



## Kissing Cousins

*Marcia Lynn McClure*

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## **Kissing Cousins** Marcia Lynn McClure

Poppy Amore loved her job waitressing at Good Ol' Days Family Restaurant. No one could ask for a better working environment. After all, her best friend Whitney worked there, and her boss, restaurant owner Mr. Dexter, was a kind, understanding, grandfatherly sort of man. Furthermore, the job allowed Poppy to linger in the company of Mr. Dexter's grandson Swaggart Moretti-the handsome and charismatic head cook at Good Ol' Days.

Secretly, Swaggart was far more to Poppy than just a man who was easy to look at. In truth, she had harbored a secret crush on him for years-since her freshman year in high school, in fact. And although the memory of her feelings-even the lingering truth of them-haunted Poppy the way a veiled, unrequited love always haunts a heart, she had learned to simply find joy in possessing a hidden, anonymous delight in merely being associated with Swaggart. Still, Poppy had begun to wonder if her heart would ever let go of Swaggart Moretti-if any other man in the world could ever turn her head.

When the dazzling, uber-fashionable Mark Lawson appeared one night at Good Ol' Days, however, Poppy began to believe that perhaps her attention and her heart would be distracted from Swaggart at last. Mark Lawson was every girl's fantasy-tall, uniquely handsome, financially well-off, and as charming as any prince ever to appear in fairy tales. He was kind, considerate, and, Poppy would find, a true, old-fashioned champion. Thus, Poppy Amore willingly allowed her heart and mind to follow Mark Lawson-to attempt to abandon the past and an unrequited love and begin to move on.

But all the world knows that real love is not so easily put off, and Poppy began to wonder if even a man so wonderful as Mark Lawson could truly drive Swaggart Moretti from her heart. Would Poppy Amore miss her one chance at happiness, all for the sake of an unfulfilled adolescent's dream?

## **Kissing Cousins Details**

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## From Reader Review Kissing Cousins for online ebook

### Jessie says

Do you know those books that make you giddy when you finish reading them? Where you want to reread scenes, but can't go back because the next scene is also unbelievably good. Kissing Cousins was one of those books for me.

Poppy Amore and Swaggart Moretti both work at his Grandfather's restaurant, Good Ol' Days. It's the kind of place where your co-workers are your closest friends, the food is delicious, and Dean Martin is playing in the background. Poppy and her best friend, Whitney made up these sort of bucket lists when they were fourteen. Poppy has completed all of hers, except for making out with, strike that, kissing Swaggert. When he finds her list, sparks finally begin to fly.

I don't have words great enough to describe this story. It was one of those stories where you wish you could enter that world, eat at the restaurant, and actually know these cool characters. I swooned, I laughed, and when I finished I had to turn on my old music and dance around the living room with a silly grin on my face. I can't wait to read more of Marcia Lynn McClure's books! And now, I have to cut this review short, so I can go read Kissing Cousins again!

Toe tingling kisses in a clean happy romance (sigh)!

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### Katie W says

Review for 10/14

I've read this one before, but in honor of the Swoon Fest going on, I decided to re-read it--it's been a few years. As I started reading, I remembered why I hated this book: There are two great guys in it that Poppy has to choose between, but of course, one is better and the other is best. I don't really hate it--I actually loved every minute of it. This line pretty much sums it up, "Again, Poppy was struck by the feeling she was standing with apple pie in one hand and peach pie in the other." What a tough choice!

Poppy is a sweet girl who has forever been secretly crushing on her best friend's cousin, Swaggart. In fact, making out with kissing him is on the top of her years old Dreams to Do list. When Mark comes in to the restaurant and rescues her from a very nasty customer, how could she help but wonder if he's the man to help her get over Swaggart?

Swaggart is a manly man. He is content to follow his dreams and not do things to please the world. He's a cook/manager at his grandpa's restaurant, Good Ol' Days, and is very happy to be working there. He truly enjoys what he does, even though he could be some big corporate man.

