



Afternoon Delight

Anne Calhoun

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Sarah McCall, food truck co-owner and recent Manhattan transplant, savors each moment of her new job—whether it's refining the truck's menu, learning the city, or spending afternoons in bed with the hot paramedic who's fast becoming her favorite customer.

Afternoon Delight Details

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From Reader Review Afternoon Delight for online ebook

Baba says

4.5 sensual stars. Full review posted September 12, 2014

As a disclosure, I'd like to say that I've been a huge fan of Anne Calhoun for many years. I may be somewhat biased but I know what I love and Anne delivers exactly the stories I want to read. I think her writing has gotten better over the years. It's more mature, denser, and more beautiful. Simply put, it affects me more. Maybe there's an advantage when an author only publishes one or two books a year. On the one hand, it heightens the anticipation for the reader and on the other hand, the author has time to develop a story, the characters and the writing itself. And, one thing's for sure, I'm willing to wait for something more than just good. Anyway, enough of my musings. Let's get down to the heart of the matter, shall we?

Maybe you remember Tim Cannon, a secondary character of *Breath on Embers*. Tim is working as a paramedic with the New York City Fire Department. He's paired up with Sarah Naylor who moved from San Francisco to Brooklyn, NY a few months ago. She's a co-owner of the food truck *Symbol* and loves to cook healthy and delicious food. Tim has been speeding through life, always hard on the limit. He's loving his job and it also helps him to deal with his past and the associated pain. As chance would have it, Tim meets Sarah in a park where she's selling her meals. Let the challenge begin...

Sizzling hot. Deliciously sensual. Thoughtful. Beautifully atmospheric.

150 pages. *Afternoon Delight* is much more than tempting sex. It's also a thoughtful lesson to pace life and enjoy the slow burn of anticipation, the little highlights of everyday life and to leap over the fence in order to be brave and seize the chance to share a life with someone special.

All kinds of smells hover in the air
A tasteful meal
Makes way to a sensual frenzy
Crackling energy
Emits sparks all over our skin
The aroma of hot, sweaty sex
Saturates the humid air

Simmering emotions
No holding back anymore
Let the passion be unleashed

A tidal wave of feelings
Lazy, thorough kisses
Mating tongues teasing, demanding
A sensory overload, ready to combust

Restrained power, a slow, slow burn
A raspy voice, a groan
Breath puffing over skin
Inhaling tantalizing scents
Tasting, licking, touching
Feeling the texture of a beard
Rasping over the corner of soft lips
A sensuous delight in the afternoon
And throughout the night

Whatever Tim is doing, he's used to speed and efficiency, yet Sarah is his polar opposite. The cooking and eating is all about being focused and savoring every delicious moment. Slow, tasty, and heightened by a constant thrill and anticipation that leads straight to the gateway of a mind-blowingly erotic haze. Sarah accomplishes to slow down Tim's life and brings his work-life balance back to a healthy level. In addition to that, Sarah is seizing the chance to get her old life back, to have fun after two long and difficult years of seeing her aunt suffering through sickness and sorrow.

There aren't any vows of undying love at the end of Afternoon Delight.
I found that to be very realistic, by the way, because let's face it, they still are at the beginning of a promising relationship when the story ends. As far as I could judge it was too early for a lovey-dovey talk anyway.

Anne Calhoun is a master at telling richly textured and highly atmospheric erotic tales. Reading her sexy scenes is the equivalent to tasting a delectable meal or a spectacular dessert. The special flavor bursts over your taste buds and you simply can't get enough. Anne's writing is addictive and I'm already craving the next shot because it was such a sensuous delight to read.

There's actually a very good and thoughtful story that backed up the sex (or was it the other way around?). I also loved their strolls through New York and their interaction; seeing Tim working his shifts was entertaining and insightful. Anne accomplished to portray both main protagonists believably and paced the story wonderfully. The slow pace was the opposite to a hectic city life, the counterbalance in a manner of speaking. Fact is, the languid burn and the wicked chemistry that blended seamlessly into the loud and colorful pulse of the Big Apple made this story a highly atmospheric sensation. I loved all the sultry descriptions of food and urban life which have been brought to life with a startling and affectionate clarity. All the smells and noises, the streets, parks and busy people felt like an additional character, vividly described by the author. A beautiful reading experience and thoroughly satisfying.

