



Reaching First

Mindy Klasky

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Hotheaded Tyler Brock has one huge strike against him when he arrives in Raleigh as the Rockets' star first baseman: he owes one hundred hours of community service for starting a bar fight. Lost in a new town with a new team, Tyler can't confide his greatest shame to anyone—he can't read.

When he's assigned to work for Emily Holt, he's in even bigger trouble. Emily is beautiful, uptight, and ready to shed her secret, unwanted virginity. They hit it off, in more ways than one. But when illiterate Tyler shirks his book-bound community service, Emily must hold him accountable.

Can this mismatched pair save each other by sharing their long-held secrets?

Reaching First Details

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Ellen (more books, please) says

This is really an overview review (say that ten times fast) for , , , and , the first four novellas/short books in The Diamond Brides series.

First let me say I thoroughly enjoyed each and every one of these. The heroes, by series necessity, all play baseball. But baseball is merely another character in the books. It is not dwelled on, but it is used to drive action and characters.

Each of these books has very realistic heroines (okay, an MLB team owner isn't that realistic, but she is very down to earth, 'kay?). Their careers are varied but meaningful to each of them.

Each of these books deserved another 100 pages. There were topics in each of the books that needed more meat, but in the 175-page average length, they were lean on the meat. Yes, there was enough there to make a good story, but there was a lot of room left for more, more, MORE. I would have loved to have had more.

Ms. Klasky has a way of making likeable (and sometimes lightly flawed) characters. She has a way of describing a scene that takes your right there. She shows humor and wisdom in her writing. Maybe because of the lack of meat described above, her writing style is very succinct. The books are edited well. BUT there were some issues with misspellings and wrong words. Not enough to take you out of the story, but they were there.

I read all of these through my Scribd subscription, a blessing that has allowed me to indulge myself in all sorts of books I never would have known existed.

But I rate books based on what my expectations are. These books, novella/short book length with a new-to-me author, were just perfect for sitting down on cold winter's night, snuggled up all comfy cozy. Charming, fun, and fluffy. Perfect bedtime reading.

Margaret says

“Tyler Brock was different, with his devil-may-care attitude and his laughing contempt for the rules. He was a bad boy, and he made her want to be a bad girl, in the best of all possible ways.”

All Emily Holt wants to do is satisfy the terms of her grandmother's will – she has one year to come up with a way to help veteran's and their families, or she will forfeit her grandmother's house and bank accounts to a rescue program for cockatiels. She has a plan, now she just needs resources to help her get her plan implemented. And when Tyler Brock is enlisted to help her out, she also thinks he can help her with something else...in the bedroom department.

All Tyler Brock wanted was to stay in Texas, the only home he has ever known and the only place he has ever lived. When he finds himself traded to the Raleigh Rockets and having to serve 100 hours of community service due to the little altercation (ahem, bar fight) he had before leaving for Raleigh, little does he know that his community service will lead him right into Emily Holt's life...and, if he's lucky, right into her bedroom as well.

This was a quick, fun read with two great characters. It doesn't take long to discover that there is so much more than meets the eye to both Emily and Tyler. Emily is strong, determined, and doing everything she can to make a difference. Tyler is caring, compassionate, and not at all the bad boy the press has made him out to be. From the moment these two first meet you just knew they would be great together and sparks would eventually fly. It was fun watching them fight their attraction to one another, especially since Emily was technically responsible for managing Tyler's community service and a relationship really wouldn't be appropriate. But when things get a bit out of hand and secrets are revealed, Emily and Tyler find that maybe their happily ever after just wasn't meant to be...or is it?

This is the first book in this series I have read and I will definitely be checking out others. If you like sports romances that leave you smiling, then this is definitely one for you!

I received this book from the publisher through the LibraryThing Early Reviewers program.

Maria V. Snyder says

#3 of the Diamond Brides and another fun read during my beach vacation! I seem to go in sprints and right now I'm reading more romance.

Nicole says

Much like "Catching Hell", I really enjoyed Mindy Klasky's writing, but there were just a few things that weren't working for me in "Reaching First". I don't want to give too much away, so lets just say: One "big secret" would have been fine. Either of them. But both slammed together was just a little overkill for me. And once again the "romance" between Emily and Tyler just seemed rushed. But, overall, I really enjoy Klasky's writing - she's readable, and her characters don't make me cringe - and will continue to read more from her.

Monica says

Another cute story about romance and sports. This time we meet Tyler who is a first baseman for the Rockets and Emily who just happens to be Anna's friend.

Tyler was just purchased from Texas and gets into a bar fight before leaving his home town. He now has to do community service in his new home. Tyler has a secret.

Emily becomes Tyler's supervisor with the Community Service. Tyler will work on Emily's house to convert

it into a place to help with veterans and getting them back on their feet. Emily also has a secret.

