



Worth the Wait

Lori Foster

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Ready or not...love will find a way

Single dad Hogan Guthrie is getting his life back on track, and working as the "barbecue master" at a local diner is just a temporary detour. He and restaurant owner Violet Shaw constantly butt heads...until one night they end up mingling other parts instead. Hogan thought he had the recipe for happiness all figured out. But loyal, carefree Violet is daring him to trust his impulses...and see just how sweet small-town living—and loving—can be.

Nathan Hawley traded his SWAT team credentials for a sheriff's badge, but a gorgeous new neighbor is shaking up his orderly life. Nathan has a hunch there's more to Brooklin Sweet than meets the eye—but given her caution about getting involved, he has his work cut out for him. Still, there's something about the elusive beauty Nathan can't walk away from—and helping her come to terms with her past might pave the way to the future they both secretly long for.

Worth the Wait Details

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From Reader Review Worth the Wait for online ebook

Tessie Tavares says

Amazing book!!! I absolutely love violet! Shes my favorite heroine in thr series. Violet and Hogan are perfect for each other, so are Nathan and Brooklin! Hopefully we get to see more of the family if colts receives his own book. I recieved an arc copy in exchange for an honest review.

Suzi (Obsessive Reading Disorder) says

So happy with this one! The first book was a bit disjointed for me. I wasn't interested in what felt like a "secondary" couple. This book felt like I got two completely fleshed out HEA's. This is single dad Hogan's story and his friend the town sheriff, Nathan. Violet and Hogan were so full of chemistry. I would read more with Violet in it--she is a firecracker. Hogan will be on his toes with that one! Nathan and Booklin end up being so sweet together. Very happy to see Brooklin heal and get a well deserved HEA. Loved the over arching suspense that combined the two stories.

And, by God, Ms. Foster better jump ahead 3-4 years and give us Colt's story next! What an awesome kid!

Great read!

*Complimentary copy provided via Netgalley for an honest review

Christa says

I loved this latest by Lori Foster. It was a great followup to the first book in the series, and I enjoyed seeing all of the characters again and meeting a few new ones. I am enjoying the small town setting of this series. Although I think that all of the characters are great, I have to say that Colt is the best! What a fantastic young man Foster has made of this character!

Hogan Guthrie has been through a very tough time and the good life he once knew is over. He and his son, Colt, are trying to pick up the pieces. Hogan has had a rough start in their new life, but is now settling down and trying to be the man he knows he should be. Violet, his boss at the diner where he cooks ribs part time, has caught his interest. When he finally convinces her that his player days are over, they give in to attraction. As the relationship between them begins to deepen, a newcomer to town inadvertently brings danger that soon envelops Violet. Hogan must protect those he cares about while trying to decide what he wants in his life.

This was a great book! I'm already looking forward to Foster's next one. Thanks to the publisher and NetGalley for providing a copy of the book in return for an honest review.

Maria Rose says

According to a recent Facebook post by author Lori Foster, *Worth the Wait* is her 100th unique story, which is an amazing accomplishment! Writing for just over twenty years in the romance genre, her books obviously resonate with readers who keep coming back for more. The first novels of hers I read was the Buckhorn Brothers series, which originally came out in the early 2000s. Since then her name on a book automatically draws my attention, and *Worth the Wait* is a classic example of what readers have come to expect from Ms. Foster – straightforward plots with down to earth characters who enjoy some sexy times on the way to their happy endings.

Worth the Wait is the second story in the Guthrie Brothers duology, and includes two complete romances in one novel (as did the first story in the series, *Don't Tempt Me*). Hogan Guthrie is a newcomer to Clearbrook, having moved there with this teenaged son, Colt, after the death of his wife. While Hogan has spent the last several months playing the field in an effort to avoid dealing with the complicated feelings leftover from his marriage, recently he's been drawn to Violet Shaw. Hogan works at her diner part time as a 'barbecue master' (best ribs in town!) but spends his regular business hours as an accountant. He's not looking for marriage, but a fling with the petite, fiery owner of Screwy Louie's sure would be fun. Hogan lives next door to his brother Jason, who has helped him settle into town and is good friends with Nathan Hawley, the local sheriff.

Nathan turned in his SWAT badge for local law enforcement, and has his eyes out for trouble. When those eyes are caught by his new neighbor Brooklin Sweet she makes it clear that keeping a low profile is her priority and she's not looking for new friends. Nathan's spidey sense tells him that something has Brooklin spooked and he's determined to prove to her that friendship (or more) with him would be to her advantage. When Brooklin's past catches up to her, things get dicey for everyone whom she's becoming close to, including her new friends Violet, Hogan and Nathan. Will a brush with danger show them all the path to their happy ever afters?

