



## Some Kind of Wonderful

*Beth Ciotta*

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**Some Kind of Wonderful** Beth Ciotta

**Have yourself a scrumptious, small-town Christmas with this special Cupcake Lovers holiday novella, *Love on a Winter's Night!***

Growing up in Sugar Creek, Maya Templeton and Zachary Cole were best friends. After high school, each went out into the world in search of adventure. Maya moved to Florida to explore her passion for baking and pastry-making, eventually establishing her own business: Cupcakes & Dreamscapes. Zach joined the military and became a Marine Scout Sniper. Now, after years apart, they're both going home for the holidays. They don't seem to have much in common anymore. In fact, Zach seems to have the hots for Maya's business partner. But when the two get stranded together during a blizzard, they are forced to reexamine their connection. Are Maya and Zach better off "just friends"—just as they were when they were young? Or could it be that true love was there all along?

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### Some Kind of Wonderful Details

Date : Published October 22nd 2013 by St. Martin's Paperbacks

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Author : Beth Ciotta

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## From Reader Review Some Kind of Wonderful for online ebook

### Ann says

A perfect short story for the christmas season. Maya returns home from florida and get stuck in a blizzard with her childhood best friend, Zach. Wounded and bitter, he is visited by 3 angels on Christmas Eve. Enjoy.

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### Halah Ahmad says

This is cute , I will defiantly read more for the author !

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### Geri Reads says

This is short sweet, holiday novella about two best friends who became lovers. Set in rural Vermont, this story is a perfect holiday read.

Zachary and Maya were childhood friends. They grew up together but after high school, they kind of drifted apart. Zachary enlisted with the Marines and Maya moved away to Florida. They kept in touch on and off over the years, exchanging emails and pictures. During the course of their correspondence, Zach caught the eye of Maya's best friend, Giselle and vice versa. This gave Maya the idea to set her two friends as pen pals, only it didn't turn out the way Maya expected.

So when Zachary came home after his tour, it wasn't Giselle that he felt an attraction for but his old friend Maya. Confused and intrigued, Zachary and Maya explored their new-found attraction and they must choose whether to remain friends or become so much more.

I adore short holiday novellas like this one. And Some Kind of Wonderful more than meets all the criteria of what a holiday novella should be. Despite its length, I still enjoyed all the aspects of the story; the characters, the setting, etc.

*ARC provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

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### Merritt O'Boyle says

#### Quick fluff read but fun

Exactly what you should expect from this title / author ...easy, fluffy, shallow, cutesy, fun way to spend an hour.

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## **Romancing the Book says**

Reviewed by JoAnne

Book provided by NetGalley for review

Review originally posted at Romancing the Book

This was a nice Christmas novella that mentioned the Cupcake Lovers and their scrumptious cupcakes along with various characters we've met throughout the series.

This is Maya and Zach's story and I hope we see them in future books. They've been best friends forever and there's immediate chemistry when they reunite at the holidays – chemistry that they've never had to deal with before. It's a sweet romance and great to see that they know and understand each other like no one else does and I enjoyed their reminiscences as well as trying to figure out how they should deal with each other in the present.

There are family, friends, Zach's injuries that got him discharged from the military, a blizzard, visitors like in the movie, A Christmas Carol, that only Zach can see, along with romance and love. Giselle was an interesting character that was thrown into the mix – Maya's best friend and business partner – but she had no substance to her only looking out for herself and wanting nothing but good times.

I have enjoyed the other books in the series and the novella did not disappoint except that it was way too short. There was some closure but the story ended too abruptly for me. I hope there is closure for Maya and Zach along with the readers when the next book in the series comes out.

Favorite Quote: Any thoughts Zach had of privately wallowing in his misery fell by the wayside. He suddenly wanted nothing more than extended time with Maya. Time for a frank talk and he didn't plan on having it in the pantry.

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## **Natalie says**

Some Kind of Wonderful by Beth Ciotta

Maya Templeton comes home for the holiday's to visit her family. Giselle, her best friend and business partner wanted to tag along so she could finally meet Zach. Zach is an old friend of Maya's but they grew apart because she went off to pastry school and he joined the Marines. Since Giselle and Zach were more alike she set them up through mail. Giselle has been sending him letters and pictures for months but finally get to meet. Maya helped Giselle write the letters so she has her read them a million times so she gets them right.

Zachary Cole was a sniper in the Marines but was sent home from Afghanistan after being injured during active duty. The only thing that kept him going were the sexy letters and pictures Giselle sent him. The hot fantasies she would write him about were so amazing that he couldn't wait to meet her and see if she'll live up to what she wrote.

