



## **The Paramedic's Second Chance: Sweet Contemporary Beach Romance**

*Elana Johnson*

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**A widowed florist, her ten-year-old daughter, and the paramedic who delivered the girl a decade earlier... Love's second chance on the beach!**

Paramedic Andrew Herrin delivered Gretchen Samuels's daughter on the side of the road when she and her husband couldn't make it to the hospital in time. When their paths cross again in small-town Hawthorn Harbor, she's a widow and the baby is ten-year-old Dixie.

Dixie gets along great with Drew, and Gretchen finds herself falling in love with the man who's rescued her twice now. But when Drew's ex-girlfriend comes back to town, Gretchen's trust issues rear their ugly head. Can she and Drew find their way toward finding love in the lavender?

This is a full-length sweet/clean contemporary beach romance in the vein of your favorite Hallmark movie by USA Today bestselling author Elana Johnson.

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## The Paramedic's Second Chance: Sweet Contemporary Beach Romance Details

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## **From Reader Review The Paramedic's Second Chance: Sweet Contemporary Beach Romance for online ebook**

### **Nikki May says**

This story was a sweet love story with a few other elements thrown in just to throw a few twists and turns in. The scenes were described so well by the author I actually envisioned myself being there smelling what the characters smelt feeling the atmosphere, especially the lavender festival scene that was so detailed the emphasis on the community feel definitely came through in the authors words.

I like the first introduction to the characters in this book, gradual introductions and learning about them and their quirks, the fact that Gretchen had to be so independent and that she was so stubborn about accepting any kind of help even if it wasn't the right thing to do but as the story progressed her personality started to change.

Drew was lonely, bitter and a bit lost when he met Gretchen but he felt the chemistry that they both experienced and acted on it, his character showed more, his gentle nature definitely attracted Dixie and he was so good at communicating with her making her feel part of his world, he was kind and for once in a love story he wasn't bossy and dominant and didn't need to have a big ego to show his strength as a man it was a quiet strength.

I say this was a love story but it wasn't insta-love it was about managing to accept a second love without the guilt or grief destroying it, it was slow developing feelings that didn't need the sex scenes to emphasise, it was a slow burn building love.

Overall I enjoyed this story it was a feel good book that would be good when your looking for a light book or recovering from s reading slump.

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### **Teresa says**

Gretchen is a widow who happens to cross paths with the paramedic who delivered her daughter on the side of the road - ten years later. Dixie, the girl Andrew helped deliver, gets along with Andrew and has been secretly throwing quarters into a wishing well that Andrew has shown her. Will Dixie get her wish? Will Gretchen overcome her insecurities and tell Andrew her true feelings? Will Andrew get the family he has not known he has been missing until now? A great beach or weekend read! I received an advance copy from the author in exchange for an honest review. I cannot wait to read the next book in the series!

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### **Margaret Watkins says**

A charming, clean romance, this story speaks of second chances and new beginnings. Gretchen returns to Hawthorne Harbor after her husband dies, to start over again with her daughter Dixie, the baby that Andrew

Herrin delivered on the roadside 10 years before. In his career as a paramedic, it was one of the highlights of Andrew's experience, filling him with excitement and pride, especially when he meets Mom and daughter again after so many years. The connection between Dixie and Andrew is even stronger than the initial flame of attraction between Gretchen and Andrew. Being a single Mom, Gretchen is cautious about becoming involved with Andrew and trust issues almost become her downfall. The story is well written, set in a small town, where neighbours look after one another and secrets can't be kept. I found the book easy to read and look forward to reading further books in this series. I received a copy of this book as a gift and this is my honest and voluntary review.

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### **Susan K says**

Romance, clean; series but stand alone read.

This was more of a 3.5 for me as a reader. I love her gorgeous covers, so rounded up. Gretchen's story as she returned to Hawthorne Harbor, and brought her daughter to try to make a life, and meeting up with Andrew (Drew) again, was a beautiful, heartfelt read. Honest, hurting hearts, trying to find a future and finding each other. My favorite kind of read. Loved seeing all the family and friend connections, the farm history, Gretchen's past and her present coming together as she tries to make a place for herself and her daughter, finding family, and her heart again. Lovely start to this series. Always a good read, and a lovely fall with anything E. J. writes.

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### **Kathy Jo says**

4.5 Stars

What's meant to be will always find a way...

After her husband dies in a car accident, Gretchen Samuels and her daughter Dixie find themselves back in Hawthorne Harbor. Not only was she the happiest she's ever been while living there, this was also the only place that has ever felt like home. Determined to make it on her own, Gretchen has become fiercely independent. She doesn't ever rely on anyone else and will wear herself out before she even thinks to ask someone for help.