The story is written in such a way that there is a chapter with the development of the relationship with one couple and then a chapter with the other, until later in the story when the overarching plot of Brooklin's troubles start to encompass them all. I really like how this is done, and found myself equally interested in both couples as they have different problems to overcome.

Hogan never got any real resolution over the end of his marriage, discovering his wife was unfaithful (and feeling like a fool for not realizing it was happening) and then having her die unexpectedly in an accident. He also discovers she'd spent all of their savings, including his son's college fund. Working two jobs is his way of trying to replenish the savings and save his son's future. But it makes him wary of any kind of relationship commitment. Plus, his boss at his day job is continually overstepping his boundaries and is making him question his future there.

Violet lost her parents at an early age and inherited the diner from her uncle. She's been running it for so long that making changes to it, even ones that Hogan suggests will help improve the business, test her comfort zone. Of course she's not blind, and the sexy, confident man running her grills is the kind of man she'd love to see in her bed, even if he is her employee. And when Hogan makes it clear he's interested but only for the present and with no guarantees for the future, she's willing to take the risk. It's Hogan who soon has to come to terms with the fact that the feelings he's having for Violet are getting him in deeper than he'd planned.

Nathan is another quintessential good guy hero, persistent in showing Brooklin that he's interested in her without overstepping the boundaries she's put in place. Brooklin can see that Nathan is unlike the men in her past, but she's got secrets that put her on the run and still haunt her. These secrets make up a good portion of the second half of the story and drive the action that results, taking the tension up a notch.

Lori Foster writes hot sexy times that are not over the top with swearing or dirty talking but read like a couple who are interested in each other, who respect each other, and who have an equal part to play in their mutual satisfaction. They are definitely some of my favorites to read and are integral to the emotional connections made between the couple concerned.

One thing evident in this story is the reliance on conversations to move the plot. There is not a lot of introspection and deep thinking by the characters, so instead of spending a lot of time mulling things over, the characters will 'think' things out by having conversations about them. Hogan is the central figure around which the plot revolves, so this means plenty of conversations with his brother, his son, his friend Nathan and obviously Violet. It's a simplistic approach but one that works for this small town romance.

Though the four main adults make up the bulk of the points of view in the story, there are also some scenes told through the eyes of from Hogan's son, Colt, in particular his interest in a girl at his high school. It's a sweet touch and I wouldn't be surprised to see a later story with him all grown up, as the author did with the children in the original Buckhorn series. Whether Worth the Wait is your first Lori Foster book, or your 100th, she delivers a sexy, engaging contemporary romance every time.

For more of this review please visit All About Romance: <https://allaboutromance.com/book-revi...>

A copy of this story was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for review.

Lexxie (un)Conventional Bookworms says

This review was originally posted on (un)Conventional Bookviews

Worth the Wait bears its title very well! I loved this story, even though it followed one main couple, plus another couple who got less time allotted to them. The writing is so good, and there's some well-timed suspense as well as the romance.

Hogan had been through the wringer more than once, and Worth the Wait was really about how he was worth waiting for. Violet was attracted to Hogan, but she didn't want to be just another notch on his bedpost. I was intrigued by Hogan when I first met him in Don't Tempt Me, and his story was really good. He had quite a bit of thinking through his past to do, before he could completely open up to Violet and maybe start building a new relationship again.

Worth the Wait follows two couples, but Hogan and Violet are the main characters, while Nathan and Brooklin have a bit less time for their romance. The suspense parts of the story have to do with Brooklin, and it was interesting how she tried to shy away from everyone who wanted to become her friend. Once Violet broke through her barriers, though, there was no going back.

One of my favorite things about Worth the Wait was how great a father Hogan was, wanting to put his son's

needs before his own. Violet was great with him as well, understanding Colt's need to be independent all the while needing a little bit of guidance every now and then. The interactions between the various characters were authentic, and I really enjoyed the banter, the friendship and the loyalty.

There was a little bit of intrigue as well, as Hogan's female boss was doing her best to snag him - bordering on harassing him, she was. Violet totally put her in her place, though! The writing in *Worth the Wait* was really good, the third person past tense with plenty of dialogues allowed me a good overview, and at the same time get to know the characters fairly well.

