



Pick Me

Erika Marks

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Recently dumped by the man she'd planned to marry, no-nonsense attorney Thea Dunn has returned home to Magnolia Bay to mend her broken heart. But when she learns her new neighbor is Calder Frye, the bad boy who sets the pulse of every good girl at Magnolia Bay High racing, Thea's verdict to swear off men is in danger of being overturned...

Fourteen years after graduation, Calder has traded his rebel lifestyle to become an ER doctor—but his sex appeal is every bit as powerful as Thea remembers. Could her short-term residence be the perfect chance to live out a teenage fantasy? Or could their reunion be a chance for something more?

Pick Me Details

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Author : Erika Marks

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From Reader Review Pick Me for online ebook

Moran says

Pick Me is part of Magnolia Bay series and if you read Bet the House you already met the heroine of the story Thea Dunn, Willa's sister.

I was very happy to learn that Erika Marks wrote a book about Thea and I was even happier after I read it and saw it was just as good of a story and funny like the first in the series.

Thea was dumped by the man she'd planned to marry after dating him for 3 years and after discovering that her house is full of Termites she takes 2 week vacation from work and rent a house in her hometown of Magnolia Bay.

On her first day back in town she is happy to learn that her next door neighbor is her high school crush, Calder Frye.

Thea is very surprised to learn that Calder is an ER doctor and she is thinking maybe now it's the time to make her high school fantasy a reality but family drama and other obstacles make it harder for them to develop a relationship .

Pick Me was a sweet and funny story about second chance in love, about family and finding what you truly want in life.

I really enjoyed reading about Thea and Calder, I thought they were both interesting characters with depth and they had great chemistry together.

I also enjoyed reading about the secondary characters, especially Thea's sisters - they were just so funny together.

I loved the Code of Sisterhood.

***I was given an ARC in exchange for my honest opinion.

Jen says

Check out the full review on Bookaholics Not-So-Anonymous.

Pick Me is the second book in the Loveless & Dunn series by bestselling author Erika Marks and turns the spotlight on the eldest Dunn daughter, Thea, and the quiet rebel she never quite forgot from high school, Calder Frye. The story begins with a flashback to set the scene on why that one night together was so memorable for both of them, and then we fast forward fourteen years later to their unexpected reunion as neighbors. I read all three currently available books in the series, not including the two spin-offs, and I must say that Thea and Calder's love story was, hands down, my favorite. I liked these two together and their story had a mix of second chance romance and friends to lovers in it, two of my favorite themes in the romance genre. Throw in a bit of family drama and self-discovery and I was one very happy camper.

Both Thea and Calder were strong lead characters but both showed a fair amount of sensitivity and vulnerability, making even more likable than they already were. They both loved their jobs and cared a great deal for their families and their time together helped them to find the courage to face certain life choices that needed to be made. Theirs was a slow burn but I loved how they worked up to it and that everything about and between them felt natural. There were light and funny moments as well as more thoughtful and deeper interactions. These two had me squeezing a time or two and many of us can relate to jumping at the chance to be with the guy they had a crush on in high school. Have I said how much I loved this book? I haven't? Well, I loved *Pick Me* and I loved Thea and Calder. I'm gladly rating this five stars. ♥

Janine says

A sweet southern inspired romance with characters you will love from the start.

Fourteen years ago, Thea Dunn was devastated after finding her prom date in the arms of another girl. She left the dance and started walking home only to be found crying on the side of the road by Calder Frye, the school's bad boy. He talked her into going for a cheeseburger to cheer her up. The night turned into one that Thea would never forget.

When they meet again, both have moved on with their lives and careers. Thea has come back to Magnolia Bay to spend time with her sisters to help heal her broken heart after her fiance dumps her. Her home is also infested with termites and needs fumigating. What else could go wrong? Then, she meets her new neighbor. It is none other than Calder. Calder might have been her teenage crush, but she is an adult now. Will she be able to resist him?

I always enjoy the Magnolia Bay stories. The characters are so real and it feels like you've come home to visit with long lost friends.

Abby says

Received a copy from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

"*Pick Me*" is written by Erika Marks, and it is the third book in the *Magnolia Bay* series. It can be read as a stand-alone novella. It features Thea Dunn and Calder Frye.

Attorney Thea Dunn has returned back to Magnolia Bay after getting dumped by her boyfriend of 3 years. She's heartbroken. Little does she know, her next door neighbor is the guy she had a crush on in high school -- bad boy Calder Frye.

Back in high school, Thea caught her then-boyfriend cheating on her at prom. Calder was there to rescue her. He wouldn't allow her to walk on the streets by herself in her gown, so he offered to take her on a ride on his motorcycle and to grab some cheeseburgers. Thea never forgot that night.

