



## Chaste

*Lydia Michaels*

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Kelly McCullough has always gotten every woman he's wanted. Of all the McCullough men, his charm and magnetism is unmatched. However, there is one woman he cannot have.

Ashlynn Fisher is everything Kelly McCullough is not. She is quiet, shy, and—above all—virginal. After losing her heart to Kelly in grade school, no other man compares. Paths cross and temperance is put to the test when Ashlynn decides it's time for her to find love. Kelly offers Center County's sweetest brown-eyed girl all the guidance he can, but finds himself in a situation he never expected to face. Through chaste kisses and stolen secrets, his virility is tested and he must learn what love truly means as his selfish ways are transformed in the face of a selfless need to give her everything she wants.

## Chaste Details

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Author : Lydia Michaels

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## From Reader Review Chaste for online ebook

### **maggieandteddy says**

4.5 stars for this book about another McCullough brother-Kelly. Each book has been so unique. The story and the characters in Chaste were very different from the first two books. Kelly is the wild child of the family. He starts off as a man-ho. His parents, siblings-basically the whole town has him labeled as a Casanova, and Kelly admits it and embraces the title... Until he starts to notice Ashlynn. Ashlynn is a meek and mild, very religious farmer's daughter. They are polar opposites. Ashlynn has had a crush on Kelly since they were in grade school. Their relationship develops very gradually. Everyone points out(over and over) the fact that Ashlynn is a virgin and Kelly is the town player. The middle was a little slow to get through-lots more detail of the relationship between Kelly and Ashlynn. The book felt like 2 books- or 2 sections of the same book. In my opinion, that's okay, since I would have been too impatient to wait for the 2nd half if it had been split into 2 smaller novels. At about 50-54%, there's a major shift in the story-and the plot moves faster and more dramatic. There are some funny moments throughout the book. There were sad/sweet moments near the end. Mom (Maureen) McCullough has a potty mouth- which shocks sweet little Ashlynn. I recommend this book & will read the next one-due out in a few days.

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### **starsaga says**

#### **4.5 stars, This was a long book, an all-encompassing read, I loved it!**

This story was satisfyingly long!! Ahem, page count wise. It was beautifully told from a slow start, Kelly's love story kept stopping and starting but start it did and then he was off and running! Kelly for me, was one of the best heroes from this series and in recent reads, he was clever in his simplicity, sweet in his approach to life and once he let go and fell in love, watch out Ashlynn! I did not picture the heroine very well, she definitely took a back-seat in this book to Kelly, but her love was convincingly strong to me. The heroines in this series seem to be written with an emphasis on simplicity, no real interest in their appearance, and there is lot of mention of natural beauty and lack of artifice. Normally this annoys me in books because it seems to send the message that women who are more conscious of their looks and grooming are somewhat evil and to be derided, but luckily I did not get this feeling in this book. Then again, in this book, all I really saw was Kelly, who had Jill (not another woman, you have to read to find out how hilarious this was) and marriage brought out the sweetest, funniest side of him, I have rarely laughed so hard reading a romance. All in all, I am glad Kelly got his HEA, yes Ashlynn too, but mostly Kelly, and I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a lighthearted romance with an underlying depth to the characters.

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### **Limecello says**

this book O\_O

This is the one that made me say ... I think ... I ... O\_o found ... erotic inspirational romance. Seriously - our heroine is Catholic and she is DEVOUT. I've been telling people I kinda felt like there was more Jesus stuff in this book than the last sermon I heard. :X

It works though. It's a bit \*weird\* for me ... but it works.

Kelly is ... so sweet but so stupid. He's sexy as hell and a total slut and he goes after the town virgin. The town playboy and the town virgin and it's just ... nobody thinks it'll work but they do and it's almost a "them against the world" - and this book is L-O-N-G. They go through ALL of it. Geesh.

