



Place Your Betts

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As the daughter of the town slut, she clawed her way up from the bars of Bourbon Street to the Country Music Hall of Fame. She's America's sweetheart, darling of the media, and a multi-platinum star. But she has a secret. At the age of sixteen, she had a baby and gave him up for adoption because her boyfriend wasn't ready for fatherhood. Now she finds out that her precious baby boy has been living with his father from day one.

Gabe Swanson is a Texas cattle baron riches-to-rags story. As the only son of the town's most prominent family, it was a huge blow when his father lost the family fortune in a ponzi scheme. Now, Gabe is land rich and cash poor. But he has his son and family is all that matters.

When Betts moves back to the small town that shunned her, all hell breaks loose. She wants her son. Can Betts and Gabe leave their past in the rear view mirror so they can be a family?

Place Your Betts Details

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From Reader Review Place Your Betts for online ebook

?Susan? says

Cute cozy, fun characters and a good story line.

Sarah says

I found the synopsis to be intriguing that's why I decided to read this book. I enjoyed it but I have a couple of issues from it. I felt that the ending was rushed and I would have liked the "reveal" to have happened earlier in the book. It would be nice to read how Bett and Tom interact now they are both aware of their real relationship. My favorite scenes are when they were hanging out with each other and learning about their musical inclination. After a couple of scenes of them talking and tinkering about music and such this plot line was abandoned and Tom's relationship with Kaitlin takes precedence. Their romance was cute and all but I would have much preferred it to be on the background and have the music on the forefront. That plot line was more interesting because they could develop and deepen their relationship through music and we would have more of a glimpse of Bett's musician tendencies.

Anyway, the characters are great. If I'll rate the book on that merit alone, I'll give it a five. Bett is a strong, independent woman that you can look up to and her mom was the bomb. I love people who dance in their own tune and Cherie is certainly that.

Danielle says

Cute, fun and worth the read!!

This was a really good book and I'm kicking myself for not finding it sooner. When I read the blurb I'm like well this sounds interesting and the more I read of it the more I fell in love. Not only did the characters capture me but the plot did as well. I stayed up really late and waking up early just to finish.

I adored Betts and how strong she was not only for wanting to give her baby another life but fighting for what she has always dreamed of. At times this book was emotional but when Gabe and Betts banter and challenge each other had me laughing. Gabe didn't have the life he expected either but he did a damn good job at trying to the best for his son no matter what it cost. The chemistry between these two was off the charts and didn't let up not once.

I really felt bad for them when they were younger and had basically no chance since other people began had to be involved. Betts mother was hilarious. One thing for sure is that these characters capture you and keep you interested.

I didn't like how Tom ended up finding about his mother or he was going to become a father. I really thought Tom becoming a father was a bit much for the story since this was supposed to be about Betts and Gabe. I am happy about the epilogue and how things were tied together. Gabe and Betts deserved the happily ever after and the family they both wanted.

Betts had some great friends but I'm not sure if I am interested enough to venture into their stories right now but I will save them for another time.

This book is on kindle unlimited for free. A must read for sure!

April says

Oh boy, I seriously loved this book!!!! Such a fun and engaging story. The story has some seriously emotional moments, but most of the time it is laugh out loud funny!

The story is a typical chick-lit romance trope. Nothing wrong with that though, there is a reason those tropes stand the test of time. Reunited lovers, who had a baby as teens, yup that is a delightful classic!

I love Betts, she is fantastic! There is something more than a little likeable about her. She breaks your heart then makes you giggle the next moment. You really want to route for her.

Gabe is a yummy cowboy. I wanted to see the fences mended in the worst kind of way. He seriously grew up from his youthful stupidity.

The banter between Betts and Gabe is incredible. I loved them together, they were great even when they were still mad at each other. They are a perfect pair and you want to see them work it all out. Add to the top of that the quirky supporting cast. Love her Mama and best friends. Can not wait to see how this series plays out.

