



## Sweet Illusions

*Jeanette Lewis*

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Eva Malone was very young when her mother forced the family to join a violent doomsday cult, but she remembers a little about how normal life used to be. As a young woman, she escapes the cult with the help of an aid organization and relocates to Indigo Bay, South Carolina to pursue her dream of peaceful anonymity. After several tumultuous years as a policeman in Atlanta, Ben Andrews has had enough. He returns home to Indigo Bay and joins the Indigo Bay PD, where the most exciting part of the job is getting a kitten out of a tree or rescuing tourists who lose their keys at the beach.

Eva and Ben are immediately drawn to each other. But as the prophesied date of the apocalypse draws near and the cult steps up its efforts to find her, Eva realizes she can't maintain her sweet illusion forever.

## Sweet Illusions Details

Date :

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Author : Jeanette Lewis

Format :

Genre : Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Romance, Contemporary, Clean Romance

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## From Reader Review Sweet Illusions for online ebook

### **Jean Oram says**

I loved Ben and Eva. They're perfect for each other and looking for the calmness of a small town like Indigo Bay. Their past might catch up with them though! (Love how Ben gets to be a hero at the end!)

P.S. I really enjoyed the layered sensory details in this book. It wasn't too heavy, didn't slow the book and gave me a fun sense of the lives of these two, really bringing the story alive.

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### **Shash says**

This book pulled me in immediately! I was so intrigued by Eva and wanted to know her story. What a story she has! Her character was written so well. I could feel her hesitancy and fears. And I could feel her joy as she fell in love with Ben. She is so sweet! I loved watching her confidence and self-assurance grow.

Ben is wonderful! He is so patient and kind. He is very real, with strengths and vulnerabilities. I think everyone would relate to his struggle, though, hopefully, with circumstances that are less dire. His family is great! I loved the close relationships they all shared. And his brother is a riot!

Again, Jeanette Lewis has written a book that I loved. The romance between Eva and Ben was so sweet. There were great heart pounding moments. I just couldn't put it down!

I received a copy of the book, which I voluntarily reviewed. I have given my honest opinion.

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### **Julie Carpenter says**

I loved Indigo Bay! This was my first book in this series but I loved the sweet idyllic and charming town. I used to live on the coast and this brought back many memories of some of the smaller tourist towns. In fact I imagined myself at one of those towns and walking from the chocolate shop to the promenade and boardwalk on the beach. All the grasses growing along the beach blowing in the breeze and the smell of the ocean coming in on that same breeze. The tourists, the fun summer days, walking and just enjoying being outside in such a beautiful place. Happy sigh!!!

Miss Eulalie's chocolate shop brought back fun memories too. I had a favorite little old time candy store that made the old fashioned salt water taffy, caramels and chocolates and popcorns. I loved walking into that shop, even if I didn't buy anything but just for the fun nostalgia. My grandma was the postmaster for her small community for give or take 45 years. She had a room in her house that served as the post office and a little store. Everyone in town came to her house nonstop to get their mail and stop and chat. I loved the people in the community. Not all were related but they were a close knit community. One of my memories was the old fashioned candies that she would sell in her store. When I'd go visit, she'd give me and my cousins a small paper sack and let us pick either a small box of candies (lemon heads, candy breakers (think jawbreakers), boston baked beans, grapes) or we could pick a handful of penny candies. Remember the day when you could get a piece of candy for a penny? Well this fun candy store carried several of the same

things my grandma would sell so I loved going in there. Also when my children were younger, my friends and I would do co-op preschool groups together. We'd take turns teaching different topics. We met two days a week, one day for lessons and activities and the other for field trips(or crafts or play at the park). Each year one of those field trips always consisted of going to this candy/chocolate shop and the owner would demonstrate how to make the different old fashioned candies for the preschoolers. I think the adults probably had more fun watching that and the kids just kept thinking they couldn't wait until they got some candy. Lol. Oh good times and great memories!

So, needless to say, I enjoyed reading this book and the memories that came back from my life. Now, don't let those fun and sweet memories make you think this book is all peaches and cream because it's so much more. The book is perfectly titled if you ask me. It is sweet and then it's intense and it's fast paced and it's full of sorrow and healing.

Eva and Ben have some very different backgrounds and when they meet, they both are harboring secrets and pain. The question is can they trust each other with their secrets and allow healing and peace to come into their lives.

I loved Eva. I ached for all that she had seen and endured in her life. The sacrifices made that she didn't have a choice in the matter. Yet I loved her determination. I couldn't imagine living how she did. I have bad days but my bad days are relative in comparison to many others that I try to remember that and be grateful for my struggles and know that I am truly blessed.

Ben, he was great! From the first moment that we as readers meet him to the very end, I liked him. I kept cheering him on. There were a few times I wanted to grumble at him but hey, if I didn't feel that way about him then there wouldn't be any angst to the story and I wouldn't see his character growth and change. But I really liked him at the end. Especially when he had his wake up moment. He and Eva were a fun couple to read about.

Jeanette Lewis can definitely write a good suspense novel and a sweet romance. I loved the storyline and characters, the setting and the writing. I really didn't want to put the book down until I learned what happened to all the characters.

Content: Talk about a cult, gangs, some fighting, murder(nothing graphic-just know it happens), attempted rape(again nothing graphic). Some of the topics were a little heavier but I would say this is a clean read. Some sweet kisses and a few more passionate kisses but nothing past that in the relationship. I would recommend for more mature readers.