I loved watching the story unfold, especially seeing Poppy realizing her heart's true desire. I loved the setting--the restaurant is a throw back to easier times and has a very feel-good atmosphere. Poppy and Whitney have such a great friendship and are a great support to each other. My favorite, of course, is the good, ol', clean romance. It's all about the kissing!

Content:

language: none that I recall

violence: none

romance: romantic kissing, clean for an older reader.

Clean!

Review: 3/11

I loved it!!! But why am I not surprised? I love every MLM book I've ever read. :)

Poppy is a waitress at a popular restaurant and Swaggart is the grandson of the owner--as well as a manager and cook (one of the best in the city). One night, Mr. Gorgeous (aka Mark) comes in for a business dinner with a real witch. One thing leads to another and Mark and Poppy start dating. But she can't get Swaggart out of her mind. He's at the top of her dream to-do list.

POSSIBLE SPOILER ALERT!!!

Here's the thing--I loved that Poppy had two guys to choose from. I loved that Mark was sooo gracious (maybe there should be a future story about him? He's such a nice guy and soooo good-looking!). I loved that the restaurant and atmosphere were so...cozy and comfortable. I loved that Swaggart was such a big brother at first, but kept his true feelings hidden. Such a sweet, romantic story.

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### **Michelle says**

Verb+Plural Noun=Title! Kissing Cousins, not cousins kissing-YUCK! Just had to clear that up (as Marcia had to in the book).

I saw this book's title after I read *The Pirate Ruse* and thought "yeah I don't think I'm going to read that one", but when I took back *The Pirate Ruse* to the friend I borrowed it from, she handed me this one and said "It's one of my faves." and because I trust her judgement (it's much like mine) I took the book...that was yesterday. HA HA HA!

This book and story were adorable, I think I was smiling the majority of the time I was reading it! I was imagining the Good 'Ol Days restaurant as (if you live in Utah) a place like Geppettos, or if you've seen the movie *Return To Me*-the Irish-Italian restaurant from that! And the music-which my little Italian heart swoons over-was perfect!

I love how Marcia can get your heart racing before her characters even touch each other! She has a great gift of writing the "sexual tension" and especially the more "intimate moments" without them being trashy.

I think I'll have to get myself a copy of this one, just to have on hand when I need a fun, sweet, feel good book to read! Maybe I'll get it signed in Logan when I go up to Marcia's book signing in a week and a half! Yes, I'm gloating! Hee Hee!

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### **Andrea says**

If you can get past the bad writing, this book is adorable. Ms. McClure just needs to get a thesaurus or something, way too much word repetition. Poppy 'giggled' about 5 times per page. Swaggart (or whatever guy happened to be talking to Poppy) 'winked' in every other paragraph. There ARE other expressions besides 'oh my heck!'. There ARE other ways to describe a not-very-nice woman besides calling her a 'wench'. And a few too many exclamation points imo.

That being said, this was a sweet indulgent read. And though I do have issues with the writing, can I just say she is quite adept at putting together a kissing scene. Oh my.

I definitely recommend it. A clean and satisfying romance. Just know that once she decides on a word, she sticks with that word for the whole book :)

## **Kathy \* Bookworm Nation says**

I was discussing this book with a couple friends and I just had to read it again. I hadn't realized I'd only read it once before, crazy! I remember being a little scared off by the title (who wants to read about cousins kissing???), but it makes sense in this story (and don't worry, they aren't related!). I really fell in love with this one. I really enjoyed the setting, I kept picturing that cute restaurant from the movie Return to Me (even though this place wasn't Italian...) with the fun atmosphere and fun people to work with. Not to mention yummy food and a yummy chef!

I also liked that this one had a little more conflict in it than some of McClure's other books. Our heroine actually has two hotties to choose from. Mark, the successful business man and Swaggart, the charming head chef. Knowing McClure, I guess who the "winner" would be based on their name, but it was still fun to watch the story unfold. I liked that Poppy had a choice and had to decide who she would be with. Made it a little more believable to me. Sometimes it drives me nuts when they fall for the first guy to come along, you know? I liked the relationship between Swaggart and Poppy, how they had a solid friendship to build on. I also liked Mark, his flaws were pretty minor and probably wouldn't bother someone else. He was sweet and nice.