Will love reign with the secrets or will they discover each other's secret?

Mandi Morgan says

This was a quick story. Not bad just a little corny.

Brenda says

Some secrets are never meant to be shared, Emily Holt, Anna Benson's best friend, muses sadly as she watches Anna and Zach's new found love blossom. Anna is the granddaughter of the owner of the Raleigh Rocket's baseball team. And until recently, Zach was their veteran catcher who left the team rather than be traded for the player just coming through the door. Tyler Brock, one of baseball's best first basemen looked, to Emily's social worker trained eyes, as a man to be avoided at all costs, a brawler who still supported the bruised jaw from the bar brawl he had been in on his last night in Texas, even as her breath got caught in her throat, her palms tingled from a simple handshake and her heart felt like it was coming out of her chest to go out dancing on its own.

Tyler's lazy grin took frank notice of everything to do with Emily while ignoring his own sweaty palms and racing heartbeat. Tyler had a secret, too, and the arrangement just made to satisfy his community service brought on by the aforementioned bar brawl has him scared to death.

Follow Emily and Tyler as they edge ever closer to that point in time when the level of trust required to release those tight holds on each of their secrets, arrives. What secrets are they clinging to? Will letting those secrets free bring them closer or threaten to pull them apart, forever? Run, don't walk to your nearest bookstore or act quickly to download Mindy Klasky's, Reaching First, the next book in her Diamond Brides series and discover what happens when baseball, love and secrets collide.

Clare Burns says

good book, not the best in the series but a good read all the same. read the whole series you'll love it

Ash P Reads says

This is the 3rd book in this series and the 2nd one that I have been fortunate to review for LibraryThing Early Reviewers. I really like how natural and down to earth this story was. So many people fear the brutal torment that they may have to face because of their weaknesses or beliefs. And finding the courage to trust someone enough with your secrets and being accepted for them is even rarer. Hope I get to read the next one too.

Rjlouise says

Damn if Mindy Klasky doesn't write the most fun niche genres that seem tailored to me. I love this lady, I do. Baseball + Romance + Teaching to Read = Joie bait. MMMMMMMMMMM. This is my favorite, thus far, of the Diamond Brides series and I eagerly await the next installment. Give me my sexy, sexy infield.

And hallelujah for resolved narrative issues! :D In the first two books, as much as I enjoyed them, there were some moments when the characters were too understanding - where conflict SHOULD have been there was none OR the conflict got resolved by a sudden burst of "I understand your motivations and all is forgiven" rather than a discussion. The discussion in this book didn't occur between the two main characters (Tyler and Emily), but it did occur. Tyler struggled and sought perspective. I really appreciate problems that need to be resolved.

We did go back to rushed romance in this narrative (seriously, I'm LDS (Mormon) and I'm not used to people falling in love and getting engaged so fast), but I appreciate that this time, there was a reason it happened this fast: these characters spent HOURS upon HOURS together, alone. They had more time to bond.

There were some really healthy discussions of virginity and of learning disabilities and how our culture deals (poorly) with both. I love that Klasky is so sex and person positive. I also really appreciate how she presented the main heroine's religion's role in her decisions about sex without demonizing it. It was a fact of the character and it wasn't blind faith. Seriously, she writes a utopia that I would really love to live in. Healthy attitudes about sex for EVERYONE! Healthy depictions of differing opinions for ALL! Healthy treatment of differently abled persons ALL THE TIME!

I also note that I finally caught that she's gently introducing the couples for the next book each book. It's so gently done that it took me three books to catch on and I really like that.

So, ultimately, I think this series is going better places and even if it just maintained its quality from here on out, I would be VERY happy.

A (solid writing, improvement in each book, better depiction of conflict resolution, healthy attitudes about personal choices and problems; rushed romance development)

Christina Montminy says

My only complaint about these stories in this series is they are too short, wish they were a little longer. The one thing I really do like is that each one is mentioned at least a little in the next book. This story was really good & had a different feel to it. Dealing with a reading disability for a major league player isn't something that I thought would actually be touched upon. The story of a player pushed through school by his father & little league coach because he had an aptitude for baseball. No one every learning his secret until he meets Emily a counselor trying to set up her own help center for veterans & their families. They both have a secret & are afraid the other will find out & think less of them. Tyler is helping Emily with her renovations to get his community service hours in for court to get a conviction removed from his record. What neither of them expect is for emotions to get in the way but they do & when they do they are outed to the public & the courts. Have they ruined Tyler's chance to clear his record? Can they each forgive the other for their secret? Is there a chance? Definite recommend.