I received a copy from the author. No review was required. All thoughts and opinions in the review are my own.

Happy Reading!!!

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**Nancy says**

**Cult Crime**

Eva comes to Indigo Bay to establish a new life. Ben returns home, to Indigo Bay, to escape the cruel Atlanta

streets. They meet and develop a relationship. All goes well until Eva's past interferes with her well-being and their relationship.

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### **Donna Campbell says**

What a horrible so-called family life this girl came from! I can't even imagine the horror she went through. It was great to watch her come out of her shell and become a strong women and gain her independence. It was a story about falling in love and learning to move on.

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### **Sarah says**

Sweet Illusions is a fun and exciting book with characters that draw you into their story. This is not a book that you will want to put down before you finish. First of all, these are characters that you care about and you want to know how it all works out for them. Second, it is a sweet romance where you are rooting for the couple. And third, it has all the excitement and suspense you expect in a well written murder mystery. If you like the Agatha Christie/Miss Marple type mystery with evil explained enough that you are aware of just how bad the bad guys are, but not so gory that you feel entrenched in evil, this is the book for you! I truly enjoyed the story-line with the mystery, which is different than the usual sweet Christian romances that Jeanette Lewis writes. She continues to be one of my favorite authors!

\* I received a review copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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### **marionlouise says**

#### **Interest reading**

I kept reading this book. It kind of knew that things would have been resolved to the best conclusion for all

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### **Tabitha says**

Thoroughly enjoyed this book. Fast, clean read with great people to get to know and really identify with. I love the good family moments. (As well as the comparisons between the two "families" in the story.)

The truly fascinating (and frightening) parts were about being raised in a cult environment and really thinking about how difficult that would be to overcome, both the mentality and the physical limitations.

I found myself really wondering as I read. What illusions are in my life? Which ones are good for me and which are bad? Which are imposed by others? How can we see the truth, about ourselves and others? Prepare to really be emotionally invested in some hard but mostly sweet situations. (Warning: Death of a family member included)

This book was great as it entertained, allowed me to escape life for a bit, and made me think a little about the world outside my comfort zone.

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### **Nari says**

Does the environment you were raised in determine who you will become? Eva was raised in a cult but she did not agree with their ways and eventually escaped. She struggles to overcome her fear and their brainwashing to create a new life for herself. Then she meets Ben and though she is reserved around him, he is determined to get to know her better. Ben has some things he is struggling with too. Can the two overcome their struggles together or will they tear them apart?

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### **Gina says**

I liked this story about Eva who escaped from a cult and found love with police officer Ben. But when her past catches up with her will Ben be able to deal with her past, or will he be too late when her life is in the balance? Beautiful setting, love and suspense, all good things in a story. I received a complimentary copy and chose to voluntarily review.

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### **Whitney says**

I have been provided with a copy of Sweet Illusions by the author for an impartial review. I absolutely loved this book and getting to meet the Ben and Eva. This book is a part of the Indigo Bay Sweet Romance series and I loved getting to go back to this town and see some of the returning characters. This is the first book that I have read by Jeanette Lewis and it will certainly not be the last. I absolutely loved her writing and she just drew me into Eva and Ben's lives and she created a world with beautiful characters that just tugged at my heartstrings. I was left wanting more. I can't wait to read more by this author.

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### **Sarah Sant says**

Wonderful Read! It was thoughtful, suspenseful, and dangerous. The book really drew me in from the first page....his family is wonderful, everything hers is not. Great book!

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### **Cathy says**

This book is perfect for summertime. I loved the whole feel of the book. Indigo Bay feels like a town that you would have fun getting lost in as a tourist, simply strolling and enjoying yourself.

I really liked Eva. I liked the way she feels mysterious, especially in the beginning. As the story unfolds, you find out more about her, but she was almost as much a mystery to the reader for most of the story as she was to Ben.

I liked Ben too! I liked that he is happy to return to his hometown, even though he was sure it was the most boring place on earth when he left to work in Atlanta. I liked the way he was drawn to Eva, even though he wasn't sure he wanted to be.

I loved the plot of this one. Especially all the twists and turns near the end that take you to the resolution. This is a cute love story! I really enjoyed it.

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### **Julia Lance says**

I can't imagine life in a compound. The Author does a really good job painting the picture of how horrible that life would be. The strength and bravery she gives to Eva just makes you fall in love with her. This book will leave you so emotional but in a good way. I was drawn in from the first page and could hardly put it down. Once again this Author writes an amazing story. Loved it for sure! I think I need to add some of the other from this series to my list!

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### **Katie W says**

I can't even imagine growing up in a way as terrifying as Eva did. Escaping a cult wouldn't be easy and adjusting to the "real world" would be daunting. Yet Eva is very sweet and hard working, and a little skittish, especially towards Ben. Speaking of Ben, he's always been the type to be a hero and to save the day for those around him and he can't help but to be drawn to Eva.

I love the hesitant way this couple comes together. Both Ben and Eva have issues from their past to overcome and they are each strong in some ways and weak in others, which makes them seem realistic. Discovering the roots to their issues really brings out their characters, especially as the mysteries surrounding each other unfolds.

I love this setting and how each author is able to bring a new light to Indigo Bay, yet maintaining it's small town, beach charm. I love to see familiar characters pop up and enjoy watching new couples find love. This one took me by surprise with it's sense of danger and suspense, but it's still sweet and enjoyable.

Content: mild violence (vague mentions of rape/attempted rape, death, etc); mild romance (kissing, some implied innuendo).

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