



When the Chips are Down

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Melanie Hanson's life didn't go quite the way she had planned. Her cheating ex-husband traded her in for a newer model and she's in over her head dealing with the drama that comes along with raising her twin teenage daughters.

The last thing she is looking for or needs in her life is a man - or is it?

Ben Wilder is the boy that Melanie loved to hate throughout high school, the boy that all the girls loved and the boy that didn't give Melanie the time of day, unless it was to tease her. When she runs into him once again she realizes...he's not a boy anymore. Older and wiser, she's determined not to fall for her secret crush from all those years ago. But sometimes our heart has different plans than our head. Will she finally get her happily ever after with the man she least expected to have it with?

Take a humorous journey with Melanie and her daughters as their lives begin to parallel and they discover that although they may be separated by a generation their struggles are still the same.

*Book 1 of The Three Of A Kind Series

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When the Chips are Down Details

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Author : Beth Rinyu

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From Reader Review When the Chips are Down for online ebook

Shan says

I absolutely loved this book .I developed a love/ hate relationship with some of the characters . I felt like I knew each and every one of them personally .. I can't wait to read the next book . Great job on this book as always :) I am pretty sure this series is going to be my favorite so far .

Nance says

3.5 star rating

Drama, drama, drama! This book is full of it. Family, friends, and lovers. They're all hiding something. And, everything comes with a price. If you're in the mood for heartbreak, young love, and old crushes, this is the book for you...

Full review to be written soon...

Rachel says

4.5 STARS <3

This brilliant read is told in triple point of view between single mum Melanie Hanson and her twin daughters, Gia and Carrie and it works so well.

Melanie is picking herself up, blowing away the cobwebs and moving on after divorcing her cheating husband. She is a great mum, strong, fun and someone you would love as a friend yourself. She is very relatable and that helped to lose myself in the story. I really laughed out loud at some of the situations she finds herself in, she cracks me up!

Gia and Carrie love their mum deeply but being typical teens and having a fractured family gives them the opportunity to play off their parents against each other, unwittingly or otherwise. Gia is the fun loving twin, oh my goodness, the antics she gets up to! Carrie is the more sensible brainbox with a level head and high morals. I love the family dynamics and how much they love, respect and care for each other.

All three characters find themselves dealing with relationships of some kind, not all necessarily romantic ones. Melanie finds herself back in touch with her high school hottie and ex lothario Ben Wilder and I have to say, I completely fell for him! There was so much back and forth between the two of them and I wanted to smack Ben on the back of his head and say 'wake up!' Teehee! The tender moments between Ben and Melanie gave me butterflies, there were times that they were just so perfect and him swoony and hot! I absolutely loved their chemistry and passion.

It was wonderful to watch Gia and Carrie form deep friendships with people so different from them with geeky and cute Daniel and school hottie and jock, Jason. Jason was so caring, sweet, considerate and hugely good looking. He almost seemed too good to be true!

What with awesome best friends, annoying exes and spiteful bitches included in the mix, this book really did have everything. You will laugh, swoon, fan yourself and cringe in embarrassment. You will find yourself on the edge of your seat and at other times sighing with contentment. This is a great read and all is concluded within the book so can be read as standalone, that said, I can't wait for book two; I have a feeling it's going to be a fantastic addition to the series.

An ARC was kindly provided by the Author for an honest review.

Review posted at Love Between the Sheets

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Lisa says

5 stars

Oh I loved this book, these characters were beautiful and so entertaining, nothing better than the happy ending you are hoping for. Look forward to the rest of these books.

Sunshine says

*I was given an ARC for an honest review.

When The Chips Are Down Is an absolutely amazing book!!

It was such a refreshing and fun read! Beth wrote a wonderful book of family and love. The three POVs were perfect and I really enjoyed reading it from all direction.

There are such wonderful characters in this book...

Melanie is an amazing woman; strong and sassy. I want Jodi as my best friend!! Ben, oh Ben! I'm in love.

The book flowed easily. I loved the banter between Mel and Ben. I laughed and smiled so much and there may have been (slight) tears.

This is definitely a top read for me. Once I started this book, I did not want to put it down and I'm sad it's come to an end. This book had everything and I can't recommend it enough! I can't wait to see what happens the next book with her daughters.

*Saucy Books

Beth Rinyu says

Writing this book was so much fun for me, and I was truly sad to see it end. I hope you fall in love with these characters I've created in this one the same way I have. Each and every one is so very special to me. While I was writing it, I actually found myself wishing they really existed so I could hang out with them (That's my crazy author imagination for ya!). It's a story that's really true to life about the hardest job in the entire world

– raising teenagers. Dealing with an ex and their new spouse. An unbreakable friendship with that one “crazy friend” we all should be so lucky to have. Moving on from the past, and of course falling in love once again. I cannot wait for all of you to meet Melanie, Ben, Carrie, Gia, Jason, and Jodi. Oh and there’s a few others that really add to the story as well...you’ll see who I’m talking about once you read it. I promise you a hilarious and heartwarming read with characters that I know you will never forget.