I'm glad I read it - it's real and gritty and painful, but sweet and sexy and Kelly resists being with her for SO. LONG. - so yeah. Seriously, I need people to read this book so I can discuss it with them. XD

C+

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### **Kristen says**

#### **3 1/2 to 4 Unique Stars**

*Chaste* is a light and easy read that surprised me with its thought provoking storyline. And though it featured the clichéd 20 something virgin and the charismatic, tattooed manwhore, it certainly didn't follow in the footsteps of THAT particular plotline. Nope! This book's heroine may be painfully shy but she also had strength of character, staunch morals, and her virginity was important to her. No one, not even the swoonworthy and charismatic hero, was going to get her to lower her standards. And you know what, she NEVER did! I loved that! As for the hero, he was simply mouthwatering. He was the family's roguish playboy, and though he appeared not to have a care in the world, deep down he struggled to believe he was more than his reputation. I loved how these two polar opposite characters saw more in each other than what others saw in them. I also loved how the hero respected the heroine's beliefs and never once belittled her for her choice to wait until marriage to have sex. They were a couple you couldn't help but fall in love with.

*Chaste* is a feel-good romance with a splash of angst, a nice dose of steam, and a refreshing plot. It made for an enjoyable afternoon read.

Note: This book has a religious undertone. If that bothers you, this may not be the story for you.

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### **Amy ~ Love At 1st Read says**

I love bad boys. The ones I know I shouldn't want but they still get my blood pumping. I guess that's why I've loved Kelly since the first book in the series. He's just too outrageous not to love. And I couldn't wait to see what kind of woman would bring him to his knees. I have to admit I never imagined someone like Ashlynn but the further I got in the story, the more perfect someone like Ashlynn was for Kelly.

Since high school Kelly had been "that guy", the bad boy who shows a girl a good time. Fun for a wild fling but not someone's future. While he enjoyed the perks of being a playboy, the label was starting to grate. Ashlynn had been in love with Kelly since high school but she wasn't Kelly's type. Quiet and shy, she never kept up with the popular crowd. And Kelly was the popular crowd. So she pretty much worshipped him from afar waiting for Mr. Right to show up. Someone who didn't need a harem of eager girls. Someone who would appreciate that she'd been saving herself for him.

Kelly knew Ashlynn had a crush on him. That's why he stayed away as much as he could. Yeah, he was a man whore but there were certain women a guy like him stayed away from and virgins were in that category. But when Ashlynn starts dating, suddenly "her inexperience somehow turned from something he avoided to

something he coveted". He didn't want her to fall for any of those guys' lines. They weren't good enough for her. He wasn't good enough for her either but he couldn't stay away. And when he got to know her, he liked what he discovered. Ashlynn challenged him. She didn't put up with his BS. And most importantly, she saw past the playboy façade. She saw the parts of him no one else stuck around long enough to see. Parts of himself even Kelly had forgotten.

This was such a sweet and sexy story. I loved Ashlynn for her strong morals. She wouldn't change her beliefs for anyone, not even Kelly. And instead of pushing for more, Kelly accepted that. For once, he wanted to be a better man. He wanted to be the kind of man Ashlynn saw in him.

I especially loved the story after they married. Not only were they truly discovering each other for the first time, they were going through all the angsty things that young couples go through. It's not perfect in the beginning. You have to learn to communicate and to trust. For me, those struggles in this story really added to its believability.

This entire series has been phenomenal. I don't think I can even pick a favorite. I love the McCullough family and can't wait to see what happens with each of them. This series is storytelling at its best with amazing, complex characters and compelling, believable storylines. Emotional, powerful, sweet, and with lots of steam, the McCullough Mountain series is one I can't get enough of.

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### **Cristina says**

Oh my. I may have to add Lydia Michaels to my list of favorite authors. So far, I've read four of her books and I've been satisfied with all of them.

This is the love story of a blue-eyed man whore and a chase little mouse named Ashlynn. Now it may sound cliche but trust me it is different in a way that was refreshing and entertaining.

The more you read, the more you want these two lovebirds together.

Now be aware it's a slow romance. If you like the anticipation just like me you'll like this book.

I had no idea I'd laugh so much with this one. Kelly McCullough is shameless in a good way and Ashlynn Fisher makes a great heroine.

Yes, their story has it's ups and downs. There were times I wanted to strangle Kelly but nothing that couldn't be fixed. He makes mistakes but he tries his best too.

Though it's part of a series, it can definitely be read as a standalone. So give it a try and you may end up falling for a McCullough brother ;-)

Some of these scenes were my favorite.

