



## Beach Lane

*Sherryl Woods*

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**Beach Lane** Sherryl Woods

**Return to the beloved town of Chesapeake Shores in this classic tale of friendship blossoming into love from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Sherryl Woods—and watch the new series *Chesapeake Shores* on *Hallmark Channel*!**

In the close-knit community of Chesapeake Shores, Maryland, Susie O'Brien and Mack Franklin's "not dating" claim befuddles everyone, especially since the two spend every spare minute together. Susie's thrilled when their friendship finally heats up. Then, just when happily-ever-after seems within reach, Mack loses the job he loves and Susie faces a devastating diagnosis.

But O'Briens always unite in a crisis. Even her cousin Jess, Susie's rival for most of their lives, becomes her staunchest supporter—especially when Mack's former lover comes to town. The stakes are higher than ever before, but Susie's definitely up to the challenge...as long as Mack's right there by her side.

*Originally published in 2011.*

## Beach Lane Details

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## From Reader Review Beach Lane for online ebook

### Diane Manville says

Unbelievable! None of the characters in this book believe in telling each other the truth about almost anything. Instead they anticipate how it will affect the others in their lives and assume the others need protection thus depriving other people of their God-given right to decide things for themselves. The characters also continually threaten each other if their friend, relative etc doesn't treat someone the way they think they should.

Given the core premise of two young adults who are in love with each other for years but somehow can't reach the point of discussing it, it's no surprise that the communications model used in this book is extremely skewed and very bizarre. I did think there were brief episodes of good writing but given the unreality of the characters, those episodes were definitely lost in translation. I will check out this author's other books just in case this one was a fluke.

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### Grace Mcmann says

I really enjoyed this book...it brought a lump to my throat and tears to my eyes several times. It is rare that you find a romance that portrays dealing with a potentially fatal illness in such a way as this one did. I wanted more of an ending which is the only reason I didn't give it 5 stars!

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### Lynsey says

2.5 Stars. I'm a little disappointed with this one.

The first half was excellent and there was a lot of charm and the usual amount of shenanigans that comes with the O'Briens, but this is the first time that we have encountered a genuinely unpleasant character in this series, in the form of Kristen.

Mac was a big disappointment for me. I was shocked that he showed so little foresight and understanding in putting poor Susie in that position in the first place. I thought it was selfish of him and he should be ashamed of himself for making Susie feel that way, especially with everything she was dealing with physically.

Are you telling me there was no one else in the whole of America who could produce his website? No way. Mac didn't exactly go out of his way to ensure that Kristen knew he wasn't interested and then when he did finally realise his mistake, I thought it was too little too late.

Really bad judgement on his part that made me feel unsure about his feelings for his wife. He occasionally said all the right things but then did exactly what he wanted anyway, despite the consequences.

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### Romancing the Book says

Reviewed by Valerie  
Book received via NetGalley

I haven't read the rest of the Chesapeake series but the blurb for this one caught my eye and I decided to give it a try. I will say that, for me, when I read romance I'm looking for escape and while this book is a fantastic story, it really was too deep for what I like to read. For anyone who has dealt with the big C word personally, this story will speak to you.

The loving family members and friends that the series is known for are definitely included in this story about Susie and Mack. Everyone's been betting for years that they will eventually get together, yet they never have. When Mack finally decides to propose to her, he loses his job. How can an unemployed man ask the woman he loves to be his wife? He can't and doesn't. So what's he supposed to do now?

Susie's viewpoint is that Mack's a player and she can just sit around and wait for him to get serious about their relationship. What she doesn't realize, however, is that time waits for no one, including her. The games that they have been playing have to stop with so much on the line, yet neither one knows how to behave any other way.

Over and over again, both of them keep things from each other and have their doubts about their relationship and future. I did find that Mack had more faith in their relationship than Susie did, but felt that her fears and insecurities were true to her medical situation and health issues. When her husband hires an old fling to help start his new business, things just get worse for Susie. Their family members and friends offer advice, assistance, and help in any way they can hoping both of them will be happy. But, ultimately, it's up to them to find their way.