The narrative is mixed, you get both leads POV and the teen romance as well. It is great to see it all play out and a little bit of history repeating itself. It is a great story that I could read again.

I listened to the audiobook narrated by Pam Dougherty, who is amazing!! The characters have southern accents, but they are done with a light touch. Such a delight to listen to the smooth tones and swift pace. She really gets all the amusing moments and brings them to life in a brilliant manner. She has terrific energy that brings all the emotion to life. I am definitely looking for more of her reads!!

Overall this is a great book. Fun chick-lit with a touch of emotion. I can not wait to read HEA for Charlie and Lucky!!

Disclosure - I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts, opinions and ratings are my own.

Megan says

When I was looking at this book I was a bit apprehensive about buying it but my 'one click' addiction got the better of me! And boy am I glad it did!!!

I have laughed, swooned and cried through Place your Bets! This is the type of book you don't want to put down because you just keep saying to yourself "just one more chapter then I'll go to bed" but it just doesn't happen.

There is not one thing I can fault about this book, I loved the characters and the banter between them! I just wished I had a time machine so I can go back and get to read it all over again without knowing what happens in the end!

It is safe to say that Katie Graykowski has got herself a new fan! I can't wait to read about the rest of The Marilyn's!!

At least I've got Perfect Summer to read now!

Melissa says

What a great, fun, funny, witty and heart warming story. The characters were just as great as the story. With the vivid detail you feel like you are watching a movie unfold instead of reading the story.

Karla says

5 Stars! *Place Your Betts* is a sure thing!

If you love the quirkiness of SEP, Jennifer Crusie, Susan Donovan, and a story that grabs a hold of your heart, then take a chance on this book!

I am going to be honest, a few pages in I wondered what I was getting myself into, and well, as it turns out, I got myself into something good! The way the story played out, the plausible explanations for what kept Betts and Gabe apart, and then their the second chance at love... . delightful. Then watching the relationship blossom between Tom and Betts...nothing sweeter. Betts' friends having her back through the worst time in her life and then being there for her when she had to confront her past, all that she sacrificed, and then try to win it back...awesome!

There isn't anything I didn't like about this book, and it was filled with fun humorous scenes, especially between Betts and Gabe. The sexual tension was off the charts, and I so wanted them to be together again, it's just meant to be.

She positioned the cinnamon rolls for maximum smellage power and flipped on the fan.

Cinnamon swarmed on the breeze.

"What are you doing with those?" Gabe used the large puppy-dog eyes to soulfully gaze upon the table.

"You mean the fresh, homemade cinnamon rolls that I just pulled out of the oven?" Betts drew up her knees, placed the book on them, and pretended to read. "They're cooling."

"Can I have one?" His eyes hadn't moved from the pan. "Just that little one right there."

Gabe licked his lips and pointed.

"I don't think so. I'm pretty hungry." His pecs flexed as he pulled off his work gloves and stuffed them in his back pocket. He shoved his hands in his front pockets, making the jeans ride an inch lower on his hips and exposing the muscular V of his lower abs.

"What do you want?"

You. Thank God, she hadn't said it out loud. "How about a trade? One roll for a week's worth of bathtub privileges?"

Place Your Betts had all the elements, and then some, for what I like in a romantic comedy; witty, sweet, amusing heartwarming story, character chemistry, and it all added up to make this a wonderful charming read.

A Kindle Unlimited read

Moon Love says

4.75 stars! *Place Your Betts* had me hooked from the very beginning. Not only did the first page grab my attention, but it grabbed me by the feels. The story and writing are so stunning!

I must admit Gabe broke Betts heart and my own in the beginning, and I didn't think there was a way he could redeem himself, but as the story progressed, I learned not all was what it seemed. I loved how while neither Betts nor Gabe were perfect, they truly loved their child.

I also loved the relationship between Betts and her mother, as well as between her besties, Charlie and Lucky. And Betts did a wonderful job at mothering her son, Tom, even when he didn't know who she was. While the story is mainly told from Betts and Gabe's points of views which are amazing, I loved how Katie Graykowski included chapters from Tom and Katie his crush.

