



## **The Magnolia Inn**

*Carolyn Brown*

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**The Magnolia Inn** Carolyn Brown  
A #1 *Washington Post* and *Amazon Charts* bestseller.

**New York Times** bestselling author Carolyn Brown brings together two wounded hearts in a Texas romance of second chances and twice-in-a-lifetime true love.

Inheriting the Magnolia Inn, a Victorian home nestled in the East Texas pines, is a fantasy come true for Jolene Broussard. After living with the guilt of failing to rescue her self-destructive mother, Jolene knows her aunt and uncle's B&B is the perfect jump start for a new life and a comforting place to call home. There's just one hitch: stubborn and moody carpenter Tucker Malone. He's got a half interest in the Magnolia Inn, and he's planting his dusty cowboy boots squarely in the middle of her dream.

Ever since his wife's death, Tucker's own guilt and demons have left him as guarded as Jolene. The last thing he expects is for his new partner to stir something inside him he thought was gone forever. And as wary as Jolene is, she may have found a kindred spirit—someone she can help, and someone she can hold on to.

Restoring the Magnolia Inn is the first step toward restoring their hearts. Will they be able to let go of the past and trust each other to do it together?

## The Magnolia Inn Details

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## From Reader Review The Magnolia Inn for online ebook

### Elyse Walters says

Audiobook- ebook sync.

Voice narrator by Brittany Presley was perfect for this story

In the process of renovating the damaged, run-down, out-dated structure of the Magnolia Inn in east Texas, ( in a small historical tourist town called Jefferson), the two main characters: Jolene Broussard and Tucker Malone are both in need of 'personal' renovation. They each come with troubled pasts of baggage.

Literally and figuratively the Inn gets a make-over as well as these two wounded grieving souls.

As Jolene and Tucker work together to bring freshness of Magnolia Inn back to life...

they do the same with themselves and with each other.

From partnership, to friendship, to love... Jolene and Tucker are working through grief, fears, guilt, sadness, even anger...

coming to forgiveness and redemption.

Three other feisty, quirky....'hilarious' characters:

Flossy, Dotty, and Lucy, are the town community gals that give this novel its supercalifragilisticexpialidocious entertainment.

Like the song in Mary Poppins...

the old gals add spoons-full of sugar to make the medicine go down.

They contribute healing Jolene and Tucker.

Jolene's \*Aunt Sugar\*, does is sprinkling healing too...( notice the name is \*sugar\*), along with Uncle Jasper by calling from the road... checking in on the kids, - how the remodeling is coming - and how they are coming along emotionally.

Aunt Sugar and Uncle Jasper, are retired RV owners - having recently let go of their many years of running The Magnolia Inn, are having their own new beginning adventures on the road.

Jefferson is the perfect town to heal, grow, let go of the past, and move on.

Jefferson is 'not' the town of depression.

The buzzin- perky- town people are goofy-joyfully-contagious.

I learned an interesting tidbit about the historical town of Jefferson. ( for real)..

There is a group of women who call themselves

"The Pulpwood Queens".

These women are part of a meet&greet book club in a combined beauty and book store.

I couldn't help but wonder if their sparkling group played a roll in the creation of Flossy,Dotty, and Lucy.

This was fun reading in the way author Fannie Flagg is.

A predictable love story develops...( but we're happy about it).

This was my first time reading Carolyn Brown.

I might not jump to read her often - but I enjoyed it for what it was: a contemporary old fashion PG-love story.... with quirks!

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3.5 rating

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### **Dani C. (Paulette's Papers) says**

80% of the book Tucker is still talking to his dead wife and just cannot seem to get over her. Sorry but this is the least romantic book I have read in a long time! If the writing hadn't been so good I wouldn't have finished reading it! The best part of the book – the cover!

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### **Jultri says**

A quick read but not memorable. Less of a romance as the focus was more on the hero overcoming his grief following the death of his wife 3 years early. There really was very little physical and romantic awareness between the main characters for most of the book, and what was there was stated by the author rather than shown.

This was an ARC provided by NetGalley.

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### **Carrie says**

The Magnolia Inn by Carolyn Brown is a slow burning contemporary romance. The story brings two flawed characters together for their shot at a happily ever after over the course of several months time.