Fast forward to the present. Calder is now an ER doctor, who is back in Magnolia Bay hoping to be closer to his family and mend their relationship. Now that Thea's back in town, he has another reason to stay. He's always liked Thea.

Calder wants to woo Thea and date her, but she's hesitant at first. But with her sisters' constant meddling and Calder's charm, there's no way she can resist him.

I say this all the time when it comes to novellas, but they're either a hit or miss for me because too much can be happening in a shorter story. "Pick Me" was beautifully written, and it wasn't rushed. I adored both Thea and Calder, and it was great to see them get their chance after 14 years. This may have been the first story that I've read by Erika Marks, but it definitely won't be my last! Everyone should read this!

Heather andrews says

I love Calder, "it was all he could do not to grab her and kiss the hell out of that gorgeous mouth." He sure knows how to woo a girl, "Calder stood there, holding a pint of strawberries and wearing a sheepish smile. "My dad suggested I bring a whole flat but I told him I thought that might be a little much. Then again, it did work for him." I thought this was a cute story and I enjoyed reading Calder and Thea's adventure.

Emma says

Pick Me (Magnolia Bay Book 3)by Erika Marks

Thea and Calder's story!

Recently dumped by the man she'd planned to marry, no-nonsense attorney Thea Dunn has returned home to Magnolia Bay to mend her broken heart. But when she learns her new neighbor is Calder Frye, the bad boy who sets the pulse of every good girl at Magnolia Bay High racing, Thea's verdict to swear off men is in danger of being overturned...

Fourteen years after graduation, Calder has traded his rebel lifestyle to become an ER doctor—but his sex appeal is every bit as powerful as Thea remembers. Could her short-term residence be the perfect chance to live out a teenage fantasy? Or could their reunion be a chance for something more?

what is Calder final decision on the job in California?

will Thea and Calder fight for their love and a future?

Looking forward to reading more books by Erika Marks.

Pick Me (Magnolia Bay Book 3)by Erika Marks is a 4 stars book.

Magnolia Bay Book

Bet the House (Magnolia Bay Book 1) by Erika Marks

Sweet Home Carolina (Magnolia Bay Book 2) by Kim Boykin

Pick Me (Magnolia Bay Book 3) by Erika Marks

I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review.

Christina Marie says

Given to me by publisher, in exchange for my honest review

Super cute story!

This is one of those perfect summer reads. Great characters, good plot, lots of feels, some drama, good resolution. All wrapped up in a nice box with a pretty bow on top. There were a LOT of good moments throughout this book. This short but good book.

Having never read anything by Erika Marks before, I wasn't sure what to expect. I tend to have to lower my expectations when it comes to unfamiliar literary territories, but Marks definitely proved that I don't have to do that with her work.

Now don't get me wrong, this book has no profound life lessons. There are things that you, as the readers, can personally take away from the book (depending upon your circumstances). But this book's purpose is to make the reader "feel good" or smile. This is a nice contemporary romance.

Contemporary romance novels are typically, and have to be, character driven. The characters have to be well developed, interesting, yet flawed. As a reader, I always try and find a little bit of myself in the characters I read about -- and I am able to do that in this book. Our two leads, Calder and Thea, are very interesting characters. Nicely developed. Funny. Their chemistry together is very nice as well.

There are moments of frustration, happiness, sadness, etc. You feel a lot of things throughout this book, and I do find myself getting increasingly irritated with Thea more times than I can count, but her decisions were believeable. Regardless of whether I liked them or not. Calder was an all around great character, in my opinion. He was a good guy with a few vices that needed to be checked, but he was a great character to learn and read about.

The relationship between the two main characters was very authentic, very believeable and not sugar-coated lollipops and rainbows. And THAT'S what drew me into the story. I cared about the characters and wanted to see what would happen to them. Marks did a great job making me care about them.

The supporting characters were really good too. You get a lot of insight into Calder and Thea's lives through the side characters, who are mainly family members. I really liked how these characters were used in the development of our leads.

Overall, this is a read I would recommend. It's a nice feel good book that will make you smile.

Kerry Croucier says

Thea Dunn is the oldest of the Dunn sisters, and the one who always tries to do what she thinks she should. Thea left Magnolia Bay after graduation and never looked back. Now, 14 years later, Thea is a successful lawyer whose life has thrown her a curve ball: her boyfriend of 3 years dumped her instead of proposing and termites have taken over her home. So Thea takes two weeks vacation (her first!) and heads back to Magnolia Bay to stay in a condo on the beach her sister found her. Her relaxing, no man vacation is turned on its ear when she finds that Calder Frye is living next door. Calder was the bad boy in High School that all the girls had a crush on, and the only witness to Thea's most humiliating night. Calder also left Magnolia Bay 14 years ago, and became a Doctor, and has returned to Magnolia Bay as an ER doctor to help his family. These two sizzle together. Thea and Calder spend more time together and learn more about each other, but both have to find the courage to take a chance on life and each other.

