



Deep Autumn Heat

Elisabeth Barrett

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Sebastian Grayson's plan? Expand his culinary empire, not waste time in his Cape Cod hometown. He's going to ride in for the weekend, spend some time with his brothers, and ride straight out...until he meets a delectably feisty woman who's being stalked.

Burned by a relationship she'd rather forget, Lexie Meyers thinks she's found sanctuary in sleepy Star Harbor. She has no time for guys, not even a hotter-than-hell chef who seems to have decided that she's the next item on his menu.

When Lexie's life is threatened, it's Seb she turns to for help. Still, it'll take more than smoking-hot passion to save Lexie from her past and allow her and Seb to find a future together.

*Revised second edition.

Welcome to Star Harbor, a small, picturesque Cape Cod town steeped in history, romance ... and danger.

- Deep Autumn Heat
- Blaze of Winter
- Long Simmering Spring
- Slow Summer Burn

Deep Autumn Heat Details

Date : Published April 24th 2018 by Elisabeth Barrett (first published January 1st 2012)

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Author : Elisabeth Barrett

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Deep Autumn Heat for online ebook

Shari says

I was blown away by how much I liked this book and now I am waiting impatiently for the next book in the series. Oh, wait, this one hasn't been released yet and I am asking for the next book? Yes, I am!

Deep Autumn Heat starts off the Star Harbor series about the four brothers Grayson. Cole, Val, Seb and Theo round out the cast of brothers who have looks that will melt you into a puddle! And if Seb wasn't enough in this book...he's a twin to Theo, who gets his book next. Seb is a big time chef who has worked hard. He has an upscale restaurant, Helena, in New York, looking to open another one in Boston and debuting a new show on The Cooking Network. On top of the world, he heads home to Star Harbor for the boys' annual Labor Day weekend. Labor Day weekend is a time for honoring their father and spending time together.

Lexie Meyer owns the local diner. While she is a transplant from California, Safe Harbor is her home. Her signature dish is her coconut cake, which she never will reveal the recipe for. Buster's her line cook, who watches out for her and there are several employees we meet over the course of the book. One nasty character is the owner of a restaurant in the next city who seems to be stalking Lexie for her coconut cake recipe. When nasty notes keep appearing on the restaurants back door, Lexie thinks she knows the culprit, but doesn't do much.

When Lexie and Seb meet, sparks fly! Seb immediately puts Lexie in a temper and keeps goading her. When he shows up one morning to shadow her, she can't believe a well known chef could learn anything from her. In the end Seb challenges her to a cook off, spurring all their competitive spirit.

But underneath all the passion is a stalker out to get Lexie. While attraction keeps pulling them together, the threat to Lexie brings out all of Seb's protective instincts. When push comes to shove, the two pull together while still holding onto old fears from the past that will push them apart.

The author described the emotions of the two characters splendidly. I felt the fear that was taking over Lexie's life. Seb didn't fight the attraction long and grew to love Lexie. I just felt the slow transition to fling to something more deep in my heart. I loved the characters, how they bent to each other and grew as their emotions changed.

The cool autumn air was overheated with the sizzling attraction rolling not from the chef's grill, but from the two lovers burning for each other. I leave you with that comment and an excerpt from Deep Autumn Heat below.

Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: 3.5/5

This contemporary romance, centered around two chefs and restaurant owners, has all the makings for a charming romance. Lexie owns her restaurant in small town, Star Harbor, a tourist destination and she's

launching her new catering business on the side. Seb, a big time, famous chef based out of New York, grew up with his three brothers in Star Harbor and is back visiting when he walks into Lexie's café. His interest is evident when she doesn't fawn all over him like so many other women do due to his looks, his fame, he outgoing personality. Seb seems like a very happy guy, loving the life he has, but it takes one woman to not think the world revolves around him to make him step up and take notice.

I liked that Lexie and Seb share the same passion for cooking. It gave them common ground right away and a little friendly wager is made resulting in a cook-off between the two. It helped to build their romance and made me like these two a little more with each scene. Lexie had a very bad experience with her last boyfriend, so much so that she took out a restraining order against him and moved across the country for a fresh start. She believes he may have tracked her down, and this provides the suspense to the story, along with random threatening letters that are being left at her café, that may or may not be connected to her ex, Frank. Little things with both of the ex and the letters pop up during the story but neither overtake the main romance until the very end.

