



The Secret of St. Claire

Robin Alexander

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Lighthearted romance, sweet and funny.

Idyllic, quaint, and straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting is St. Claire, Louisiana—at least on the outside. Beneath the veneer, it's anything but. That's the secret of St. Claire.

Born and raised in St. Claire, Lindsay Juneau's life was seemingly full raising a six-year-old daughter and caring for her widowed mother. Of course, things aren't always what they seem, and the newest resident of St. Claire isn't buying the ruse.

Veterinarian Nicole Allen is looking for something different. She finds it in St. Claire with its hypochondriac rabbits, shotgun-toting shut-ins, and eclectic mix of people. The most alluring, though, is a woman who's also looking for something different.

The Secret of St. Claire Details

Date : Published April 30th 2012 by Intaglio Publications (first published April 1st 2012)

ISBN : 9781935216384

Author : Robin Alexander

Format : Paperback 188 pages

Genre : Glbt, Lesbian, Romance, Lgbt, Lesbian Romance, Humor, Funny

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From Reader Review The Secret of St. Claire for online ebook

Amanda says

This is a reread for me, several years after my initial read. I gave it 5 stars years ago, and I love rereading books. I am going to add this one to my favorites list after its second read. I really like Robin Alexander's books. Her characters are always well written and realistic. Her dialogue is always good and the story just sits well with me. She does both main and secondary characters really well. The rating on this one remains the same. It actually made me want to reread more of her books. You get a little bit of everything with her books so I see no reason you can go wrong by picking one up. Start with this one you will not be disappointed.

Cynthia says

I'm disappointed. I liked the first 8 chapters of this book and thought I'd keep on liking it, given the general atmosphere of the story. Not to mention that little Alexis is adorable.

But then, there's backstory about a false accusation of statutory rape, which is mentioned for .2 second as justification for the character to move across the country, and could have been literally anything else without perpetuating the myth of the false accusation.

So I could have mostly disregarded it for its brevity. Especially since I thought the question of having to come out seemed well handled. The reasons for the character to not come out felt realistic, and she was never pressured by her love interest to do so. (I did dislike the choice of having the character being surprised that her mother knew and didn't react really badly, because I feel that's often something one can gauge about the people close to them pretty well. But I could also disregard that easily.)

But then there's a big scene about the closeted mother being outed in front of the whole town, everyone having copped onto it (after barely 2 months), and most people supporting her. I dislike that kind of scenes in general, and specifically here because, to me, it implies a sort of "get over it, most people are open-minded about it now" mentality that dismisses real concerns and real experiences of queer people even today, and even coming from "open-minded" straight people (whether consciously or not). As well as a sort of obligation to put out there for everyone to publicly see it, something that is inherently very private and doesn't (shouldn't) need a public declaration.

The final straw was the proposal, not necessarily because it happens so fast (1.5 months after they tentatively start dating), but because they didn't talk about it at all beforehand. Additionally, the mother is giddy about taking her fiancée's last name, when she specifically expressed not getting back to her maiden name after her divorce so that she'd keep the same last name as her child. And since the father is still in the picture, I don't see the fiancée adopting the kid and her name changing. (I did like the father and his acceptance and kindness and would have liked to see more of it, a good relation/friendship between divorced parents that is healthy for the child.)

Lexxi Kitty says

I do not know what it is about Alexander books. I always seem to have a certain amount of reluctance to start, I stumble a little in the beginning, but - most of the time (with a few exceptions), I end up giggling happily as I inhale the book. Also I like how Alexander seems to like people roughly around 37 years of age.

St. Claire Louisiana is, as the book description notes - 'straight out of a Norman Rockwell painting'. It's a lovely little town, off the beaten path, miles from hotels and highways, a more or less peaceful, calm, lovely . . . I'm repeating myself. Just a few things mar the perfection - there's one particular family that has some rather absurdly abusive and mean little shits . . . um . . . little boys who harass and terrorize the people around them. Plus the second imperfection - to live there one must be straight (or so thinks one Lindsay Juneau - owner and operator of the hardware store in town, mother of a small girl, and, secretly, a lesbian).

Into this 'perfect' setting comes one Nicole Allen, veterinarian and lesbian. Allen's there to take over the local veterinarian office.

Nicole and Lindsay meet almost immediately when Lindsay brings in her cat, Mr. Peepers, who had been terrorized by that earlier mentioned family of little shits. Caged in an abandoned house, and pelted with balloons filled with paint.

Their 'relationship' advances more through the pushing of Rose, Lindsay's mother, though both were quite happy to become friends.

The family dynamics, small town dynamics, cats and kittens, and budding friendships and relationships fill the book; as well as numerous moments of laughter. That and some neat holiday moments - Halloween and Christmas.

(Of note, as an aside, I need to stop listening to books while writing reviews, like I did with this one and the previous review. Listening to 'A Date with Angel' makes review writing hard).

October 12 2016

Pin says

This is such a nice story - warm and funny with engaging cast of characters of people and animals.

Val says

This is my first read of this author's work and I enjoyed it greatly. It's a sweet story and I found myself really rooting for the main characters to be happy. I also appreciated how the author ended the book. Issues resolved and a snapshot of the future. Can't wait to read more from this author.

Arien says

Soul healing fluff.

