



Some Kind of Wonderful

Maureen Child

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Holiday shop owner Carol Baker infuses her business and her life with peace and good will. But she has secrets from her past that make her all the more determined to someday have a family of her own. She never expects a sweltering July heat wave to bring the gift of a baby girl who needs a mother's love...and a man who needs to heal his wounded soul.

Ex-LAPD copy Jack Reilly's back in town--temporarily--to fill in for the ailing local sheriff. Haunted by the tragedy that made him leave Los Angeles, Jack doesn't believe in "forever." His sassy landlady Carol, with her year-round Christmas spirit, gorgeous smile, and adorable little foster daughter, Liz, begin to bring him back to life. But the past has a way of coming back again, and the dark places of the heart have a way of staying hidden. Still, good things have a way of happening in Christmas--and if the Reillys have anything to say about it, what develops between Carol and Jack will be some kind of wonderful...

Some Kind of Wonderful Details

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From Reader Review Some Kind of Wonderful for online ebook

amanda welch says

Some kind of wonderful

I loved this book.

Carol just wanted to love and be loved, sounds simple.. but is love ever simple?

Jack was running from his past. Can you ever leave your past behind?

Add an abandoned baby (loved her name) and you have a story to read that will keep you on the edge of your seat until the end!!

Suzie Jo Glass says

How do you sleep when this book is too good to put down.

Having never read anything by Child I was not sure of this book the cover settled it and so I went into the night with these fabulous characters. I used a half a box of tissues and finished the book at 4:30 in the morning. I could have been quoted by someone at 1 am that I hated books that were so good that I could not put them down. There is a baby found in a Nativity set in a town named Christmas. The baby's birth mother was not a surprise to me but this book has more layers than an onion. I highly recommend this to everyone but be forewarned tissues and nothing pressing to do. Now I am off to Amazon to find more books by Child. Happy Reading..

Robin Reynolds / October Woman says

Some Kind of Wonderful is full of interesting characters, people you'd want to be friends with in real life. Carol Baker moved to Christmas, California, two years ago, and has a successful shop selling candles and keepsakes and Christmas themed decorations. She has carved out a happy life for herself in this weird little tourist town.

I say weird because I'm not sure I would want to live there myself. The entire town stays decorated for Christmas all year round. There is a permanent Nativity scene set up in the town square, the local businesses include the Reindeer Cafe, the Ho-Ho-Hotel, Elve's Hardware and Christmas Carol's (the heroine's store), and the streets have names such as North Pole and Jingle Bell Way.

Jack Reilly grew up in Christmas, and is back in town, temporarily, to fill in for the local sheriff who has been ill. Jack used to be an LAPD cop, but left the force, and he took this temporary position very grudgingly. He's anxious for the sheriff to come back to work so he can get back out of town. He's surly and always scowling, with shadows in his eyes.

One night Carol is walking her dog through the town square, and finds a baby lying in the Nativity scene's manger. A real, live baby, only a few hours old. She takes the baby to her friend Phoebe's clinic, and that's

when she meets Jack, who is of course called to investigate. Jack's sister, Maggie, is the local county welfare officer, and when Carol volunteers to be the baby's temporary emergency foster mother, Maggie agrees.

Having grown up in the foster care system, Carol has always longed for home and family. She doesn't expect to keep baby Liz forever, she is just determined that the baby not wind up at a group home, where row upon row of babies lie in cribs waiting for someone to pay attention to them.

Carol and Jack are of course attracted to each other, but Jack keeps her at a distance, while moping around and glaring at everyone. Honestly, what is it about a man like Jack that is so appealing? I've not actually known one in real life, but I do love a moody angsty hero in a romance novel.

I was swept up in this story pretty quickly, and really enjoyed the author's voice. Lots of humor. While the identity of the biological mother of the baby isn't revealed until the last quarter of the book, it was pretty obvious early on who she was, at least to the reader, though not to the other characters. But I think the author intended for us to figure it out, as she slowly fleshed that character out and made us sympathize with her. The ending was predictable and a little sappy, but then I would have been upset if it had ended any differently.