***"I'll be the one in the gown."***

***"I'll be the sexy one in the kilt at the front."***

***"She gaped at him. "You're wearing a kilt?"***

***"McCullough tartan, love. Now, I know you'll be trying to look up me pleats, but try to be patient. I'll bare it all tomorrow night when I let you have your wicked way with me."***

***"She laughed and he sighed. Leaning back, he said, "To think, all this virtue I've been holding onto will be gone."***

*Snorting, she shoved him and said, "You're so full of shit."*

*Roy's jaw twitched. "My daughter's a good girl, Kelly. I'd hate to pass judgment before I know a person, but your reputation precedes you. Are you dating my daughter now?"*

*"Yes," he said, meeting the other man's gaze. "That's actually why we're here."*

*Roy's brow lifted. "Go on."*

*Kelly swallowed and cleared his throat. "I've asked Ashlynn to marry me."*

*All traces of friendliness vanished from the other man's face. In a gruff voice, he said, "Ashlynn, get my gun."*

*"That doesn't mean you didn't interrogate them."*

*"Well, you're my boys. Someone has to scare the shit out of these women, let them know we mean business when one of ours brings us a new lamb." His mum said.*

*Kelly stood and dumped the rest of his coffee. "Yeah, a sacrificial lamb."*

*"That's not nice, Kelly."*

*"You be nice," he said, leaving the kitchen.*

*"I'm always nice, you little shit!"*

Oh boy. What a sweet Epilogue. It was the perfect ending to a lovely story. I'd totally recommend this book.

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### **InD'tale Magazine says**

An awesome contemporary romance with a sexy and sweet Irish hero and heroine who is a true match for him!

Read full review in the 2014 April issue of InD'tale Magazine.

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### **Erin says**

It's Pittsburgh...PITTSBURGH, dammit...not Pittsburgh!!!

...Pittsburgh is a big major east coast city and you are going to repeatedly spell it wrong, it is guaranteed to drive me up the wall. This is the 3rd author that I have read that has trouble spelling the city of Pittsburgh correctly...I find that extremely lazy editing and very annoying. I liked this book better than "Skin" but I still found the h and even the H in this one annoying. Sigh! My friends all liked this one, while I didn't hate it, it was just an ok read for me.

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### **WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says**

Recommended by J.D. Thank you!

*Perhaps they'd always been aware of each other, but were both smart enough to know they made no sense as anything more than acquaintances in a small town.*

A small town, a girl who's mother dies early in her life leaving only a masculine presence which combined with her deeply held faith has her being a 24yr old virgin, a boy who attracts women early gaining a reputation that has him being the go to for a good night, and an attraction that doesn't seem to make sense. The whole trope of heroine being the shy girl who loves the hero from afar and the bad boy with hidden depth who never thought he was good enough for heroine, is one I can't help but enjoy and I greatly did for the first 20%.

*After years of watching him, she'd seen hidden moments where his focus drifted and his smile faltered as if he was exhausted with putting on the charm. There was no denying Kelly was a funny and entertaining person to be around, but...so much of it was a performance.*

The author did a great job of giving these two trope heavy characters and giving them depth. The heroine was considered a wallflower by everyone and socially acted like that but with the hero she showed her backbone and tilted his world on edge. The hero loved women and they loved him but he kind of always wondered about the heroine (we get a few flashbacks of him talking with her highschool), wanted something deeper, but never thought he was worth more because of his early formative years of having girls only want one thing from him.

These two were so adorable in the beginning and gave me all the ooey gooey feelings.

**“Would you date a virgin?”**

*His lips buttoned up and he looked away. “Uh, I’m a little too...I got a sweet tooth.”*

*She frowned. “What?”*

*He blew out a breath. “I like sex, love. Lots of sex. Crazy, swinging from the chandeliers, make you scream, feel it days later sex.” He scratched his head and grimaced. “I’m really not that complicated. I basically only come with two settings, hungry and horny.” He laughed and gazed away, mumbling, “If you don’t see me with a hard on, make me food. Ah, but then I start thinking about cobbler and soft peaches and...” He cleared his throat and shifted.*

*She didn’t know where to look, but she couldn’t look at him. Her head turned with jagged increments as she focused her stare anywhere but at him.*

*He chuckled. “Sorry. Maybe that was a bit too graphic on my part.”*

*“Sometimes waiting means more than the act,” she offered lamely. Her decision really couldn’t compete with chandelier monkey screaming antics—not with Kelly. That was for sure. And was he actually talking about cobbler or was it a metaphor? Did he do stuff with food? Jeeze, she was ignorant, but now she was really curious.*

Our wallflower didn't back down around him and I enjoyed her backbone and I felt for how the hero was so vulnerable. After the beginning first half though, the heroine's virginity started to become a huge focus, religious talk featured heavily, and there was the icky "not like those other slutty desperate girls" from the hero.