Jolene Broussard found out that her aunt Sugar was going to give her half of her bed and breakfast, the Magnolia Inn. As excited as Jolene wanted to be she knew she was dead broke and that the inn was going to take a lot of work to get into shape and her cousin Ruben who now owns the other half was the last person she wanted to go into business with.

Tucker Malone used to be in law enforcement before his wife died in a tragic accident, now Tucker is basically a hermit in his trailer and a weekend drunk mourning his wife. When Tucker hears the inn is for sale he decides to invest the insurance money putting use to his carpentry skills. While Tucker is much better to partner with than Ruben, Jolene and Tucker find themselves navigating their new partnership slowly but surely.

For a change we have a romance novel that didn't push the romance (or the characters into bed) within the first few pages. The couple in this story each had their own issues to deal with and that was done slowly while remodeling the inn. I will say what I also enjoyed the most in here was the side characters, Flossie, Dotty and Lucy, the trio of elderly ladies had been friends with Jolene's aunt for years and were like

extended family and always good for a chuckle which definitely helped make this one a cute story overall.

I received an advance copy from the publisher via NetGalley.

For more reviews please visit <https://carriesbookreviews.com/>

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### **Sarah says**

The Magnolia Inn is the newest book by one of my new favorite authors, Carolyn Brown. It tells the story of Jolene and Tucker.

Jolene spent her summers with her aunt and uncle at The Magnolia Inn, a B&B owned and operated by them. She loved her summers there and at the beginning of the novel she finds out that she has inherited half of the Inn. Her cousin, through her uncle (no blood relation) has inherited the other half of the Inn. Her aunt and uncle decided it was time for them to retire and travel the USA by RV.

Jolene is thrilled, her cousin (who is a major jerk), is less than excited and no sooner than the papers are signed, he has sold off his share of the Inn to a man by the name of Tucker. Tucker's wife passed away a few years earlier in a car accident and Tucker is having a very hard time getting over his wife's death and he still speaks to her in his mind. Tucker lives in a trailer and after deciding to purchase the Inn, he quickly moves in. The story then progresses as Jolene and Tucker begin to fix up the inn.

This is a very slow burn romance. A good portion of the book is spent with Tucker still mourning his deceased wife while dealing with his growing feelings for Jolene. There is some adult content in the book, but all those scenes happen behind closed doors so I would consider this to be a clean romance.

While I adored both Jolene and Tucker, the best characters had to be Jolene's Aunt Sugar's friends; Flossie, Dotty and Lucy. They are such a hoot and their scenes are some of the best in the book. I compare this a bit to books by Fannie Flagg, in the scenes of how wonderfully southern it is.

I received a digital review copy of this book from Montlake Romance via NetGalley.

Rating: 4 Stars

Sensuality Level: Sweet

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### **Aly says**

2.5

When her aunt and uncle give her half of their bed & breakfast to travel in their new RV, giving the other half to her despicable cousin, Jolene Broussard is still concerned when he sell his part to a stranger. A carpenter and widower with a moody attitude who still talk to his deceased wife. Together, they'll renovate

the inn.

It sadden me to give such a low rating to an author that usually bring me so much joy but I didn't connect with all the characters this time. I had trouble especially with Tucker and with the lack of romance in this story. I know it's women's fiction, but I still expected a love story that didn't happen , in my opinion, even when they finally got together, thirty pages before the ending.

Anyway, one deception book on almost 40 read by this author is a pretty good average ;p

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### **Penny Wolf says**

This was perhaps the most predictable, silly book I've ever read. There was no drama, no real conflict. You have an alcoholic guy who becomes sober due to the love of a good woman. REALLY? And I don't know what genre it considers itself, but I would say religious romantic--which is definitely not my cup of tea. I'm not a romance reader, but even if I were, this was ridiculously without a plot line. And if they talked about church one more time...

Spare yourself, stay away from this one.

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### **Peggy Jaeger says**

When she inherits half an inn badly in need or repair. Jolene Broussard is equal parts thrilled and daunted. When she discovers that her original partner, the loathsome Ruben , has sold his half to someone else, Jolene's day brighten somewhat. But what if the new half owner is as bad as her cousin-by-marriage would have been? Jolene's got a lot of baggage in the love department and she's not exactly the most trusting of souls.

Tucker Malone is a widower still in love with his wife and who is battling a drinking problem. Buying the inn on a whim seemed like a good idea at first. But when he meets the fiesty Jolene, he begins to second guess his purchase. Why does his partner have to be so darn cute?