There's so much about this book that should be mentioned, like how I loved how the story went from past to present and then back again at times to reveal the truth of what transpired, and how the story was both passionate, hopeful, yet had a touch of sadness. Most of all I was impressed by the depth of the characters and story.

I haven't read Katie Graykowski in a few years and I can't wait to read the other books in this series, but most of all I'm really glad I picked a book randomly and came out a winner!

Stephanie says

After reading Perfect Summer, I had to read more of Katie Graykowski's work! She has a way with words and I'm so happy I stumbled across a review from Darynda Jones of Perfect Summer because now I am addicted. I cannot wait for more. Thank you Katie for sharing your work with us! You have a talent and am addicted to your work! :)

Rosemary Hughes says

A complex story of lives interwoven, due to past actions and the present situation of the same individuals. You see one event, and the repercussions across the lives of various people. It is an intriguing plot, one that plays out regularly and yet, can have different outcomes, depending on the reactions of the "adult" participants.

Debbie Thomson says

I was very close to putting this book down, I found it quite dull up to about 40% of the book and then it grabbed me and I was hooked for the rest of it, it was a sweet read and I liked seeing the sons story along the way.

Erika says

I have so many issues with this one, that I don't know where to start.

First I have to recognize that the characters are really cool, just like in all of Katie's books. But while the characters are memorable and the story is fun and the book is easy to read, but the story has so many plot holes that I finished the book feeling frustrated.

The book starts when Betts and her Mom are preparing a funeral, since the beginning is clear that they hate Gigi, the one who died, then Betts gets a letter, the last from Gigi, and the content of the letter drives her to go back to the town she hates, where her grandmother Gigi lived.

And here is where the story starts to fall apart:

(view spoiler)

There were just a lot of things that didn't make sense.

Ira says

4.25 stars.

This is a (not) secret baby story with a twist.

She gave up the baby and become a rockstar, while he was end up with the baby, forget the dreams and poor. Oh, he used to be the rich one and dump her while she was pregnant, he had his own reason but feel kind of weak to me, but karma is work his own way I guess.

Oh don't worry, everything ending with a HEA with she the sugar mummy:)))

Good for a change for this type of story, sigh...)

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

Originally posted at <http://smexybooks.com/2013/12/review-...>

Favorite Quote: "He's the enemy, but he's got a great ass. There's no law against admiring it while we kick it."

Betts Monroe left her small minded town and worked herself to the bone to become a famous country music star. When her grandmother dies and leaves her a letter, informing her that the son she was forced to give up for adoption is living with his biological father, Betts drops everything and and high tails it back to the town and the man who broke her heart.

Gabe Swanson went from cattle baron to cattle rancher in the blink of an eye when his father gambled away the family fortune. Now it's only his son and him left to carry on the family name...a name that isn't worth the paper it's printed on. Gabe regrets nothing about his life, except a young woman whose heart he broke. When that woman blows back into town, demanding to see their son, all hell breaks loose.

Gabe and Betts may be on opposite sides of the fence, but the attraction between them burns as brightly now as it did sixteen years ago. Can Gage and Betts overcome their past to create a future or was that first cut just too deep to heal?

Fans of Jennifer Crusie and Susan Elizabeth Phillips will enjoy this humorous debut contemporary romance of lost love and second chances playing out under the star struck eyes of a small southern town. A classic trope of young love that was brought under by the manipulations of family. Unplanned pregnancies, misunderstandings, smoking hot chemistry, a scaredy cat bull named Buttercup, and a lycra wearing grandmama will leave you laughing and sniffling just a little as you watch two former lovers try to find away to forgive each other and themselves. Fun snarky dialogue keeps the story flowing along at a steady pace. Multiple plot lines keep you entertained; merging together towards the end to provide a worthy conclusion

for our couple.