I really enjoyed the romance between the leads. Seb is delicious. He's a big time name in the restaurant and soon to be television world, and he knows it, but there's something sweet and tender in him that comes out when he's around Lexie. For the first time, he really opens his eyes up to his world, the people he's surrounded himself with and starts to make some decisions for himself, all from watching Lexie and the way she manages her workers in the café. Her influence on him was subtle and it's hard not to like a guy that falls head over heels for the woman he loves.

Seb emitted a quiet groan. Slowly, he slid his tongue between her willing lips. She opened them wider to accept his entry, then tentatively stroked her own tongue against his. It felt heavenly, and she moaned low and soft in her throat.

(...)

For once, he moved like a man without an agenda. Without all of his arrogance, without his ego, he was just a man. A man who knew how to make her feel more pleasure than anyone ever had before.

Long moments passed, and still he made no move to deepen their contact – he just kept kissing her, slowly devouring her lips with his own. His tongue warmed her, soothed her.

Mentioned above, there are a couple difference suspense elements to the story. The resolution to the threatening letters kind of felt like it came out of nowhere while the ex-boyfriend storyline packed a little bigger punch story wise. I wasn't really captivated by either, but they didn't overshadow the main heart of the story which was Seb and Lexie, and also Seb and the relationship he has with his brothers. We meet all three brothers, each are charming in their own way, and as I've stated many times, I'm a sucker for a series centered around siblings, so I say, bring on the next brother!

My rating went down slightly when Lexie made a couple decisions late in the game that had me groaning and wanting to smack her. She has trust issues and because of Frank, issues with love and trusting in the love from a man, rightfully so after what she went through. I don't like when a heroine (or hero) runs away. Lexie does this to Seb when things get heavy emotionally and instead of sticking around to at least have some kind of conversation, she just takes off. She also makes a bad decision when all the signs point toward Frank stalking her. Again, it's something little in the grand story scheme of things, but it stood out to me as something dumb that an otherwise really smart heroine did.

Overall, I thought the story was fun, charming and very likable. I liked getting to know Seb and his brothers and even with a couple hiccups at the end, I enjoyed Lexie very much. The romance kept me turning the pages and I'll definitely be checking out the next book.

Tanja ~ T's Book ~ KT Book Reviews says

A sleepy little town is the perfect place to escape from it all. Even escaping from an abusive ex. Lexie Meyers has rebuilt a life for herself in Star Harbor. As chef and owner of her own small restaurant Lexi serves up low brow fare and a side of spice.

Sebastian Grayson is a chef on the rise of stardom. High brow restaurants and television shows are his ticket. Seb also has a rep for being one of the hottest catches around.

Well from here on out you get the gist of it all. They meet; sparks fly as Lexi doesn't fall at Sebs' feet. He is intrigued to find a girl who serves him up on a platter cold. No his usual dish so to speak. (I know puns aplenty today) *HA!

There is a bit of mystery when notes keep appearing with a threatening overture. Lexi is attacked and her deliveries are beginning to not show up.

My thoughts on this debut title.....

4 Stars on the love connection. It was cute and spunky. They had sizzle and Seb is very much an alpha male. Always a good thing.

2.5 Stars on the mystery/suspense. It was easy to figure out what was going on from the beginning. I wish the author had stuck to one plotline with this. There were too many little side twists that in my opinion wasn't needed and some plots were left unfinished. It is possible that this will be resolved in later books but it just felt incomplete in this one.

T was a bit of filler in the book as well. I didn't need all the explanations' on cutting styles for chops and how the kitchen runs. I am sure some will find it informative but for me it just took away from the story and well...filler.

I do see this series getting better and I did like the writing style very much. Will I be looking out for the next book? Sure I will :)

3 Stars

T~

*Given via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.
www.ktbookreviews.blogspot.com

Liz F says

Let me start off by saying that I normally wouldn't read a book with a title like this. It's just not usually my cup of tea. But wow, I'm glad Sara suggested it!! I loved it!!