I laughed some, I cried some, and while it was very deep on an emotional level, I'll read more about this family in the next book when it's released.

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### **Booklover says**

Absolutely loved this book, such a emotional read i really had tears in my eyes on many occasions, adored each characters and the way they have their relationships also how the years of resentment and bitterness was solved and how a tragedy brings everyone close

Susie was such a sweet character, my heart went out out her, the way she handled the news and the changes that brought about, also loved the way everyone around her were always filled with positive energy and if any time even one of the family members would start to shake then there were many others who will remind them to be positive and think positive, the way she never let anyone cry for her and enjoyed each second of her time and made new memories

Mack is such a sweet adorable guy, the way he has redeemed himself is applaudable, from scratch he started again and despite many hurdles he proved himself, his love, loyalty n dedication for Susie was applaudable, he never thought any thing negative nor did he let Susie or others break, he was the rock for Susie

Absolutely loved their love journey and was so so happy their both got their much deserved HEA

Good read  
Recommend it

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## **Kim Smiley says**

Another good read in this installment of the O'Brien clan. I have to admit I do miss hearing a lot about the past couples that have gotten together over the course of this series, some almost completely forgotten, and some heard about vaguely.

In this book, it's centered around Mack, the friend of Will who works as the sports writer for a newspaper and Suzie, the cousin of Abby, Jess and the other O'Briens in the core clan of the series. We've heard of Suzie and Mack before, the guys always teasing Mack about how for the last 3 yrs. either of them claim to be dating each other, but they're always together and never dating anyone else.

Well, Suzie is finally ready to take things to the next level, tired of being in the friend zone, just once in 3 yrs. getting a kiss from Mack. She now wants more. The trouble is, what she doesn't know is Mack just lost his job. The newspaper business is a dying thing, most people reading online and Mack is the kind of guy who feels like he needs his life together before starting a real relationship. Which sucks for Suzie, as she's throwing herself at him on Thanksgiving at the O'Briens and can't get a response out of him. Once she finds out about him losing his job, she starts giving him ideas of ways he can work for himself, starting his own local newspaper in town or starting a blog online. He wishes he would've told her before she heard it through the grapevine, as she is his biggest cheerleader.

Then Suzie is the one with issues. Staying home from work, (she works in her Dad's leasing office) with bad cramps that she's had her whole life, she soon finds out it's more than cramps. It could very well be ovarian cancer. Her mother had told her she herself had to have a complete hysterectomy after her last child because she was susceptible to cancer, now Suzie could be at risk as well.

When the tests are done and the waiting game is being played for the results, Mack finally finds out why Suzie has been avoiding him. It's right then and there that he proposes to her. He wants to be married to her before she finds out if she's going to live or die. He's had the ring for quite a long time and he wants her to know he's loved her and wanted her forever. So they decide to marry before knowing that she indeed, does have ovarian cancer.

This is a tug on your heart strings kind of story. Not knowing if Suzie will live or die is heart wrenching. Then there is also a side story of Suzie's younger brother Matthew taking up with older woman Layla. These two are hot and heavy and no one knows about it. And Layla thinks he's too young for her and people will talk, but can she stay away from Matthew?

Very good story, which sets up the reader for the next book in line, where the entire O'Brien family takes a Christmas vacation, taking Gram Nell back to Ireland. Can't wait to read it!

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## **Linda says**

I did enjoy this story of Mack and Susie ... first one of Sherryl Woods books I have ever read and I would definitely read some more. Light, easy read EXCEPT for the cancer stuff. I hate to read about that stuff in a book! I would definitely recommend this book to anyone into her stories.

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### **Kristen says**

Another excellent installment in the Chesapeake Shores Series. Can't wait to start the next book

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### **Linda Smatzny says**

This is a modern day romance or a feel good story. It is the story of Susie O'Brien and Mack Franklin who are best friends but want to be more. The book also includes the story of another relationship that is just beginning between Matthew O'Brien who is Susie's brother and Laila who runs the town bank. Some tough times in this story but love and faith will survive. The book was a quick easy read.

