



One Small Chance

Lucinda Whitney

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One city of two million people and only three months to find her.

What are his chances?

Isabel Antunes is content with her life as director of the British Academy in Lisbon. Then she's hit by a man on a bike—a man her boss just hired to be her assistant. Despite Simon Ackerley's repeated assurances to the contrary, Isabel believes he's after her position, but she won't hand it over without a fight. As if dealing with him all week is not enough, he shows up at church as well. Her only solace is in writing to the pen pal she knows as "Elliot".

Simon Ackerley told his father that he was moving to Lisbon for the job. But that isn't the only reason. Simon is looking for Amélie, the pen pal he's written for fifteen years. A woman he knows everything about—except her real name and address.

When the biking accident reveals that Simon's prickly co-worker Isabel is the elusive Amélie, he knows he has to win her trust before he can confess his true identity. If only he could tell her the actual reason why he's come, he's sure Isabel would treat him differently. But she's not ready for the truth.

One Small Chance is a standalone novella set in Lisbon. It's a clean and wholesome contemporary LDS romance in the A Love Story from Portugal series.

One Small Chance Details

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Author : Lucinda Whitney

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From Reader Review One Small Chance for online ebook

Mara says

I read this book as part of the LOVE STORY FROM PORTUGAL box set. This is a storyline I've never read about before. Pen pals for 15 years finally meet--one of them knows but the other doesn't.

When Simon (Elliot) meets Isabel (Amélie) at work for the first time he realizes it's the woman he ran over with his bike a few days earlier. It gets worse when Isabel finds out that Simon is her new assistant, that no one told her she was getting, and she thinks he's after her job. Then she runs into him at church. She can't seem to get away from him.

I thought this was a sweet story, and I really thought Isabel might figure out who Simon was as she and Elliot continued to email each other, and he started giving her clues about his new job and the people he worked with. Elliot was always nice to Isabel even when she was kind of rude to him, he understood the situation at work took her by surprise, and he really wanted to tell her what was going on. I liked the description of Elliot's clothes and his fun socks, and Isabel's cooking ability that she got from her grandmother. I was happy when Isabel finally decided to pray about the situation at work and got her answer. The ending was perfect--I was afraid Isabel might be upset that Elliot didn't spill the beans sooner. This story reminded me of when I was young and had pen pals--back when people used to write to each other.

This is a sweet (completely clean) romance.

Lucinda says

I'm so excited for Simon and Isabel's story! I had to start it four times but I'm so glad I stuck with it. It turned out so much better than the very first version.

It involves food and letters and lots of other favorite things.

Isabel learns to trust Simon and he learns to be patient and wait for the right moment. Together they learn that prayer helps them get the strength they need, and I really love their story.

It's an LDS contemporary romance set in Lisbon, Portugal just before the Christmas season.

Laura Bastian says

Read an early copy and loved it. The story is sweet and easy to believe, the characters are interesting and well developed for a short novel. I loved reading about Portugal through the setting and getting a little flavor for the area.

Carolina says

Read this in a few hours. Another cute read from Lucinda Whitney.

Sally Johnson says

Loved it! Made my mouth water because of all the good cooking and made me want to move to Portugal, even though I don't speak the language. :) It's hard not to fall in love with Simon and hope for the best in his relationship with Isabel. I hope there's a companion cookbook.

Teya Peck says

It must be the holiday season or something because oh my heck this was a so good! I loved the sweet romance in the him not telling her who he was. It was like reading a version of you've got mail! I LOVED IT!

Katie W says

If I were to describe this story in one word, it would be hopeful. Simon is so hopeful that he'll be able to find his longtime pen pal, Amelie, while on a short-term job in Lisbon. And he literally runs right in to her. What are the chances? Isabel is worried about her job when Simon shows up, thinking he's there to replace her, but as time goes by, she's hopeful they can forge a lasting friendship...or more.

How often do we miss out on some great thing because of the packaging or our preconceived ideas? Simon isn't a drop-dead gorgeous man, but he and Isabel have connected through their souls for years. It's frustrating to see her miss out because she can only see what she wants to see. Each of these characters brings something to the table and they complement and balance each other so well. I really liked them and the way they gradually came to realize the truth.

There is an added element of mild suspense, which is the true reason why Simon is there and I thought that brought a nice depth to the story. This story has a nice "You've Got Mail" feel to it, with enough twists to definitely make it stand out. Although a novella, I found that it was thorough enough to really warm the reader's heart and left me feeling very satisfied.

Content: mild romance; mild religious elements, specific to the LDS faith; very mild violence. Clean!

