



Family Ties

Louise Behiel

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Grayson Mills realized long ago that he's unable to establish and sustain meaningful relationships - especially with women. He's constructed a lifestyle that leaves him alone and his sexy new neighbor isn't going to change his decision - especially since she has a horde of kids running around.

Child psychologist Andie Bowen has four foster children, all with high emotional needs. Andie's committed to the children and she's not going to upset them by getting involved with a man who could never accept her family.

When six year old Chloe breaks into Gray's home, Andie is appalled until she realizes that Jamie, her clinging youngest child, left her side for the first time in months - to look at one of Gray's treasures. But Gray knows she can't help the boy building a model car, the boy loves, so he offers to help.

But when an unknown assailant starts tormenting Andie's family, Gray has no choice but to step in and help protect his neighbor and her family. And then he'll have to confront the nightmares that plagues his childhood and what they might mean today.

Together they will face his past, while struggling to keep Andie and her children safe.

Family Ties Details

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Author : Louise Behiel

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Nath says

3/5 (C)

I picked this book up because the cover caught my attention and also because I love romance in which the hero connects with young children. In that aspect, for me, Family Ties delivered :) One of the reviews I read mentioned that Family Ties was a quick read with nice characters and I agree with that statement. I liked the H/H, Grayson and Andie. They were very likable and patient with the children. I think Ms Behiel did a great job with portraying the children and there were some very cute scenes involving them LOL. I really would have been satisfied if Ms Behiel had really developed Grayson and Andie's relationships and the dynamics with the children. As it is, mid-way through the book, Family Ties takes an unexpected direction, exploring Grayson's past. It was actually hinted - quite heavily - throughout the first part of the book and that storyline was actually quite interesting. However, at the end of the book, it was all very anti-climatic. This could have been really emotional and I feel Ms Behiel failed to convey those emotions - part of it due to the delivery and the other, the story itself. Once Grayson realizes the truth, everything falls into place too quickly and Grayson comes to terms with it too easily.

I also think that the romance was a bit too quick for me and I wished one of the storyline involving Andie's oldest foster daughter had been more developed. As it is, I think it was a bit too obvious and knowing Andie was a child psychologist, I think she let it go too easily. Oh and the old neighbor's petition was really ridiculous!

Another issue I had and this one, very minor, is that Family Ties takes place in Canada. Then why are the distances in miles and the temperature, in Fahrenheit degrees? Was it to cater to the American and UK readership? Because as a Canadian, I think in kilometers and Celcius degrees. While I can approximately convert miles into km and vice versa, I have no idea about Fahrenheit and Celcius degrees. As I said, it's not major, but it's something that kind of bothered me.

If I'm not wrong, Family Ties was Ms Behiel's debut novel and overall, it was a nice and very readable book. However, when it comes to storyline and development, I think it can be improved and finessed.

Adriana Aviles says

This was a sweet story. The characters were believable. I found the story a little predictable and that is the reason I couldn't give Tina higher eating.

Renee says

I feel in love with this story! The family, the sweet children (I just wanted to take Jamie and Chloe for myself) and the rude sexy neighbor were just so real. The mystery with Gray, the neighbors and the vandalism really kept me hooked to my reader and I had to stop myself constantly from skipping to the end

just to hurry and find out what was happening. The result of this is I finished this book in less than 8 hours straight. Thank god this was a weekend. Now I have to get to my much neglected laundry.

Margaret says

Speedy Read

Really enjoyed this book, story flowed nicely and kept me engaged. It's a little racy in some parts and there is extramarital intimacy. The story itself has deep meaning showing that family is not just those who are blood related.

Jill Sorenson says

This started out okay but didn't hold my interest. I like the idea of a grumpy, reclusive hero paired with a foster-mom heroine. I like kids and neighbor romances. The little girl kept wandering over to the hero's house and going inside (without permission), which didn't strike me as realistic. Also didn't believe that the neighbors would be so unwelcoming/try to run the family off. Set aside halfway through, gentle dnf.

Jean says

Grayson Mills realized long ago that he's unable to establish and sustain meaningful relationships - especially with women. He's constructed a lifestyle that leaves him alone and his sexy new neighbor isn't going to change his decision - especially since she has a horde of kids running around.

