



Destiny

Carly Phillips

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From New York Times bestselling author Carly Phillips comes her second novel set in Serendipity, the quaint upstate New York town where love, fate, and fortune are intertwined...

Nash Barron may be cynical about love, yet even he likes a good wedding. But the only good thing about his brother's wedding is Kelly Moss. Nash can't help but admire her confidence and beauty, but he's forced to keep his distance because getting involved with Kelly could destroy his relationship with his newly discovered half sister, Tess...

Kelly came to Serendipity to give Tess—her half sibling as well, thanks to an illicit affair—a second chance at life. She learned long ago not to rely on anyone but herself. Besides, she doesn't want to upset Tess's life by pushing for a fling with Nash. Except the more she gets to know him, the more vulnerable she becomes to the kindness beneath his gruff exterior, and the less she's able to stay away. But she has other reasons for keeping her distance. Like the secret from her past she knows Nash will never forgive...

Destiny Details

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From Reader Review Destiny for online ebook

Carly Ellen Kramer says

Cute. A lovely Sunday afternoon book.

Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Nash came across in SERENDIPITY as maybe the harshest brother, very angry and unforgiving of Ethan and decisions he made as an 18 year old kid. He's also a bit non-accepting of Tess and as a result she shies away from him, not caring about getting to know him. She's bonded with Ethan, and as Nash isn't interested in getting along with Ethan, Tess's mind is pretty much made up about having a relationship with Nash – not happening. Nash sees everything in black and white and he struggles to be what he thinks people need him to be. His first marriage didn't work out, but he still calls and wants to help his ex, Annie, thinking she always needs help now after her MS diagnosis, instead of listening to her and want she really needs from him, as a friend.

Nash's growth in this book is one of him becoming more self-aware. His eyes are opened up to how people perceive him and he doesn't like the reality of it. He makes a real effort to change, realizing that the issues he thought were other people's problems, are really his own and he takes steps to repair relationships within his family. Lies that people told him hit Nash hard. He has to deal with his youngest and closest brother Dare in a way he never thought he'd have to. His relationship with Dare has always been the one solid thing in his life and to have that turned upside down, because of Dare, is something that triggers Nash to start looking at why people aren't comfortable coming to him with problems, and it's a turning point for Nash personally.

One new, strong presence in Nash's personal life is Kelly, Tess's half-sister. Kelly is still struggling with her decision of leaving Tess on Ethan's doorstep just a few short months ago. She knows it really was the best decision but still worries that Tess may have seen it as just another person abandoning her, like their mother did. But she sees Tess thriving in Ethan's care and home and her decision has given Tess the stability that she's never had before. Kelly's moved to town to be closer to Tess and she's trying to fit in, and makes a fast friend in Annie, Nash's ex.

Nash and Kelly become closer as the story goes and even though Tess objects at first, because, well...it's Nash, they are comfortable with each other and find a happiness together that neither one was expecting. Kelly has some personal baggage she's also dealing with and it ultimately drives a wedge between her and Nash when she doesn't come clean to him. He sees it as just one more person keeping the truth from him. Both Nash and Kelly have issues to work through on their own, but once they're able to repair relationships, in Nash's case, and put the past completely to rest, for Kelly, they can finally move forward together.

“I can't have this conversation now.”

Not while her fingers were hovering around the hard edge threatening to burst through his pants.

She met his gaze and grinned. “We're not going to do much talking,” she promised, her eyes glittering with desire. “I just wanted you to know that I get you. And when you're with me, you can just feel what you're feeling and I won't judge...”

He nodded, his throat full, touched beyond reason that she'd thought so long and hard about him. What he wanted and needed. He wanted to express his gratitude, his feelings and once again he reached for her.

Once again she eased out of his grasp. "And now you're going to lean back and just enjoy. No thinking, Nash. Just feel," she said, and knelt down in front of him.

Their relationship was sweet and very easy going. They had issues to move past and do, but they came across on page as a fun couple, and a couple that was well matched for each other. While I enjoyed their scenes together, I felt a bit more invested in Nash and his relationship with his brothers, Ethan and Dare. He had a lot of ground to cover with Ethan, and was able to finally let himself "get" where Ethan was coming from and start to move past the hurt he's carried for so long.

...Ethan turned to Nash and spread his hands out in front of him. "Well? What now?"

