



## **Chocolate Kisses**

*Judith Arnold*

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Claudia Mulcahey has one day—Valentine’s Day—to cater the biggest social event Glenwood, Connecticut has seen in years. If she succeeds, her catering business, Fantasy Feasts, will flourish. If she fails, she may go bankrupt. But a lot can go wrong in one day: car accidents, spilled dip, crushed cakes...and the distraction posed by Ned Wyatt, sexy bachelor brother of the party’s shrewish hostess. Once he gets a taste of Claudia’s homemade chocolate kisses, he wants Claudia catering only to him.

Story originally appeared in the Harlequin Valentine Anthology My Valentine 1993

## **Chocolate Kisses Details**

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Author : Judith Arnold

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## **From Reader Review Chocolate Kisses for online ebook**

### **Greta says**

#### Summary:

Claudia comes from a blue collar background. She now owns her own catering company. Ned Wyatt has always been their town's version of the Lord of the Manor. Claudia is on her way to cater Ned's sisters event when they meet by accident. The whole story takes place over the course of one day. It's love at first sight, and the only thing Claudia really has to overcome is her doubts that they come from two totally different worlds.

#### Review

In order to enjoy this book you really have to buy into the whole idea that two people can meet, fall in love, and instantly recognize they are perfect for each other. As I read this story, I kept envisioning it as one of those old 1940s romances...picture Carey Grant and Barbara Stanwyck. The more modern side of this romance was in Ned's attitude. Even though he obviously lusted over Claudia, the author made it clear in several places that he admired her skill, confidence in her work, and ambition as well.

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### **Lindsay says**

Amazon Freebie 10/13/2012

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### **Kayleigh says**

Now don't judge me for only giving this book 2 stars.

It was a novella so obviously it was short. It followed Ned and Claudia. Ned is rich and Claudia is catering his sisters party.

The moment they see each other they fall for one another. The whole story takes place on Valentines Day and throughout the entire novella Ned is trying to get Claudia to be his.

It was pretty good I guess. The writing was good...I liked the story...Would've liked it to be longer...I want to know what happened to them.

I don't know...it wasn't bad for me but it was uhh-mazing either.

However i'd say you should give it a read. If you have the time. And you're looking for something light.

Mhm.

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### **Sandye Corcoran says**

This is a great choice if you're in the mood to read a Valentine's based story without the dating & overly sugary romance. Yes there's a love story woven through the plot. It's more of a story of people coming from seemingly two different worlds and falling for each other despite all the social & economic barriers that are usually presented in this type of story. All in all a good quick read for the Valentine's Day holiday.

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## **Brittany Goodman says**

**Ok.**

The story was cute and the disasters believable. The characters were cute and the story was quick. Unfortunately there is a sex scene otherwise the story is cute.

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## **Jillyn says**

An up and coming (more coming than up) caterer, Claudia needs this Valentine's Day cotillion gig to go seamlessly. Before her work can even really begin, she wrecks the food while avoiding some moronic bike rider- a bike rider that happens to be the brother of the rich woman who hired her. For reasons she can't quite explain or understand, she finds herself drawn to him, and a little confused when he offers to help her in the kitchen. Between the pink frosting, the rich homemade chocolate kisses, and the heat of the kitchen, there's more than sweets being served up behind closed doors.

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I saw this sitting on my Kindle, and I have no recollection of getting it. I assume I snagged it while it was free on Amazon, at some point. Though the cover leaves a lot to be desired, I'm really glad I took the time to read this novella instead of just moving it off of my ereader.

+The sexual tension in this book is ridiculous, and I mean that in the best way possible. Never before have I found neon pink frosting, chocolate, and even champagne-boiled shrimp so desirable in my life. And I mentioned this, while reading, to my girlfriend. So, thanks for that idea Judith.

+I like that despite her feelings, Claudia fought temptation as hard as she could. Because let's be honest, if a gorgeous, rich, smooth man wanted you to lick frosting off of his finger, most of us would do it without hesitation. Or, at least I would. Maybe that's just me!

-My major fault with this story is the rushed happy ever ending aspect. I know, I know, it's a novella. And that's what novellas do. But it irks me, because to be honest I would LOVE to read this if it were lengthened into a full length book with more character development and a longer simmering time.

-There were also a few grammatical/spelling errors in this novel, but I didn't find that they took away from the story.

If you're looking for vulgar, erotic romance, than this story isn't for you. However, if you like your short stories with happy endings and almost agonizing teasing, then give this novella a try. Maybe it'll satiate your appetite. I feel that fans of Lauren Dane's Tart and other foodie romances would also enjoy this.

This review can also be found on my blog, Bitches n Prose.