Sebastian Grayson is a celebrity chef. He's come home to Star Harbor for a fishing weekend with his brothers but that all goes out the window when he meets Lexie Meyers. Lexie immediately captures Sebastian's interest simply because she isn't fawning over him like all women do. Maybe this should be a little lesson for us, ladies? Playing hard to get... well, let's do baby steps and just try playing not-so-easy to get. It may just work!! LOL! Anyways, Lexie genuinely doesn't really like Sebastian. He's drop dead gorgeous, rich, a fabulous chef, he has everything. And Lexie's had a bit of a rough past so she isn't in any place to start up with anyone, let alone a dangerous bad boy like Sebastian. Besides, she has plenty of other things on her mind. She's running her cafe, which is doing brisk business. She's also getting this stupid notes from a rival cafe owner one town over. There's no love lost between Lexie and the woman who owns the other cafe but the notes that Lexie keeps finding are laughable and childish. As if anyone would believe a threat about giving up Lexie's secret recipe for coconut cake! Plus now, a stranger keeps showing up in town, creeping Lexie out and she has no idea who it could be. So Lexie has a lot on her plate and even as delicious as Sebastian may be, she has no intention of making space on that plate for him.

But Sebastian is nothing if not tenacious. His restaurant in New York is doing great and is getting all these accolades and awards. He's about to start filming his new cooking show. And he's looking for a space in Boston to open up a new restaurant. Sebastian has it all but, of course, something is missing. Everything has kind of come easy to Sebastian. And with Lexie not being too easy on him, he's quickly intrigued. He has to work at getting her to talk to him and has to work at getting her to respect him. And as he's working on her, he's getting to know her and he really, actually starts to like her.

I really enjoyed this book. It has lots of mystery, some adventure and a couple of laughs. No tears though so those of you who love tear-jerkers may not like this one. The way that the author describes Sebastian on his motorcycle... Oh. My. Goodness. He sounds way too damn hot! And he's always wearing all black. You know, that only happens in books! Who can keep their black pants/jeans and black shirts the same color black?? NO ONE! THAT'S WHO!! Its not possible!!! LOL!! Anyways, in addition to getting me all hot and bothered with the description of Sebastian on his bike, Elisabeth Barrett also has a way with describing the setting. New England is picturesque on its on and the author captures that perfectly. I could almost smell the crispness of the air and hear the crunch of the leaves!! Awesome!

I only had two complaints with this book and they are both trivial, in my opinion. First, the book starts off with some kind of poem about pirates. Umm, I'm no poetry fan. At all. I think I might even hate poetry. So starting off the book with a poem made me gag. BUT, it IS a poem about these pirates (double gag) which kind of tells you a quick history of Star Harbor. I just think the author could have told us in a way that didn't have to rhyme. That's all I'm saying. The second thing I didn't love was the chef angle. I just don't like reading books about chefs. Now, people working in a diner? Sure! Lafayette in the Chalaine Harris books? I'm in. Virgin River by Robyn Carr? Loved it. But classic chefs with hoity toity restaurants in New York? Not so much. I don't know why I don't like it but I don't.

So that's it. Two silly complaints that are more nit picky than anything else. The rest of the book is awesome. I had a lot of fun reading it. The end of the book sets you up a little bit for book number two. I think I can guess who Book 2 will be about but I'm not sure. And you can also tell that we'll be seeing more of Lexie and Seb in future books. In this little town, how could we not? I would highly recommend this book to

anyone who enjoys contemporary romance with a little mystery thrown in the mix. The mysteries are solved by the end of the book but you still want to come back to Star Harbor for the next installment!!

Barbara Ann says

[image error]

Risbee says

This was more like a 2.5 rounded up to a 3.

I'm not sure where to start because I have two vastly different feels about this book.

As far as the story and basic plot are concerned, I liked it - and I'll even go as far as to say that I liked it a lot. Barrett did a good job creating warmth within the Star Harbour community and I am intrigued by all of her characters, especially the brothers. And the fact that Seb is a chef that interned for a time with Bobby Flay -- I mean, hello. Sold. Lexie held her own as a strong female, though she was excessively stubborn at times to the point where I wanted to shake her and I have a soft spot for Buster, especially once his past was revealed. For a first book in a series, I liked her balance between creating a community and injecting plot.

But then we get to the writing. Holy cow. There was SO MUCH unnecessary...fluff. Detail upon excessive detail upon WAY TOO MUCH DETAIL. I mean, an entire page and a half to describe breakfast? I get that Seb and Lexie are in the culinary world and that food is important to them, but it was just too much. And that isn't the only example - the scene with Lexie's attorney in the restaurant where she signed papers; the in depth descriptions of Seb's apartment and Helena, his restaurant. Don't get me wrong, details are important and have their place - but it was too much and I wish the effort had been given in other places.

