



Beach House Beginnings

Christie Ridgway

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Christie Ridgway invites you to a special place of sun, sand and romance in her new series, Beach House No. 9. Enjoy this prequel novella and meet the people of Crescent Cove...

Two miles of magic. That's how Meg Alexander remembers her childhood home of Crescent Cove on the California coast. But Meg doesn't believe in magic anymore—not since heartbreak made her leave at nineteen and kept her away for ten years.

Yet Meg can't say no when her sister asks her to temporarily step in as the cove's property manager—and she can't deny her instant attraction to handsome guest Caleb McCall. He sparks a desire that Meg hasn't felt in a long time. But even as their incredible, incendiary kisses tempt her into a short-term fling, her head tells her to pull away.

Can Caleb convince her to give love a second chance?

Beach House Beginnings Details

Date : Published January 1st 2013 by Harlequin HQN

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Author : Christie Ridgway

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From Reader Review Beach House Beginnings for online ebook

Isha Coleman says

Almost Wonderful begins with a tragedy that shapes the path of one woman's life. It's about heartache. It's about second chances. It's about forgiveness. It's about love. Meg and Caleb's journey isn't always a pretty one, but their story needed to be told. The carefree girl with the winning smile and the young boy who watched her from the sidelines. First love had heartbreaking results for that young girl. Will the ghost of summers past ruin her second chance? Ms. Ridgeway never shies away from emotion. Whether it's grief, nostalgia, guilt or heartbreak, she walks headfirst into the abyss and creates a great story.

Eileen says

I enjoyed reading Almost Wonderful by Christie Ridgeway. This story is a sweet novella that introduces her Almost series, a re-issue of her Beach House series.

Meg Alexander has returned home to Crescent Cove, California. The last time she'd been there, ten years prior, she was called Starr and life was good. After a tragedy occurred she ran from it all. She was no longer that happy-go-lucky, believing in fairy tales person, she was now a sadder and wiser woman.

Caleb McCall has never forgotten the summer he spent at Crescent Cove and the beautiful Starr. Recovering from a health scare, he rents one of the cabins on the beach and discovers his landlady is the same woman he has never forgotten. Meg is afraid, despite their chemistry and refuses to let down her guard. Caleb has learned to that life is short and to go after what he wants. He wants Meg's heart, but is she willing to give it to him.

Ms. Ridgeway is a wonderful story teller, making me feel as if I was right there in Crescent Cove. I truly enjoyed this book and had trouble putting it down, reading it in one day. I definitely recommend this book to other readers.

I voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book.

Tina Todd shobe says

Meg Alexander returns home to run her family business in Crescent Cove, California. She left 10 years ago after the love of her life died. In that time period she has built some pretty high walls to keep herself from being hurt.

Caleb McCall returns to Crescent Cove and reconnects with Meg when he rents a bungalow from Meg. He doesn't stop trying to break through her walls.

This is a fast enjoyable read and that has quite a bit of content. My emotions were up and down while reading this. I ached for Meg. There was also times I laughed.

Cyndi Delia says

closer to 3.5 stars. a bit too short and tad underdeveloped but still a charming little easy to read romance to introduce this series. cant wait for more!!!

Paula says

Almost Wonderful is a re-issue of Beach House Beginnings by Christie Ridgway. Having not read the first book I am not sure what revisions have taken place. It is the first of a new series that is coming soon.

A quick read, only a few chapters, it is a romantic read as two characters must put the past behind to move on with their lives. While it seems to be a second chance at romance Caleb and Meg never really knew each other well 10 years ago, so it is more of a first-time love story for these two. There is romance, angst and emotional hurdles to jump before Meg is willing to risk falling in love again. There is also a mystical element in this story that is new for me to read by this author. If I had to say who is the villain in the story it is death, the ultimate villain.

I thought this would be an introduction to the series but the focus is not on the beach house rentals but on the relationship that is forged between Caleb and Meg. I looked forward to seeing if the mystical merfolk and dreams continue to play a part in this series.

An ARC of the book was given to me by the publisher/author.

Alicia (is beyond tired of your *ish) says

[Her love died, he didn't cheat, abuse her, or make any choice that could have caused her to believe there are no happy endings. If there's one thing we're all sure of it's that everyone is going to die. It doesn't make sense to close yourself off because of it. (hide spoiler)]

Shirley Frances says

3.75 stars

A sweet story of letting go of the past and embracing new beginnings.

The novella Beach House Beginnings sets the tone for the Beach House No 9 series. In this short story we get to meet Meg a 29-year old woman who was raised in Crescent Cove and hasn't return to her home since she left following the end of her first love. She stopped believing in love and ever afters, living her life as a single woman and securing her heart from more disappointment.

Caleb just went through a major awakening. A workaholic who owns his own company, he is determined to slow down and live his life to the fullest. He's had a revelation of sorts which requires him to go to Crescent Cove to find his future. Handsome, funny and totally charming Meg gives in to him for a little fun during his stay only to be confronted by her past.

