



On A Night Like This

Barbara Freethy

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The second oldest of the Callaway clan, Aiden Callaway veered from the family tradition of urban firefighting and became a smokejumper, never questioning his choice until the job took the life of his friend, Kyle, and left Aiden with injuries and fractured memories. Everyone blames Aiden for what happened, but he doesn't remember, nor is he sure he wants to remember. The truth may clear Aiden of blame but destroy Kyle's reputation and hurt the people he left behind.

Aiden seeks help from an unlikely partner...

Sara had always been untouchable, sweet, innocent, his sister's best friend, and the girl next door. But one reckless night in their youth took their relationship to a new level. Sara has never forgiven or forgotten the way Aiden brought it crashing down, but she's no longer that girl with the crazy crush. She's a woman in search of her own truth. The sparks between Aiden and Sara have been smoldering for a very long time. Sara is afraid to take another chance on a man who broke her heart, and Aiden knows better than anyone how dangerous an intense fire can be.

As teenagers they weren't ready for each other. Are they now?

On A Night Like This Details

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From Reader Review On A Night Like This for online ebook

Kathy says

Great family relationships story

I thoroughly enjoyed this story of finding love amid complicated relationships. It's been 10 years since Sara has seen Aiden. They grew up next door to each other and Sara has loved him for a long time. Since he didn't feel the same she stayed away. Now she's back in town to try a gorge a relationship with her father and Aiden is dealing with the death of his best friend and fellow smokejumper. There are secrets that need to be found and explained and a love that needs to be rekindled and returned this time. I loved the glimpses into the others characters and their stories to come. The family and friends dynamics were very well done and the endings is very satisfying.

Francesca says

I had wanted to read this author for a very long time, I don't know why. And I didn't get disappointed at all. I loved it. Nice story and loveable characters. I will read more books by her.

Tina "IRead2Escape" says

Hotness Rating 3 out of 5

This first book of the Callaways series is a sweet and simple read about unrequited teenage love, parental acceptance and second chances.

Aiden is a likeable enough character that frustrated me at times with his apparent apathy when it came to his situation. Witnessing his friend's death, but having no memory of exactly what happened would be horrific. Being blamed for it would be unbearable, but to have no interest in defending yourself or even try to save your career until a woman comes along to prod you seems way too pitiful. Don't get me wrong I get where a person could and would suffer a huge emotional break over this kind of life event, but the author didn't really emote this very well. Sure, she stated several times that he missed his best friend, etc but you never really felt that emotion.

Sara was a strong woman dealing with so many problems of her own. Her father treated her as less than nothing. I admire her in that she didn't just tell him to live his life without her and then walk away. I don't think I could have kept coming back for more.

As I said above this is a very sweet story, but just fell short for me. The emotion was written in words, but the feeling just didn't play out. So much potential and to be honest I'm not adverse to reading the next in the series and see if it's any better. The premise of these books are really good.

Savanna says

Easy-going Read

This book was great as an easily little casual read. It's a little campy at times, but there's something to be said about a book that's likely going to go the way you think it will, especially if the plot is laid out nicely. I'd recommend to a friend looking for a pleasant romance novel.

Purple says

Aiden and Sara have no chemistry. However she's immensely infatuated with him since...forever, of course! She's hung up on a crush and she keeps pushing even though he rejects her over and over again. But somehow he realizes he's in love with her. Still...her job is in NY, he lives somewhere in San Francisco and she's willing to give her job in a NY minute! Lovely...

Ronna says

Feel good romance about the not so-bad boy rekindling an old flame with the good girl from next door after a decade of separation. Both are dealing with personal struggles but find themselves reunited and in a position to help the other resolve their troubles.

Aiden Callaway is a smokejumper, a fireman who jumps from a plane into burning forests to put out forest fires. It's only for the bravest of the brave, unusually fit, adrenaline junkies, and Aiden fits the bill. He comes from a long line of firefighters and has carved his own way with his best friend Kyle by his side. But Kyle was killed 3 weeks prior in their last fire of the season and Aiden only vaguely remembers what happened as he was knocked unconscious trying to save Kyle and was lucky to be found alive. With everyone, including his fellow firefighters and Kyle's wife, blaming Aiden for Kyle's death and his inability to explain exactly what happened before he got knocked out, he has lost the trust of his crew, has potentially tarnished the impeccable reputation of the Callaway family name within the firefighter community and may be forced out of a profession he truly loves because of it. He suffers from terrible nightmares about the fire that killed Kyle. He has too many questions about what happened, is weighed down by guilt and doesn't know where to turn. Enter Sara Davidson.

Sara Davidson grew up next door to Aiden. She always envied the Callaway's large, loud & loving family. As an only child, she was loved by her mom, but ignored by her perfectionist lawyer of a dad. Her one stray from perfection as a child was her childhood crush on Aiden, who was her friend Emma's older brother and the promiscuous, bad boy next door. One night Aiden kisses her and it's everything she ever wanted, but he cuts things off before they even begin breaking her heart – a heartbreak she has never healed from. During her sophomore year of college, Sara's mom died, and there is no longer a reason to go home. The visits stop and she only has limited interaction with her dad. She graduates from college and law school, passes the bar, gets a great job with a big legal firm in NYC and is on track to become a partner. It's been a decade since she left home and she decides she wants to try to build a relationship with her dad, so she surprises him with a visit. He is indeed surprised and tells her to go home. As they begin to discuss why she is there and why she should leave, her dad forgets he left dinner on the stove and a fire starts. Unable to put the fire out, her father races downstairs to save valuables and subsequently falls and breaks his leg. Lucky for the two of them

Aiden is just arriving next door when he sees the flames. He gets Sara and her dad out, and so begins their reunion.

