



With This Kiss

Bella Riley

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Love can find you when you least expect it . . . Fireworks. That's what innkeeper Rebecca Campbell wants. And no matter how close their friendship, she and her former fianc never shared that. Now, with a broken engagement behind her and a promise she's vowed to keep, Rebecca is determined to make a new life for herself in Emerald Lake. She just never expected sparks to fly this quickly . . . Coming home and falling for his little brother's girl wasn't Sean Murphy's plan. Rebecca's sweet smile and kind heart make Sean feel at home-something he's never felt before. But a secret lingers between them, and no matter how powerful their attraction, Sean can't give his heart to a woman he can't trust. Or can he? As the days pass, Rebecca and Sean find it harder and harder to deny their desire. And they are in beautiful Emerald Lake, the perfect place for falling in love . . .

With This Kiss Details

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Author : Bella Riley

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From Reader Review With This Kiss for online ebook

Kari says

With This Kiss is the second book in the Emerald Lake series by Bella Riley. While the story follows some of the same characters from the first book, I really felt like this one could be a stand alone book. Rebecca Campbell runs the Inn with her best friend, Stu, who is now her former fiance. Even though people in town have been speculating left and right about why the wedding was called off, Rebecca stays silent. She decides to hold his secret and let people think what they want. Sean Murphy, not knowing the wedding is off, comes home to a big mess. He is intrigued by Rebecca and is dying to know why his little brother let her get away. What he didn't count on was falling in love with her. Sean is holding a secret of his own. It is one his mother asked him to keep for her and it has torn him apart for years.

I enjoyed With This Kiss. The story speaks to the dangers of keeping secrets, especially when they are not your secrets to keep. I thought Stu was incredibly selfish in asking Rebecca to keep his secret. Despite the reasons, I would probably have a hard time forgiving him for taking off and leaving me to pick up the pieces...life long friend or not. But, what Sean's mother burdened him was a lot worse. I was glad that Rebecca finally decided to break her promise in the end. It really was the right thing to do and I felt it helped me believe their HEA more.

I enjoyed the glimpse into Sean's grandmother's romance. As in the first book, her story follows along with the main story in the present. There is a life lesson that helps Rebecca and Sean find their way to love. I hope the next book features the third sister and her story.

If you like small town series with endearing characters, definitely give this one a shot.

Elizabeth says

This was my first Bella Riley book. I enjoyed her humor, writing, and romance. I did not read the first book in the Emerald Lake series but I wasn't confused or lost at all, so I don't think it matters if you read them all, or in order. My favorite part of With this Kiss was Rebecca's character. She was so honest and open, always saying and doing what her gut told her too. It was refreshing. Most people (and characters) are always holding back because they are afraid how people will view them. Rebecca would sometimes say something and then wish she hadn't - but it was never because it wasn't true or hurtful but because of the way it surprised people and caught them off guard. Anyway, I really enjoyed her character and it really made me think about how often I don't say what I am feeling or thinking.

I also really enjoyed Nick's character, he was kind and funny, he valued honesty but was tormented with secrets.

I liked this book but at times felt it was dragging a bit. I didn't really understand the reasoning behind Nick's grandmother, Celeste and her stories about the honeymoon suite at the inn.

Would I recommend this book to others? Yes

Would I tell you to drop everything you are doing to read it right this very second? No

Cocktails and Books says

Rebecca Campbell has always found herself drawn to those tall, dark and broody males who wound up breaking her heart. So to save herself from further heartbreak, she agrees to marry her best friend Stu. But when their engagement ends with Rebecca agreeing to keep his secret she wonders if she'll ever find the man right for her.

Sean Murphy has avoided the small Adirondack town he grew up in because he couldn't face the lies and broken trust within his family. But when he returns for his little brother's wedding, he's in for a shock to find out that not only has the wedding been called off but that he has an instant attraction to the woman who runs the Inn.

Rebecca and Sean seem like a very unlikely couple when they first meet at the beginning of the story, but that changes as you see what a calming effect Rebecca has with Sean. While she may lack a filter and blurt out what she's thinking, she helps Sean learn to deal with the emotions that he's shut off but is having trouble controlling now that he's back home. For Rebecca, Sean helps her confidence and proves to her that she does deserve to be loved and cherished.