Then we get to what I unofficially call "pompous" writing. Words that sound pretty, but aren't at all realistic and true. I mean, what guy looks at a girl and notices "the loose curl that had come free from her twist, framing her face in a chestnut chin-length wave." The best analogy I can give would be to compare the fluffy words to doilies on the furniture in my great-grandmother's house. They may be pretty, but in reality they get in the way and make me uncomfortable.

Then we get to the word "nubbin"...yes nubbin. Twice. I was picturing this hot chef in the heat of the moment and then boom - it was like getting photo-bombed by Chandler Bing. Sad sad moment.

I feel like I have been a bit harsh, and I hate that because when it is all said and done, I did like this story and I will gladly read the next in the series. But I wouldn't be giving a fair review if I didn't point out what ultimately detracts from something that, at its core, is a solid start to a series.

Jaime Arkin says

so... this book had serious potential. I mean first- look at that cover. shirtless man on a motorcycle - GIMME!! - The plot of the story itself wasn't even bad either.

Lexie Meyers owns a restaurant in Star Harbor and is starting a catering business but when former bad boy Sebastian returns to town for his annual meet up with his brothers he finds he can't get Lexie out of his head. Sebastian, or Seb as he's called is a rising star in the cooking world - he has a very successful restaurant in NYC and is expanding to Boston... he thinks. Plus, he's starting to film for a cooking show for tv.

Lexie moved to Star Harbor to get away from a relationship gone bad. She started her business and hasn't looked back. In fact, people are out to get her famous Coconut Cake recipe.

Where this book fell short for me was that it had too much going on all at once. Lexie's ex is possibly stalking her, someone is causing problems for her restaurant, her employees have 'family issues', a competitor wants her cake recipe and is leaving her threatening letters.... I mean this girl has some serious bad luck and on top of that, Seb is interested in her. (that might be the only good thing happening for her ... or so it seems LOL and for most of the book she disagreed!)

But in all seriousness this needs some major editing in my opinion. There was stuff in here I just didn't need to know, or care about and I found myself skimming sections to get to the good stuff. For example, at one point there were several pages of interaction with her lawyer about filing paperwork for her catering business and a restraining order.... I didn't care. I don't need ALL the details about everything. Another time we got dialogue between her and her kitchen staff for a meeting they had regarding salary increases and the help she would need for her catering business . O_o Again, I didn't care about those details and I didn't need them to know what was going on in the story. This happened quite often I found. (those are the only examples off the top of my head.)

Another thing I took issue with was some of the words. I'm a word sensitive person, I can't help it. The sexy stuff was pretty sexy... until I got to the word nubbin.... or channel. total dealbreakers for me because when I saw nubbin - I immediately thought of Chandler's third nipple on friends. That might not bother you so take my critique of that with a grain of salt.

so... I kinda liked this, I liked the characters but the story itself still needs a bit of work in my opinion.

Inga says

My review:

Deep Autumn Heat is the debut for Elisabeth Barrett and what a great debut! Deep Autumn Heat was well-written, hot sweet spicy romance with characters whom you would love to meet in real life! It is the best romance book I have read during this season and I will keep a keen eye on her upcoming books.

Regarding the plot:

Deep autumn Heat is a part of Star Harbor series and each book is presenting you one of the Grayson brothers and in this specific book you hear and read about Sebastian Grayson. It can be read as standalone novel, but I am sure after you have read the first book, you will ache for more!

Sebastian is visiting his home town in Star Harbor to meet with his brothers and the last thing he expects is a very lovable and hot woman - Lexie. Sebastian is a very famous chef and he is used to that women adore him. when he meets Lexie, he is surprised and awed by Lexie. Lexie's attitude and sparkiness is blowing Sebastian's mind. She is hot, adorable and resisting him with her quirkiness. But not for long, because Lexie is very attracted too him.

To get closer to Lexie, Sebastian is challenging Lexie to his TV-show for cook-off competition and from there things can't possibly get more hot: the attraction, the competition, the heat in the kitchen - these are all combined into a fabulous story!

I loved how the author increased the tension between the main characters and that there was a piece of mystery woven into the story. The dialogue was excellent, quick and funny, the settings were well created and as a result you get a book which is simply lovable.