Now available!

Amy Queau says

Such a great book! You can always count on Beth Rinyu for these kinds of light and dreamy romances. I won't rehash the plot, but I loved this book. There was no unnecessary or immature conflict, everyone acted their age, and there were three (or four!) romances going on at once. In other circumstances, this might have been confusing, but it was written in three different POVs, and it flowed very smoothly. This is one of those books where you get halfway through and you start slowing down because you don't want it to end. It's also one where you wish you could unread it in order to read it again for the first time. There was genuine conflict, young love, new love, and rekindled love. This wasn't my first read of Rinyu's, and it certainly won't be my last. It's just what everyone needs for a vacation read, a cure for a book hangover, or just something to make you smile.

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

Book – When the Chips are Down (Three of a Kind #1)

Author – Beth Rinyu

Publication Date – March 20, 2015

Genre – Humor/Romance

Type – Companion Series

Cliffhanger – No

Rating – 5 out of 5 Stars

Complimentary Copy generously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.

My Thoughts - Story

I first have to compliment Ms. Rinyu of her talent with weaving 3 different POV’s which all center around one main story. The book was fast paced with each story constantly keeping you on your toes and the humor was so true to life that I felt like I was raising my teens all over again! You will connect with these characters and want to know more by the time you get to the last page. This was such an enjoyable book and I can’t wait until the next book in this series is released.

I loved how Ms. Rinyu took some pretty heavy teenage angst and without fights or violence – progressed the story to better things using responsible, mature ways to handle it along with a bit of humor.

The one word I would use to describe this book is Phenomonal!

Re-Cap

Melanie is a single mom of 2 teenage daughters – recently divorced. She is your average mom who would like to remain single for the rest of her life. In walks Ben – Ben was an old high school crush who would tease her and now he is working on her plumbing.

Sparks fly and they both agree that being friends with benefits is the best thing for them...and to keep their special relationship under wraps (especially from her girls). While this is happening...Carrie (her brainy twin daughter) is getting close to Josh (the football player) who is the son of Ben. OH BOY! And Gia (the rebel twin) is being bullied in school and becomes more introverted and friends with the brainy boy in school.

Ben doesn't want a relationship...Melanie starts to want one – they keep sneaking around and you can just imagine what happens when the shit hits the fan and everyone is exposed!

Reason for Reading – Author Request

Story – 5 out of 5 Stars

Steam – 5 out of 5 Stars

Angst – 5 out of 5 Stars

Writing – 5 out of 5 Stars

Content Flow – 5 out of 5 Stars

Told In – Triple POV

POV 1 – Melanie – Awesome – true to life mom!

POV 2 – Gia – the rebel twin who does a complete turnaround (frustrating at first)

POV 3 – Carrie – the “good” daughter who starts to break out of her shell

HEA (Spoiler) – (view spoiler)

Recommend To – Readers who love to laugh while reading and can relate to being a mom to teenage girls

Tanya Turner/ Sugar Shack Book Blog says

When The Chips Are Down was such a fun read! From the prologue alone I loved it!!! I Instantly related to these characters, seeing myself and a few friends in them. Why can't these people be real? I would so be hanging out with them. Beth did an amazing job giving us three POV's. Melanie is a single Mom of two teenage daughters, Gia and Carrie. Each character brought an exceptional dynamic to the story. Surviving a cheating husband and raising twin teenage girls, Melanie is putting the pieces of her life back together. With the support of her crazy BFF Jodi, who I totally loved, she manages it all. Melanie is missing one piece to her life, a man. In walks hot and sexy Ben. I loved how their relationship flowed and what they came to mean to each other. There were a few bumps along the way, and we got to also see the trials and tribulations of being a teenager through the girls POV's. This was such a light and fun read, and I loved every second of it. If you literally want to laugh out loud, I highly recommend this book. Congratulations Beth on another 5 star read!

Katrina Tingle says

A sweet story of a mother and her teenage twin girls. Melanie has to learn to live life as a single mother when her husband Alec AKA Douchbag as I like to call him..lol left her for his much younger girlfriend. The girls have issues of their own.

I love that you not only get Melanie POV, but you will also get Gia and Carrie POV throughout the entire story. And no story would be complete without a crazy best friend and some HOT guys.

See what happens when Ben the boys Mel went to school with comes back into her life. And how this will affect her daughters. But Mel isn't the only one dealing with boy drama. Gia and Carrie are teenager so of course high school would not be the same without a little drama.