Well, actually, that's not quite accurate. **SPOILER ALERT:** In my mind, I pictured Carol taking both mother and baby under her wing, letting them both live with her and taking care of baby while mom went to college, but not actually adopting the baby as her own child. But then, I kind of forgot about Jack becoming a part of Carol's life also, because my mind left him out of that scenario. So obviously the author knew better than me how to end the story.

This is the first book I've read by Maureen Child, and when I looked at her back list on her website I realized that she has written a lot of books. Many of them are of the Harlequin/Silhouette variety, but I'm more eager to find her other contemporary novels first.

(I purchased this book at a library book sale – based on the cover which caught my eye.)

Courtney says

This was an Amazon freebie and a solid 4 star read for me. What made the story for me was our heroine, Carol. Although she has a tragic back story, she evolved past it into a quirky, independent and successful 28 year old woman. Our H is tall, dark, handsome and CRANKY. Although he also has a tragic backstory, he is firmly stuck in his misery. The romance unfolds as these two work together to take care of an abandoned newborn in their very small town, the story is rounded out with some interesting small town characters and the mystery behind the baby's birth Mother. I was in the mood for a mature heroine who works at her HEA, and enjoyed both a good laugh here and there as well as a good cry or two during this sweet, sexy and emotional story.

Black Butterfly says

SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL 1/21 COMPT/RO 4*stars
ANGST SO THICK YOU COULD CUT IT WITH A BUTTER KNIFE. COMBINED THIS WITH A

CUTE BABY, ALL THIS IN THE OFF HOOK CRAZY LITTLE TOWN OF CHRISTMAS. I DON'T THINK LIVING IN CHRISTMAS EVERYDAY, IT WOULD GET OLD LIKE THE MOVIE GROUND HOG DAY. THIS WAS A LITTLE DRAWN OUT (make you want to scream) AND PREDICTABLE BUT VERY ENJOYABLE LOVE THE COVER. ;D

Jeanette says

All the feels! So understandable and relatable.

Juliana fern says

I don't usually read romance books but the discription of the book hooked me read it in one shot I cried I yelled at the characters so good i am keeping this in my kindle library

Betty says

Every romantic should read this book every Christmas . Start a new tradition.

This is a truly heart-warming love story with real people, real problems. The town of Christmas, California is the most clever setting imaginable for a Christmas story. You will fall in love with the baby fount abandoned in a manager, with the lonely woman who finds the infant and takes her in. And when a handsome man enters the picture, you just know they would be the perfect family.

But you won't believe the sad circumstances that keep them apart....

Why is the man so troubled? Why is the woman fighting so hard to keep from loving the baby and the man too much? What happens when the birth mother steps forward to claim the baby? Will true love triumph?

This best-selling author leads her readers on a twisting path to a very satisfactory ending. Five-star, exciting read from start to finish. I look forward to more of her books.

Reviewed by Betty Dravis, January 4, 2016

Lou Anne says

I liked it. The characters kept my interest. I was actually surprised that this was not part of a series, since a few of the secondary characters seemed to be set up for it.

However, I was a little annoyed that the heroine was claiming that she'd never been told she was loved and that she had never experienced a Christmas morning with gifts, etc. She was 10 years old when her parents died, and we are led to believe that she had a happy childhood with them. She was definitely old enough to remember.

Dana says

It was a nice story, but it rates only two stars due to all of the profanity. It was on every single page, even from the priest and the 17 year old girl. Absolutely no reason for it.

Carol Tietsworth says

This was more of a story than I had anticipated. In the very beginning the triteness of a town called Christmas disappointed me, but I read on, and now except for the everyone knows everything part, I want to live there.

A story about a woman who had nothing and no one, and bad things in her past who meets a man who had everything and couldn't see it. Add in a baby, a live baby in the Christmas creche, and you are left with a great story.

I had almost no problems with the editing, although in one spot, near the end I believe-I did go back to look-there was a missing word. Not bad, as a trained proofreader and an experienced copy-editor I see these things.