Child psychologist Andie Bowen has four foster children, all with high emotional needs. Andie's committed to the children and she's not going to upset them by getting involved with a man who could never accept her family.

But when an unknown assailant starts tormenting Andie's family, Gray has no choice but to step in and help protect his neighbor and her family. And then he'll have to confront the nightmares that plague his childhood and what they might mean today.

Rhonda says

Gray, Andie and the kids are very believable characters. Having worked with foster kids and with abused and neglected children myself, I can say the dynamics between the family (and that's what they are - a family) is spot on. The concerns from the neighbors (although not necessarily warranted) are those that are expressed in the real world as well. I couldn't help falling in love a little with the kids in this story. There are two lines of suspense mixed into all these dynamics as well, keeping you guessing as to who the culprit is in one thread. While it's clear pretty early on what happened to Gray, I never the less wanted to see how he and the others involved would handle the situation. And even though there are some heavy issues involved, this is still a light and fun romantic read which I definitely recommend.

Shelly says

Free on kindle. This wasn't as straightforward as the blurb led me to believe so I was pleasantly surprised on that end. I wasn't engrossed, but this was a little different from other books with the foster children aspect. I liked that.

Leigh says

This was a wonderful story! I was late for work this morning because I was sitting in my recliner bawling like a baby when Grey found out!!! The love story between Andie and Grey was really well written. It felt natural. The kids were so wonderful. My only critique would be that I thought Andie should have been a little more in tune with Bonnie and the trouble she was facing. Other than that it was fantastic.

Elena Aitken says

I got very absorbed with the characters as Behiel did an excellent job developing both of the main leads. I found myself turning pages and rooting for them both.
Happy love story with just enough twists and drama to keep it interesting. Great stuff.

Melanie says

Really loved Gray, Andie and all the kids. A few good twists and an overall compelling love story.

Flavia Sugnu says

I'm not providing a summary of the story here as I'm sure many others have already done so

This book was fantastic, the characters were really relatable and the plot wasn't just some typical cliché, it featured real life issues which probably doesn't get spoken about enough and although it was/is a romance based novel, it's not trashy or just pure smut- the emotions are tangible and there was not one point at which I began to lose interest.

Cindie says

This heartwarming story of family and what defines family and love was wonderful.
A foster mom, a trouble neighbor, kidnapping, vandalism and nightmares all revolve around the growing relationships of this unlikely family. I fell in love with all of them.

The story was well written, easy to read and pulled me right in. I have already bought the next in the series and know that I will be a fan of Louise Behiel from now on. Thumbs up on this one!

Kassandra Lamb says

I loved this story! I'm not normally a reader of romance but I know this author from an online author's group I belong to so I bought it and read it to be supportive.

I was SO pleasantly surprised. I loved the rather unusual premise that the female main character is a foster mom and her neighbor a man who buys and renovates houses. I am a retired psychotherapist and I felt these characters were very realistic and the issues they struggled with, both the adults and the kids, were psychologically spot on.

I highly recommend this book to romance and mystery readers.

Randi says

Gray lives in his temporary house for over a year. He typically bought a fixer-up and remodel it to be prepared for the next buyer. That's what he does in his spare time. He doesn't know what he's doing when a family moves in next door. Gray met Andie, the mother of the family. He ponders how she had the oldest who happened to be 17 - must be young.. Oh! Andie's a foster mom for 4 kids and she's a child psychologist.

Gray was resisting his attraction as he had no time for a family with problems... And yet one by one child kept coming into his house and... It's history... Wait, why is there vandalism on her house? Petition to kick her family out of the neighborhood. That won't do!

It's pretty a cute story. Andie's a widow who has her hands full with the children and loving every minute of it. Any progress in any of the children is something to be celebrated with. While one would think the book is about her, it's actually about Gray. Andie brought something to Gray that he has forgotten existed... from the past...

The writing is pretty well done.. It does keep me interesting in the book. But something about it makes me gives it a 3 star for some reason. I guess there was a little of something that might be missing from it. However, I don't want to discourage people from reading this. It's pretty good for people who loves romance books!