Regarding the characters:

Sebastian is the best-described male hero in a romance book! There was something mysterious and attractive in him which you could not point your finger at in details. The way he looked and talked and acted made him masculine, sexy, strong, protective, sweet and at one point vulnerable. Sebastian is a kind of a man every woman would love to have in their life!

Lexie was adorable! Sassy, quirky, independent, smart would be the words to describe her. I really enjoyed her character and I think she was a perfect match for Sebastian - in the kitchen, in the bedroom, in his life.

The relationship between Lexie and Sebastian was nothing less than sizzling. They challenged each other, they supported each other and they made Deep Autumn Heat for such a positive reading experience!

Generally:

Buy it today! That's all I am going to say. Loved it!

5 stars.

figuranta♥?addicted♥?to♥?books♥? says

Oh no, i totally forgot i got this ARC :(

ARC courtesy to Random House Publishing Group - Loveswept via NetGalley

Coco.V says

?FREE on Amazon today (10/17/18)!?

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures

Having read more than my share of romance novels I always enjoy discovering a new to me author. When the author delivers an exceptionally great product, I'm ecstatic! Deep Autumn Heat by Elisabeth Barrett is an emotionally charged, well developed, superb story.

Sebastian Grayson (Seb) is in Star Harbor to reconnect with his brothers as they always do on the anniversary of their father's death. Seb now resides in New York, in addition to being a well known chef, he owns his own highly acclaimed restaurant, and is getting read to launch a cooking show. He's pretty arrogant, but deep down he's really a kind and caring guy. At first I thought I'd have trouble liking his character but no, he really is a very likable guy.

Lexie Meyers is the chef/owner of LM Kitchen, a local eatery, in Star Harbor. She's only been in town about 3 years but the people have welcomed and embraced her. Known especially for her sweet treats (most notably her coconut cake), Lexie is a smart businesswoman. She's straight and to the point but she runs her business with a calm efficiency that speaks of her nature. She's fairly private and other than her employees pretty much keeps to herself.

When Sebastian and Lexie meet the sparks immediately fly. What I love is that rather than just jumping in with both feet, these two let their attraction simmer and boil. At first Sebastian really runs hot and cold with Lexie. This is mainly due to his older brothers, who live in town, warning him not to hurt Lexie and also because he knows Lexie will be a distraction to his budding empire. On top of that, he realizes since he lives in New York that he really isn't a good match for her. He really does try to be the good guy. Lexie is still recovering from a previous relationship that was riddled with mental and physical abuse. She really doesn't trust Seb and she knows of his reputation both in the kitchen and beyond. It startles her that he affects her the way he does, something she hasn't felt in a long time. She's wary and so they dance back and forth.

On top of the romance between these two there are many outside factors that influence their budding relationship. Seb is scouting a location for another restaurant, Lexie is expanding into catering and she's been receiving threatening notes at the back door of her diner. When Lexie is attacked, Seb's brother, Cole, who is a policeman in town fears she's being stalked. Lexie is forced to bring up her ex-boyfriend and her past. The book is filled with these ongoing and ever changing plots. While one might think this distracts from the romance aspect of this book, it really adds interest and it's entertaining.

I loved that throughout this book we learned more and more about both Lexie and Sebastian. They each reveal themselves very slowly as their relationship changes and grows. In addition, the other characters in the book were well written and I enjoyed the quirky residents along with Seb's brothers and staff. Rarely in a romance novel do you get the type of character development that Ms. Barrett managed to give us in spades.

I thoroughly enjoyed Deep Autumn Heat. I felt a real connection to the hero and heroine as well as the town of Star Harbor. I love when I feel so immersed in a story and that's exactly how I felt reading this book. As I was preparing to review this book, I hopped on the publisher's website and am happy that Theo's book (Seb's twin) is due out in September. As a series lover, this is one that is destined to become a favorite of mine. Well done Ms. Barrett!

Sarah says

Deep Autumn Heat is Elisabeth Barrett's debut novel and the first book in her Star Harbor series starring the sexy Grayson brothers. If you like a not quite reformed bad boy then you're going to love sexy celebrity chef Sebastian but I have a feeling his brothers are going to be just as hot to handle and I can't wait for more of Val, Cole and Theo. I do love a series that is set around a family of characters that you can get to know and love more and more with every book and this left me very excited to pick up Blaze of Winter when it is published in September.