If you want to dive into the realm of the senses, then read Afternoon Delight.

Recommended read.

Steam 4

Expected publication: September 16, 2014

All quotes are taken from the pre-published copy and may be altered or omitted in the final copy

ARC courtesy of Berkley/NAL Publishing in exchange for an honest review

Geri Reads says

4 stars!

I won't do a full review since RL is kicking my ass right now. But let me just say that Anne Calhoun knows her stuff. She doesn't use big twists or angst or dramatics to get her point across. She just allows her characters and the dialogue to take readers into a journey and before you know it, you're hooked.

This is shorter than her other books but it still gets the job done. And oh, the sensuality...yeah, AC totally mastered it and it's very evident in this book (much like any other AC book). But what made this book unique is the commentary about food and how AC used it to mirror Sarah and Tim's idea about life and relationships.

Good stuff.

ARC provided by PENGUIN GROUP Berkley, NAL / Signet Romance, DAW via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

***J* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

4--Delightful--Stars!!

"It feels naughty, having sex during the day. Everyone else is busy, working, running errands, but we're here. It's a secret in the sunshine."

It's hard to beat an Anne Calhoun book! They are very no-nonsense. Very sensual. Very sexy. Almost simplistic. Not a lot of fluff. Not a lot of back ground on the MCs. No epilogue.

She creates believable characters. With real life problems. Characters that you can relate to.

Sarah is the co-owner of a food truck, Symbowl. After two years caring for her sick aunt, Sarah is looking to get her old life back. A life where she dated, did spontaneous things.

She meets Tim one day and offers him a Symbowl. Tim is a paramedic with FDNY. They have some crazy chemistry.

"It's just a spring fling, she told herself. A little afternoon delight, a challenge, a way of getting her old, carefree self back."

Tim is kind of stuck. He lives in the now. He doesn't really think about a future beyond today. He's had some loss in his life. He fears getting too close to others.

Tim tries to keep a line in the sand when it comes to Sarah. He likes how she makes him feel but is afraid to want more. One afternoon delight becomes two, and then three and before long both Tim and Sarah must question what exactly is going on between them.

Again, there was no crazy drama in this one. The chemistry between Tim and Sarah was very sexy and sensual. Both MCs were likable. This was a short read. Almost like a brief moment in time between Tim and Sarah.

Allison ♥?Will Never Conquer Her TBR♥? says

4.5 Refreshing Stars!

Sarah, recently moving to NYC from San Francisco, runs a food cart...Symbowls. Tim is a NYC Paramedic, enjoying a quiet afternoon lunch in the park when he's approached by Sarah for a complimentary taste test. Although he doesn't eat anything that can't be consumed in 2 minutes, he gives it a try...casual conversation...their easy banter begins.

Sarah is different than most girls Tim goes after. She's fun and easy and they play fun little sex games...trusting each other's control. It's refreshing. He's always lived his life in the fast lane but she slows things down for him, letting him take in things he's not paid attention to before...like food.

I gotta say, the book had a lot of chat around food and I found myself practically drooling on my kindle. I was craving one of her chicken and brown rice bowls...damn diet. **Afternoon Delight** was refreshing for me. Not too heavy on the angst, comical at times, mature H/h, scorching hot sex scenes...it kind of had it all crammed into an enjoyable 150 pages.

Books like these are a great way to *cleanse the palate* (pun not intended) from the darker or more angsty reads of today. Not too heavy on anything yet you find yourself drawn to their story.

Can Sarah be the girl to make Tim slow his rocket speed life permanently or will he continue to live casual, carefree, no strings attached? Read it and find out.

And I thank you!

Complimentary advanced copy received courtesy of Penguin Group Publishing via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

Favorite Quote: "...the list of foodstuffs that shouldn't be introduced to a woman's private parts is actually quite long."