It was an interesting twist with the drama revolving around Sean and Stu's parents and I enjoyed how Belle Riley demonstrated a lie and broken confidence can do to an entire family.

I enjoyed the quaint little town of Emerald Lake, which brought back fond memories of summers of my youth growing up in Western New York. The essence of the town and how it can change someone's life leaped off the page as Rebecca tried to make a decision about where her life should go. Makes me wish Emerald Lake were real and I could go and visit it's magic.

Kimberly says

Review written for www.books-n-kisses.com

This is the 2nd in a series and while mostly it does stand alone there are parts in the book that make you realize you missed something by not reading the first book first.

Rebecca is getting married but when she sees her best friend fall in love she realizes that while she loves Stu as a best friend he is not the man she wants to spend the rest of her life with. He might make her feel safe but he doesn't make her feel loved. When she goes to tell Stu her feelings she finds him in the arms of another man (this is not a spoiler it is in the 1st chapter) and they decide to call off the wedding but the next morning when Rebecca thinks she and Stu will face their family and friends together he has left with only a note saying to keep his secret. Sean comes into town to attend his brother's, Stu, wedding only to find out it has been cancelled and Stu is gone. Sean doesn't understand and the one woman who could tell him isn't talking. Sean has secrets of his own. It does not take long for the sparks to fly between Rebecca and Sean. And while sparks are fine Rebecca wants the fairy tale and Sean wishes he could give it to her but to love you need a heart and his hardened long ago.

Rebecca is a strong woman with love and caring to spare, the one place she doesn't have the strength she needs is in her own heart. While she can take care of herself physically, emotionally is a different story. Sean

has lived with a major secret almost his entire life and it has effected everything he does but Rebecca is the one woman who can change that. These characters are enjoyable and you really feel connected to them. You hurt when they hurt and smile when they are happy. The book had a lot of the same lines through out the book and could possibly have been 50 pages less without all the "I know better but my heart tells me to love" "Can I trust him/her?" "I have to keep this secret no matter what." lines that were written over and over but it was a wonderful story. The backstory of Bill and Elizabeth (Sean's parents) is interesting as well and the flashback of Celeste (Sean's Grandmother) is a wonderful touch. You will not be sorry you read this book. You will believe love conquers all by the time you are done and feel like you are friends with the characters and really isn't that the most we can ask for in a book?

Jennifer E says

3 1/2 Stars

I love Bella Andre and the first time I read a book by her pseudonym Bella Riley. It was enjoyable story. I haven't read the 1st story and I hate that! I loved the sweet love story mixed with the hero's family issues and the spunky grandma.

Khelsey Jackson says

Rebecca Campbell wants a love that will be forever. That is why she must break things off with Stu Murphy. She walks right into his room and can not believe what she sees. He begs her not to tell anyone about his secret and to give him time. She agrees but in the morning when she thinks he is going to be there, he isn't. She reads his letter he left for her and can't believe he left her to talk everyone alone. When she tells his parents they have a letter from Stu saying that is wasn't Rebecca fault it was his. She is running the Inn for Stu and helping out with her friends wedding when a tall, dark and handsome man is watching her from the doorway. When she finds out that is the famous Sean she has heard all about from her ex-fiance she is shocked. She always wanted to meet Stu's brother and she almost can't breath because of all the sparks she is feeling.

Sean is upset that Rebecca is keeping a secret he wants to know where his brother is. He knows that if he can get through to her, she will tell him. The problem is can he keep his heart in the process?

This is a heart-melting story about love and forgiveness. How someone can show you have to open up your heart. I love how the characters interact with each other. Rebecca isn't a push over and she is a strong woman. She has been through a lot and doesn't let it get to her. Sean is a mess and needs someone to love him for who he is. This book is amazing, it will break your heart only to mend it together again!

Mary Gramlich says

WITH THIS KISS by Bella Riley (Emerald Lake Series #2)

How hard is it to close the door on old habits?

Rebecca Campbell thought life in a small town was going to be boring especially after she got married to Stu Murphy. Boring is the last thing that happens when Stu runs away before the wedding and his brother Sean shows up angry with everyone and smoking hot. Rebecca never felt for Stu what she has drawing her to Sean, what is up with that?

