



Love, Special Delivery

Melinda Curtis

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What we do for family...and love

Third-generation firefighter Captain Ben Libby is sworn to keep Harmony Valley safe. But a recent series of fires points to arson. Not that Ben really suspects Mandy Zapien, who's back in town to reopen the defunct post office—a potential fire hazard.

Turns out Ben and Mandy—she of the incredible smile—have a lot in common. They're both trying to rebuild their lives. Mandy's raising her teenage sister, just as Ben's devoted to his godchild. Though lately, he's started to suspect she's his biological daughter. Amid secrets and family dramas, do Ben and Mandy have what it takes to go the distance together?

Love, Special Delivery Details

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From Reader Review Love, Special Delivery for online ebook

Lela says

Another small town romance book with a few small bumps along the way. I love how Melonda Curtis isn't afraid of dealing with real life issues as well as every day problems among different problems that a community might face.

I voluntarily received a copy to review.

Marjorie says

Returning to Harmony Valley, California is always a treat for me, and since this can be read as a standalone, it works if you haven't previously read any of the other books in this series. Mandy has returned to her now-deceased grandparents' house with her almost 18-year-old sister, Olivia, to hopefully stay there and make a living reopening the post office. Ben and his dad Keith are the only ones that work at the fire station. Ben has been taking care of his seven-year-old goddaughter with the help of his parents, where they both live. Butting heads with Mandy about the fire hazards at the post office gets them acquainted, and as next door neighbors, they are also able to gradually learn more about each other, although both are reluctant to talk to anyone about what they have been through. This book was a wonderful addition to this series, and I really enjoyed it. With new young people gradually lowering the general age of the population, there is plenty of room for additional stories that can be added. I hope so! [I received this for free.]

Heather says

Cute read!

Lynn Grier says

Love, Special Delivery by Melinda Curtis is my first read by this author. Love small town and sweet romances and this had it all. A fun and fast read and true to life characters you can relate to.

Joan Mueller says

Love Special Delivery

The storyline begins slowly with the hopes and dreams of Mandy and Olivia, but soon grows complicated with the immediate discord introduced by the characters of Ben and Keith. Challenges between generations as well as job stress underlie the plot of the entire book as the reader switches between the perspectives of the main characters. This book highlights the unique characteristics of a small town. It is an enjoyable and

entertaining read that delves deep into relationships and causation while the reader hangs on the end of their seat waiting for the path of love to run smoothly. I loved this book but highly recommend it.

Deanna Vrba says

Mandy and Ben were on two different side of the law. until love intervene. and changed their minds

Melissa says

The first half of the book is a solid 3 stars, but it falls apart in the second half. The plot moppets (Maddie's sister and Ben's godchild) grated on my nerves and sucked a lot of enjoyment from reading Maddie and Ben's story. And this is the second book I read this week that did not resolve the paternity question that is the heart of the hero's motivation - so frustrating!

Maddie is an okay heroine, although her constant smiling drove me up the wall. She has the stereotypical tragic back story, a little OTT for my taste. Her mother abandoned her and her younger sister to their grandparents, her grandmother died of cancer, her grandfather died from complications due to mismanaged diabetes and dementia, her sister is a cancer survivor, and since she had to take care of her younger sister after all that death, she never went to college and instead became a postal worker. She was given the promotion of postmaster in Harmony Valley, her grandfather's old post office that hasn't been open in more than a decade. The younger sister is a piece of work, closing in on 18 going on 8.

Ben's story isn't puppies and rainbows either. He left a fire station in Oakland, CA to move with his sick dad and mother to Harmony Valley so that his dad can finish out the 10 months left for a full retirement and benefits. Dad is the new fire chief, Ben is regulated to firefighter and to cover for dad's less than awesome health in front of the council and mayor. Oh and he is the guardian of a bratty seven year old after the brat's mother (and Ben's colleague) died in the line of firefighting duty. He is searching for said brat's father (named John Smith on the birth certificate) but there might be a chance the brat's his daughter. His mother "naps" a lot and the brat leaves the house to explore the town and find critters of the animal variety to bring home. Ben just wants to find the brat's dad, get his own dad safely to retirement, then leave this crap town for good and become a fire investigator.

Needless to say, I didn't warm to anybody in this book and I actively hated the sister and godchild/possible daughter by the end. Maddie and Ben love being in denial about their lives and constant crappy decision making. The arsonist villain got off with a slap on the wrist (excuse me "psychological evaluation") due to his advanced age. I have no interest in continuing reading this series.

Olivia says

I found Love, Special Delivery to be a great, uplifting read.

Ben is a 3rd generation firefighter who thinks you can't be a good firefighter and a good parent as he juggles caring for his father, recently orphaned goddaughter and reestablishing a small town fire station. He meets Mandy while doing an inspection at the post office she is working to reopen, a legacy from her grandfather.