Three years ago, Drew Herrin left Hawthorne Harbor when his ex-girlfriend broke up with him. Since then he has sworn off women. He doesn't need them in his life. But Drew feels restless and can't shake the feeling that something is missing from his life. He's not sure exactly what it is, he just knows he feels incomplete. He's hoping he'll figure out what it is now that he's back home in Hawthorne Harbor.

While travelling down the Lavender Highway, Drew sees a stranded van along the side of the road. Seeing the van brings back memories from ten years ago when he delivered a baby on the side of the road. He often thinks about the family he helped that day, wondering what happened to them and how they're doing. Imagine his surprise when he discovers that it's Gretchen and Dixie, the mom and little girl he helped bring into the world.

From the moment Drew sees Gretchen again, he feels a connection to her. He can't explain it but all he wants to do is help and protect her and Dixie in any way that he can. He quickly notices that Gretchen is still

fiercely independent but he's determined to do whatever he can to keep them both in his life.

As time goes by, Drew and Gretchen are able to build their friendship and nurture it into something more. They fall in love slowly and have a hard time admitting it out loud. When outside forces threaten to destroy the bond they have made, it will take determination, dedication, love and a wishing well to make sure they get their HEA.

Oh my gosh! You guys! Can I tell you how much I adored this book?! It was SO good! I loved Gretchen, Drew and of course Dixie! I was invested in these three from the very beginning and was rooting for their HEA!

This was a great start to a fun new series! I can't wait to read the other books! I have already purchased books 2 and 3 and pre-ordered book 4! I'm looking forward to spending more time in Hawthorne Harbor!

This is my very first book by Ms. Johnson and I can already tell you that it won't be my last! I am looking forward to reading all her other books!

And let's just take a moment to look at these two. I'm loving this casting! What do you think?

**Nominated for a 2018 Swoony Award, vote here <http://bit.ly/2CWYB9U>**

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**Coco.V says**

?FREE on Amazon today (9/25/18)!?

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**Tales Untangled says**

I've discovered that two of the most popular genres of books purchased are horror and romance. With that in mind, I've decided to read a few romance novels again - even though I'd previously given up because everything I'd found left me a little cold. I believe one of the ways to really enjoy a sweet contemporary romance is to suspend disbelief. This is the same thing we do when reading a fantasy with dragons or other monsters, so why not in a romance?

I'm noticing that the sweet contemporary romance genre is a master of finding a fun quirk for the characters to focus on. In this story, Drew is a paramedic, his family owns a lavender farm and he's obsessed with making ice cream. Gretchen has lost her husband, is trying to make ends meet as a single mom and follow her dream as a florist. Match made in heaven? Or at least in a lavender field? Not until they have plenty of misunderstandings, and agonize over moments wondering why they've fallen for the other person, who has become unobtainable for said misunderstandings.

I've decided I'm a fan of this style of romance because I know it won't get too racy, the characters are always fun and quirky, and in the end, I know it will work out. The fun is along the path, seeing how the author will

create a happily ever after.

For more suggestions for reading go to [www.talesuntangled.wordpress.com](http://www.talesuntangled.wordpress.com)

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### **Barbara says**

This is a new-to-me author so I wasn't sure about this book. Loved it. It has a strong woman as the main female character and I love strong women. Don't want to say more because I don't want to spoil even one page.

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### **Teresa Christianson says**

This is a very heartwarming story of life after losing a loved one and learning to love and trust again. Drew and Gretchen knew each other for years when she was younger and would come to stay with her granddad for the summer and Drew's family lived next door. The she is married and Drew happens to be the paramedic who shows up to deliver her baby on the side of the road. Ten years later Gretchen is living back in Hawthorn Harbor as a widow with a ten year old daughter. Drew finds them at about the same spot where she was when he delivered her baby only this time she has a flat tire and no spare tire. They both feel some spark right away but try to deny it. Dixie on the other hand takes to Drew immediately and as they all spend more time together she hopes that Drew and her mom will get together. Will Dixie's wish come true or will there be too many obstacles between them?

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### **Anoush Emrazian says**

I know it's nit-picky and I'm going to say it anyway...I think calling this a second chance is a bit misleading. Really this book outlines Drew's first chance to develop and secure a relationship with Gretchen.

Their first real memorable experience together was when he helped Gretchen give birth on the side of the road on her way to the hospital. And she was married and her husband was right there and there was nothing romantic about it.

Drew's first chance comes when Gretchen and her daughter Dixie move back to town after her husband's untimely death.

I can imagine all of Gretchen's feelings: about feeling like she have to take care of herself, by herself, her worries of how her daughter Dixie would take a new relationship, whether or not she could actually love someone again the way she loved her husband and not worry about them leaving her too.