All in all, a delightful read.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

The absolutely adorable baby on the cover is what made me decide to pick this one up, but it's Jack, Carol, and baby Liz that kept me turning the pages. *Some Kind Of Wonderful* is all kinds of heartwarming! It's a romantic, steamy, and sometimes even poignant 'believe in the magic of Christmas' story that can be read any time of year. And I have to say, I hope this is part of a series because there are so many incredible people in the small, quirky town of Christmas, California who need to have their stories told, too!

This is book 1 in my Goodreads Challenge of reading 50 Kindle Freebie books in 2016. All books read for this challenge were free at the time of 'purchase.'

Books I've read, so far:

1. Some Kind of Wonderful
2. Duty Bound
3. Neanderthal Seeks Human

♥ WishfulMiss ♥ says

This was a short novella that I really liked. I liked the small town of Christmas, the adorable giant dog, Quinn and the brief glimpse of the close knit Reilly family.

What I loved about Some Kind Of Wonderful was Carol Baker. She was so funny and open and just an all around genuine person. The author does a good job of vividly drawing the reader a detailed picture of who Carol is and although it drags out the mystery as to her past it was well paced. But Jack really describes her best as having a smart ass mouth but a good heart. I laughed and cried through this one and 95% of the time it was for Carol.

The male MC, Jack, was a good character (not great, he was too crabby/grouchy for my taste) and I definitely felt for him once his past was revealed but I thought his resolution to his issues were too rushed. But that's usually my main complaint while reading novellas - they're never long enough!

Also the baby momma issue, I felt there was too much unnecessary drama. Other than that this was a short sweet read.

Marsha says

(3.5 Stars)

First, let me ramble on a bit before I start my review. The book cover in Goodreads for "Some Kind of Wonderful" is not the one downloaded onto my kindle. The cover I received was of a man and woman simultaneously kissing the cheeks of the cutest blue and wide eyed baby you could ever imagine. Yeah, I know that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover; but, I'll freely admit that I am a sucker for a good one.

Carol Baker was forced into the child services system at the age of ten when her parents were killed in a tragic car accident. Since she had no other family, she lived her life in a couple of foster homes but finally settling her older teen years in an orphanage until she was basically emancipated at 18. After working hard and saving her money, Carol moved to Christmas, Ca. where everyday is Christmas filled with tourists bombarding the town each day in preparation for the big event. One night as Carol was walking her dog, Quinn, she heard a baby crying from none other than the town's manger. This is where she discovers a baby girl who has been abandoned. Carroll's experience in the child care system is not a place she wants this beautiful bundle of joy to end up, so she arranges to have herself appointed as a foster parent until the mother can be found.

When temporary sheriff, Jake Reilly goes out to investigate who abandoned a baby in the town manger he had no idea he would meet his match. For two years now he has been wallowing in pity over an incident while he was on the police force in L.A. He knows he is a crabby mess even without his mother and siblings constantly reminding him but he will only be in Christmas for a month or so and then he will take off for parts unknown. No attachments, no emotions, and certainly no relationships. As we all know things rather happen the way we plan; so, when he noticed Carol Baker has a vacant furnished apartment, he snaps at the chance to get out from under his mother's roof. He knows this single action has the potential to go extremely wrong but he is desperate enough that he doesn't care.

These two shattered souls just might find redemption in the presence of a beautiful baby girl and in each

other. The question is whether or not it will be enough to overcome each of their pasts and survive the return of the mother who abandoned her baby?

I enjoyed this read especially because of all of the family interactions. I also enjoyed the resiliency of Carol Baker. I will admit that at times, the character of Jack got on my nerves and I didn't immediately feel a connection between him, the baby or Carol but in the end, he redeemed himself. I also feel that this book would have been a lot more successful if the mood hadn't been so serious and ominous. A little humor goes a long way in making any book better. In the end, I am glad I followed my intuition and decided to read this book all because of the cover (Lol).

Marcia Haskell says

Can a place called 'Christmas' really exist?

Pleasant romance hindered by fear that what she wanted could be taken away. He had been convinced that a shootout that killed his partner was partly his fault. She had always wanted a family and home where she was loved and had people who cared about. For both, fear of having their desires taken away led them to not try to take what they want.

Pleasant with a number of subplots and a lot of small town life.