Sara is just the objective mind Aiden needs to help him work through what happened during the fire. Aiden is the protective, caring person Sara needs to get her through a newly discovered family secret. Reuniting as they have rekindles old feelings and in a matter of days 2 people who weren't looking for a relationship suddenly want something more from each other, but is it possible? Aiden isn't a relationship person and he may not even have a job soon. Are his feelings driven by his recent trauma and could he wake up in a week and realize it was all a mistake? Sara's worked so hard to build a life and career in NY, should she throw that all away on a chance to be with Aiden and maybe re-start a relationship with her dad? Those are the main themes around 2 interesting stories surrounding the fire that killed Kyle (what really happened) and Sara's family secret. We are also introduced to story strings around other members of the Callaway family, which are all well done and don't detract from the main story. The only issue I had with this story was how quickly everything was resolved. Aside from that it was an engaging, fun read. I recommend this book to fans of easy, adult romance. I look forward to reading the next book in the series when it comes out in March.

Candace says

Aiden is a smokejumper. He lost his memory following an accident while battling a fire. Aiden also lost his best friend, Kyle, during the same fire. Is Aiden to blame for Kyle's death? Did Kyle commit suicide?

Sara is a corporate lawyer. She is trying to reconnect with her father. Sara grew up with the Callaway family. She has had a crush on Aiden since she was nine. She knows Aiden is not a relationship type of guy. Does Sara still have a crush on Aiden, or is this attraction a mature love? Will she and her father re-establish their relationship?

This novel is a nice, easy read. The characters are well-rounded. The plot is simple and the subplots are neatly tied up. I would love to read more books in this series.

Paula Bothwell says

On A Night Like This (Callaways #1) - R

Violence: none

Language: fewer than 55

Sex: yep

I liked getting to know the H and h, and their backstory was great (I'm a sucker for second chance romance). There was a mystery and good secondary characters. Last 10% is an ad for a new book. Returned for content.

Chessela Helm says

an interesting and enjoyable book about two people who desperately need love but aren't quite willing to admit that. Sara was an interesting heroine - smart, determined, a good friend. Aiden is even more interesting

because he's trying to figure out how much he had to do with the death of his friend in a forest fire. Sara helps him piece things together, and Aiden helps her to deal with her very dysfunctional relationship with her father. It's nice to see a hero and heroine working together on something other than love. The supporting characters are nice - we get a taste of the story that happens in book 2. The pacing may seem a little odd - Sara and Aiden resist their attraction for a long time - but there's enough going on aside from their budding relationship that it makes sense. And there's still plenty of the book we get to see them together, figuring out where to go next.

Dee says

From A Sweet Life Boxed Set

Two-haiku review:

She goes to see dad
Neighbor saves them both from fire
She's always loved him

Pretty good romance
Nice little mystery, too
First of a series

Julia David says

I like second chance stories. Not only was it a second chance for Sara and Aiden, but Sara and her dad. Sara's dad had always been cold and unfeeling towards her and she always wished her family was more like the Callaways. After being rejected by Aiden, she let go of her teenage dream of happy ever after with Aiden. Now, years later, she finds her feelings haven't changed and she is sure his haven't either. Aiden has just lost his best friend and some people are blaming him. Sara is going to help him figure out what really happened. But, will she stay and does Aiden really want her to stay?

Mandy says

3.5 I really enjoyed this story, right up until the end. It seemed to end abruptly so that the main characters could get their happily ever after. I'm glad that Sara and Aiden got their happy ending after all of the years they spent pining for each other, but I thought this book would have left us hanging with more of a mystery. There is such a great arson mystery weaved throughout the book that wasn't resolved in the first installment of this series. I think I a heart stopping cliffhanger would have been appropriate. Otherwise this was another great book from Barbara Freethy.

Vickivav says

ugh....My mom, in her old age, has been reading romance novel after romance novel. Most of the time she just buys them instead of reading them. I decided to give this one a shot. To be fair this isn't a genre that I normally read. I picked one of the large format paper backs that she recently bought, mistakenly thinking it would be better than the typical dime-store Harlequins. I couldn't have been more wrong, sometimes you really can't judge a book by its cover. There was no beach in this book, yet both covers feature romantic beaches and what the hell does the title mean? It would be more aptly titled, "The Commitment Phobic Guy I had a Crush on in High School Who Became a Fireman and is Now Tortured Over a Problem that only I can Help him with and then He'll Love me Forever and Ever." Although, I guess that would be the title of half the books out there.

I normally don't bother finishing a book if I'm not enjoying it, which is why most of my books are rated four stars. I would have given this no stars, but I did finish it, so obviously I cared enough to see how it was going to end. Man....don't know what to say, the last four chapters were arduous. The problems were resolved over a few lines of dialog (way too much exposition in the conversation throughout the book). I also hate neat and tidy resolutions that come in the last few pages where everyone says and does exactly what they have to to wrap up the story-line. There were also too many threads introduced that weren't resolved....I guess I'm supposed to buy the next book in the series. Unfortunately, I just don't give a crap about these people.

To be fair, I know this is "light" escapist fantasy, but there's got to be someone out there besides Diana Gabaldon (whose books are too long for me to continue reading right now) who knows how to write a love story that is earned. Where you rush to the end to see how the two people come together in the end. Yes...it's inevitable, but it shouldn't feel obvious (read "boring"). My mom has about 300 books on her shelf. I haven't given up, surely there is a better writer among them. Stay tuned.

J.A. Fredericks says

This sweet romance with just a little bit of steam was an easy and enjoyable read. I got sucked right into the Calloway family and can't wait to read more. Love reading about strong women with important careers.

At least I read says

More a 3.5 rating only because the end was rushed. I enjoyed the story up until then. I felt like it was like this growing story that ended abruptly. It was if they said okay we love each other the end.