**“Because I’m not like other girls,” she said frowning at her lap.**

*“Yeah, but not for the negative reasons you’re probably thinking. I know a lot of women. You’re different, interesting. You don’t cover yourself with fancy crap and pretend to be someone you’re not. You’re honest and unguarded.”*

*She snorted. “We’re all guarded.”*

The hero was ugh with this thinking but delightfully, the heroine would come to the defense of the women, but I got tired of the "other women are so desperate when they only want sex from me". Now, I'm not religious so I have contradictory views with Christianity, so my personal enjoyment will vary if you're of a different school of thought. The heroine is a virgin because of her faith and how she's suppose to save her "innocence" for her husband. When she is trying to date, she ends up finding out that one of her dates is a virgin, also because of his faith. What does she think? She doesn't like it, she thinks about how the hero is better because of his experience. I'm all for personal decisions but this thinking of women must remain innocent because of God but men can sleep with anything is so barfy to me, I'm just not going to enjoy a story where the whole middle talks about this.

The second half I lost the beginning spark and building connection between the two because sex became the focus. I'm not lying when I say this book is largely about God and blowjobs. I don't know if there is a category or sub-genre labeled Christian erotica but this would fit squarely there. I honestly felt like their rushed marriage was so they could have sex, their emotional connection stops being built and felt after they are married. The ending was rushed with a bunch of little added dramas and angst.

The first 20% was very close to building up to a 5 stars but I'm not a Christian and their emotional building and bonding was replaced with endless faith talk and sexy times, making me not the target audience and not feeling their heat in the bedroom.

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### **Iliada says**

#### **3.5 stars**

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### **Tamara says**

Chaste was a difficult book to review. I love the McCullough's and I really enjoyed Kelly and Ashlynn's story, but... I know there's always a but, I did feel the story dragged in places, something uncommon in Lydia Michael's books.

The storyline was very different them most romance novels. As the title suggests, Ashlynn is Chaste. At 24 she has literally never even been kissed. She made a promise to God and her father to save herself for marriage and has never regretted that promise. Her only regret is that the one man she has loved forever, Kelly McCullough won't be that man.

When Ashlynn decides it's time to look for a husband, Kelly finds that he can no longer resist his attraction to the "good girl" he knows he shouldn't pursue.

They have their usual ups and downs, some fun with the crazy, foul mouthed McCouloughs and get married. Uh oh, we are only 1/2 way though the book!

I don't want to give spoilers, so I can't tell you WHAT happens, but this is where it veers off course from normal romance and more into... I'm not sure what. Woman's fiction? Self-help? Relationship counseling? It IS still romance, and I DID enjoy it. There were times I was brought to tears, but it was a subject a little close to home for me, so maybe that was my problem.

Gah, I'm muddling this all up, trying to say what I think, without giving away too much.

So I'll just say, READ it!

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## ??.:?:?°?Love2Read?HEAs?.:?:?°? {Anne} says

Rated 4.25 Stars

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### Skyden says

I was pretty excited for this story as one of my favorite characters in the series is Kelly. Unfortunately this Kelly wasn't the Kelly I'd grown to love in the previous two books. That Kelly was kind, smart, mature and a fun loving ladies man. In this book we get to know a bit about what shaped him, which is fine, but where the story lost me was when the Kelly I liked began to do things I didn't think that Kelly would do. Suddenly Kelly became this immature little boy. He said a few things that hurt the heroine's feelings (and were decidedly nasty bits of stupid that he didn't need to say), or he just acted like a moron. I wanted the Kelly who was so kind to Samantha in the first book. The Kelly who didn't need to be an asshat.

I bumped along with the story and it did get better, there were definitely parts that made me smile, but the last few chapters lost me completely.

