



Summer Lovin'

Carly Phillips

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Zoe Costas is a security specialist and a Costas through and through. Her eccentric, rather dubious family runs an Atlantic City spa that's just this side of legit. So Zoe isn't inclined to trust handsome, charming Ryan Baldwin when he shows up claiming to be related to Sam, the girl the Costas family is about to adopt. But Ryan is Sam's uncle and one of the famously rich and snooty Boston Baldwins.

Ryan's search for his sister has led him to news of her death, and to a niece he's never met. But someone else has also tracked Sam down — someone who never wanted the child to be found. Ryan is determined to protect Sam and find out what really happened to his sister. And Zoe is just the woman to help him do it. Neither expects to lose their heart in the process.

Summer Lovin' Details

Date : Published July 11th 2017 by CP Publishing (first published July 1st 2005)

ISBN :

Author : Carly Phillips

Format : Kindle Edition 384 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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From Reader Review Summer Lovin' for online ebook

Crystal's Book World ~ Crystal Cordova says

Summer Lovin' was a fun, sarcastic, and a sexy read. I really enjoyed this book. If you looking for a summer romance book to read, this is it! Summer Lovin' is book two in the Costas sisters series, but can be read as a standalone. The Costas family had me laughing hysterically. They had me also feeling a bit overwhelmed just like Ryan did when he accidentally dropped in on the family.

Zoe has this first time ever connection towards Ryan. She has been great being alone and independent. She is even starting her own business. But with Ryan she falls under his spell. I was over the moon for Ryan. He was a determined man and he was sure he would get his way. Then he finally sees the whole picture and has a choice to make. Samantha is 100% full blooded teenager. Carly Phillips got Samantha's attitude down to the "T". I loved Sam's character. Ryan's family turns out to be very unexpected. You will see how every adapts to each other.

The heat that goes on between Zoe and Ryan gets intense. Samantha learns more about herself. The drama that unfolds in this book had me glued to the pages! I will never forget the Costas family.

Barb says

Zoe's a security specialist and a Costas through and through. Her eccentric, rather dubious family runs an Atlantic City spa that's just this side of legit. So Zoe isn't inclined to trust handsome, charming Ryan Baldwin when he shows up claiming to be related to Sam, the girl the Costas family is about to adopt. But Ryan is Sam's uncle and one of the famously rich and snooty Boston Baldwins.

Ryan's search for his sister Faith has led him to news of her death, and to a niece he's never met. But someone else has also tracked Sam down--someone who never wanted the child to be found. Ryan is determined to protect Sam and find out what really happened to his sister. And Zoe "Whatever-It-Takes" Costas is just the woman to help him do it....

Its been awhile since i read book 1, but after a few pages, i remembered what had happened previously. It is a riveting book, that makes you want to read until you are finished. Or at least read until the problem is solved.... but then there is always another problem. 5stars!

Elena says

Meh - it was ok, but definitely nothing to write home about! As far as romances go - it was neither interesting enough nor steamy enough. As far as characters go - they were not fully developed and annoying most of the time. As far as the mystery went - what mystery!?

Zoe had **zero** reasons to be afraid of commitment and **zero** valid explanations for it, so her "running away" and excuses of "i'm not cut out for this" just seemed neurotic... It was extremely annoying to see her running away from a "perfect" (albeit boring) man, using the excuse that he was in the upper class (it's not the middle ages - jeez!!) and that she was not the "relationship type"...

I also wasn't sure why they were constantly mentioning how Zoe's parents are con artists?! Did i miss something at the beginning (or didn't read the last book)?! How are they con artists and on the other side of the law?!?! I thought they had a beauty parlour...

(view spoiler)

Elaina says

This book was great as a standalone but has me wanting to read the first in this series. I loved the quirkiness and caring of the Costas. The storyline was great and the characters were interesting. The bit of mystery and the chemistry between Ryan and Zoe kept me turning the page.

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Char (1RadReader59) says

I loved this continuation of the of the Costas family antics. Carly as such a way of making them so endearing to us the readers. This book was about the other twin Zoe & man claiming to be Sam's uncle (Sam is her soon to be new adoptive sister the man claiming to be the uncle is named Ryan Baldwin. Zoe's not looking or even ready for a relationship but the chemistry is hot upon meeting Ryan for the first time. There are not as many antics as the first book but enough to keep you interested.

Amy says

Have you ever read a book so poorly written you just want to break through years of reserve and upbringing and swear like a sailor? I didn't throw *Summer Lovin'* by Carly Phillips across the room...but I came close. I didn't finish the first book in this series, *Under the Boardwalk* because the insta-lust overwhelmed any half-way interesting plot point 10 pages in. *Summer Lovin'* kept me interested long enough that I figured I should just finish...a decision I regret.

