I VOLUNTARILY OFFER MY HONEST REVIEW OF THE BOOK, THOUGH IT IS NOT EXPECTED OF ME! RECEIPT OF THIS BOOK IN THIS MANNER DOES NOT AFFECT MY OPINION OF THE BOOK OR THE CONTENT OF MY REVIEW!**

When I was reading the blurb of this book, I thought it sounded so interesting. However, upon reading it, there were a lot of little things that impaired my enjoyment of the story.

Monica was a very difficult character for me. On one hand, I absolutely hated her for how much she lied to Colm, seeming to want to never come clean about it. On the other hand, I truly enjoyed her journey from Single Career Woman to committed relationship status. She really dragged the story down for me. Colm was a bit of a wash for me, too. His attitudes grated on me at times, and I just didn't want to cheer for him in the relationship. I also didn't find the secondary characters interesting enough to want to see them get their own story.

All things considered, this is a story that was worth reading once, but not purchasing, or continuing, should a series be made out of it.

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## Ari Reavis says

Dnf at 36%

I just can't. Monica keeps saying how she doesn't care for kids, how her niece leaves her exhausted after only a few minutes, and I don't see my opinion of her changing because she might 'come around' in the end. Colm had some moments where he resents his son and it's a really big turn off for me. Plus I've heard a bit too much about his dead ex-wife. I wanted to at least get to the first sex scene, and I did, but ughh, if I had to hear about Monica's hips swaying one more time or her small breasts..... I give up.

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## Amy Leigh says

Could definitely see this romantic comedy being made into a movie. Well written.

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## Claire Robinson says

3.5 - **"You're turning into quite the liar..."** Stars!

Maggie Wells begins her new *Play Dates* series set around three single Daddies with a story that begins as miscommunication, then sits in the withholding the truth bracket for a little longer than this reader really likes.

Don't get me wrong, I really enjoyed the writing style, the banter between Colm, and his business partners and single-parents Mike and James was great, and the sexy-times between him and Monica were smokin' hot, but this book lost a star for the fact that the apparently confident and independent Monica couldn't balls up, and admit to him that his initial assumption of her being a single mother wasn't true.

***For once in her life, she didn't want to weigh the risk and rewards...***

Once again I found myself wishing (as I do with many books with this trope) that she had come clean and then read of a story where they work on a relationship around her being unused to children and both of them learning how to balance a relationship with each other around that, rather than her spend 75% of the book lying and trying to justify the fact even though she knows she's going to end up hurting Colm (and herself) because of it.

***"I'm not nearly through with what I want to do with you..."***

That-said it was a pretty quick read so I didn't have a huge amount of time to get overly frustrated with her, but then because of the quick nature of the read, I also found Colm's forgiveness awfully speedy in it's delivery too. These are minor gripes though because in general it was a pretty decent story.

***"I hope you like the natural look..?"***

My first book by this author, but I will definitely be looking too read Mike's book; *Easy Bake Lovin'* due for release in March 18.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

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### **Bec\_BookMagicReviews says**

3.5 Stars

Monica Rayburn is a woman that knows what she wants and what she wants is Colm Cleary. But the only way she believes he'll consider going out with her is because he thinks she's a mother. However, when the lies become too much and there's more and more chance of Colm uncovering her deception, will Monica be able to make things right between them or will she lose her chance at happy ever after?

Although I really liked how this book started and things getting out of control quickly with Monica's lies adding up, I found there were moments where I had to put this book down, as I couldn't handle the heroine's drama. Her obsession with being a workaholic and avoiding relationships was understandable because of her past, but with things turning out well for her sister in finding love, why wouldn't Monica want the same? However, in saying that, I absolutely loved the hero, his son and the hero's friends.

As for the dialogue, it was entertaining due to the main characters back stories, especially that of the hero, because of how he ended up a single dad. Yet, it was also entertaining due to the remarkable bond Colm and his son have as well as the strong bond Colm shares with his friends that has them teasing each other about women and setting each other straight when it comes to the mistakes they each believe the other is making. Then there's the close relationship Monica and her sister have and I could certainly understand why Monica's sister was concerned about what the heroine was doing. Will the heroine listen to her sister before it's too late?

Overall, this book offered plenty of promise in the beginning with the meet cute between Monica and Colm, but there were moments where I wanted to shake the heroine to knock some sense into her. Really, as if her lying wasn't going to backfire and what a way it did end up backfiring on her. It made me feel sorry for her, but in saying that, it also helped her realize what she wanted -- a future with Colm and his son. The way this story ended had me liking how desperate the heroine was to get Colm to give her another chance, yet it was how things turned out for them that made the ending of this story the best part because of what the hero does. Then again, I can't forget how adorable Colm's son was either. What a little cutie! I would recommend *Play Dates* by Maggie Wells if you enjoy the opposites attract trope or books by authors Sara Portman, Virginia Taylor, Allison B. Hanson and Kate Clayborn.

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### **Barb says**

I won this book on Goodreads giveaways. Thank you Goodreads, and Ms Wells.

For single parents, life is often more diapers and daycare dilemmas than dating. But for three dads going solo, a little flirting can lead to a whole lot more than a fling . . .

Colm Cleary lost his wife just moments after his son Aiden's birth, and it's been just the two of them ever since. Dating is his very last priority—until he spots gorgeous Monica Rayburn on the playground with her little girl. Suddenly finding a woman sympathetic to the demands of single parenthood seems like a great idea—especially if they agree to a no-pressure, no-strings date . . .