I loved the setting and side characters, it'd be fun to have a book about Amore (view spoiler), I'd love to reunite with these characters.

There is something addicting about Marcia's books, once you start reading them you want to read them all.

### Content

Romance: Clean, yummy kissing

Language: None that I remember

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## **Sandy says**

Don't get me wrong--I LOVE Marcia's books--but I think I prefer her historical romances over her contemporary ones. I know Kissing Cousins is a fan favorite, and while I liked it, I wasn't as swept away as I am with some of Marcia's historical guilty pleasures. Maybe the dialogue and writing just work better in non-modern settings for me? But I'm still a Marcia fan forever!

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## **Kristen says**

7/23/13 - Still one of my fav's. Needed a cute fluffy romance.

7/22/12-

It's Grrrrreat! I think one of my top fav's of her's so far...

Moral Note: passionate kissing

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### **Kathy says**

I'm going through a Marcia Lynn McClure phase right now. I love her books! This is the 7th book of hers I've read and I doubt my obsession with her books will ease until I've read everything she's written. Loved Kissing Cousins. Can't help but smile when reading her sweet, clean love stories.

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### **Deborah says**

Do not let the title fool you!! I swear my kindle is going to be the end of me getting anything done! This was such a great book. I LOVED LOVED LOVED the characters. I loved the setting and holy hec the main guy was H-O-T! I agree with my friend Kath when she said that their first kiss was written so well. It was sweet and just "hot" enough. If you were looking for a sweet romance with a fun story, then I would pick up this one! (thank you over and over again, Kath)

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### **Valerie Waters says**

Awww MLM has done it again! Thanks Kathy oj and Kathy for suggesting this one! So glad I read it!!! You guys are the best! I do wish the book had a different title though! Swaggart....awww swoon! That guy was amazing!

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### **Kathryn says**

The title can give you a moment of pause, but remember who the author is and know that she is known for her clean romance. A book that has a look at secret crushes that go on being secret even when they are mutual. The hold up is that the people feel that they are unworthy of the other due to income status or the lack of beauty. The lesson is to go for your dreams. The family owned restaurant traditions make the story lovable and endearing.

Swaggart Moretti is the cities most sought after chef, who love working at his grandfather's restaurant, "Good Ol' Days. He went to chef school and then got his business degree to help out his grandfather, but instead of going after money, he set his sights on doing a job he both enjoyed and brought joy to others. Poppy Amore was welcomed into the Dexter family business as a waitress through her friend, Whitney. Whitney is also the granddaughter of restaurant owner Mr. Dexter and Swaggart's cousin hence the name of the book. Swaggart is older and eye candy and has been dated the wrong girl. When Poppy starts dating Mark Lawson, he thinks that he has missed his opportunity with Poppy, but when a secret journal of Whitney and poppy's that contains their 20 Dream's to Do list reveals that kissing him is Poppy's #1 and only remaining item to be crossed off; he gains some hope that his wish is also possible. Poppy realizes after finally kissing and being kissed by Swaggart that she will always love him and no attempt at dating others or kissing others will turn her heart differently. Swaggart's proposal to Poppy is tender as he places a ring on her finger, not the fake one from the waitress podium to keep flirtation men from bothering her, but one that will permanently keep her his. I love the tradition that continues with Swaggart inheriting the restaurant and the family breakfast. Whitney also had a 20 Dream's to Do list and hers included kissing Poppy's cousin, Greg. On the night of Swaggart's proposal Greg comes to do his part and kisses then later marries Whitney.

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### **Teya Peck says**

Seriously LOVE this book! I don't understand why I wait so long before each reading. SWOONING!