Nash ran a hand through his hair. Damned if he knew.

"As much as you don't like it, we're brothers. I was wrong back then, but I can't change the past."

"So what do you want from me?" Nash asked.

Ethan shrugged. "Get to know me. Judge me for who I am today, not who I was or what I did."

"That much, huh?" Maybe Nash could give him a kidney too.

Ethan nodded in understanding. "Yeah, I'm asking for that much." He let out a dark laugh. "You never know. You might just like me."

Nash rolled his eyes. "Don't hold your breath, big brother." Despite himself, a smile edged the corners of his mouth as he followed Ethan out of the office and back to the party.

The most drama came from an unlikely source in the fun loving, (seemingly) happy Dare. That turned out to be a great cover for the hurt and pain Dare has been hiding for many years, all going back to one horrible night when he was 15. When the truth comes out, Nash questions everything he was led to believe about why he and Dare were split up and sent to different foster homes after their parents died. And for Dare, we get a small glimpse at what kind of inner demons he's been dealing with, all from that one night that still haunts him and it'll be interesting to see how he deals with it and if he can find some kind of peace and move forward in his book.

One of the side stories that hit on a personal level for me was Annie, who is living with MS. My mom was diagnosed with MS over ten years ago, and it really brought Annie's story to life more for me, and even though she's not on page a great deal, I felt like I knew her and some of her struggles very well. When I read it's to completely escape reality, my happy little book world, but sometimes even books have a way of bringing something in your real life front and center and for me, in this book, it was Annie.

Nash went from being the brother I wanted to smack the most in SERENDIPITY, to the brother I wanted to see reconcile with his family, have a solid relationship with his sister, and find some happiness and love with Kelly. Carly Phillips delivers with a light, fun read, a sweet romance and gives us a family that I can't wait to read more about in small town Serendipity.

Susan says

Very good book. Now that Ethan and Faith are settled, and Tess is living with them, life is starting to settle out for Kelly. She has a good job in town and can see Tess as often as she can. At the wedding she and Nash give in to a moment of passion, but then decide that they can't pursue it because it could mess with Tess's newfound life. However, they find that they just can't stay away from each other. Besides dealing with their own feeling, both have other issues to deal with. Nash is dealing with finding that Ethan isn't as bad as he'd believed all these years. He has a shock about his younger brother, who he'd always felt closer to, and finding out that maybe he was a bit more rigid than he thought he was. Kelly is dealing with issues from her ex-boyfriend, her mother, and realizing that Nash has begun to mean more to her than just a fling. She has been trying to find a way to tell Nash about her past, but is afraid of him judging her and walking away. Nash can't believe the things he has told Kelly that he hasn't shared with anyone else, and slowly realizes that he cares for her a lot. The showdown at the end breaks open a whole bunch of things on both sides, eventually opening both ups to the realization that they're in love. I also loved the side story of Annie and Joe.

Heather says

I was lucky enough to be the recipient of an ARC of Carly Phillips "Destiny." I have been a fan of Phillips for years and one of my favorite series is her "Hot Zone" series, but I have to say that I think the "Serendipity" series might just take it's place before it is all over with.

The adventures of the Barron brothers are complicated in Serendipity and nothing is different in Destiny, but they take a journey that ends up being a turning point for their entire family. Phillips does a fantastic job continuing the story of Ethan and Faith even though they are not the main focus in this book, Nash and Kelly are. Tess still plays a pivotal role in the lives of all of her siblings and there are some new faces in this book that are intriguing in their own right. I happened to love the character of Annie.

Phillips has once again written a wonderful, complex story that makes you root for the main characters as they fight to learn more about themselves as individuals while trying to figure out where love fits in their lives. This is a must read for everyone when it comes out in January. I don't know if I'll be able to wait for Karma in the spring!!

Bernadette says

no spark, nada, zilch, boring story, characters not engaging, made myself skim through to the end hoping it would get better, it didn't, taking this author off my "want to read" list

Literary Cravings says

Originally Reviewed at Literary Cravings

Impressions

Destiny, the second book in the Serendipity Series, is about Nash Barron and his romance with Kelly Moss. In the first novel of the series Serendipity we were introduced to the Barron brothers Ethan, Nash, and Dash and I have to say that Nash was my least favorite out of them. So I went into this story a little wary, knowing that I would end up hating him even more or he would end up growing on me.