Drew was wonderful and patient and this story ends with the inevitable grand gesture after a blown-up misunderstanding.

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## **Lisa says**

Love in Lavender is a well-written sweet romance. I liked the main characters, Drew and Gretchen, Gretchen's daughter Dixie, and Drew's parents. I loved the relationship that Drew had with Daisy, with his brother, and with his parents; and the relationship that Drew's parents had with Daisy and Gretchen. I enjoyed the settings, a lavender farm and a floral shop. I was interested in all of the different things that lavender was used for. There were a few well-done dramatic scenes concerning Drew's work as an EMT. The pacing of the story is spot on. The only thing that I didn't like was Gretchen's lack of a good reason to break up with Drew, but that is a small part of the story. There is a very sweet HEA. I would recommend Love in Lavender to all readers of sweet romance. I will definitely read more of Elana Johnson's work. I received an ARC from the author. I chose to write a review and share my opinion.

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## **Jayne says**

This is my first "clean read." Clean reads are challenging because authors need to bring the passion, emotions, and feelings without the elements of erotica.

This book fell flat for me, unfortunately.

I liked the setting and I liked most of the characters and I liked the main plot but what I didn't like, or rather WHO I didn't like, was the heroine.

I never believed that either her first husband or Drew, the hero of this book, were her soulmate. From her perspective, I felt like they worked for her because they were comfortable and they fit into her view of how things should be.

I also found her a bit unforgiving, bratty, and petulant. Although it is understandable that she would have reservations due to her being a widowed single mother, her treatment of Drew was less than stellar when he was trying to do everything he could to make her life a little easier, a little better. He went out of his way to show her he loved her long before he said it. Her explanation of why she was cut off from her entire family was hollow, too.

I will be giving the author's other books a try in spite of not caring much for this one.

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## **DL says**

I liked Drew and Dixie. I liked the setting and the lavender. But Drew's relationship with Dixie was more believable and seemed deeper than the one he had with Gretchen. And Gretchen was kind of a cold fish. I don't understand why she was so separated from her family; it seemed like a weak excuse. And why she didn't call her grandfather in years even though she was Not estranged from him. I don't get why she made Drew jump through hoops to prove his love when he did nothing but try to make her life easier. Another thing that bugged me was the medical issue that Drew found in his initial examination of Gretchen. Never



mentioned again.

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### **Betty Johnson says**

Excellent story! 10 years ago this paramedic helped a woman give birth to a daughter along this stretch of highway. Now he has returned to his hometown. On his way to work he comes across a 10 year old standing in the middle of the highway waving his car down. He radios in what he is doing, and approaches the car. The girl says her mother needs help changing a tire. But there is no spare. The lady has a load of flowers she has picked for a wedding in a few hours. She needs to get the flowers in refrigerators. So he loads flowers and people into his truck and brings them into town. As he is driving he finds out this little girl is the one he delivered 10 years ago. He becomes attracted to her mother who is now a widow. You need to read the book to find out what happens between these two or three. Quite a page turner.

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### **Charity Bradford says**

This is a sweet read filled with lots of emotion as Gretchen tries to figure out what she wants, what she can handle, and how it will affect her daughter. Drew has his own issues to work out which makes this feel like real life.

I did get frustrated with Gretchen. She took not asking for help to the beyond ridiculous level making the grand gesture at the end necessary. In a way, it kind of ruined the real-life feel of the story for me. I wish she had given in more gradually and accepted Drew's love naturally. After all, he let her help him. Thank goodness for Dixie and her wish making!

I give this story something between a 3.5 and a 4. I enjoyed it while reading, finished, moved on and sort of forgot about it.

1-5 scale and what it means:

- 1: I couldn't even finish it / just plain bad
- 2: I hope I didn't pay for this / disappointing
- 3: I didn't hate it, but it was still missing something / forgettable but inoffensive
- 3.5: On the line between good and ok / like, not love
- 4: Solid mind candy / worth reading
- 4.5: So very close to perfection! / must read
- 5: I could not put it down and I'm still thinking about it! / a true treasure

Movie Ratings in relation to my review:

Clean--Hallmark movies, some kissing, no nudity, no sex on or off "screen"

PG--Some innuendo but nothing kids don't hear every day, sex is all closed door

PG-13--some language (swear words not related to sex), more talk about sex, heavy petting, removal of clothing on screen, but sex is closed door.

PG-14--somewhere between PG-13 and R. Not erotica, but at least a paragraph of on-screen sex

R--swearing (F-bomb, on "screen" sex, sometimes feels like the whole story is about the sex and not the relationship or some other plot, but not always