Running the inn in Emerald Lake had turned Rebecca's life around. This entire experience gave her a place that felt like it was home. Sean had been running away from Emerald Lake since he became a young man and no one could ever get him to say why. Sean has decided that his investment in the inn should pay off finally and a longer visit will give him time to check out the rest of Rebecca. With Rebecca's ability to say what comes into her head without thinking, Sean is getting an earful of honest and brash talk. What Sean really wants is to know what it feels like to have Rebecca's lips brush up against his in a long, sensual kiss. When things start going bump in the night he wants that to be the two of them as fall into a king sized bed.

Rebecca can handle the inn, the festival she has planned, and even the gossip about what is going on in her life. Rebecca is not sure she is ready for Sean and the feelings he brings out in her that she never thought existed. Sean has handled lies and deceit for so long Rebecca's fresh honesty is warming his heart and freeing whatever negative thoughts he ever had about love and commitment. Sean and Rebecca have an interest in pursuing a relationship. However, the question is do they have enough time to figure out if it is a long-term deal?

This second book in the series proves that Bella Riley is a brilliant romance writer. She takes the time to build the story and provide so much depth with the people that are involved you just feel like they are your neighbors. I personally cannot wait for the next book to see what new adventure is going to happen.

Sassafrass says

A review for The Romance Reviews.

WITH THIS KISS by Bella Riley is a delightful contemporary romance that I had a great time reading. With realistic characters, family drama, and a love story between two reluctant people all wrapped up in a quaint small town, I fell into the story and didn't want it to end.

Rebecca finally knows what she wants in her love life. Too bad she didn't realize it before she got engaged to her now former fiancé, Stu. She never had the strong romantic connection that she nows longs for with him, so they broke off the engagement. With her new goal in mind, she's determined not to make the same mistakes and wants to create a life for herself in the town of Emerald Lake, which she now calls home. However, when Stu's older brother, Sean, shows up for a wedding that's not going to happen, Rebecca's life takes an unexpected turn.

Sean has been hurt by those he trusted in the past, so he knows not to do it again, but Rebecca is so different than other women he's met, that he has a hard time keeping his guard up around her. However, Sean knows that she's hiding something about his brother, and he's not sure if he can get past the secrets and let the desire develop between them.

WITH THIS KISS was such a fun read for me. I was instantly intrigued by the characters and their respective back stories, the town, and the whole drama surrounding Sean and his family. I loved the way it all came together.

Rebecca's character is such a breath of fresh air. She is a woman who doesn't play games and really says what she means and feels. I wish more people were like that in real life. And Sean...I just adored him. No matter how much he tried to guard his heart, you could see the warm and caring man that he was underneath in his actions. The two of them together were so perfect, I just loved them as a couple. I thought I would feel weird about Sean dating his brother's fiancée, but the author did a great job with that in the story.

Overall, I thought that this was a highly enjoyable read. *WITH THIS KISS* is my first read by Bella Riley, but it won't be my last. And, I want to revisit Emerald Lake again. This book is the second in the Emerald Lake series, but I think it can be read as a standalone. I, on the other hand, will be getting the first book in the series, ASAP!

Jamie says

Everyone has secrets. For Rebecca, her secret is someone else's secret but it doesn't make it any easier.

Rebecca Campbell hasn't been having a great couple of weeks. First, her wedding to Stu Murphy was called off two weeks before it was suppose to take place and then Stu just ups and leaves leaving Rebecca to run the Inn. The whole town is trying to figure out what she did to make him leave, when really the secret lies with Stu. Now, on the eve of her wedding, Stu's brother Sean shows up and sparks fly.

Sean arrives back home just in time for his brothers wedding but it seems he missed the memo that it was canceled. Then matters get worse when he realizes that the women he was checking out was Stu's fiancé and the woman who ran him off.

Sean can't deny the sparks between him and Rebecca but he's reluctant to get involved, and not just because she was his brothers fiancé. He has a secret of his own that keeps him at a distance. He knows Rebecca deserves more and he can't offer it. Sean has been hurt by the one person who he trusted, and now his trust is basically nonexistent.