What Worked

Nash begins to have feelings for his half sister Tess's half sister Kelly Moss. Confusing? Yea I was at first but since Kelly and Nash are not blood related in any way I relaxed with their romance.

The development of Kelly and Nash's paths and how they came to be the adults they were now. Kelly being a strong independent Paralegal and Nash being the jaded lawyer.

The romance between them ranged from steamy to hot. Kelly really gave uptight Nash a challenge, which I enjoyed.

Both Nash and Kelly had to tackling issues within themselves as well as issues with their relationship. I appreciated how they had to deal with their own issues before they could be successful with their relationship. Especially Nash.

Could Have Been Better

The characters didn't resonate with me. Even though Nate ended up growing on me, and both he and Kelly were good characters I just didn't connect with them as much as I wanted.

I wish there was an even more complex, dynamic plot to enhance the story.

Overall

Destiny was a nice contemporary romance that showcased the relatable trials and tribulations a family and romantic relationship go through. Adult Romance readers looking for a contemporary romance should give Destiny a shot.

Hbeebti says

Pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed this one.

Hali Jacobs says

Just another sappy romance.... but good.

Cheri says

Loved it! Now on to #3 Karma

Dark Faerie Tales says

Review Courtesy of Dark Faerie Tales

Quick & Dirty: A light-hearted contemporary story about love between two completely different people, one who held onto his integrity, and the other who embraced the unexpected.

Opening Sentence: Nash Barron might be cynical about life and more recently about love, but even he normally enjoyed a good wedding.

The Review:

Nash Barron and Kelly Moss share a connection. Within their unusual and dysfunctional family, they both feel like strangers. There is a family amidst the process of healing and mending, mainly for Tess, the young teen who is a common thread for them both. Individually, they are doing the best that they can raising Tess, allowing her to become a part of everything. Ethan and his newly married wife, Faith, just went on their honeymoon, leaving Nash and Kelly to take care of Tess.

Nash is the middle brother in this family of Barron boys. Ethan, Dare, and he were all raised separately, and Nash cannot come to grips for his forgiveness towards Ethan. The sudden death of his parents, and the abandonment of Ethan, left Dare and himself to live in separate foster homes. Nash only sees the black and white of their situation, not allowing himself to grow from the pain. Instead, Nash festers on it, finding it hard to accept and embrace that Ethan isn't the young teen who tore his life, and family, apart.

Kelly raised Tess on her own. Their distant mother went into one marriage after another, eventually taking off without so much as a care in the world. Kelly lives in shadows of her past, her mother's past, and their secrets. Love and desperation forced Kelly to leave Tess on Ethan's doorstep, and now she has finally followed to become a part of this unusual family.

Nash and Kelly's love is simple amongst the intricacies of their world. Their attraction was unexpected, and maybe even a little complicated because of their families. But they find solace in being with each other, and a sense of peace. While it took a while to be sure of what they have, they found their relationship to be filled with friendship and a commitment towards Tess. Nash was different around Kelly, making him much more enjoyable as a character. I found that he was a little more human, than the brass and aggressive brother that he is towards everyone else.

Phillips' world is familiar, especially with a contemporary setting. Maybe the familial situation isn't normal, but the feelings of betrayal, solitude, love, and kinship is. Each character in the Serendipity series has a depth to them that doesn't always exist in contemporary romance. Phillips always paces Destiny really well, despite the many bits of information for the reader to take in. As a reader, I felt a part of their town, their family, and their lives, easily a part of everything.

Love is a huge part of Destiny, and the series. Phillips talks about many different forms of love, from the ups and downs of brothers, to the complications of unexpected love. Destiny is a great contemporary romance fitting for a weekend read. Phillips will take you on a roller coaster of emotions, ending with happiness and

joy.

Notable Scene:

I can't get you anything?" he asked.

She shook her head and smiled. "Just you."

"Now that I can give you." He stepped forward, pulled her into his arms and all her anxiety dissipated in a rush of heat.

She tipped her head back, expecting him to lower his lips to hers as he'd done before. Instead, he slid her shirt off one shoulder and pressed his mouth against her skin. She shivered and her entire body responded, her breasts grew full, her nipples puckered, and flutters picked up deep in her belly.