Tim Cannon is an EMT whose lifestyle has him constantly on the move. He uses one night stands to burn off his excessive energy. Over six feet of pure muscle and bearded sex on a stick ensures Tim never lacks companionship but when he meets a food truck chef, he finds himself suddenly wanting more than just instant gratification. And that scares him to death.

Sarah McCall is a chef and co owner of a food truck business. A west coast transplant, she lives life serenely and slowly, taking the time to feel and enjoy every experience she can. Whether it's refining the sauces for her menu or spending time in bed with a certain sexy EMT...Sarah has learned that the best things in life are worth waiting for.

Afternoon Delight is a sensual erotic romance that starts out as a flirty sexual interlude only to build into something more that shocks both parties. Set in the bustling city of Manhattan, Calhoun introduces us to two individuals whose attraction leads to a lesson in control and learning to appreciate the slow anticipation of living life day to day.

Read the rest of my review at Smexy Books

Wendy'sThoughts says

4.5 Stopping and Experiencing It All Stars * * * * 1/2

Needed to ponder how to review this... surprisingly dense for a short novella. Touched on so much with a perfect understanding of what it wanted to say.

This was a very strong read. The characters had grit and substance. I like all of it and every phrase and set up worked. She was an independent woman, confident in who she was... her strength caused the man to see his life differently... to start to feel instead of being locked down. A worthwhile read and it also was very sensual. Hit all its targets.

A gifted copy provided by NetGalley in exchange for a honest review.

MrsJoseph says

<http://bookslifewine.com/r-afternoon-...>

3.5 stars rounded up to 4 stars.

Tamika,

This one is pretty cute - in its own way. There's more that I liked than I didn't like but it's not very memorable (like other books this author has written). I don't think this one is for you but I did enjoy it.

The thing I liked the most about this one was the emphasis on cooking:

From my review: "What I loved about Afternoon Delight was the emphasis on cooking – not what cooking is but what cooking does for the cook and the people who partake: it is an investment in the future but it's grounded in the moment. Cooking rewards patience with the lovely scents and wonderful food. Cooking allows you to share intimate moments with friends and family that are lost when getting commercially prepared foods."

Heidi says

Loved the tempo/cadence of the writing and that in itself added so much to the story. Gentle, sweet and soft. Nothing earth shattering or high drama just a good solid Anne Calhoun romance. 4 stars

◆*Arianna◆* says

"What do they call this? Afternoon delight?" (...) Everyone else is busy, working, running errands, but we're here. It's a secret in the sunshine."

After she spent the last two years taking care of her dying aunt, Sarah moved to New York City from San Francisco to open a food truck with her friend. She wants to be the woman she was before all this, she wants to do something for herself. She enjoys her life and savors every little thing in her life, every moment.

Tim is a paramedic who lives a fast paced life. He's good at his job enjoying his daily routine. He needs this life to cope with his past. He doesn't do relationships and he fears getting close to others. He doesn't enjoy life like he should, until he meets Sarah.

“She made him think about what was coming, anticipate the future more than he had in a long time.”

They are attracted to each other immediately and they agree to have an *afternoon delight* .

But of course, one night is not enough...

They start spending some time together and also playing some hot sexual games.

***“What will you give me in exchange for releasing you from our agreement?”
“Orgasms,” he said, and stroked his thumbs against the soft undercurves. “As many as you want. I won’t come until you’re done.”***

They continue to enjoy each other and some delicious food, but soon their fling becomes more for Sarah. She realize she wants more.

“It’s just a spring fling, she told herself. A little afternoon delight, a challenge, a way of getting her old, carefree self back. But she couldn’t shake the impression that that self was gone forever.”

***“I want your skin against mine. I want you inside me. I want it to last.”
I want authentic. I want real. I want you.”***

I really enjoyed this one. Everything felt real – the characters, their fears, their past. Both main characters are very well developed and relatable.

I really like Sarah. She's strong, confident and competitive. She is playful and she knows what she needs and what she wants. Tim is great too, he's caring, compassionate and I really liked how he changed in the end. I liked them together. They are perfect for each other. They both give each other what they need and help each other. I enjoyed their interaction and their banter too.