I received a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review

Heather Green says

This is a 'You've Got Mail' type story. Reads quickly. A fun, sweet escape. Interesting characters and a little mystery thrown in. I thought it was the best friend who dun it. Glad it wasn't. Clean romance. Loved that they established a friendship first. The descriptions of the setting were just enough to make me interested in Portugal, but not information overload about a place I've never been. Authors lose me when they go on and on about a country and in that country's language and I can't picture or understand what they are describing.

Information about the Mormon church. This is the first book I've read by this author. I'll be looking for others by her. Appropriate for any age. Cute cover. I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

Margaret Watkins says

From having their names picked out of hat to colliding with a bicycle, what are the chances of Isabel and Simon working together as well? Fate appears to have brought these two together, but it seems that it is divine intervention that keeps them together. This sweet love story with a mystery to be solved, touches the heart. Isabel's flair for cooking winds through the story and Simon's awkwardness endears him to the reader. As with most of Ms Whitney's books, this one also takes place in Portugal, whetting the reader's appetite for travel and culinary adventure. Well written and can be read by most age groups.

Jessie says

You've Got Mail in Portugal

This novella reminded me of one of my favorite chick-flicks, You've Got Mail.

Isabel Antunes and Simon Ackerly have been pen pals since a class project in 8th grade. They used pen names, and have become best friends over the years. Now taking a new job opportunity in Lisbon, Portugal, Simon hopes to somehow meet his pen pal. He doesn't expect to run her down on his bike, or discover the following week that they are co-workers.

Isabel isn't told about Simon's hire until right before he arrives. She thinks that her boss is trying to replace her. They definitely start out on the wrong foot!

I loved watching this relationship blossom. Simon was patient, and sweet. I loved the emails that continued after Simon discovered Isabel's identity. It was a story where you knew exactly what should happen, but it was a delightful journey getting there. I loved seeing Lisbon through Isabel and Simon's eyes. It sounded like a charming city that I would love to visit!

This is the third book that I have read by Lucinda Whitney, and I will keep reading as many as I can!

Content: clean (some kissing)

Religious content: characters are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. They attend church and an activity, characters talk about prayer, and read the scriptures.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

This was a fun story with the setting in Portugal. I need to go there now! And a red-headed male lead doesn't happen very often but it does in this book. :) I loved the characters and the gentle way Simon dealt with Isabel. So very sweet.

This is an LDS fiction book and some things specific to the LDS religion are mentioned. There is some talk of God and praying. Clean.

Deborah says

I so enjoyed this book, One Small Chance: a novella. It was an easy read and I enjoyed how each chapter flowed to the next. This book is a wonderful window into two peoples lives who find true love in an unexpected way. A romance novel with just that, romance. I found myself not wanting the book to end. Go get this book. The best part...even your teen can read it, no blushing needed.

CaliGirlRae says

This was a really cute story! Like one of the previous reviewers said, it also reminded me of You've Got Mail in that they were penpals and eventually he finds out who she is before she does. At first I was hesitant about how that would work but the author still kept a nice slow burn chemistry growing between the couple. I also love the fact that this story takes place in Portugal. I loved reading about the sites and culture as it is a setting not usually found in contemporary romances. The recipe section was a treat in the back which I am definitely saving for later. I'm curious about how they made those pizzas!

One Small Chance was a well-written story that was clean yet romantic and sweet, perfect for a nice fall day inside. The LDS religious themes shaped the characters nicely and I really enjoyed seeing how it shaped their outlook in addition to the story. I'm definitely keeping an eye out for this author's books in the future!

Bree says

I LOVE Lisbon, Portugal and reading this cute book took me right back there. The world is small and there is always that possible chance encounter. Isabel has a long time pen pal that she has written for years but knows little about his personal life like his real name. Little does she know that the new guy at work is her longtime pen pal. I love how Simon was so nice and patient. He worked on getting Isabel to trust him before saying much. I loved this cute novella. The characters had great chemistry and the descriptive details and setting were very well written. It is a clean, LDS romance novella. It is short, sweet, and an easy read!

Nari says

This book did not feel like a novella. The main characters were well developed and the story did not seemed rushed or that parts were missing. I loved the setting of Lisbon and reading about the sites there. The food descriptions in the book made me hungry. I might have to try one of the recipes at the end of the book. This was a warm and fuzzy romance about two people who wrote to each other over 15 years. They developed a true friendship that turns into love. Isabell is a hard worker but is struggling without her grandmother who raised her. Simon is so patient and kind to Isabell. I love how he encourages her and how he is so in tuned with her needs that he holds off with what he wants waiting for her to be ready. This is my favorite kind of romance. The kind that is developed over time and is built on friendship. I really enjoyed this book.