Mandy is also no stranger to family drama after being abandoned by a flighty, party loving mother to be raised by her grandparents until she must become the caretaker until they reach the ends of their lives, and then she faces raising her younger sister who has health issues of her own, and is in the throes of teenage angst.

In addition to battling the pain of their pasts, the stresses of the present, and their aspirations for the future, they must also contend with an arsonist causing havoc in the small town.

This book does pack in an inordinate amount of family drama, and leaves some loose ends that would desperately need tying from a legal standpoint if this were not a work of fiction. There is also some meddling matchmaker storyline that isn't really needed as the hero and heroine really found each other on their own.

Dawn Pearson says

Ben Libby is focused on firefighting, having grown up in a family of firefighters. But, now, after the death of a fellow firefighter, he's guardian to her daughter who could possibly be his biological child. At the same time, he's got a growing series of arson-like fires and an attractive new madam postmaster to keep him going nonstop.

Mandy Zapien is back in town to reopen the post office that was once run by her grandfather. However, that's not her only concern as she struggles with raising her younger sister and an overwhelming amount of debt. Then, to top everything off, the handsome new fireman shows up and tells her she fails her fire inspection at the reopened post office.

What follows is a sweet story of two people trying to make the best of bad situations. Responsibility and making decisions is hard when they want to just quit.

Themes include - family dynamics / love and growing up / showing responsibility

Romance - PG - some kisses

Language - PG

My rating - 4 stars

Jo-Ann Elizabeth Toth says

This is a story about a young girl who has had to keep the family together when no one else would. Mandy is a very strong girl who has had to support her sister thru cancer and a deadbeat mom. Ben has stepped in to raise his godchild Hannah after the loss of her mom. There is a question of who is the dad but it's not the central issue. It's about the love for a child and the chance for love to grow for 2 people who have had a lot of responsibility. Ben has felt he has never measured up to his parents and Maddy has had to be very responsible since her grandfather has gotten sick since after the passing of her grandmother. This book is an excellent story I've read already two times. We all have had to carry certain responsibility. As for the paternity of Hannah they do mention who it is towards the end of the book if you bother to read it.

Julia David says

Ben and Mandy both are trying to start over. It isn't going very well. Mandy is raising her sister and Ben is raising his god daughter, Hannah. Ben suspects Mandy of being an arsonist, but really can't believe she would do such a thing. Everything is going wrong in Mandy's life. A hunk of a fireman suspects her of arson, her sister is being a real pain and their mother is a big flake. Mandy takes care of everyone else with a smile on her face. But, who will take care of Mandy? Ben wants to do that, but he has plans. Those plans do not include a family. So, where does that leave Hannah and Mandy? I think Hannah was the star of this story. She is so cute and she really wants to save all of the animals. But most of all, she doesn't want to leave Ben.

Jennifer says

Ben, aspiring arson investigator, returns home to Harmony Valley to work alongside his dad--the fire chief. After years of not using proper equipment, Ben's father is in poor health. He plans to retire, but can't just yet or he'll lose part of his benefits/pension. He tries several homeopathic breathing treatments, but relies on Ben to help/cover for him at work. Ben is also raising his goddaughter, with the help of his parents. Ben thinks his goddaughter may actually be his daughter so he sends in DNA tests to verify his suspicions. Meanwhile, his new neighbor has caught his attention...

Down on her luck and broke, Mandy returns to Harmony Valley to reopen the post office. She's been named as the new Post Master, temporarily. She has to prove that a post office in Harmony Valley is viable. As a child, she often worked at the post office with her grandfather. Upon his passing, he asked that Mandy be named the new Post Master. In a mountain of debt, Mandy decides to give it a go. Mandy and her 17yr old sister move back into the house in which they were raised. The house isn't "technically" theirs as they believe their grandfather left it to their mother. The mother they haven't seen in years.....

Both families have secrets they hold close. When life becomes too much to handle, Mandy talks to the moon. It is during these sessions that she learns some of Ben's secrets. She also realizes that Ben thinks she might be the one behind several suspicious fires around Harmony Valley.

I LOVED Mandy's concept of "breaking eggs". As a single mom I can really relate. There are definitely days where you have to choose your battles AND grin and bear it. There are overwhelming days, but the reward is so worth it! I also enjoyed Ben's goddaughter. She was a riot with her escapes and animal adventures! Mandy's sister, a cancer survivor, is your typical teenager. While she expects the worse, mainly her cancer coming back, she also becomes mush upon meeting a sexy guy. I truly enjoyed this refreshing novel and its unique storyline. Real life issues that are almost insurmountable, are handled realistically. I felt as though I could truly relate. I read a gifted copy and all opinions stated are my own.