Zach's family is having a get together for Christmas, and that's where the girls head. His mom explains that he's been injured, and isn't quite 100% so she hurries to the kitchen to find him. When she reaches her destination, all she sees is him and it seems like they were never apart. She runs to him and latches on for

dear life. As they both hold back tears she makes sure he's ok. She hits him in he shoulder, and gripes him out for not telling her, through all the letters she has sent that he had been hurt.

As the day goes on turns out Giselle isn't really Zachs' cup of tea and he hers so they parted ways. Heading home and finding Maya was better than any time he spent with Giselle. They cuddled on the couch and watched a movie like old times. Will they each get a Christmas surprise they didn't expect? Could they find the happiness they each deserve?

I give this story 4stars because it was short and lacked the sexy time I usually like. That being said it was very enjoyable and look forward to reading the rest if the series. Zach is so passionate yet scared that you just wanna give him a big hug. Maya is so conflicted with wanting Zach but not feeling pretty enough or a like enough. Giselle is the reckless risk taker that Maya wishes she could be. The characters were fun to learn about and this story is safe for anyone over 13 to read.

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### **Rashika (is tired) says**

More cheese than I could handle

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### **Lily (Night Owl Book Cafe) says**

Maya and Zach grew up as best friends in a small town until life drove a wedge between them. While Maya found herself in Florida, Zach found himself in the marines and their friendship never felt the same as their interests went their separate ways. Thought they have kept in contact, Zach seems to be very interested in her beautiful business partner and for the first time in her life through letters – Maya finds herself attracted to her best friend.

I thought Some Kind of Wonderful was a fast, cute, Christmas read. That's all it was, a quick fix of Christmas romance.

I actually found myself feeling sorry for Maya at the beginning of the book when we first find out that all the naughty letter's that were exchanged between Zach and her other friend Giselle, were actually written by Maya carried away by her own fantasy But in the end, Giselle actually turned out to be a very good friend, so I couldn't even hate her!

I felt that even thought the book was really short, the author did a great job building the chemistry between Zach and Maya – there was some from the start and it only grew as the story progressed.

With Zach's feelings up in the air about Maya, he gets visits from three ghosts on Christmas Eve and day, that help him sort of guide him in the right direction. Thought it was a bit Christmas Carol/Scrooge like, it seemed to have worked some way in the story.

I have read a book by this author before and did enjoy her writing. I never read the Cupcake Lovers series before and it seemed like an adult romance I would enjoy!

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## **Jes Jones says**

I have been following the Cupcake Lovers series, and this short and sweet Holiday novella definitely hits the mark for a cutesy romance.

The story doesn't follow any of the main relationships from the previous books, but builds on a relationship of the nephew of one of the Cupcake Lovers, Ethel Cole.

Not a lot is revealed about the history between Zach and Maya, but you get a good sense of their friendship from their ease of interaction and concern for one another. That was a primary reason why I fell in love with the story - seeing a childhood friendship blossom into something more.

The only part of the novella I didn't care for was the presentation of the "ghosts of the past". It spoke a little to Six Sense for me, but I think Ciotta was trying to relate the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future since the couple had watched A Christmas Carol.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the story, the characters and the slight inclusion of characters from the previous books. Well done, and worth a read.

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## **Saly says**

Fairly short novella about two old friends that reconnect and fall in love fairly quickly.

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## **Emsy Van Wyck says**

[I received a copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.] Rating of five cupcakes for Beth Ciotta's *Some Kind of Wonderful*, a contemporary romance must read. A very good friend, whom I trust implicitly when it comes to book recommendations, told me I had to read Beth Ciotta's Cupcake Lovers novels as I'd fall in love with her writing and the town of Sugar Creek, Vermont. Well, when I heard that, I quickly started to devour the novels - and just like cupcakes, they're delicious, addictive, and absolutely perfect.

First of all, may I say if you haven't already, please, please get start reading the series as this is a fun, romantic, sexy, touching, and all together pleasurable romp. Ciotta is a master at making you laugh while you read, while at the same time you absolutely need to make sure that the Kleenex box is close at hand as tears sometimes fall.