Heavily character driven, the star of this book is Betts Monroe and her fun loving, no boundaries, sidekick mama. I absolutely adored those two. Lord have mercy. The two of them would get to going and I would laugh my fool head off.

Mama picked up on the second ring. "I'm kinda busy right now. Can I call you back?"

"Nope. This is an emergency. I need a chainsaw and..." Betts's stomach growled, "a large Reese's Peanut Butter Cup Blizzard—"

"Are we having a party? Why didn't you tell me? I'll grab some wine too. Something dry and red. Red always goes well with mayhem and destruction." Mama hung up.

Graykowski had the perfect blend of snarky fun conversation without oversaturating the book in one liners. Betts is a solid presence in here. Her backstory is heart wrenching and there were two people in her life I wanted to slap the ugly out of. I liked that Graykowski doesn't make Betts larger than life or the perfect heroine. She's made mistakes and paid a heavy price for them but she doesn't allow herself to stay mired in the past.

"It doesn't matter. I take full responsibility for my mistakes. I should have seen the writing on the wall. Not taking my phone calls or answering my letters was a pretty clear indication of your feelings. Love makes you blind and, in my case"—she laughed, but it sounded hollow—"stupid."

Gabe was just as strong willed and likable. He gives as good as he gets and some of his "gives" will leave you giggling. In the beginning, I didn't like him and didn't want too. After reading how he handled the situation with Betts when she announced she was pregnant; I wanted to choke him. He's cocky and acts a bit like a martyr. When the whole story is revealed, especially what Betts did after he walked away, he realizes he knew nothing and his hatred was misplaced. I personally think Betts forgave him way too quickly for somethings. Sometimes, "I'm sorry," isn't enough.

"Everything he'd believed about Betts had been false, and all the years of hatred seemed like a huge waste of time. She'd had to make all the hard choices because he'd been a coward."

The journey our couple takes is sexy, humorous, and heartbreaking. They were both horribly manipulated by their families and spent many years hating each other for the lies told to them. The chemistry between Gabe and Betts is HOT and is made hotter by their innuendos and negotiating. Lust and snark makes for some wild and steamy times as these two bicker and flirt their way back into bed and each others hearts. Though their relationship starts out rocky, they each harbor resentment over past issues, it progresses at a reasonable pace which is helped out by their attitudes. Bett's isn't emotionally broken so she never plays the victim card and Gabe isn't a domineering jerk, hell bent on making Betts pay for presumed mistakes. It was nice that the usual over the top misconceptions weren't made a main focus in this installment. I enjoyed watching Gage and Betts get to know one another again as adults.

"Is name-calling part of your master plan to get me into bed? I have to tell you, it isn't working."

Well developed secondary characters round out the storyline and add depth, good old southern wisdom, delightful snarkiness and humor to the story. The four churches and their stalking was a trip. I love watching Tom get to know his mother and find his own romance. Betts mom will keep you stitches. She may march to her own drum but she loves her daughter and will take out anyone out who even tries to hurt her.

“I’m right here if you need me.” Mama called out. “Just holler and I’ll come running, swinging my bat first and asking questions later.”

We don’t see much of Betts best friends but from what you learn, they always have her back.

The main conflict is resolved in a predictable fashion as Gabe and Betts learn exactly what happened sixteen years ago and are able to work beyond it. Various smaller storylines also wrap up with little fanfare. Though I felt the ending came a little too fast and easy, I enjoyed the overall journey. There were a few things that I felt didn’t develop quite as well as they could; the role Betts grandmother played and I was curious as to why Gabe never contacted Betts later on in life.

Place Your Betts is delightfully funny sentimental story that is just the thing for those looking for a lightweight and engaging romantic contemporary brimming with laughter, love, and a healthy dose of lust. I do believe this will be a series as Ms. Graykowski seems to be working on book two, Lucky In Love, which is based on one of Betts best friends. I look forward to reading more by Ms. Graykowski.