Summer Lovin' tells the story of Zoe, a former FBI agent from a large Greek family, and Ryan, a lawyer from upper crust Massachusetts. (And I do mean *tells* the story. Using an overabundance of adjectives and adverbs and not nearly enough action.) Theoretically the storyline follows their relationship with Sam, the girl Zoe's family is trying to adopt who is also Ryan's biological niece. In reality, the novel drags through Zoe and Ryan's insta-lust and contrived emotional upheaval with a whole bunch of totally random conflict shoved in the last 1/4th to make some sort of riveting plot line. It fails.

First, khakis are not sexy. Light blue polo shirts are not ultra-masculine. 30 year olds should seriously consider before donning miniskirts. While I can understand the author wanting to somehow give Zoe "character," I got real tired of her miniskirts and skanky blouses. What kind of FBI/security agent was/is she? And would a woman who dressed like that really find Italian suits that attractive? I got very tired of hearing about Ryan's "sexiness" (which could be another rant. The English vocabulary has many wonderful alternatives to sexy. Why not broaden the vocabulary some?) when he simply walks around in something

Jake from State Farm would wear.

Second, the most annoying part of this book was the writing. I cannot even begin to express it. The author rarely tells something. She bludgeons you over the head with it, and in case you missed it repeats the process twenty times. The novel dies a slow and painful death at the hands of an abundance of entirely generic adjective and adverbs. You're told everything and yet can picture nothing. People "paused on purpose" (as opposed to pausing not on purpose?), "asked affronted," or perform actions like "shuffling papers on his desk for no apparent reason" (maybe the papers needed shuffling?).

The majority of the writing is dialogue but even this is disappointing. It is so wordy and slow that no living person could actually have a conversation that way – the characters have to stop and consider everything, both out loud and for the reader. How about this:

Zoe accepted the picture and glanced down at the photo of the teenager, frozen in time at around the same age as Sam. Zoe sucked in a startled breath. "Wow," she said, staring at the eerily familiar features and blond hair. "You weren't kidding."

He shook his head. "Starling resemblance, isn't it?"

"My thoughts exactly," she said, placing her hand over his. "I'm so sorry."

He met her gaze, his eyes warm and grateful. "I appreciate that."

"Why didn't you show this photograph to me before?"

He shrugged as he placed the picture back into his pocket. "You didn't ask."

She shifted uncomfortably in her seat....

Third, the plot drags out over several hundred pages and rushes into the ending much too fast with little real resolution or sense. (view spoiler)

The story didn't need the dramatic, confrontational climax. There was enough angst to be worked through between the two main characters without adding the "thriller" bit. Poorly structured thriller, as it stands, that barely made sense.

Fourth, the faux psychology in this book drove me crazy.

A part of Ryan wanted to get the hell out of the dark, dank basement and read his sister's words in warm, familiar surroundings, and another part of him wanted right now to see what she'd left behind.

Many paragraphs like that provide entirely irrelevant and often annoying "glimpses" into the characters' emotions. The problem is, none of it feels real. It's difficult to relate at any level to them. Ryan supposedly sought his sister for over ten years (maybe? The math got confusing) but overcomes the emotional upheaval of why she left relatively quickly. After all, he's got a hot woman to make out with now.

Zoe supposedly has textbook commitment issues and blames it on her parents' passion for each other. Her struggle did not make sense to me. I could think of many good reasons for her *not* to get it on with a complete stranger but this idea that she would "lose herself in a man" wasn't one that readily came to mind. She already had a career (which she gave up because she didn't want to "follow the rules"...) so she had to have left home at some point, right? It's not like she's been living in her parents' basement. Despite frequent references to the movie, this is not *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*. Even acknowledging that she "struggles" with commitment issues and leaving home, she *agonizes* over it FOREVER. I got sick of her attitude and mindset.

(view spoiler)

Fifth, the sexual innuendos were downright awkward. There was nothing sexy about it. The sex scenes were so bad they turned you off. This author has an uncomfortable obsession with body fluid and that is all I will say on the subject. But really, for no other reason, avoid the book for that!

I am sure there is more to criticize. I am sorely disappointed. A little embarrassed to have finished it.

Bemused that someone actually published *Summer Lovin'*. Was there not an editor involved? I can't even give this novel kudos for potential. There was basically nothing redeeming about it except perhaps in the twin sisters and their relationship. (view spoiler)

Whispers From says

A hilarious, addicting story. It'll have a laughing and crying. There is a little mystery and a little sex in it. I adore Ms. Phillips and her stories are the best. They make you feel like you're experiencing everything the character is.

Zoe is former Secret Service, Greek, and her family is a little zany. Her family is in the middle of adopting a 14 year old girl. Everything goes haywire when her uncle shows up.