I thought I knew who my favorite characters were but with every chapter it changed. And the best thing is the story doesn't end here. We will get to know Gia and Carrie a little better as they grow up in their own stories that will be released at a later date. I can't wait to read them.

Melinda says

When The Chips Are Down by Beth Rinyu

I really loved this latest book by Beth Rinyu! I thought it highly entertaining and found myself smiling throughout most of the book. Having said that, the book did touch on some very serious issues thus resulting in some heartbreaking moments. It really was perfectly balanced. The book was written in multiple points of view which I thought was perfect for this story! The personalities were just so great and I truly loved getting to know them - Ben, Melanie, Carrie, Gia and let's not forget Jodi! - were so damn likeable and easy to relate to that I honestly felt like I could just call them up for a quick chat! I loved this book and can't wait to read Gia & Carrie's books! I do not hesitate to recommend this fabulous read and give it 5 stars!

Three Chicks says

4.5 Star Review by Jen Skewes

What can I say other than I Loved this book! It is no secret that I am a huge fan of Beth Rinyu. I have read and loved every single one of her books. And one of her male characters is on my top book boyfriend list of all time. She never seems to disappoint with the the amazing story lines that she creates that always feel so real and genuine. She manages to create characters that you can relate to and fall in love with. When the Chips Are Down is no different. What I loved about this book is that it is different. This is the story of Melanie, a recently divorced mother and Gia and Cassie her two teenage twin daughters. While this is mostly Melanie's love story what I loved is getting to see this story from all three point of views and that's where I think this story was unique in it's own way. We get to see the relationships and friendships that they all form and the real life struggles that they all face. It was fun, sweet and completely refreshing.

Melanie is a recently divorced woman who is trying to move on from her cheating ex husband. The man that she has been with since she was 20 betrayed her. It's been a year since the divorce and it is time for her to get

on with her life. She runs her own bridal shop, has two amazing twin daughters a best friend that is always there for her. Being with the same man for so long she's not really sure she is ready to get back into the dating world. But seeing Ben Wilder again changes that. Ben Wilder was the boy she had a crush on in high school but he was also the boy who would call her names during class and wasn't very nice to her. But that was years ago and seeing him for the first time in a long time she has to admit, that Ben Wilder definitely aged well. He's still just as gorgeous as she remembered him to be. But he has also changed and is no longer that mean teenage boy she remembers.

Melanie and Ben have chemistry and there is certainly a spark between the two of them. Melanie feels the attraction but she is determined not to fall for him. But as they start up a casual fling neither one of them expected it to turn into more. But that actually becomes a bit of a problem because Melanie knows how she feels and knows that she is falling for Ben. But the question is – Does Ben feel the same way? Is he holding something back? As hard as she may fight her feelings Melanie deserves a second chance at happiness after her ex completely shattered her world and their marriage. Will she get it?

Melanie is trying to run her own business, be there for her two girls, deal with her ex and learning how to now co parent and at the same time is trying to find happiness again. I loved her and Ben together. I loved the flirty banter back and forth and the situations that Melanie managed to get herself into just made me laugh. Ben was sexy and I loved him but at times wanted to just yell at him to pay attention and wake up. And let's not forget about her best friend Jodi. Every girl should have a best friend like her. She is always there for her in every way and she was just a blast. I wanted to be a part of their lives. Heck I want to be their friends and hang out with them. That's how much I loved these characters. You can just relate to them on so many levels.

There are so many things that I loved about this book, one being that the story is told from three point of views, Melanie and her two daughters. But never once did that seem confusing. It flowed nicely and I loved going through life's experiences with all of them. It wasn't just Melanie that was dealing with the divorce, it affected her daughters as well. They are not only coping with their parents no longer being married but also going to a new school. And honestly things are not easy for the two of them. They are teenagers and making new friends at a new school is hard. I could completely relate to being the new kid in school and not knowing anyone. And there is always that one bitch who feels the need to make your life miserable, spreading rumors so when you walk down the hallway you hear the whispers and you know they are whispering about you. All you want to do is fit in and make new friends but some people just make that impossible. And for Cassie and Gia being at a new school was not easy. But they both found new friends that stuck by them. And their experiences also brought them closer together. They may look identical but these two were complete opposites. Reading their story made me feel like I was in high school all over again. The crushes, the butterflies in your stomach when you see or talk to a cute boy, and of course the mean girls. But they had each other for support.

This book is about falling in love again but there is so much more to it. It is about the relationship between a mother and her daughters. It's about dealing with the issues that people face in their everyday life but doing it together. People make mistakes and you learn from them. And we see that in this book. I loved watching these characters grow. At first Gia seemed like the typical snotty teenager and Cassie the goody goody who does no wrong. But over time they both grow so much and because of some of the issues they faced in school they became closer. I loved how they stuck up for each other and loved the friendships that they made with Daniel and Jason.