Nothing that felt this good could be wrong and she tilted her head, giving him better access. The smart man took advantage, trailing his tongue over the sensitive flesh of her neck. He was gentle, which somehow possessed to come alive under the arousing strokes of his tongue. A soft moan escaped her lips and she felt a responding shudder go through him as well.

"Let's go somewhere more private," he said roughly in her ear.

The Serendipity Series:

1. Serendipity

1.5. Kismet

2. Destiny

3. Karma

FTC Advisory: Penguin/Berkley provided me with a copy of Destiny. No goody bags, sponsorships, "material connections," or bribes were exchanged for my review.

Norma says

3.5 stars I really had no interest in reading Nash's book when I got this. I was reading it just to get to Dare's book. Dare intrigued me from book one.

Anyway, this book left me pleasantly surprised. I really enjoyed it. Nash comes across as a pretty unlikable, hard man. But he slowly won me over. He's rigid and difficult, but he's human still the same.

Kelly, who I also didn't really care to get to know better, also surprised me. She's a great character with a lot of love in her.

This book is flawed in places, but overall an enjoyable read.

Mareli says

more 3.5 than 4 stars.

I liked Kelly very much, she's a wonderful woman, generous and sweet, strong and reliable. Nash... I didn't like him so much.

Nash is hard-headed and for him there is only a way: his way. So, I didn't find them so ready to become a couple. Nash gained some points in the end.

I liked the family interaction (it's the 4 stars reason! ;))

Christi Snow says

My Review:

So far, I am really enjoying this series. It provides a fun contemporary read set within a family dynamic that I really enjoy. The first book featured Ethan, the oldest brother of the family and the pariah for abandoning the younger two, Nash and Dare, when their parents died suddenly when all three were teenagers. Nash is the middle brother and, like in most family dynamics, the most willing to hold a grudge. I liked the development of the relationship between Nash and Ethan in this book. Actually, that is probably my favorite thing about this book. I love how their relationship is evolving and becoming more rather than just confrontational. I love that this motley crew of a family is starting to grow back together, even though it is incredibly painful for them to get there.

Adding to that pain are Kelly and Tess. Tess is the half-sister, and teenage rebel, to the three Barron brothers. Kelly is her half sister on the other side of the family. Kelly is NOT a blood relation to the Barron boys, even though the family dynamic here is a little convoluted. Kelly & Nash are incredibly drawn to each other, even though they realize that a romance may not be the best thing for their troubled half sister. (You know, the family dynamic didn't seem as weird when I was reading the book as it does now, typing up this review...LOL!) Yes, it's a little odd, but it's a romance novel. You are expected to suspend disbelief a little bit.

I also really liked Nash's personal evolution in this book. Nash is a lawyer and he sees things in black or white. He is pretty staid in his beliefs and not very forgiving when someone does something that he doesn't agree with. When his solid world falls apart, he has to re-examine himself and how he reacts to other people. There is a huge character growth arc that really helped me to enjoy this book more. I thought that it was really creative how Carly used Nash & Annie's marriage and subsequent divorce/friendship to illustrate his issues so clearly. This is a great book on the sociology of people and why people react the way that they do. Nash had no control over what happened in his life at 16, so he has done everything in his power to control every aspect of it ever since.

What I didn't enjoy about this book were those nagging little details like how Nash and Kelly are *almost* related. Also, she has an issue that isn't really an issue. It just has the appearance of one. Just like how Nash and Kelly have the appearance of being related. They were nagging little things that were surface items only, but both of those things are seriously taboo, which lent almost a tainted air to the book. I didn't enjoy that aspect of it. I wish that the story could have been written with a slightly different dynamic so that it didn't

have that minuscule taint. It just kind of gave the book a slightly weird feel, but that's probably just me...

Personally, I cannot wait for Dare's book. I loved the little glimpses that we saw of his cracks. I think that his is going to be a pretty powerful story!

Patricia says

Great book, just couldn't stop reading ?

Holly says

I was a little hesitant going into this book because I didn't care for the hero in the previous book. He was harsh and judgmental and I wasn't sure how he would be in this novel. Phillips did an excellent job with him, however. He showed major growth. I was frustrated with him during the first half of the book, but he really changed over the course of the second half.

The romance was well done and the secondary characters fun and interesting. Another great entry in the series.