Seb hasn't lived in Star Harbor for years but he returns at the same time every year to spend time with his brothers as they remember their father on the anniversary of his death. Their time together is usually spent fishing and catching up but Seb takes one look at Lexie and finds himself distracted. He should be focusing on his family and spending any spare time he has working on opening his new restaurant or planning the next series of his cookery show but all he can think of is the spitfire who runs the local restaurant and her delicious coconut cake. Seb didn't make a great first impression on Lexie though - she immediately pegged him as an arrogant ass and put him back in his place. He isn't used to having anyone stand up to him and as a celebrity he is usually fighting off the women so when Lexie seems immune to his charm it immediately makes him want her more. Lexie can't deny that she is attracted to Seb but the last relationship she had ended with a restraining order and her moving half way across the country to escape her ex so she is understandably wary of getting involved with anyone again.

I loved the banter between Lexie and Seb, she stands up to him and challenges him in ways that nobody else has done in years and he can't resist her. She is more reserved but when someone as attractive as Seb turns all his attentions on her he makes it very hard for her to resist. They have great chemistry but don't rush into a full on relationship too quickly and it is Lexie who is most determined to keep him at arms length. We are also introduced to a great selection of side characters, obviously Seb's brothers are going to have main roles in future books but I hope we also see more of the other town members and would love to see Lexie's right hand man Buster get his own happy ending.

I think this will be perfect for fans of Jill Shalvis' Lucky Harbor series, it has the same small town feel to it with likeable characters and fun family dynamics. I can't wait to read the next instalment and will certainly be keeping an eye out for more from Elisabeth Barrett in the future. Deep Autumn Heat is highly recommended for light hearted contemporary romance fans.

Mandi Schreiner says

For the most part, I've had good luck with Loveswept releases. First, they have been at a great price point, \$2.99 and I've enjoyed Jessica Scott's Because of You and both of Ruthie Knox's books. I believe Elisabeth Barrett is a debut author, and I'm always on the lookout for a good contemporary. This one has a good set-up

for the series as a whole, but I wasn't quite sold on the book.

Every year, the Grayson brothers return to Star Harbor for a long weekend to remember their father. The brothers consist of Cole, former Special Forces soldier turned local sheriff of Star Harbor, Theo who is an author that lives out west, Val who also lives in Star Harbor, and our hero Sebastian. Sebastian is a very famous chef, who has a restaurant in New York city and is getting ready to have his own cooking show.

Sebastian meets Lexie Meyers who works at a local café in Star Harbor, and Sebastian has one taste of her coconut cake and knows she is something special. He also notices how she warms to everyone and has a great personality, something he might need lessons on. Sebastian is used to women throwing themselves at him, and when Lexie doesn't go for his flirtatious attitude, it kind of makes him work harder on impressing her.

When Lexie starts getting threatening notes on her door, and her ex shows up as her stalker, she has to turn to Cole and Seb for help.

I enjoy small town contemporaries and I like the setting of Star Harbor. I enjoy the Grayson brothers too. The author sets up each one to be a tiny bit mysterious, and of course they are all drop dead gorgeous. This story definitely made me want to read the rest of the series. Lexie is...well let me just say she came off pretty perfect to me. She couldn't really do anything wrong – she cooks amazing, everyone loves her, and blah blah. But she made it more that she is perfect, yet Seb isn't. And that always didn't come across as fair to me. Instead of being cute, warm and funny as Seb apparently sees her, I thought she was judgmental and a little harsh.

Stalker storylines don't always work for me, but in this one I think Lexie does a pretty good job of taking the threats seriously. She keeps the police informed and doesn't walk into dark alleys by herself, so I was happy with how that played out. I do think the outcome of the threatening notes on her door is lame, but it is a smaller part of the story.

Seb and Lexie have some nice sexual build-up in this one:

Slowly, very slowly, she turned her head around. Sebastian's face was bathed in the dim glow from the large movie screen and a nearby lamp. His panther eyes were trained directly on her and he had a hungry expression on his face.

He wasn't even pretending to watch the movie. Stop it, she mouthed.

Seb raised an eyebrow. No, he mouthed back.

Lexie's brow furrowed slightly. Why not?

Instead of mouthing back a response, the corners of Seb's mouth curled up into the wickedest grin Lexie had ever seen.