Lara says

This series of books is light and fun. This story is about a young woman who had an upsetting romantic experience in high school that she has allowed to color all of her dating life since. She is still a virgin, but dates and 'fools around' so much that her friends think she is much more experienced. The hero is a really nice man who pays attention and learns his lessons well. He has his own secrets, and I thought the way that issue impacted the relationship was really well done.

This book immediately follows the previous book in the series, and the main characters show up here. However, you don't have to have read that book to enjoy this one fully. Overall I thought that the heroine dragged out a humiliating high school experience far too long, but I suppose the longer you wait to address a problem the harder it is to face. I received a copy free in return for an honest review.

Zonell says

Tyler Brock's life is turned upside down, first his truck breaks down, then his girlfriend breaks up with him and finally the only baseball team he'd ever played for transfers him. To make matters worse, he gets in a bar fight right before leaving.

Anna Benson, owner of the Raleigh Rockets recruits her best friend, Emily Holt, to supervise Tyler's community service. Emily, a trainer social worker wants nothing to do with the hot head ball player, at least until she meets him.

But both have secrets they're not ready to share.

This is the third winner in the Diamond Bride series. I liked that Tyler and Emily are more flawed making them more down to earth than the players in the previous books. Tyler's inability to read hit close to home as my own son was in the danger of falling through the cracks in the school system. Emily prides herself in waiting till she finds the right guy yet is still almost ashamed of her virginity. Mindy included two real life problems while keeping it light and entertaining. The sexual tension between Tyler and Emily grew as they spent more time together. What I found particular refreshing is they got to know each other before taking their relationship to the next level. I highly recommend Reaching First.

Bj says

A heart-warming old fashioned romance mixed with baseball and the tackling and real word consequences of allowing star athletes to continue progressing in school even when they are struggling with their academics.

This is the second Diamond Brides series book I have read, and I have to say that I really enjoy Mindy Klasky's writing style and the topics that she weaves into her romances! When you read and/or listen to as many books as I do, it is so refreshing to find an author that brings a fresh perspective!

When Tyler Brock is traded to the Rockets baseball team, he has more than getting adjusted to a new team and town on his mind. Before leaving Texas, he got into a bar fight, and now has to complete 100 community service hours or go to jail. Further complicating his plight is one huge secret that he has shared with no one: he can't read.

Emily Holt, the Rockets' owners' best friend has just a few short weeks to complete the development of a community service project she is working on, or she will lose the funding and house that her aunt left in trust for her. Desperate to finish the home that she is outfitting to use in her veteran's service project, and wanting to help her best friend who needs Tyler to complete his community service, Emily takes on Tyler to help her retrofit the house.

However, as soon as they meet, sparks begin to fly! While they both know that it would be unethical to start a relationship, when Emily has sworn to monitor Tyler's required community service hours, they can't help the magnetic pull that is drawing them together as they begin to get to know one another. But Emily is hiding one big secret, and when a past love humiliates Emily in public and Tyler comes to her defense, the press goes to work claiming that their community service arrangement is a sham. Add in the further tragedy, that Tyler is unable to complete a few of the tasks that Emily assigns him because he can't read, but is too ashamed to let her know initially, and you have a number of factors storming together to cause this relationship to fail. Can Emily and Tyler possibly find a HEA under these circumstances?

I loved Tyler. Notwithstanding his hot temper, he exudes an old world charm and behaves so admirably with Emily. He's a true classic southern gentleman. Moreover, I loved how Ms. Klasky took her time to really develop Emily's and Tyler's emotional connection, and how she addressed that there are solutions for people with dyslexia.

All in all, this was a 5-star read for me, and I'm greatly looking forward to the next installment in The Diamond Brides Series: Second Thoughts!

Source: Early Reviewers copy provided through LibraryThing in exchange for an honest review.

Linda says

Tyler Brock has just been told he is being traded to the Rockets baseball team. Angry at leaving his home and family, he goes out drinking the night before leaving. While at the bar, he gets into an altercation with another customer who insults one of his current teammates...his best friend who has helped him get through his biggest and most private problem that no one else knows...Tyler cannot read. As a result of this arrest, he is sentenced to hours of community service. Anna Benson, granddaughter of the team's owner, has made arrangements for Tyler's service. He is to help her best friend, Emily Holt, renovate her late aunt's home into Minerva House, a community support system for spouses of veterans. However, during their time together, Emily and Tyler find a mutual attraction for each other. Between Tyler's secret and Emily's own private secret, will they be able to pursue this attraction, or will the secrets tear their relationship apart. This is the 3rd book in the Diamond Brides series, but although Anna and Zach were featured in #2, the book can be read as a stand-alone novel. Interesting characters and a wonderful insight into Tyler's reading problem.

Disclosure: I was provided an advance reading copy in exchange for an honest review.