Despite the short length, there's a storyline too. Tim and Sarah's story was entertaining from the beginning to the end.

The sex scenes between them are sexy, sensual, intense and so well written and their chemistry so real and palpable.

All description of food and the city are fantastic and since was the first time I read a story like this, I found them very refreshing.

All in all, "*Afternoon Delight*" was a great erotic contemporary romance, very well written with interesting characters and scorching hot sex scenes!

I really recommend it!

Victoria says

It's just a spring fling, she told herself. A little afternoon delight, a challenge, a way of getting her old, carefree self back. But she couldn't shake the impression that that self was gone forever.

I was excited to have the chance to read and review *Afternoon Delight* by Anne Calhoun. This stand-alone novel is told through dual POV's of the main characters, Sarah and Tim.

Sarah's a food truck owner that knows how to slow down and enjoy life but is trying to recapture the fun loving girl she used to be before becoming a caretaker for a dying aunt. Tim's all about the hustle and bustle of being a big city paramedic but somewhere along the way became more about the rush than enjoying life. Over several delectable meals, the romance between Sarah and Tim develops and is both sexy and sweet.

This novella offered a more grown up story than the guilty pleasure reads I've been running through lately and it was a nice change. There are no serial killers, no crazy ex's, no alpha males...just a solid, well-written story that was both smart and sexy. I recommend this book for readers that enjoy contemporary romances and can appreciate quality reads that are more realistic and story based instead of filled with raunchy sex or cheap thrills.

A solid FOUR STAR read!

Thanks to Netgalley and the publisher for a copy of this book in exchange for a honest review.

Duchess Nicole says

I always enjoy Anne Calhoun's writing and this was no exception. This was on the short side but reads like a

much longer book. Sarah and Tim have jobs that most romance authors don't tend to tackle, and after reading hundreds of cliché stories, it's nice to get anything new. Not to mention that the characters actually had substance and minds of their own. What starts off as their "afternoon delight" slowly begins to lead into moments that are more.

Sarah is a confident woman, both in and out of the bedroom. She seems to know her own mind. Tim loves his job and sure does love his stolen moments with the sexy new girl who loves to feed him. I loved how Sarah is new to the New York scene, and how unsure she is about the city. Tim, on the other hand, is a native New Yorker, and fits right in. I loved reading about their slow slide into romance, those little moments that they are completely unaware of, yet the reader is privy to because we're on the outside looking in. The first sleepover, the first "aha" moment that Tim feels, the fear of change, the acceptance and/or reluctance...it makes the end that much more powerful.

Powerful, sexy, surprisingly intuitive and romantic.

Advance copy provided for review

Wollstonecraftmegirl says

3.5 stars. Anne Calhoun is very reliable for a good, solid, hot read. That's exactly what we have here. A chef and a paramedic and some casual sex which accidentally becomes rather more than that. I liked the foodie aspects of the story and the heroine in particular felt very fleshed out. Coming off the back of some tragic circumstances she's looking to find herself in New York City. The hero is less good, just because I didn't believe his whole not wanting to commit because life goes too fast and he wants to live in the moment schtick. It's fair to say, I think, that there's not too much to this story from a plot perspective; it doesn't expect too much from the reader but it's nicely written with some pleasant turns of phrase). I suppose it drops to 3.5 stars because it didn't blow me away, it was all a little generic. I didn't feel like I couldn't put it down and it took me longer to read than it should have done because I wasn't compelled to carry on reading it every spare moment that I had. That said, still enjoyable.

Maria Rose says

This delightful passionate novella is the story of Sarah and Tim. Tim's job as a paramedic exposes him to the frailty of human existence on a daily basis and teaches him that there is no sense getting the heart involved in a relationship that will end anyway. When Sarah, a woman he meets on a lunch break at her food truck tempts him into some afternoon 'delights' with no strings attached he's all for it - but when their no-strings affair starts to develop into something more, will he take a chance on a future with Sarah or let his insecurities cost him the woman who makes him slow down and really live?