I loved the story, the characters, and the location. I was drawn in from the first paragraph and hated it when I reached the end.

Casey says

Review originally posted at Ramblings From This Chick

Pick Me is the third book in the Magnolia Bay series and is written by Erika Marks. This short and sweet novella can be read as a stand alone, and was easy for me to get into without having read the previous 2 stories in the series. I really enjoyed Thea and Calder's story, and I can't wait to read more in this series.

After having been dumped by her boyfriend of 3 years, Thea Dunn heads to her hometown for a 2 week vacation. She never expects the neighbor next door to be the sexy bad boy that rescued her on prom night fourteen years ago. Calder Frye still has his motorcycle, but he is also now a handsome doctor that never stays in one area for long. He always regretted not kissing Thea on the night they skipped prom. With her staying next door, he decides now is his chance. Can Thea and Calder turn their teenage fantasy into reality? Or will they find that the fantasy was better than the real thing?

I really liked Calder and Thea. I loved that Calder had gone from the mysterious and sexy bad boy in high school to the handsome and sweet doctor committed to doing good. He wasn't a total womanizer and I really thought it was great that even though he only did casual before that he wasn't the stereotypical single guy out to see how many women he could go through. He was a good guy and was just trying to do the best he could while also being there for his family and enjoying his career. Thea was great as well. She was successful and driven, and I love that she knew she wanted to be a lawyer in high school and made it happen. She enjoyed her career and was happy with her life, and she was really close with her sisters. I liked how they were able to give each other a hard time, but that they were always there for each other. I thought that Thea was confused when it came to her love life though, and it took her quite awhile to realize that her ex was wrong for her. It was nice to see her getting to know Calder again and how they had both changed over the years. I thought that they had great chemistry together, but they were also a great pair that seemed to work really well together. Calder and Thea were really sweet together and I liked that they had such an easy and natural relationship.

Overall, I think that this book was really cute and I loved losing myself in this sweet story. It was short but I found it to be real and believable. I liked the secondary characters a lot, and even though at first I disliked Calder's brother Pete it was good to see him make progress over the course of the book. I would definitely recommend this book to contemporary fans that are looking for something that can be read quickly and will leave them feeling happy and satisfied. Pick Me was really enjoyable, and I look forward to reading more from Erika Marks in the future.

ARC Provided by Author

Chris McFarland says

Thea Dunn is having a rough day month year life. After enduring the constant drama that was her baby sister's wedding the previous summer, Thea was hit with a difficult legal case that ended badly. Then, a few months later, her long term boyfriend pulled the plug on their relationship. Now, she has been chased out of her Charleston town house by termites. Not much could get worse for her, until she realizes that her neighbor

is the only person witness to the most humiliating night of her life fourteen years prior: Calder Frye.

Calder never paid attention to his reputation in high school, so he didn't really notice that girls thought he was sexy or that the people of Magnolia Bay generally thought of him as a bad boy. Instead he was too distracted by his not so great home life and wanting to get as far away from it as possible. Now he's returned to town as an ER doctor and who should happen to be his new neighbor? The girl who shared with him the best night of his life. Could this be fate giving them a second chance? Or are their personal lives simply too complicated...even for each other.

This story is sweet and refreshing. Thea and her sisters are such a contradiction that the way they play off of each other is priceless. Honestly, as I am a sucker for supporting characters, I would have loved to have had more meaningful dialog with the sisters. I loved Connie and Jay from *Bet the House* and would have loved to seen more of them. Yet, the story involving Pete and Marie was handled very well. Ms. Marks is an expert and keeping things buttoned up until the end, so it came as no surprise that I was surprised when the source of the conflict in that story was revealed.

The main characters get a lot of interaction time in this. Maybe because the story is short, but it felt like they spent more time with each other (or alone) than with anyone else. The big shock was that I actually liked it. Their interactions were both sincere and humorous. There wasn't a lot of sex, but this story was written in a way that the tension speaks for itself and doesn't really need resolution to be satisfying.

Overall, this book and fun and enjoyable. Very heartwarming and a comfy kind of familiar.

Jen_C says

3.25 stars

Ashley Seymour says

This is such a sweet book! Thea and Calder are such a great couple! I can't wait to read more in this series!