Dazzled by the hot "Saturdaddy" who asks her out, Monica doesn't get around to mentioning that little Emma is her niece. She's in commodities, not children. A gambler to the bone, she's going to take a chance on an adult evening with Colm—and worry about the details later. But when their casual connection deepens into something more solid, the truth will have to come out—and both Colm and Monica will have to throw caution to the wind to hold on to a future together.

A laugh out loud, cry out loud sexy story. 5 stars.

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### **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Play Dates by Maggie Wells was a cheeky little romance about a single dad and a woman he thinks is a single mom from their one encounter on a playground. While it was fun and sexy, it had a serious side with both the hero and heroine doing some soul searching to get to a happy place.

Colm Cleary's son Aiden is the bright spot of his life despite the fact his wife died shortly after his birth. Finding out his wife was not who she was left him raw and unable to trust easily, hence why he has been celibate for the last four years with only one encounter a year after his son's birth. He has his work and his two best friends who also have custody of their children as well. Saturday mornings are park time followed by pancakes, pretty routine until a woman he doesn't recognize from their usual park days and her daughter find his son's Princess Clarissa doll. Colm's libido comes roaring to life and he asks her for a date, something so far out of his wheelhouse of late that Monica Rayburn doesn't get a chance to explain that Emma is her niece not her daughter, but since its only one night does it really matter?

I absolutely loved the interaction between Colm and Monica and how in tune they were with each other sexually. While I hated that they didn't spend a lot of time talking allowing Monica time to come clean, I could also understand that alone time between them was at difficult to find so they did very little talking. I loved watching Colm reclaim his sexual side and realize that why he was completely dedicated to his son, having someone else in his life made it better. Seeing Monica begin to realize that while she loved her life, it was lonely and learning to open her heart to the possibility of not only a man but a little boy in her life while scary was worth it. I was a bit disappointed in both Colm and Monica for the way they handled various situations, but it wasn't unexpected given their backgrounds and history. I was completely happy with the way this book ended, but would have loved more time with Colm and Monica as a couple, but I'm hoping as the other Saturdaddies get their stories we'll see more of them.

I have to give big props to author Maggie Wells and Kensington Publishing for producing a series about men who are full time single fathers, it is past time they are given the attention they deserve.

A playful, fun, and sexy romance I loved Play Dates!

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### **Claire - The Coffeeholic Bookworm says**

Monica babysits her niece Emma at the park when she meets Colm and his son Aiden. He sure is a great catch, a single parent, a doting father and a super dad, if you think about it. Monica is captivated. When Colm assumed she was Emma's mom, she doesn't correct him, instead she continues dance around him, leading him on until she gets him to her bed. A trip to the dentist soon breaks Monica's happy dance and she is never the same mighty snarky Monica again.

This was a good read, preferably while watching your kids play at home or in front of the TV. I read this while I was with my youngest son, him playing his Pokemon cards and yours truly had set my automatic washing machine and decided to read while waiting. In just a couple of hours, everything was finished and I was done reading Play Dates. Monica and Colm sure were a complicated couple, but I'm glad it ended quite differently.

It was hard to like Monica though. I understand how she lied at first to Colm and his son, but dragging the story because of her reluctance made me weary of her. Because of that, I didn't think she'd grow some balls and own up to her mistakes. I much preferred Pablo and Carita actually, the owners of a Mexican restaurant that catered to the dating couple. Now, Colm on the other hand, was a little too stubborn for my taste. While I understand how hurt he's been, first by his late wife and now, Monica, I frowned when he repeatedly ignored Monica's calls and apologies. I thought he was a hard man to please.

In the end though, I was the one pleased because both parties cleared the air and succumbed to their true feelings. While I may not have been thrilled with Colm, I liked Aiden a lot. That kid easily wormed his way to my heart through his cuteness and kissing tendencies. Now, if I can get my hands on Mike's story soon, I would certainly be more than willing to babysit the Saturdaddies. LOL.

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### **Lisa says**

3.5 stars

I love Colm and Monica when I read James' book the other day so I just *had* to check out their book. While I enjoyed the story, I still feel something is lacking. I think what made Colm so distrustful isn't elaborated very well, like I would've liked to know more of what his late wife did that affected him so, that made him act the way he acted when he found out that Monica lied to him about Emma. *Loved* the takedown Mike gave him, though. & love Colm's relationship with his son Aiden. Aiden is so adorable.

On to Mike and Georgie's book!

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### **Michelle K says**

A great read for over the holidays as I snuggled deep under the blankets as the winter weather outside is freezing. Perfect for my hibernation!

I highlighted so many lines in this book - "*Welcome to parenthood training. Lesson number one: you only get what you want after he gets what he wants.*" Well if that isn't the truth about parents and their kids!

I love an author who is brave enough to write an unconventional conflict and plotline. Colm is a single dad and Monika is a workaholic single but in truth, she told a fairly big lie. I found the storyline creative while Monika weaved her web of lies bigger and bigger. As I was reading, I could really see everything play out in front of me. Excellent writing as here is another totally relatable moment: *"He took a step into the room and paid the ultimate price - a Lego, dead centre in the arch of his foot. The colorful string of curses he uttered as he hopped around on one foot played at full volume through the baby monitor on the kitchen table."*

I also loved other different nuances to the book. Instead of going to a typical Mexican restaurant, the author chose a Colombian restaurant. I LOVED that!

Colm and Monika's banter were spot on but I have to admit that I loved the conversations between Monika and her sister more. What a fabulous relationship those two had. I found myself smiling and looking forward to each of their conversations.

Colm and Monika may have had their different approaches to their beginnings but they were totally in sync for the sexy times. It was clear they had chemistry.

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