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## **Nicole says**

I understand that this is a short read, however, who falls in love and proposes to someone after ONE day of meeting them, unless they are blacked-out drunk and in Vegas?!

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## **Melanie Adkins says**

Valentine's day would never be the same. Claudia Mulcahey is a caterer and working on the most important party she's ever had. A cotillion for the local debutantes. The Wyatt's were holding it at their mansion. When Ned Wyatt and Claudia collide, she's certain it's all over. Valentine's day has a way of surprising us.

LOVED this novella. It was the perfect amount of romance for a quick read, whether lunch time or waiting around in some office. Judith Arnold took the typical Valentine's day and made it something special. I think you'll love this novella and be looking for more from Ms. Arnold.

I found no issues.

I gave this one 5 cheers out of 5 because the romance break was terrific!

~Copy of book provided by author in exchange for a fair review~

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## **Deanne says**

### **Short, Sweet & Fluffy**

I came across Judith Arnold's Chocolate kisses when I was looking at the free ebooks on my kobo touch so I thought I will go give a whirl .

As I began reading Ned and Claudia's story I thought it was a nice fluffy read , Love the chemistry between the hero and heroine and sparks were definently flying through the pages , but what I find most UNREALISTIC of all was due to the characters whirl-will (literally) romance how can two people fall madly in love with each other within the span of 24 hrs ?!?!?!?

I was suppose to give this a 4 star rating because I love the story plot but the unrealistic way of the hero and heroine falling w for each other definitely dropped the ratings for this one

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## **??Trea says**

This was a short and decent enough read, but nothing spectacular. While a lot happened over the course of their one day together, I honestly found it hard to believe that Ned would propose so soon to Claudia! I hated Claudia's "us vs. them" attitude, and the way she kept harping on it. I thought the "dowager" mother was the best part of the entire book! A good read for Valentine's Day, but not worth keeping in my Kindle Library.

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### **Lyndi W. says**

I'm gonna say I enjoyed the story but Claudia was kinda ridiculous. She was so prejudice against the wealthy, I don't understand why she would expect the wealthy to treat her well and with respect. Ned (horrible name) showed himself to be a genuinely good guy and Claudia couldn't look past his last name. So I thought she was a twat. The end.

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### **Marla says**

Claudia Mulcahey has one day—Valentine's Day—to cater the biggest social event Glenwood, Connecticut has seen in years. If she succeeds, her catering business, Fantasy Feasts, will flourish. If she fails, she may go bankrupt. But a lot can go wrong in one day: car accidents, spilled dip, crushed cakes...and the distraction posed by Ned Wyatt, sexy bachelor brother of the party's shrewish hostess. Once he gets a taste of Claudia's homemade chocolate kisses, he wants Claudia catering only to him. This is a really good little novella I got for free from Kobo. Will look at more of her books.

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### **Lorraine says**

#### **Sweet Story**

This novella is a sweet romantic caper of a caterer and the affluent family she is hired for a debutante ball. She runs into some complications along the way and is helped by the wealthy son. This is a clean story and enjoyable.

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### **Jalyn says**

Claudia is on her way to cater an event when she almost runs over Ned, a man on a bike. Too bad it isn't until after she freaks out on him that she discovers that the event she is catering is for his family. All of her treats are ruined and Ned feels bad so he offers to help her make all new ones, but he has some ulterior motives.

This is a cute and short read. Claudia definitely has some issues when it comes to upper class people, but she seems to get over that pretty quickly. I enjoyed reading this, though it bothered me that Claudia and Ned fell in love in less than 24 hours. A bit unbelievable given how short the story is, but who am I to argue with love at first sight? \*As a side note, I really want to make homemade chocolate kisses now! Lol :)

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### **Vicki says**

I actually thought this story was very cute. The story begins when Claudia Mulcahey nearly runs into Ned

Wyatt or is it Ned that nearly runs into Claudia? Either way, they nearly crash and she blames him for "breaking her hearts." She is on her way to cater a party for Ned's sister, Melanie. Wyatt comes out of his driveway and Claudia almost hits him, and then she becomes upset that all the foods she had brought with her for the party was ruined. And this was a very special party, as it was the first annual Valentine's Day cotillion.

Ned Wyatt "a Wyatt" who evidently is from the upper echelon of society; she happens to be employed by the Wyatt family. When he offers to help her make another cake, she was practically mortified because it was his sister that had hired her. Ironically Ned calls Claudia a snot because she can't fathom him helping her due to who he is: a Wyatt and the brother of her catering job employer. (view spoiler)

Side note: One of the funniest lines in the book is "Last year on Valentine's Day he'd [her ex-boyfriend] been tasteless enough to give her a card on which he'd scrawled, 'Happy V.D.'" OUCH! LOL

Recommendation: A very cute, quick read for Valentine's especially. :o)

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