I loved this story! Anne Calhoun has engaged all the senses in this love affair between Tim and Sarah, with her descriptions of food aromas and taste, intertwined with the sensations of touch, sight and sound that propel the book from a simple boy meets girl story into an artistic expression of sex and love. Sarah was very

likeable as a woman who has dealt with loss in her life and is using what she learned to live her life now the way she wants to with no regrets. Her affair with Tim fulfills her at first, but she realizes that she has changed due to her loss, and wants more from him than he may be willing to give. I also really enjoyed Tim's character as a friendly yet aloof man, willing to joke around with his work colleagues and friends but always holding parts of himself back so that he never gets emotionally involved. There are parts of the story where he comes across as an asshole even to himself because of his character, and it's his realization that Sarah means more to him than just a fling that causes him to rethink what he wants from his relationships.

The development of their affair from a steamy sexual relationship to one with real feelings and emotions involved was wonderful to read. The sexual chemistry between them is intense and from the first time they meet it's obvious to the reader that any interactions they have in the bedroom are going to be hot. Treating their relationship at first as a game with challenges in and out of the bedroom made for a fun and entertaining read, never knowing what (or who!) would come next. Though it's a novella, it was a very reasonable length to develop the characters, set the stage and make the readers care about the outcome. As well, the city of New York gets special attention in the story and is a key part of the plot on its own. Descriptions of the burroughs, shops and general feel of the city have been well researched and presented.

Overall I found this to be a sexy, entertaining read with intense moments interspersed with lighthearted ones, and characters that were believable and engaging. I thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it. 5 fabulous stars!

Note: A copy of this book was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for review.

Lana ✿❄️Dirty Girl Romance❄️✿ says

4 Stars

What do they call this? Afternoon delight?

It feels naughty, having sex during the day. Everyone else is busy, working, running errands, but we're here. It's a secret in the sunshine.

You know what I love about books by Anne Calhoun? They don't try to be anything other than what they are. There's no crazy drama. There's no OTT situations or characters. There's no crazy angst. The characters are lovely and just...real. It's stories about two very normal, every-day kind of people, that slowly fall in love. It's simple. It's erotic. It's the perfect afternoon read (see what I did there?)

Afternoon Delight is book one in Anne's Irresistible series, and it's definitely a series that I can already tell I'm not only going to continue reading, but fall in love with as well.

Sarah McCall recently moved to New York after caring for her ailing aunt that was dying from cancer. She's no longer the care-free kind of woman that has one-night stands simply for the pleasure of pleasure, but she hopes to get back to who she was. Moving to New York and starting a food-truck business with her friend was the first step. Sarah is just one of those heroines that's simplistically perfect. As a chef, she enjoys food, and as a woman, she enjoys pleasure. She doesn't make excuses for either or deny herself. So when she sees

a handsome paramedic sitting on a bench across from her food-truck, she offers him a meal, and then takes him up on the offer of following him to his apartment.

Tim is a NYC paramedic that likes things simple; no entanglements and no complications. He enjoys sex, but he doesn't need a relationship to complicate things. His relationship with Sarah is nothing what he expected. There's something so...easy...about being with her and what started out as an afternoon of mutual pleasure soon begins to turn into something more.

Anne Calhoun has this way of creating incredibly realistic love stories. They're not filled with angst or sunshine and butterflies, but they're perfect for what they are. You don't get the wrapped in a bow HEA, but a satisfying HFN, and I appreciate that. Afternoon Delight was the perfect introduction to the series. It had wonderful characters, erotic sex scenes, and an easy story line that never gets boring even without the added pizzazz of your typical mainstream romances lately. If you haven't read this wonderful author yet, I simply cannot recommend her enough, and this book is the perfect introduction to her talented writing.

ARC courtesy of publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

For more reviews visit

-y.a says

1.5 star

Throughout the story, a sense of emotional intimacy didn't exist between H/h. The talk of food and soup sauces created no spark. Both MCs had interesting professions, but their works didn't add any dimension to the character development and plotline. The dialogue was just too bland to hold my attention.