The Heroine, Ashlynn, is extremely religious. Like beyond Kelly's brother Colin who was going to become Father Colin. She actually confessed every blowjob she gave Kelly! Seriously. This was, of course, after they married because she wouldn't have anything sexual before that. This isn't a new premise for a story but unfortunately having sex sort of became the focus for both characters. It seemed that they wound up marrying just to get to have sex and then found out that marriage meant a whole lot more. Sure, it's a glimpse into married lives...but it's not exactly realistic for today. If anything it's a "what not to do". The majority of couples are living together--or at least dating long enough to know the other person's habits. Ashlynn and Kelly were married within less than a year of really getting to know each other (having known each other through brief encounters in high school doesn't count at all). It was pretty ridiculous (in my opinion) but I guess it happens...to idiots. I think it would've been more believable if I felt they were actually swept off their feet in love. Instead, it just seemed like they both wanted to get into each others' pants. The morning after was a bit of a shock for both of them as Ashlynn realized she was more of a neat freak than he is and Kelly woke up to find Ashlynn gone about her day.

This was where the story started to fall apart for me. Ashlynn and Kelly lost a lot of maturity here (though Ashlynn was the one that drove me nuts in the end). (view spoiler)

Basically the first part of the book was all about getting to the sex. The last few chapters were all focused on having a baby. It just left me wondering whether the characters could actually function as a happy couple together without stressing out over something silly.

AND ANOTHER THING!! (view spoiler)

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### **Jill says**

**3.5 stars**

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### **Michelle [Helen Geek] says**

04/03/2014 --

**Overall Rating = 4 Stars**

**Book Cover / Book Blurb / Book Title = 4 / 4 / 5 = 4.5 Stars**

**Writer's Voice = 4 Stars**

**Character Development = 5 Stars**

**Story Appreciation = 4 Stars**

**Ending = 5 Stars**

**Worth the Chili = 3 Stars -- [\$6.99 on Amazon]**

**Smexy [HEAT] Rating = Moderate**

**406 pages**

This is my favorite so far. I loved the H. I could appreciate the h, but she was a bit too over the top in one area for me. I absolutely loved the story.

#### **So, what stood out for me in this one?**

1 -- This story is really about the trials and travails of a new marriage. These two did it the old fashioned way and waited for everything first until after the vows. They really did have to get to know each other and get used to living and sharing a life together. I enjoyed watching this relationship evolve. It was nice and slow [a bit too slow in a few places]. It had deep commitment by both partners. I'm not saying this well, but really this is what marriage is all about. Trust and commitment.

2 -- Kelly. He was a beautiful man. He is a bit more complicated than we first think. It was a lovely experience watching him open up to Ashlynne.

3 -- The McCullough family. One of the reasons I don't mind reading a series, is books like this. A series with people you really like and you enjoy seeing them again. Usually in a different capacity, but a joy just the same.

4 -- Real life. This story captured two people in very believable, real life situations. We get a front row seat as they try to figure it out.

#### **Okay, what didn't I like?**

1 -- I'm not a fan of the whole 24 year old virgin theme. In this one, Ashlynne had a deep commitment to her catholic morals. She didn't believe in sex before marriage. It was widely known. Kelly was a man-whore of the first order. It worked, but it was a bit annoying at times. I understand it, but not sure I agree with it. Ms.

Micheals did a decent job of appeasing me, but it was still annoying in places.

2 -- The story did drag a bit in places.

3 -- As much as I enjoyed this story, and this writer, I don't feel huge emotion. I reflect on the story and am surprised. There were places I think I should have, but I didn't. Why? Hmm.. I sometimes think this author spends too much time on mundane details and shy's away from strong emotional writing. I think she can do it. I just don't think she allows herself to do it.

4 -- The price. This is my 5th book or something by this author? My 2nd in this series. I like this author. Saying this, I never would have read it if I hadn't had earlier good experiences. I wouldn't pick this up as a first read.

I enjoyed this story. It can easily be read as a stand alone. I think this is the best book by this author I've read so far. She got a bit preachy in this one. That may turn some people off, but I thought it fit the story theme well enough. Saying this, I've shied away from reading the first in this series about an "almost Priest" for that same reason. Oh, well..

I think most anyone would like this one. A solid story with very likeable characters.

Happy Reading!!

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