This book was amazing and one of my new favorites from Ms. Rinyu. This book just brought out so many feelings. I related to this book in so many ways and not just with Melanie but with her daughters as well. We have all been through some of the things these girls have been through and for me personally, being able to relate to the characters and connect with them in the way that I did, just makes the reading experience that much more incredible. I had a book hangover for days after I finished reading it. This book is a must read.

Another amazing job!!!

I loved Melanie and Ben but I cannot wait for Cassie and Gina's books. I am impatiently waiting Beth!!!

Judy says

This book was a breath of fresh air. Corny saying, I know, but it's true. I read this book without having a synopsis. Why? Because when Beth Rinyu asks me to read her book, I drop whatever I'm doing and read her book!!!

That being said, I was unaware this story was told in the pov of 3 women. Pleasantly surprised, this turned out to be the story of a woman and her twin teenage daughters and the intertwining web they weave as a family.

Melanie, Gia and Carrie, each struggle with everyday problems: love, friendship, sex, life after divorce, secrets, fears, broken hearts and so much more.

Their journey is sweet, endearing, emotional, and laugh out loud funny.

Melanie is struggling to live life for herself after being cheated on and left for a younger woman. She's a busy working mother who doesn't find time to be what she is first and foremost.... a woman. A single, beautiful, intelligent woman. With a little push from her unorthodox BFF, she takes a chance on some much needed fun.

Cue a couple of hot men, a bubble bath and a glass of wine.... wait a minute, it's not that kind of story! Or is it?!! There's definitely some hot going on and his name is Ben Wilder!

Carrie is the smart one. She doesn't have time for boys or games. She loves her family and has a good head on her shoulders. Mamma's girl.

Gia is the outgoing one. She spunky and rebellious. Dancing is her favorite thing in the world. Daddy's girl.

This is essentially three stories in one. You never know what'll happen next with these three. Some of their struggles are tough and real. Beth tackles real everyday problems teenagers and parents face, always with a positive message and leaving you with a smile on your face.

Although this installment involves all three women, When the Chips are Down begins and ends with Melanie. I'm excited to continue on with the next two books and read what the future has in store for Carrie and Gia.

Jessica's Book Review says

One of my top five authors is Beth Rinyu. Anytime I pick up one of her books, I know I am in for a treat with a beautifully written adult romance novel. I couldn't wait to start *When the Chips are Down* and find new characters to fall in love with.

When the Chips are Down is written in a very unique way. The story is written in three different points of view of three women going through different stages of love. The main character Melanie is a new divorced 30-year-old something who is moving on from her ex-husband with a man from her past. Her storyline is written in more of an adult viewpoint. The other two POVs are from Melanie's twin teenage daughters, Gia & Carrie, who are complete opposites in every way. Their stories added a bit of humor and freshness to the book. It was so unique to read a book that would alternate between adult to more of a young adult read with Gia & Carrie's storylines bringing me back to my high school days. I was not expecting the different POVs going into the book.

It was interesting to read of a mother & her daughter's love life entwining together. I would have liked a little more of Melanie & Ben's storyline to be told but I never felt like I was missing out either. I did find myself wanting to skim some of the chapters written in Gia & Carrie's pov. They were cute but I am more of an adult romance kind of reader.

Thought *When the Chips are Down* is a little predictable it is a cute, fun read. I was laughing at some of the scenes and the interactions between Melanie and her daughter's reminded me a little of my mom and I (I owe her an apology!). I think anyone who was or has a teenage daughter will relate to characters.

I give *When the Chips are Down* (Three of a Kind #1), by Beth Rinyu 3.5 Stars.

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Monique says

Have you ever wondered what happened to your high school crush? What would you do if you bumped into him again after 20 years? Would he be the same cheeky, smart Alec boy, or had he matured?

Melanie Hanson has had a big year. Her marriage of 18 or so years has ended. She has moved her twin girls back to be close to her home town. She is now part owner of a bridal shop with her mother. One thing that has been a constant - her bestie Jodi.

Jodi convinces Mel to take a trip to Mexico and to start to live her life again. And you know the old saying, What happens in Mexico, Stays in Mexico - Or does it?!!!

This story is about a woman in her late 30's having to find her feet after her marriage ends, and hopefully finding love again, even if it is with the boy she loved to hate in high school.

I picked this book up on a lazy Sunday and decided it was so much more better than doing my ironing. I was

hooked from the start. I loved that we got a varied narrative with the different POV's. I also enjoyed the characters and the banter they had together. This book had me giggling, smiling and it also brought a tear or two to my eyes. So all in all - it was a fabulous read and I recommend it highly.

I received a copy for an honest review.
Reviewed for JoandIsaLoveBooksBlog.