This novella is a great start to the series. The setting Christie Ridgway is using for the series is captivating and beautiful and her descriptions of the surroundings gives us great picture into what the characters are seeing everyday without it being overwhelming. I enjoyed the writing, especially the humorous banter between the characters and the emotions displayed between them. Their romance, even though a bit too immediate for my taste, felt real enough for me to overlook it because their connection was palpable from the start. I loved Caleb. He was funny and honest from the moment they met and their easy manner with each other made me want to cheer them to end up together. The hesitation, the doubts and the emotions displayed by both played a major part in my enjoyment of this story.

I will certainly be looking forward to book 1, Beach House No. 9, as well as the other books scheduled to release.

Anne OK says

I am delighted to see what appears to be the return of the fine writing style by an author whose first books ("Wish You Were Here" among them) I so enjoyed. I'm excited and pleased with Ridgway's introduction to her new "Beach House No. 9 series." This short novella was well-written with a creative storyline where our heroine gets a second chance at love with a bittersweet history. It includes lots of sizzling chemistry set in a beautiful beach location in California. A fun and quick treat on the first day of a new year. I'll be looking forward to the next installments in this new series.

Shawna says

3 ½ stars – Contemporary Romance Novella

This is a sweet, albeit fanciful, novella and a nice start to a promising new contemporary romance series.

Lisa says

I received a free complimentary book and voluntarily reviewed it.

Almost Wonderful is the first book of a series that takes place in Crescent Cove, California. It is a novella written by the prolific and highly skilled author, Christie Ridgway.

Meg Alexander grew up in Crescent Cove but left when a tragic accident changed her life. She has never returned even though her family owns surfside bungalows in the area. When her sister, who runs the place, has to go to a friend's wedding, she asks Meg to take over for her while she is gone.

Caleb McCall had spent a summer and never forgot the wonderful time he had. He especially has never

forgotten Meg even though she barely remembers him. He decides to return for a few days just to relax from his busy work.

However, when he finds Meg there, he decides to follow through on his former attraction. The problem: she does not want to get involved with anyone. In spite of that, Caleb refuses to give up on her, and he never stops “chasing” her.

I enjoyed this book, although Meg seems to be a little too stubborn. On the other hand, every girl would love a man like Caleb, who is handsome, charismatic and wealthy, chasing after her.

This is a fun book to read, and I am looking forward to enjoy reading the next book in this series.

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Donna says

I loved this novella! Of course, I'm not surprised. I really have fallen in love with Christie Ridgway's writing since I read "The Secret" *sigh* This woman can really write romance.

Almost wonderful starts out with a very sad, hardened woman...Meg. Ten years before the love of her life

died and she ran away from the life she knew, changed her name from Starr to Meg and built walls around her heart, never to be hurt again. So now, ten years later, because her family needs her, she returns home to Crescent Cove. This is where she meets Caleb. Watching him try to help her heal, no matter how much she turned away was so moving. The belief in fate is questioned. Caleb truly believes they were meant to be together, that it is what brought him there. I'm trying not to say too much. But Caleb is a true romantic at heart. Plus he is sexy as hell. Oh! Then there is Bitzer, I can't forget Bitzer!!! Caleb's dog, who plays a very big role in this story. I loved Bitzer.

There is quite a lot to this little 97 page novella. It was beautiful, touching and at times had me laughing out loud. I'm really looking forward to reading the rest of this series!!

Deb Fernow says

This author is always near the top of my TBR list and I look forward to her books each time. She has a new series called Almost and this is a short novella to start that series. Somewhere it was mentioned that it was a remake of an earlier story but I don't know about that.

The two characters, Meg Alexander and Caleb McCall, have met as teenagers but life sent them in different directions. She's come back to Crescent Cove to run the family resort/cottages for the weekend while her sister was away at a wedding. Nothing more than that and then she was gone because the memories of the beach were too tough to handle.

Caleb McCall spent a month in Crescent Cove as a teenager and hadn't planned to ever return after the tragic death of his cousin, Peter. But a near death dream while having surgery has sent him there to find answers. And at the center of that is Starr, but now she goes by Meg and wants nothing to do with him. He's convinced that she is the woman in his dreams and is determined to show her that life does provide happily ever afters if you can see them.

Short and sweet, with a little heat, and I'm expecting that the rest of the series will also focus on the people around Crescent Cove.

I received an ARC from the author for an honest and unbiased review of this book. No compensation was promised or received for this review.

Amanda says

This is a nice little novella. It has some supernatural aspects, as well as lessons about grieving and loss. This only got three stars because I thought the heroine had much more healing to do before the HEA. The timeline of healing, to me, should have taken longer than a novella, but I still liked how the end came about. In this book, Ridgeway does a wonderful job of describing place and setting. It was set on a beach, and I could hear the surf and feel the sand. The teaser at the end for the next book in this series intrigued me, and I'm looking forward to reading that as well.

Brandy Roberts says

Almost wonderful would be my first read by Christie Ridgway and it wont be my last and is you haven't read either or if you have then this is on good read to one click . You'll go through so many emotions that you wont want to put your kindle down till the very end and to see the pain , regret , acceptance and love that Meg and Caleb go through as the story progresses I wont give to much away because it's one experience that you don't want to miss out on . Meg has returned home after being away for ten years after something really heartbreaking happens and with being back she is face with so much memories that it feels like it'll tear her up . Caleb just wow is dealing with just surviving a near death experience and comes into contact with someone from the past . These two go through so much and when they brake the wall that is stopping them from being together lets just say I was close to tears .