I prefer the western type books, yet i also love the modernish ones. This book made me nervous because of the title. However I trust Marcia and her writing based on this and the fact that with her books you have to read them to figure out how the Title folds in. THE titles are like a character part of her books. I fell in love with this book. I just found her this year and have read every one except the most recent, which I have, and so I haven't had much time to read them more than once except this one and one other. I loved this one so much I sent it to my sister with a couple others.

So don't let the title scare you, read to find out where it's character comes into play.

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### **Stacey Hall says**

I am in LOVE with Swaggart Morretti! Can I have a Chef's special please?? He would be my number 1 in my book of dreams too!! I even read this out loud to my husband because it is a favorite, and he said "How an I supposed to live up to THAT?" haha! I seriously felt like I was in this story! I LOVE the name Swaggart too! Gimme some jerky and root beer any day!

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### **Kathy Jo says**

March 2017 - This is still a super cute read! :)

August 2014 - Poppy is completely and totally head over heels in love with Swaggart and has been for a very long time! And sadly she thinks that Swaggart will only view her as just a friend. When she meets Mark and he shows interest in her, she decides that it is time to try and move on from the handsome Swaggart.

Poor Swaggart is in love with Poppy as well but has a hard time believing that someone like Poppy would want to be with him. He loves being the head cook at Good Ol' Days and really can't see himself doing anything else. He thinks that he doesn't have anything to offer her. But he has a hard time letting go of her when Mark steps into the picture. And when his grandfather finds Poppy's "Dreams to Do" List and shows Swaggart her #1 dream he decides that he could at least help her check it off her list. ;)

For me, I did not like Mark at all! The little things he did just bugged me! I can't explain it. Maybe it is because I am totally Team Swaggart or maybe it was because those things were just plain annoying. Either way... I didn't like him. Lol. I know his part was important in the book because it gave Poppy another option but I am Team Swaggart all the way! Haha.

I loved watching Poppy and Swaggart move from friendship to something more. From him checking off #1 on her list, to an evening under the stars, to their first date... I loved it all! And when they both admit that they are and have been in love with each other for forever... perfect! Throw in all the songs and good times from Good Ol' Days and you have me wishing that everything about this book was real! I would LOVE to be able to visit!

If you are looking for a book full of friendship, laughter, good music, love and just good times then this is the book for you! Pick it up! You won't be disappointed!

And of course I just have to share my casting choices... :)

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### **Kamery Solomon says**

I think I would faint from happiness if my husband kissed me like Swaggart kissed Poppy all the time! Love it!

So my mom lent me this book on my kindle app because I've never read a straight romance novel before, I've been more into paranormal stuff and fantasy, etc. I was a little hesitant to read it at first. (Being a newlywed I still tend to think that sex in books is taboo. Why? I don't know, it's been a real mystery for me.) After being assured by my mom that it was totally clean and worth reading I decided to give it a shot. Boy am I glad that I gave it a shot!

At first I was taking a long time to really sit down and read the story, only reading bits and pieces here and there. Finally out of the blue I just started really spending a lot of time reading it and I got hooked. I'll admit it. I like romance novels! This was a book that switched views A LOT between A LOT of different characters and that annoyed me but I put up with it because I just wanted Swaggart to kiss Poppy some more. I practically flew through the rest of the book just to read those scenes. I even re-read some of them! (Shhh! Don't tell anyone!) The thing that I didn't like was the extra man- Mark. Don't get me wrong, it's probably every woman's dream to have two incredibly handsome men fawning over her, but Poppy was obviously way in love with Swaggart and Mark was just in the way. And his kisses sucked. Seriously. If Swaggart's kisses were candy then Mark's would be the dirt under the toenail of a monkey. The other thing that I didn't like \*SPOILER ALERT\* was that Swaggart asked Poppy to marry him after one date and like 3 days after they declared their love to each other. Incredibly romantic, very unrealistic, and the perfect ending to a pretty dang near perfect love story. I give it 5 out of 5 stars because I like the kissing LOL!

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