Julia says

This was a wonderful book until they got together, and it was okay in the very beginning of the relationship, but then... basically everything happened too fast. And I mean *fast*. As in, literally within less than two months of knowing each other. I was in shock.

The main redeeming factors for me were the cute mutual pining in the first half of the book, Alexis being adorable with Lindsay and Nicole, and those last scenes at the Christmas party. The actual relationship development, though, was just way too fast for me to handle. (view spoiler) I love some good domestic fluff, and they were super cute, but I'm definitely more of a slow burn kind of girl.

Anja says

I loved this book. What a delightful, gentle love story with lots of humor sprinkled throughout. Clever dialogue that keeps the characters real, believable and easy to identify with. I especially appreciate the story flow as there is no time wasted with the angst of fighting an attraction found in so many romance stories. This story draws the reader in and doesn't disappoint. The lovemaking is pretty hot, too!

T says

While Pitifully Ugly by this same author made me laugh the whole way through, this book had me smiling the entire time. It is not like so many other formulaic romance novels where girl meets guy, spends most of the book fighting their feelings, get together, have a falling out, and then work it out. Instead, when the two acknowledge their feelings, you get to spend the rest of the book envious of their love and passion. They do face obstacles, but thankfully it's not from a horrible lack of communication and self doubt.

You might think that the lack of angst will make it boring, not so. You will get to know and love the characters in the book, the families, the kids and pets and old women with guns. The character development and skill with which the author tells a story is top-notch and refreshing. And there is no lack of passion, even here in the podunk sheltered small town. so you won't be left wanting in that area.

And who doesn't love when the seemingly backwards woman that always does what's right takes control when you least expect it?

I am now a huge fan of this author's style of telling stories and will be moving on to read everything else she has written.

Tinything says

This is absolutely 5 stars for me!!

Robin Alexander really do change me, you know.. the type of book I usually dont want to read (one of the mc has a kid). I have read 3 of Robin's books that one of mc has a kid and i love them all.

I really love this book, such a heartwarming family and loves. Alexis is cute, smart and adorable and love how the way she want to protect her family and her friend. I love Rose and Ruby as well. I love Rose how to try to pair the mc up, love the way she think and support her daughter.

I also like how Nicole care and protective for Alexis and help to get rid off the bullies and deal with them that they did to Alexis. I know it's not good to be violent, but sometimes when words dont reach them, you need to do it with different approach. And of course Ruby painball.. hahahaha

This is such a dorable, heartwarming, heart touching and funny humorous book. At the start it's not much of the laughing but when i keep reading I start to smile, giggle and laughing and of course tearing as well.

I love Ruby's speech to the people at the Christmas Festival about Nicole and Lindsay. I dont know about other, but that speech is so touching to me and it did moved me to tear.

As always thank you for the wonderful book <3

Sprinkles says

Happy International Women's Day! Was anybody else able to take the workday off? I did and I started it off reading lesbian fiction after a quick donation to Planned Parenthood. :)

I'd taken a break from Robin Alexander because she's candy and I shouldn't overdo it. And I'm glad I did. I recall downloading this book a long time ago, kind of confused about the bunny cover. Then, after I accepted 'Just Jorie' as my lord and savior, I realized my grave mistake of letting 'The Secret of St. Claire' sit on my kindle carousel, collecting dust.

I LOOOOOOOVE THIS SO MUCH. On a rare occasion, I actually had a fictional character crush on both our main heroines. I found both so relatable and though Alexander doesn't dwell on their good looks (showing more than telling!), I pictured them as really, reallyyyy hot ladies. Lindsay didn't annoy me at all in her self-discovery and her troubles with coming out made a ton of sense. Nicole's cute squishiness for Lindsay melted my heart; she confronted her feelings with a deep vulnerability, which was refreshing. Both of them were clever, down-to-earth characters.

Call me boring, but when I sense a book being mostly romance, I dive in QUICKLY. From the moment they had time alone, hopping into the truck to visit Ruby, I was invested. I *needed* them to fall in love and make their own family with Alexis (cutie!) and Rose, Lindsay's mother. Speaking of Rose, it was a pleasant surprise for this grandma to subtly push them toward each other and act less...crazy? than previously read Robin Alexander parents.

Lindsay and Nicole's chemistry deserve all the thumbs up! And their sex...when Lindsay finally got to let herself go to town with Nicole. That was BLAZINGGGG HOT. Her eagerness and "finally" desire glowed from my screen. Thank you, Robin Alexander, for their sex talk. Dear god.

This is a low-conflict book, for those of you wishing to kick back and immerse yourself in women falling in love. What conflict there is stems from outside factors who are promptly taken down several notches.

5 stars!

Bib says

Romantic, heartwarming and entertaining. Definitely worth my time.

Jo reece says

You can't really go wrong with a Robin Alexander book!

K says

Wonderful story

This was a very heartfelt book. Full of smiles, tears, friendships and exciting revelations. Coming to terms with ones fears of hate and gossip.

This story addresses homophobia, bullying, and what accusations can do to someone.

Robin Alexander does a wonderful job tackling each subject with tacked, laughter and kindness.

This book although I wish the ending was longer it does end in a very sweet way.

You must go and get your copy today. You won't be disappointed.

Dide says

This is a mature story and deeply enjoyed. It acquainted one to the characters gradually and that shaped out the romance.