It's unusual that I love the heroine, I don't know why but usually she annoys me but not Rebecca. She doesn't have the best track record with men, Stu included, and finds herself falling back into old habits of falling for unavailable men with Sean. She knows she's going to get hurt but she can't resist. I have a lot of respect for her. What she does to try and help Sean knowing full well that it will most likely ruin everything for her makes me want a friend like that.

Favorite Quote

“Sometimes loving someone enough means breaking a promise that will only hurt them if it's kept.” She steeled herself to reopen her eyes, to hold his gaze, to keep the tears back. “You're more important than any promise I could ever give you.”

Overall

I was blown away reading *With This Kiss*. My stomach was in knots and I couldn't read it fast enough. It was a story that was full of romance and just a hint of mystery. I immediately fell in love with the character and didn't want it to end. I can't wait to read more from Bella Riley and go back to Emerald Lake.

Rebecca says

Rating:3.5 out of 5

I liked this contemporary romance a lot - especially the heroine. She's described as looking very fragile, yet she handles herself with lots of strength of character. I'd rate this book a bit higher, except I'm not a big fan of tons of angst, and this book is overflowing with the angst! There was a HEA, but even so I felt a bit wrung out at the end. Plus, the ghost story was interesting, but in the end it wasn't all that central to the plot.

I think I'd recommend this book but with a few reservations.

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

Posted on Under the Covers

Rebecca Campbell, the innkeeper at Emerald Lake has always dreamed of finding everlasting love. When she sees how deeply her friend, Andi has fallen for her soon-to-be husband, Nate, she realizes that the love between her fiancé, Stu isn't like that at all.

Upon this realization, she finds Stu to tell him how she feels. However, Stu has some words of his own that he wants to share. It turns out that Stu doesn't want to get married anymore. He has found someone new and when you read this book, you'll realize that this isn't necessarily an asshole move. It was clear from the beginning that Stu and Rebecca got along well. They laughed, shared many memories together, but that didn't translate to sparks that lit up their worlds.

When Stu asks Rebecca to keep his secret while he tries to figure out where his life will take him now, Rebecca shows her love for Stu by promising to keep their inn running even though they won't be getting married anymore.

It is then that Sean Murphy, Stu's brother comes along, hoping to attend his brother's wedding. When he learns it's been called off, he becomes very suspicious of Rebecca.

WITH THIS KISS is a sweet romance that has the ability to lift spirits and make you fall in love. It was really easy for me to enjoy this book because Rebecca is such an admirable character. She was strong when she needed to be, sure of herself even in the most confusing of times, and loving as she showed Sean what her heart was capable of.

Similarly, Sean was also a great character. He has this scar on his face that makes him feel dangerous, but not overly so that you are intimidated by him. He rarely smiles which makes you want to squeeze that little smirk out of him and grin like a fool when he does. What is great about Rebecca and Sean was that they seemed like genuine people who slowly learn to trust each other and eventually, fall in love.

Bella Riley does a great job of bringing the atmosphere of Emerald Lake into her books. The writing is

smooth, light-hearted and felt like a great escape, almost as if you were at Emerald Lake on a little vacation. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and hope to return to Emerald Lake soon! **WITH THIS KISS** is the perfect weekend read.

*ARC provided by publisher

Jessica says

Bella Riley's books are just so gosh darn cute! In **With This Kiss**, we follow the journey of Rebecca, who is Andi's best friend (from **Home Sweet Home**). Rebecca was supposed to be marrying Stu, her best friend from college, but they realize they never really loved each other, so the wedding is off and Stu runs away. Now, Rebecca is left by herself to tell everyone the news while wishing she could have the firework-romance she's always longed for. Sean, Stu's older brother, didn't hear about the cancelation and showed up to the inn Rebecca worked at for the wedding. Fortunately for Sean and Rebecca, with one look at each other, they were both gone.