*Some Kind of Wonderful* is a beautiful holiday novella. With the aim of the Cupcake Lovers club to support serviceman, it's only fitting that this story focuses on former Marine Scout Sniper Zachary Cole and Orlando-based cupcake baker Maya Templeton. Best friends from their Sugar Creek childhood, Maya's taken a Cyrano role in Zachary's love life after her business partner and very sexy friend, Giselle, took one look at his photo and fell into lust. While Giselle's photos definitely sparked Zach's interest; his very hot letters were reciprocated by his platonic best friend Maya, not Giselle. But May is the one who now stands on the outside looking in as Giselle and Zach meet at a Cupcake Lovers Christmas party in Sugar Creek.

But all is not lost as best friends sometimes, with a little Christmas magic, might evolve into something

more. In fact, Ciotta channels a little Charles Dicken's with some holiday visitors to Zach to smooth the way. The way in which Ciotta lets us see who Zach and Maya are, what their fears are, and what their hopes and dreams are is beautiful. That she sprinkles a little holiday magic along the way - just perfect. Again, five cupcakes, perhaps decorated with some candy canes.

Cupcake Lovers is a series that combines an innocence of heart with some very steamy romance - as well as a zany crew of characters that you will fall in love with. I've already marked my calendar for the 1 July 2014 release date of *In the Mood for Love*, where we will find out what happens with Harper Day and Sam McCloud, who will now have the leading roles in the series.

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### **namericanwordcat says**

This is very sweet friends to lovers contemporary Christmas romance from an ongoing series. I hadn't read the other books in the series and found that no problem. The characters are charming and real. The best part of the love story to me is the detailing of startling heat that happens when you are suddenly attracted to someone you have known and liked for a long time. I loved those sexy parts.

This romance has a few fun fairy tales weaved into a small space. We have Cynano de Bergerac to open ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrano\\_d...](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrano_d...)) and then a sprinkling of Dicken's Christmas Carol to close.

I really enjoyed this novella but I was a tad disappointed in the steam level. I don't need steam to like a romance in any way but this story promised a sensuous delivery with its hints at naughty emails written to a soldier on the battlefield (which we never saw or got much detail about) and then when sexy times happened, Wham! The door closed. The writing was abrupt here. This is especially true after a build up scene in a snowy barn. We get the next morning and then a fade to black which is much better done than the first.

Again, I am happy with low res sexy times but it did seem out of context and story development for this love story. It didn't do too much damage to a lovely romance though.

So, if you are looking for a cozy holiday snuggle. Pick this one up and enjoy.

I was given this book for my honest review. So, there you have it.

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### **Monica says**

*Some Kind of Wonderful* is a very cute and short holiday tale. It's about two old friends who grew up together and reconnect over the holidays. Maya has set up her friend with Zach but a clueless Zach doesn't realize the girl who he fell for over letters and IM's is really Maya instead. When Maya goes back home for the holidays there is no denying that Maya and Zach definitely have a strong and unbreakable connection.

While they try and deny their feelings towards each other they are forced to spend the night together while out delivering meals to the needy. During this time they can't help but give into their attraction. Is this the real thing? Or are they just two old lonely flames rekindling what they once had?

This novella is a very good and fast paced holiday read. It keeps you interested and with just the right amount of romance involved. Simple and sweet with Christmas as a wonderful backdrop, you can't go wrong in choosing this. Though this is part of a series this is a novella and can be read as a stand alone. It's very complete and I had no problems in reading this, never had read the previous books.

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### **Emily (Mrs B's Books) says**

**\*\*My thanks to NetGalley and St Martin's Press, for providing me with a free copy for an honest review\*\***

This is a super sweet holiday novella about two friends turned lovers when they become stranded after trying to deliver some holiday cheer.

Zach is a Marine returned from war but has been medically discharged, whilst Maya has come back home for the Christmas holiday at Zach's aunt's request.

It has a Christmas Carol touch to the book that helps keep the book with that holiday feel, even Maya's love of holiday cheer is sweet.

It's a clean romance, so those of you that don't like explicit sex scenes then this is the book for you.

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### **Bethany says**

Some Kind of Wonderful is a novella that goes with Cupcake Lovers series by Beth Ciotta. I haven't read the Cupcake Lovers series, if that affected how I felt about the book, I'm not really sure. I found the book to be just okay but for someone that has actually read the series they might like it a lot more than I did.

Maya and Zach grew up together in the small town of Sugar Creek as best friends. After high school Zach joins the Marines and Maya moves to Florida to start her own business. Years pass before Zach and Maya return home and see each other. They both soon realize that their feelings for each other have become more than just friends.

This was a sweet winter read. Anyone looking for a quick romance with Christmas and snow themes, this will be a great book for you.

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