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### **Dee says**

Two-haiku review:

They're friends, not dating  
But finally admit love  
When she gets bad news

They go through a lot  
Believable characters  
Kind of tear jerker

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### **Mia says**

I didn't know that I'd care as much about this "leg" of the O'Brien family... as we haven't seen much of Susie, even though readers of the series are familiar with the "Not Dating" dating they had been doing.

All in all, I liked the story. It was sweet and sad. I found myself tearing up several times throughout. I do love when a bad boy, or naughty boy is redeemed to such a degree that Mack does. I mean, his unwavering devotion to Susie was a big highlight for me!

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### **D.A. says**

I enjoyed some of the characters Ms. Woods created in this series; however, because there were so many characters, I never felt very close to any one of them. There is much interference from the O'Brien relatives that at some points it annoyed me. If my parents, brothers, sisters, had asked about my sex life or personal relationships as often as this family did, I'd go insane.

Mack and Susie are adults, but at times it felt as if they were teens being watched over by a group of well intentioned relatives and friends. I found it too claustrophobic. Reading about a family that became so

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intertwined in their relative's personal business that they threatened to beat up or handle the relative's significant other felt condescending and invasive.

I felt it was quite dreary with Susie's illness being a huge focus of the book. The intimate scenes were brief and fleeting. The romance was short and cut off by more serious issues. And with all the friends and family members taking up space in the book, I didn't really attach myself to the family or the romantic leads.

It just didn't work for me, I guess. We all have our own styles of writing we prefer to read and this storyline just didn't work for me.

The story felt like a roller coaster ride where you see a hill coming, hoping it might get your pulse pumping, but soon find the hill was just a bump and the bump flattens out. You get off feeling cheated...especially if you got on thinking it was going to be a grown-up roller coaster ride with peaks and valleys that would take your breath away. This felt flat to me and I don't intend on buying any others in the series. I live near the Chesapeake Bay and so I thought this would be an interesting read, but I much preferred Nora Roberts' Chesapeake Blue series.

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### **Gawelleb says**

L'histoire aurait pu être extrêmement émouvante sans pour autant faire de l'héroïne malade, une emmerdeuse. De plus, quitte à répéter que le héros est un coureur, il aurait fallu le montrer mais pas en fait un parfait amoureux depuis 6 bouquins ?

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### **Jinky says**

A nice romantic novel. Two friends on the road to being more, but then future plans were stalled because of personal troubles so the relationship goes to limbo. The secrets they kept from each other seemed such an unhealthy way to have a future together so it was hard for me to root for them. But as the story continued, I couldn't help but wish for the couple's success. I'm a sucker for love that way!

The supporting characters functioned well here. The O'Brien family was a hoot. It was also nice to read Jess's turn of character. It's always a treat to read family working things out.

My only qualm was that Mack was too perfect (except in the beginning). Once the secrets were out, Mack did a 360 and everything fell in line. Nothing rocked the boat for him from then on. He was supportive, loving, thoughtful, sexy, and just did and said everything right. Every girl's dream! I guess I just couldn't believe it ... too good to be true kind of thing. No wonder men are lost. When they give us perfection, we still question (I'm not the only one, right?). Anyway, maybe Ms Woods will rattle some bones in the family trip to Ireland in the next installment?

Jinky is Reading

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### **Barbara says**

Were we really supposed to like Susie? She doesn't have many good qualities. She's a liar, manipulative,

selfish, whiney, childish and totally unsupportive of her husband. She was never there for him. No help on the paper, can't make the parties without spoiling them for Mack, can't encourage him yet he couldn't take any job that might take him away from her and her secure little tiny life with her family. She had plenty of strength to build and furnish a house, but nothing for Mack. Yet he had better toe the line for her. Can't see her ever being much of a wife or a mother, too immature. Maybe Mack can get away from her somehow. I didn't cry for her once. Most of her problems were of her own creation. And yes I personally know about cancer and its treatments. Most women in chemo don't act like that.

Susie should have told Mack about the PET scan. That was unforgivable. Mack should have told Kristen about Susie's cancer. The illness had to be having an effect on Mack's work. And web developers for internet newspapers are not that special. This is old technology.

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