Restoring the inn together is a balm for the both of them.

In her sweet way, Carolyn Brown gives her readers another darling romance and teaches us all about the gift of forgiveness.

I loved this book. And although, like all her books. the dialogue sometimes seems a little anachronistic, the story is sound and the power of redemption for her characters, strong. Thanks, Netgalley and MOntlake for a sneak peak for an honest opinion.

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### **"Avonna says**

Check out all of my reviews at: <https://www.avonnalovesgenres.com>

THE MAGNOLIA INN by Carolyn Brown is her new contemporary second chance romance. It is a sweet romance, which I call a cozy romance because it is written about adults (not YA), any sex is behind closed doors, some religion may be included and the focus is on the H/h's emotional growth or healing. These books also include a strong family, friends and/or community support system.

Jolene Broussard grew up with a drug and alcohol addicted mother. She could not get her mother to change or get help for herself, so she left when she could. She is carrying a lot of guilt though because her mother committed suicide after she left. The happy times she had growing up were with her mother's older half-sister and her husband at The Magnolia Inn B&B during summer break from school.

Sugar and her husband are ready to retire and travel across country, so they leave half of the B&B to Jolene and half to her cousin Rueben. Sugar has big plans, but no money. Rueben hates his memories of the B&B and decides to sell.

Tucker Malone lost his wife of 5 years in a tragic traffic accident. He hits the bottle hard. After losing his job as a police officer, he vows to only get drunk on the weekends and starts to build a name for himself as a carpenter. Tucker is informed about the sale of Rueben's half of the Magnolia Inn and decides to buy in and partner with Jolene.

The partnership is rocky at first, but soon each begins to understand that they each have deep emotional issues to deal with and dealing with them together as they remodel the inn seems to work better than dealing with them alone.

I enjoyed this cozy romance. Jolene is so strong and had to survive so much. Tucker is rebuilding his life, but he is stuck emotionally until he meets Jolene. I enjoyed how the changes in their lives and the remodel of The Magnolia Inn seemed to intertwine. The secondary characters are almost show stealers in this story. Sugar, Flossie, Dotty and Lucy are good for a laugh, but also share their wisdom with Jolene. This is an emotional growth story with a very slow build up to romance. Sex is behind closed doors and only in the last portion of the story. An enjoyable read.

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### **Sophia says**

Two broke, grieving people share an ownership in an old Victorian inn. Between the magic of the inn and the friendship that grows between them, they might both find a chance at forgiveness, healing, and love. A bit of country charm, a group of sassy friends, and a sweet, simple story are what draws me back time and again to this author's books and an engaging, familiar narrator.

The Magnolia Inn, a crossover between women's fiction and contemporary romance is a standalone story. It deals with such sad elements of death, grieving, substance abuse, family, friendships, and letting go of the past and guilt.

Whenever I see a pair, who are disgruntled and barely acquaintances, but have that special spark, forced to work together in a gently-paced, slow burn friends to lovers, I know I'm going to have a good time.

Jolene Broussard inherits half of the old Magnolia Inn from her aunt and uncle and ends up gaining a business partner when her cousin sells his share to Tucker Malone. Tucker might be the best handy man in

the area and a partner who sees the potential in the Magnolia like she does, but he gets drunk at least once a week and isn't over his wife's death. Jolene has had enough of supporting and enabling drunks from her mother to her ex-boyfriend and she sure isn't willing to coddle another one.

But, with the support of her aunt's three old friends and her own daily experience seeing that Tucker is not her mom or her ex though he surely does fight his own demons, she realizes that Tucker isn't the only one who needs to get over some pain, guilt and anger.

Slowly, but surely the old inn is refurbished and the pair find they are friends and they both start to look toward the future. If only they can let go of the past.

Unlike her straight up cowboy romances, this one focuses on the process of letting go, friendships, and then romance. There is lots of time with the three older ladies who are a sassy trio, renovation work that helps Jolene and Tucker form a friendship which lets them talk over what is on their hearts, and even resolving unfinished business with the ghosts of their past through mental conversations with those dead and gone. Things ease along rather than run straight to the romance.

I enjoyed the story I got. The work, the people, the friendships, and the everyday feel. It was hard seeing how much pain and waste the alcohol caused, but I was glad to see that it wasn't quickly swept under the rug or treated lightly. Jolene was the child of an alcoholic and Tucker lost his job because of it and uses it to self-medicate away his grief and loss. My heart broke for them and I was cheering them on to get through it.