"I'll walk you out," she said. Short of telling her to go to hell, what could he do? Is this how women felt when being sexually harassed? No, for a woman it'd probably be worse. After all, Joni didn't physically threaten him. She just annoyed the hell out of him.

Violet hadn't slept as soundly as Hogan predicted she would. How could she when she kept thinking about him 'taking care of himself?' Oh, how she'd love to watch.

It was an amazing thing when a man so wonderful on the inside also had the perfect, very masculine wrapping on the outside.

? Kimberly says

I loved that Foster gave us two completely fleshed out happily ever afters in *WORTH THE WAIT*. That combined with secondary characters, Screwy Louie's restaurant and a thread about young Colt made for a warm, page-turning read.

Hogan, Colt's Dad, has worked hard to get his life back on track and find happiness after his wife's death. In book one *DON'T TEMPT ME* we felt the chemistry between Violet, the owner of Screwy Louie's restaurant and Hogan, so I was anxious for their story. Violet is fun, strong, confident and someone you would want to befriend. She works long hours, and her dating life is practically nil. She is attracted to Hogan, but he has a reputation as a bit of player and that scares her. Hogan is tempted, but he isn't looking for happily ever after.

Hogan works weekends at Screwy Louie's grilling his ribs while keeping the ingredients to his sauce a secret. Grilling and watching folks enjoy his cooking helps Hogan relax, but more than that he likes being near Violet. When Violet ends up ill, Hogan is there, and it allows the two to spend a little time together. She discovers he isn't a player and he finds that despite some issues he wants to get to know Violet intimately. Watching them tango was utterly addictive, and I found myself caught up in their romance. Foster weaved in humor, sweet moments and spicy heat.

I enjoyed getting Hogan's backstory and the current thread about his accounting job. Both added interest and allowed me to connect. Violet was a real gem even if she tries to do everything on her own. Both characters felt genuine and had me rooting for an HEA.

Our local Sheriff Nathan Hawley is more than a little curious about his cute, standoffish neighbor Brooklin Sweet and I had fun watching their relationship develop. While this was a secondary romance to the overall story, Foster threaded their romance throughout giving us some suspense, humor and awkward moments.

Foster also used them to touch on the subject of how quickly we condemn folks before knowing all of the facts.

For fans of the series, we get updates on Honor, Jason, and other characters. Colt is present throughout the story, and we get tidbits about his life. Even though he is only eighteen, I hope we get his story. I loved the thread about the local gossip page. It was hilarious and cute moments developed from it. WORTH THE WAIT will work as standalone, but you'll want to read Honor and Jason's story.

Fans of Jill Shalvis, Robyn Carr, and Bella Andre will enjoy this series with its small-town feel and smidgeon of heat.

Copy provided by publisher. This review was originally posted at Caffeinated Book Reviewer

LeeAnn says

As the title indicates, this book was worth the wait.

In this book we get to revisit old friends Sullivan and his love Lexi, Jason and his love Honor.

We get to watch as Hogan and Violet grow closer, sexy Sheriff Nathan meets Brooklin, a new mysterious woman to town. We are taken on a ride full of sexy fun, intrigue, danger and hear all about the BBQ ribs that Hogan cooks ...shirtless maybe? Maybe not. A lot of excitement goes on in this small town, shoot...in the diner owned by Violet called Screwy Louie's. How great is THAT name or the band named Drunken Monkeys that Nathan plays in?

So much going on. This was a great read. I have not told everything...what fun would it be if I didn't leave a few things for you to discover when you read this book?

So do yourself a favor and go buy this book when it's available. You will NOT regret it. Oh! One more thing.....you see a...never mind....I'll leave that for you to find out as well.

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

.Under the pages says

Review available at Under the Pages.

Anita says

Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) provided by the Author and Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an fair and honest review.

As the second Guthrie brother, Hogan, takes his turn we get a closer look at life in small Clearbrook, Ohio town and while not quite everybody is in every body else's business, it's close. Like the first book, we get two romances for the price of one and they are both great.

Hogan Guthrie is a single dad who is getting his life back on track. He has finally found a good paying job in

his field as an accountant and is working as the "barbecue master" at Screwy Louie's. The owner, Violet Shaw, is just about the only woman in Clearbrook that he hadn't hit on during his temporary hiatus from the sensible, solid, hard working man he was before his wife left him devastated and his ego in tatters. But, it all takes a turn when Hogan discovers that Violet had the same lusty feelings for him that he has for her.