Sophia says

Some books strike just the right chord out of the blue. I saw a book with a blurb that drew in my curiosity and really had no expectations. It wasn't far into this story that my anticipation grew and continued to grow as things were all laid out. A famous country singer discovers after her grandmother's death that the son she gave away as a poor, scared sixteen year old when her grandmother and her boyfriend both rejected her has been living for years with his real father back home in Texas. Yeah...that was the set up. And then as I progressed, I could see that both Betts and Gabe who loathed each other for years were both laboring under false impressions as a result of lies carefully cultivated with both of them just as they now had to figure out how best to break the truth to their teenage son. By the time I had laughed, cried, and sighed my way through this heartwarming story, I realized that I had listened to a true gem of a story and I didn't want it to end.

Fortunately, I get to stick around in The Marilyns' world as this was only the first of three stories about three 'through thick and thin' best friends known as the Three Marilyns after the one time the women as girls dressed up as Marilyn Monroe for Halloween. Can't wait to continue with Lucky's story.

But, back to Betts. Mega-successful country singer Betts Monroe is with her flamboyant, unapologetically slutty mother, Mama Sheree, as they prepare for her grandmother's funeral. Her grandmother was a hard, mean, loner woman who made the lives of those around her miserable. A registered letter arrives that rocks Betts' world. Her grandmother sent her a letter from beyond the grave so to speak telling her that the baby she gave up when she was young and scared is with his father back in her Texas hometown. Betts rushes back determined to get her son from the man who used her and threw her love back in her face when she needed him most. But easier said than done. The Swansons were rancher royalty when she was just the daughter of the town slut back in the day and Tom is now a teen and thinks she gave him away and stayed away. Still, she will do whatever it takes to get back into her son's life and show him that she never stopped loving him and she will take on Gabe and the Swansons to do it.

Laboring to hang on to the family ranch after his bitter, mean father lost almost everything in bad investments, Gabe doesn't have time to confront trouble from his past. Gabe Swanson has hated the woman

who took his dad's bribe money to prove she never really cared about him and only the family wealth and then sold their baby into a bad situation all to fund her big time singing career. He raised Tom and she is not going to waltz back into his son's life, make promises and skip out on his son like she did to him. Too bad the vixen is as attractive as ever and he wants to believe her, but can he when so much is at stake? Is it possible she told him the truth?

This story has a down home touch to it behind the storm and angst of the main conflict. It felt like a modern day Shakespeare story the way the characters have been fed many untruths piled on to already youthful impressions to cause trouble and heartbreak that lasted over eighteen years. Gabe and Betts were manipulated by their respective relations for both her Grandmother Geegee and his father's purposes. It is only slowly through stormy confrontations and quiet of the night confessions that the two put together the truth which bring regret, guilt, and sorrow along with a renewed hope for the pair. I know some of the past drama was over the top, but yet it pulled at my heart and made me tear up for all these two lost at no fault of their own. It was sweet when this warring pair grew more open to the possibility for the truth coming out and it was hilarious the back and forth bartering and shenanigans the two pull on each other.

And beyond the bittersweet past and renewed romance of this middle-aged couple is a secondary story involving their young son, Tom, and his high school sweetheart where things are setting up for a repeat of the past. Gabe and Betts worry about telling Tom the truth even as Tom is meeting his mother without realizing who Betts is. Loved seeing Betts and Tom connect as mother and son over music and high school love.

Grounding all this tempestuous emotion is the wry humor and understanding of Betts two best friends and her outrageous Mama Sheree. Where Mama Sheree goes anything can happen. The humor was a nice counter-balance to the drama.

I listened to this one in audio format and absolutely adored the narrator, Pam Dougherty, as a perfect match for this story. Her tone, inflections, accents, characters, emotions, and over all storytelling were spot on. She enhanced this story and was a huge part of my enjoyment. I would definitely pick up more of her work.

All in all, I was thrilled to find this new to me author and series and was engaged completely in the story of this colorful cast of characters. I can definitely recommend this book for those who enjoy sassy, sizzling, and slightly dramatic down home contemporary romance.