Ryan is a lawyer and from a very rich family. He has been searching for his sister who ran away seventeen years ago. He finds out she's dead but he has a niece.

There is a mistake when he shows up at the Costas house. They think he's the social worker filling in for their regular one. Zoe figures it out but waits to tell her family. But someone seems to be after Sam (the niece) and the family will do anything to keep her safe. So Ryan, Zoe, and Sam are a trip to his parents. The stalker follows her there and a whole lot of secrets are revealed. Will Zoe and Ryan be able to overcome their differences and be happy or will Zoe let her fears make her lose the only man she loves?

* Voluntarily reviewed this for the author*

Sandi Ramirez says

I really enjoyed *Summer Lovin'* Carly Phillips writes with such a great description. She describes the Costas family as the Adams family and some of the "jobs" they had done in the past. The birthday party for Samantha was described in such detail that I felt like I was actually there at the party with Spanky myself. The attraction of Ryan and Zoe is evident from the very first time our author allows us to meet them and runs through this book. We get to know Zoe Costas's amazing and very quirky family and Ryan Baldwin's very stiff high society family as well. Samantha or Sam as she is known to all is the reason for Zoe and Ryan to meet and in this book we learn if an old dog can learn new tricks.

I really liked this book and look forward to more in this series.

Katy Battisti says

Summer lovin' was a great read! I really enjoyed this one. This one is one of my favorites from Carly Phillips. I loved the characters and how different their lives are. A lawyer who loves Rules and an ex-fed that is a free spirit with a crazy family. The storyline was great, well-developed and written. The plot had some twists that kept you reading. Opposites do attract!

Lesley says

What an awesome story from Carly Phillips! Ryan Baldwin has finally found his runaway sister's child, but

she's about to be adopted by Zoe's family. Ryan and Zoe work on finding happiness given the uncertainty of Sam's future living arrangements.

This story is heartfelt and poignant. It does standalone, but I would love to go back and read Ari's story now. I read this in less than a day because I could not put it down.

Thanks to the author for a review copy.

Nina says

Good love story

I would definitely recommend this book! kept me interested the whole time and made me tear up a little in the end

Shannon Ferguson says

This was a really good read! Full of twists and turns, and while I suspected some of it, there were parts that shocked me also.

I loved Zoe and Ryan together. She brought out a fun side of him, and just seemed to bring light to his dull stiff world.

Zoe's family are... well, freaking awesome lol. Imagine every eccentric personality, and you've got her family. They had me laughing at their antics, and loving how close they were.

This is definitely a must read!!

Andrea Guy says

I love a good chicklit and Carly Phillips always delivers a good one. This one is the tale of a crazy Greek Jersey family and a conservative Boston family that share a common bond; a 14 year old girl named Samantha.

The heroine, Zoe is one of the Costas clan and the hero is Ryan is Sam's new found uncle from the Boston Baldwins, a family that owns a big department store in the city.

Ryan has come in search of Sam, who is his runaway sister's only child, and one who has been shuffled through foster care until she at last found a family with Zoe's mom and dad, who are trying to adopt her.

Toss in a stalker and a necklace with keys and you have a fast paced, sexy read. Every character is lovable and you really want to get to know them all, from Ryan's stuff mom and dad, to Zoe's twin Ari and her husband Quinn.

It was hard to put this book down and I was sad when I reached the last page. Carly really created characters that I came to love and I didn't want them to go away.

This one goes into the keeper bin!

Kahea says

*****3.5 ‘Costas Family’ Stars*****

As much as I know that Zoe and Ryan are the focus of the book, the Costas family as a whole were who ultimately kept me turning the pages. Think My Big Fat Greek Wedding but a tinsy bit less chaotic. That sense of unconditional and unequivocal love mixed with their antics and need to meddle in people's lives because they only want to see them happy jumped off the page and had me smiling the entire time.

Even though the Costa family took front and center for me, I did enjoyed Ryan and Zoe and their journey, it didn't totally grab hold of me, but it was still fun to be around them. Both are simply good people, who love their families and are still searching for their place in the world, even though they don't realize it. I liked seeing Ryan's evolution as the story progressed. Zoe, I loved her strength and how much she loved her family, but her “issue” had me shaking my head most of the time.

There is a bit of suspense thrown into the story and though the big reveal didn't totally surprise me, it was still fun to watch everything play out. I didn't read the first book in the series and there is a bit of carry over from that one to this one, but I didn't feel as if I needed to go back and read it since everything is summarized pretty well in the beginning of the book. While Zoe and Ryan didn't wow me, the Costa clan did and made for an enjoy read.

~ *Copy provided by the author & voluntarily reviewed* ~

Jenny says

Registered on Bookcrossing - <http://www.bookcrossing.com/journal/7...>

Another fun book by Carly Phillips. I love her characters, they are so fun to read about.