Sheriff Nathan Hawley traded his SWAT team credentials for a the slower pace and less crime in Clearbrook. A new neighbor has caught his eye, but she is having nothing to do with the hunky guy. Gorgeous new neighbor, Brooklin Sweet, is a keep to herself kind of woman and that just intrigues Nathan more than anything else possibly could. She has an quite beauty and venerability that Nathan can't walk away from—and helping her come to terms with the secrets from her past can't hurt his chances for something more romantic. **3 1/2-Stars**

Julie says

Hogan and Violet's relationship was a fun balance of sweet/sassy, a dash of witty banter, and their chemistry was absolutely combustible! I loved Violet's sassy Southern drawl and take charge attitude. Hogan's strong work ethic was easy to respect and I loved his relationship with his son Colt-it was too sweet! Speaking of Colt, I hope he gets his own story..I would love to see how his future pans out!

Brooklin and Nathan were just too stinking cute! Brooklin's appeal was understated, yet she had a sweet personality and plenty of gumption to hold her own with Nathan. His gentlemanly manners contradicted the sizzling looks he was throwing out, but give the man credit! He knew what he wanted and was willing to show Brooklin she was worth the wait. Their chemistry was not as steamy as Hogan and Violet, but still quite appealing. I had so much fun watching these two fall in love!

Lori Foster writes wonderful romances full of humor, witty banter, and quirky characters I can't resist falling in love with! An exuberant cast of characters, a touch of suspense, and plenty of sizzling, sexy moments, this story is exactly as the title implies-Worth the Wait! Definitely recommend!

I voluntarily reviewed an arc that I received from Harlequin via NetGalley.

~Julie

Alphas Do It Better Book Blog

Take Me Away To A Great Read says

Worth the Wait is a really great suspenseful, two-for-one romance! It is a solid 4 star rating from me. Not sure if we can expect any more from this series of fantastic standalones but I certainly would be happy to have more, even if this book did end with nothing left unanswered.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Lori Foster delivers three romances in *Worth The Wait* making it an extremely entertaining book. While there was definitely more time spent on one couple, the love matches were quite entertaining. Most of all I love the sense of community in this series; the friendships, the nosey neighbors, and the way they help each other through lives trials and tribulations.

Hogan Guthrie's life was turned upside down when he found out his wife was cheating, she cleaned out his bank accounts including their son's college fund, and then died in a car accident forcing him and his teenage son to move to Ohio and live with his brother. With a job at a small accounting firm and working part time at Screwy Louie's on the weekend cooking up his famous ribs, Hogan is working on getting his life back together. He'll be the first to admit he isn't proud of his actions over the last few months, but he can't change the past and all he plans to do is go forward and pursue the woman that intrigues him, but Violet his "boss" at Screwy Louie's wants nothing to do with him and his player reputation. Violet was such a strong female character and I loved that she was self reliant and self sufficient, and it took an illness to make her slow down and an even stronger man to help her through it all. I loved the chemistry between Hogan and Violet, but what I loved more is the respect he had for her and the fact that Violet began to see Hogan's true self; smart, funny, and a dedicated father. I also enjoyed the bond Violet began forming with Hogan's 18 year old son, Colt; they both had great admiration and respect for one another. Hogan's inability to commit and Violet's refusal to settle for anything less proves to be a bit of a roadblock, but between the town's gossip column and watching their friends fall in love it's hard to ignore what's going on between them.

Ex-SWAT team member and now Sherriff Nathan Hawley takes his job, so when he sees he has a new next door neighbor he plans to get to know her, but Brooklin Sweet has secrets and she doesn't think she can trust anyone even if the man pursuing her is the town's sheriff. I loved the way Brooklin made Nathan work to know her even though she was intrigued by him. Their relationship was sweet, but intense and a lovely bonus in this book.

There's nothing quite like the rush of new love, so it was fun watching Colt realize that between jobs and school, the right girl was worth making time for and new girl in town, Charish, proves to be just what he wants. I really love we get to revisit the couple a few years down the road when the time is right for them.

Watching these three couples find love was fun and enjoyable, but what I really loved was the crazy camaraderie of the Screwy Louie's crowd. Lori Foster offers up another exciting contemporary romance in *Worth The Wait*.

Review copy provided for a voluntary review.