Sue says

In *Pick Me* by Erika Marks, Thea left Magnolia Bay after high school graduation, worked hard, and is now a lawyer. When her relationship of 3 years is suddenly and unexpectedly over, Thea heads back to Magnolia Bay for some much needed down time. She certainly does not expect her neighbour to be Calder...the motorcycle "bad boy" every girl in high school lusted over. Or that she can still feel regret over a kiss that never happened, that he is hotter than ever, and she still tingles when she's near him. Thea is coming away from a break up though, and is still working through her feelings for her ex. Calder is only in town for a brief period, for work and family obligations...then he'll be gone again, right? Thea has never listened to her heart though...maybe it's time she did.

Pick Me is a fast paced novella that packs a lot into it without overloading the reader. Erika made me feel like I really got to know Thea (as much as she drove me a bit crazy at times!), the feelings, doubts, and

insecurities she has all add a very real touch to her character. Calder has come a long way from his "bad boy" image, but he still rides that motorcycle and thanks to Erika I can totally see him on it in my mind! Great imagery!! He is dealing with family issues while back in Magnolia Bay, and those issues actually help to bring Thea and Calder closer, even if he didn't want to involve her. Erika manages to let us look at the whole package of Erika and Calder in *Pick Me*, and she blends it all together very well. Their characters are strong, and in this brief novella the character growth is enough to make your heart happy for Thea and Calder.

I loved the integration of Calder's family as a sub plot in *Pick Me*. Erika manages to make it completely relevant to the story line and uses it to draw us in even farther. I also liked seeing Thea's relationship with her sisters.

Well paced, *Pick Me* is all about following your heart. I'd recommend it to any romance reader looking for a very well written novella!

Danielle from Short and Sassy says

I absolutely loved *Pick Me*. It was a sweet second chance romance. 14 years ago at her high school prom, Thea Dunn found her boyfriend making out with another girl. Thea hightailed it out of there in her ball gown and all. School "bad boy" Calder Frye found her crying on the side of the road. Instead of leaving her there, he put her on the back of his motorcycle and brought her out for burgers. After their impromptu night, they never spoke to each other again.

Now 14 years later Thea has been dumped and retreats home to Magnolia Bay. There she rents a place, where her neighbor is none other than Calder. He is now even hotter and an ER doctor. Not too shabby. Calder still has the motorcycle and is still hotter than he should. Now, they are older and wiser and Thea is not about to make the same mistake she made 14 years ago and let him walk away without so much as a kiss.

This was a cute love story about second chance love and family. I loved that Calder was back to help out at his family's farm. Thea has a big close family too. They all seem to mesh well together.

Their chemistry is through the roof. They get along as friends first before anything else.

Sometimes you need a feel good book to put you in a good mood and make you feel fuzzy inside. This was just the book to do the trick.

Trader (RedHotBlueReads) says

4.5 stars

Have you ever made a decision about something and then have that decision haunt you? Wish you had done something else? Or would you do the very same thing? *Pick Me* is a second chance love story that explores

these questions and others. What would you do if you had a second chance with someone?

I really liked Thea right from the start. Even though she's been dumped, she still has her chin up. She's got a great relationship with her sisters, who were very caring and considerate. I loved their family closeness, how the girls supported their sister. Thea needs a place to stay for a few weeks, and they band together to help which is a perfect reason for the girls to get together in their hometown of Magnolia Bay.

It seems like a whole lotta of fate when her neighbor ends up being the guy who rescued her fourteen years ago from a really bad prom. He's still gorgeous, sexy and an accomplished ER doctor. AND he still rides a motorcycle. It doesn't take long for the sparks to fly between Thea and Calder again and everything looks good for them to do what they denied themselves all those years ago.

But complications arise and soon everything just goes south -- sort of. Thea and Calder are both faced with decisions that will change the course of their lives and take them in opposite directions. Will they decide on what they know or take a chance on something new?

There's so much to this story and that's another reason I loved it. Besides Thea's breakup, there's the story of Calder's family farm. It worked very well for me and I think the scene between Calder's older brother Pete and Thea had me rubbing my eyes a little. Lots of good drama there.

There is just so much packed into *Pick Me*, it's hard to believe that it's only approximately 130-some pages. I was really impressed by how Erika Marks was able to get me to feel for these characters in so few pages. The story grabbed me from the start and just kept getting better.

Pick Me worked very well as a standalone. I had not read the previous books in the series but I will definitely be keeping an eye on this author.

If you are looking for a short, sweet, second-chance contemporary romance between thirty-something professionals, you might like this like I did.

This review also appears on my blog at:

<http://redhotbluereads.blogspot.com/2014/08/review-giveaway-pick-me-by-erika-marks.html>