Their relationship unfolds okay. It is a little predictable, and because I didn't love the character of Lexie, it was a little hard to get into. I think I liked the appearance of the other brothers more in this book. I also liked Lexie's co-worker Buster, who is a man of few words, but has a big presence in this book.

Overall, this is a cute story. The suspense was a little over done in my opinion and I didn't love the heroine, but I'll definitely check out Theo's book next.

Rating: C+

Shari says

I was blown away by how much I liked this book and now I am waiting impatiently for the next book in the series. Oh, wait, this one hasn't been released yet and I am asking for the next book? Yes, I am!

Deep Autumn Heat starts off the Star Harbor series about the four brothers Grayson. Cole, Val, Seb and Theo round out the cast of brothers who have looks that will melt you into a puddle! And if Seb wasn't enough in this book...he's a twin to Theo, who gets his book next. Seb is a big time chef who has worked hard. He has an upscale restaurant, Helena, in New York, looking to open another one in Boston and debuting a new show on The Cooking Network. On top of the world, he heads home to Star Harbor for the boys' annual Labor Day weekend. Labor Day weekend is a time for honoring their father and spending time together.

Lexie Meyer owns the local diner. While she is a transplant from California, Safe Harbor is her home. Her signature dish is her coconut cake, which she never will reveal the recipe for. Buster's her line cook, who watches out for her and there are several employees we meet over the course of the book. One nasty character is the owner of a restaurant in the next city who seems to be stalking Lexie for her coconut cake recipe. When nasty notes keep appearing on the restaurants back door, Lexie thinks she knows the culprit, but doesn't do much.

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But underneath all the passion is a stalker out to get Lexie. While attraction keeps pulling them together, the threat to Lexie brings out all of Seb's protective instincts. When push comes to shove, the two pull together while still holding onto old fears from the past that will push them apart.

The author described the emotions of the two characters splendidly. I felt the fear that was taking over Lexie's life. Seb didn't fight the attraction long and grew to love Lexie. I just felt the slow transition to fling to something more deep in my heart. I loved the characters, how they bent to each other and grew as their emotions changed.

The cool autumn air was overheated with the sizzling attraction rolling not from the chef's grill, but from the two lovers burning for each other. I leave you with that comment and an excerpt from Deep Autumn Heat below.

This review was originally posted on Delighted Reader

Annie (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

Posted on Under the Covers

In a brand new series called Star Harbor, Elisabeth Barrett introduces us to the sexy Grayson brothers. Each

more hotter than the last, it seems that Elisabeth is planning on giving each brother a book in the series. You know what that means...there are only good things to come.

DEEP AUTUMN HEAT is the first book that features celebrity chef Sebastian Grayson and Lexie Meyers. When the worldly chef comes back to Star Harbor for awhile, Sebastian can't help but notice Lexie Meyers and her coconut cake. A chef in her own right, Lexie has built her reputation from the ground up and you can see all the hard work she has put in to make her kitchen run the way she wants it to run. However, Sebastian can't help but goad her as he tries to charm her. As sexual tension rises and tempers flare, the kitchen is just heating up between these two.

In the opening chapter, Barrett does a fantastic job of introducing the Grayson brothers in a way that made me immediately like them. I love the family dynamic and the "guy talk" between them is always very entertaining. I love small-town contemporary series that surround a family. It's brings a lot of heart to the stories and also adds another type of love other than the romantic kind. I can already sense that family will be a big part of this series.

Sebastian Grayson thrilled me because he is the type of guy who knows what he wants. He doesn't back down when there is an obstacle before him and I think that's why his career is so promising. The same goes with Lexie. She works just as hard, but for some reason I didn't connect with her so much. The difference is that Sebastian had some charm even when he was being overbearing and too forward. Lexie wasn't very charming or endearing to me.

I had another issue with the plot. When Lexie receives threats tacked onto her door, she reads them, collects them, but doesn't do anything about them. Then, one night she gets attacked by a masked man. This causes for some great suspense and drama, but I felt it was at the expense of Lexie. I don't mind setting up a storyline that will pull the plot forward, but I just felt that it made Lexie's character look dumb. Because of her non-actions, all of this occurred. If she did something about it, then there would be no story.

So while I thought the idea of the series was great and it started off with a bang, the rest of the storyline became predictable and Lexie lost some respect in my eyes. I'm still looking forward to the next book in the series.

*ARC provided by publisher