Desirae (Dee) says

arc provided for an honest review

I have to say, I'm kind of disappointed with this book. first the cover doesn't match the main storyline at all. it depicts teens against a brick wall, and while this does happen, Colt's storyline isn't the main focus of the book. so it's a tad misleading.

moving on to the storyline. I got really really , and I hate to use this word, bored with it. I understand Hogan's hesitation with his love life and why. but holding out to 90% of the book to finally admit how you feel, and only until after a huge scary event. I mean, I really started to question if he was ever going to admit

it to himself. I even went as far to see if this was part of a series. the storyline between Nathan and Brooklin moved faster, and again, they weren't the focus of the storyline. there's a huge difference between angst and fluff, and this held more fluff than angst. believe me when I say, this pains me to say that because I usually love Lori Foster books. however this one took me over a month to read. it moved so slow, I kept putting it down and moving on to another book. I'd come back to give it another shot and walk away again.

I didnt mind 3 love stories in one book. I also didn't mind the little bit of crazy from Brooklin's life the dribbled over into anyone else's. it may have been a little much to have Violet sick or hurt every few chapters too. just a tad overdone to have someone so independent always sick or hurt and depending on or needing Hogan's help.

I had to rate this 2.5-3 stars

Minx -The Genre Minx Book Reviews says

Most of the time, romance books focus on one couple but in Worth the Wait the story follows the relationship of two couples. Hogan Guthrie, Violet Shaw and Nathan Hawley, Brooklin Sweet are two couples with very different starts. When considering this book for a review, I was curious to see how this story would flow with two different romance storylines. I was delighted that both storylines were unique but that the stories were also woven together with the result being a lighthearted romantic read.

The majority of the story surrounds Hogan and Violet and their delicate dance of romance. From the way the story unfurls, it is apparent that there must have been mention of these two characters in the first book of this series. Hogan was apparently quite the playboy but lately he has singled his focus to be on only Violet. Violet has the hots for Hogan but felt that she did not have the time for the drama that a romance with him would bring, but boy, did she want him.

When Violet becomes ill, Hogan saw an opportunity to get past the prickly exterior that Violet wears and it started a friendship that quickly develops into a possible “friends with benefits” situation. Hogan was burned by his ex-wife and he is not willing to give anyone the chance to hurt him or his son again. Not sure what she wants exactly, Violet is willing to dance to Hogan’s tune, for now. As things heat up both these characters have to come to terms with what they really want and what they are willing to sacrifice to see how far this road will lead.

Nathan is a former SWAT member who is no stranger to trauma. When Brooklin sneaks into town he is not put off by her standoffish attitude. If anything, it makes him more intrigued and gives him the desire to find out what is behind the shield she puts around herself. Brooklin is running from her past. She has been hurt and wants to keep her past securely behind her. Too bad her pesky neighbor, Nathan, will not leave her alone. She should be annoyed by how he pries into her personal life but there is something about him that heats her up. When Brooklin’s past finds its way to this small town, it affects both couples and the outcome is way more than anyone ever bargained for.

Worth the Wait is told from multiple points of view and I enjoyed that. It is always nice to know what is going on inside the heads of characters. It also helped the flow of the story as the couple’s stories are separate but intertwine during certain scenes. I did feel slightly lost from not having read the previous book in this series. There was history between many of these characters that I eventually understood but would have enjoyed knowing at the start. Overall it was an enjoyable read that has plenty of steamy and swoony

moments as well as humor, mystery and a wee bit of danger. This is a sweet read that I would recommend to all romance readers.

This review is based on a complimentary book I received from NetGalley. It is an honest and voluntary review. The complimentary receipt of it in no way affected my review or rating.

Find this review and more at [The Genre Minx Book Reviews](#)

Michele says

Actual Rating: 4.5 Stars & Top Pick!

See full review at [HarlequinJunkie.com](#)

Oh, what fun *Worth the Wait* turned out to be! Lori Foster definitely brought her A game with this story as we celebrated not one, but two lovely romances. And we also got glimpses of another romance going on in the background that was every bit as sweet in its own way.

With a shrug, she said, “Honestly, you don’t look like any man I know.”

“What’s that supposed to mean?”

Violet pulled in a much needed breath. “Every part of you stirs every part of me.”

I’m a big fan of Lori’s already but this book made me remember why I fell in love with her work in the first place. She has a writing style that’s very emotional, very easy to read with a nice flow to it, and she creates some of the best heroes and heroines out there in the genre. I swear that every guy in this book (aside from one towards the end) was utterly swoon-worthy. Hogan, Nathan, Colt, Jason, Sullivan...yep. They were honorable, sexy, and were there to protect their family, friends, and community as a whole. And I have to mention that I think readers will get a kick out of the final scenes at the diner where the guys have a little show they put on for ladies’ night. Hilarious and also super romantic! [Read More](#)