Sean is such a hard, non-emotional man, harboring a secret of his mother's from 20 years ago that has ruined any chance of trust for any woman in his life. Meeting Rebecca is surely a change in what he's grown comfortable with in his life and he has no idea how to deal with his new feelings. I love how Rebecca is so honest and not afraid to say what she thinks. She wears her heart on her sleeve and I admire her courage and loyalty to everyone in her life, even to those who have hurt her. Rebecca's strength and honesty did get her in trouble at times, but it's what made Sean fall for her even harder. Sean and Rebecca's attraction was undeniable, so it was so fun watching them deal with the feelings that they were fighting hard against.

I absolutely loved the setting of the novel, taking place at an inn in Emerald Lake. Everything about it is quant and serene; it's a place where anyone would love to stay to just get away from everything in the world. It fit Rebecca's personality perfectly and was the perfect place for Sean to go to next after he sold his business. After reading this book, I wished I could check into a room at Emerald Lake and wait for the dark and mysterious stranger to move in down the hall. It worked for Rebecca, so why not me? If you're in the mood for a feel-good, cute romance, then check out any of Bella Riley's books! You're bound to be left with a smile on your face :)

Lisa Filipe says

I think I liked **With This Kiss**, the second book of the series even better than the first book, **Home Sweet Home**. And I REALLY enjoyed the first book, so that is saying a lot.

I was excited when I found out **With This Kiss** would feature Rebecca Campbell, who we meet in **Home Sweet Home**. There had to be a story there and oh..did we get it!

Rebecca was a heroine that anyone could love. She was kind, giving, a hard-worker and she never gave up, or at least, she didn't like to give up. A Fighter all the way, and that is one things I love about my heroines, they are fighters.

Can't forget about SEAN MURPHY...oh baby....I absolutely loved the first few chapters when they get to know each other. The heat, the attraction and the flirting...I was as tight as a violin string when they finally kissed. There is a lot of built up sexual attraction that will keep you turning pages.

And Grandma Celeste's own love story had me bawling...I swear...i was wiping away the tears just so I could finish the story. It is heart-wrenching, and SO WORTH THE READ!!

So anyone who has not yet read Bella Riley...Pick up Home Sweet Home or With This Kiss (which you CAN read as a stand alone if you want), but I recommend reading both! You wont be sorry!!

Jess says

What I Thought: I had a very hard time finishing this book. It was one of those books where I would put it down, and come back to it days or hours later and just find myself wanting to put it right back down. To me, Rebecca was the kind of character who seemed to need validation, or something. If she were a friend of mine I would ask her if she's ever happy without a significant other in her life, because to me it seems that she wouldn't be.

As the book went on I never did warm up to Rebecca or to Sean. Sean was, to put it frankly an asshole. Yeah, his mother did something horrible and shattered his trust, but for him to treat everyone with such contempt really threw me off. I couldn't imagine falling in love with him like Rebecca did.

As for Rebecca's ex-fiance ... seriously, I saw that one coming, I just really REALLY wish that it would have been handled differently throughout the book. I didn't like that even though it was his secret to tell, it was made out to be a bad thing.

Do I Recommend: Honestly, I have a hard time recommending this book. There were parts that were interesting, but for me it just wasn't there. It might be up your alley if you like books that are sweet, with a little bit of mystery.

Julie Barrett says

With This Kiss by Bella Riley

Rebecca takes care of the inn and the festival all by herself now that Stu has left town. She's not getting married so she gave up everything for her friend Andi and Nate to get married at the place she had reserved instead.

Everybody was gossiping about how Stu had just up and left. All but the Monday night knitting club cuz they knew the truth.

Sean had just flown in from China and had no idea why the rehearsal for the wedding was taking place right now.

Rebecca knows the secret Stu left with and she won't be telling anybody.

Sean wants to know how to do the job of the innkeeper as he's half owner so Rebecca teaches him everything she knows and how to do the manual tasks. He even looks over the books to make sure things are running smoothly.

Her interest in the knitting shop is still high but not as the owner any longer. She makes samples of some of the new yarns as they come in.

And now something that had closed her rooms off for 60 years has come to light.

She finally is able to sit down with Celeste, Stu's grandmother to find out about the ghosts in her bedroom suite of rooms.

The parents have secrets that if are found out will end the family structure. But if they don't tell it will ruin them.

The festival, what a grand time to learn about maple syrup in the northeast.

Can't wait to read her other books, enjoyed this one very much.