Brittany Pressley is a great match for group who were mostly Texan with one of the older ladies, Dotty having some Cajun. She paced well with the story and had a good grasp of the tone needed through each change of emotion and situation. Her work enhanced the story and I enjoy that she does several of Brown's books.

All in all, this was a comfy, heartwarming story with a satisfying romantic ending. Those who enjoy women's fic crossed with contemporary romance set in a small town should try this one.

My thanks to Brilliance Audio for the opportunity to listen to this book in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Judy Churchill says**

There's not much to this book. She's written better things.

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### **Xerxia says**

2.5. Let me be frank: this book is really boring. I'm told a lot of what I disliked about it is cultural, that I'm simply not the intended audience for this story. But that doesn't change the fact that there is nothing compelling here. I felt about as much for these characters as I do for egg salad.

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### **Natalie says**

An absolutely terrible book. Reads like a Steel Magnolias wannabe, but a nonsensical, terrible version of it. The main story is interesting enough but it's so drawn out and repetitive. Then there's other side stories that

are going on in the background that make no sense. They're insignificant and bring nothing to the story so you end up wondering why it was even mentioned in the first place. And the ending is abrupt and purely lazy writing.

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### **Kathleen says**

This book started slow for me but it built up to a wonderful story of family, friendship and love.

Jolene Broussard has been left half of The Magnolia Inn from her Aunt Sugar and the other half belongs to the nephew of her Aunt's husband. He does not want any part of the Inn and sells his have to Tucker Malone, who is a widower that cannot get past loosing his wife. Both of these people have had tragic pasts which they cannot move forward to a new life. While they renovate the Inn, they begin to put the past behind them and with the help of Aunt Sugar's three friends, who have been together since they were little girls, and phone calls with Aunt Sugar, they know the future is something that they both want and are building it together.

Carolyn Brown knows how to write a good women's fiction with wonderful characters and the bonds of friendship that cannot be broken over time or place. She adds in romance and HEA for us to sigh over and gives us many LOL moments with her feisty, lovable, and quirky southern woman of a certain age. She makes you want to pull up a chair at the table and join in the fun. I always want they story to on and on so I can catch up with what her characters are doing... I await the next great story from one of my fav Women's Fiction writers.

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### **Susan says**

The Magnolia Inn

Carolyn Brown

THE MAGNOLIA INN is a slow burn contemporary story that I was pulled in to from the very first page. To be honest, I fell in love with the cover the minute I saw it. I knew I would read it anyway, because I love Carolyn Brown, but the cover really pulled me in. I would love to stay at an inn with a beautiful purple door! I loved everything about this beautiful story and I'm excited to recommend it to my reading friends. Carolyn Brown always has a way of grabbing her readers and she never lets us go.

THE MAGNOLIA INN really takes a turn that will have you unable to put this beautiful story down. Neither Jolene or Tucker are looking for a relationship, but they can't seem to ignore their growing feelings. Tucker's wife died five years ago and it has left him with so much grief and guilt. Jolene has been burned in the past and has no desire to go down that road again! It was cute watching these two dance around their feelings for each other. Jolene just wants to remodel the beautiful inn that she has inherited from her aunt and uncle but she needs someone to buy the half that her cousin wants to be bought out of. Jolene doesn't have that kind of money and Tucker does so when she hires him as a carpenter he decides to do a little investing!

THE MAGNOLIA INN is filled with twists and turns and had me staying up way too late one night to finish! I had to know where Carolyn Brown was taking us and what would happen to Jolene and Tucker. I really loved how the whole community came to Jolene and Tucker's aid and only wanted them to feel loved and realize that they were home. There is so much heart in Carolyn's writing that I'm always left with a huge smile on my face and my heart very happy. I could totally see THE MAGNOLIA INN becoming a Hallmark movie and I would love to see it. All of the characters are very interesting and believable, so much so that I felt as if I've known them for a long time. I would love to hang out with Sugar, Dotty, and Flossie. I'm sure they could teach me a thing or two and I know they would keep my laughing all day long! I love how Carolyn does that to me each and every time.

I received a complimentary copy of this book through Netgalley. All opinions expressed are my own and were voluntarily given.

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