



## **Tempting Fate**

*Brinda Berry*

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**Tempting Fate** Brinda Berry  
9780991632053- *alternate cover edition*

When two worlds collide, it can only be fate.

Collin knows trouble when he sees it. A beautiful girl crashing into his car? She should be flashing a neon DANGER sign. He knows better than to get involved with a fresh-faced babe who could break his already-tattered heart. After graduating from college, he's on track to start over in a new place. He's discovering what he wants from life, away from the shadow of his overbearing father and the betrayal of his cheating ex-fiancé.

Veronica's home life morphs from trailer park to homeless after a bloody fight between her brother and her ex. She's on the run from a situation that promises to be deadly. Without a home, money, or friends, she's at Collin's mercy.

Fate brought them together. Will a secret from her past tear them apart?

## **Tempting Fate Details**

Date : Published August 2016 by Sweet Biscuit Publishing LLC (first published October 1st 2014)

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Author : Brinda Berry

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## From Reader Review Tempting Fate for online ebook

### Bobbi says

\*I received a copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*

This book kept me constantly wanting to know what Veronica's next move was going to be and when. And also how Collin planned to keep her around. And when Gunner showed up, I thought he was Shawn at first, and in my mind I was standing right next to Collin. LOL!

I couldn't believe it when I came to the end of the book. Time sure flew right out the window when I was reading this one. You can't help but be on Veronica's side, but the more you read, you also can't help but lean a little towards Collin and hope he can get her to stay. Give her something stable and safe. Trust is the big word here.

I really liked this book and it was very well written. I am definitely looking forward to reading more from Brinda Berry!

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### ? TheBibliotheque says

Ahhh this book felt good, you know? I seriously loved it!

I am always the one to sign up for a fluffy romance, but this book felt more realistic than the average NA. It's funny because despite loving this genre, there's always something that makes me roll my eyes. A detail, or sometimes a number of them, that forces me to think "yeah, sure. As if that's going to happen in real life".

Tempting Fate was a pleasant surprise, not even once I felt the love story was unreal or some aspects to it were forced. It felt real. The best example is how the main characters meet for the first time. Veronica crashes into Collin's car, and yes, he notices how good looking she is but he is obviously pissed, he has a "normal" reaction. He takes in the person behind the wheel but he is not proclaiming his love for her that very second. She flees before giving him her non existing insurance papers, and hours later Collin finds her roaming along the side of the road after her car breaks down. Well, he ends up picking her up and giving her a ride to a bus station but here's the thing, her thoughts are not *"omg this hottie picked me up, look at his hotness"*, she doubts his intentions and she has the thoughts any girl in her position would.

My point is, their story felt grounded, it felt likely and possible. Veronica and Collin's romance is far from instalove and instalust, it slowly develops. And yes they start feeling a strongly attracted to each other early in the book but the author did a great job making their story genuine.

This book is a very light read but not a meaningless one. Veronica's background was not a pleasant one to read, and the story tackles an important topic such as being in an abusive relationship. Despite that, Tempting Fate is light hearted and for me was a definite page turner. This book felt just good.

*\*This ARC was provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\**

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## **Mandy (I Read Indie) Anderson says**

Fate keeps bringing Collin and Veronica together. And no matter how hard either one fights it, they start to see that you cannot defy fate. Obviously this new relationship is meant to be. Everything about it feels right. But Veronica is bound and determined to put as much distance between herself and Arkansas as she can. She has a past there that she doesn't want catching up to her. So as soon as she has enough cash and a way out of town she is gone. Long gone.

I was so happy with this book the entire time I was reading it. I love seeing that spark between these characters even when they cannot. I love seeing their chemistry grow, even when they think they know what's best. Now, while I didn't connect much with the characters of the first book, I definitely felt more of a connection to Collin and Veronica. Mostly Veronica. She is from a small town in Arkansas after all. Just like me.

Berry did another fabulous job, if not better, with this one. I loved the romance, which is always a must with me and any book. And once again, Berry had the growing relationship perfectly paced and just the right amount without it feeling overly saturated. I just loved it. I also adored the relationship that bloomed between Collin and Veronica and was glad that they didn't fight it too much into the story. They are such a cute couple and I gladly rooted for them the whole time.

Perfect storyline, adorable characters...that is what I call one heck of a book! Not to mention, I was left with a need to read more from this author. She is one of those you want to gobble up everything she has out. 5 Wonderful Stars!

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## **Jen says**

*Note: This ebook was provided by Patchwork Press Cooperative via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.*

*Tempting Fate* is the second book in the *Serendipity* series by author Brinda Berry. For those who were able to read the first book in the series, you'll remember Collin Cordova, Malerie Toombs' partner in their music podcasts. I'm glad that Collin gets his story told in the second installment because he was definitely a supporting character from the book prior that piqued my interest. Here he meets Veronica Marshall who, just like with Malerie and her counterpart Ace Sloan, bumps into him, only this time with her car rear-ending his.

After graduating from college, Collin has moved to from his hometown of Chicago to St. Louis, away from his family and ex-fiancée and taking charge of his life, pursuing his own hopes and dreams. When Veronica crashes her car into his, he never expects that a simple accident on the road would lead him to wanting to help this nineteen-year-old girl who may be beautiful on the outside but is very much broken on the inside. However, it's difficult for Veronica to accept help from others, automatically labeling it as charity, but being around Collin teaches her that there are actually nice people in the world not expecting anything in return.

Veronica's bruises and skittish behavior raise red flags and Collin notices them immediately. Still, she's very hesitant when it comes to sharing her past and while she does begin to trust Collin, she's also afraid that getting too close to him may endanger his life, no thanks to her abusive ex-boyfriend. Knowing what her ex

is capable of is what led her to run away from Shelby City, hoping to prevent him from hurting her step-brother and his best friend. The thing is, the past always has a way of catching up, especially just when you're ready to face a future with someone else.

*Tempting Fate* was an enjoyable read and while it did take me awhile to warm up to Veronica, she and Collin did have the chemistry readers want in their two lead characters. Collin's past reminds me of Ace's from book one, in that neither was explored too deeply, with just bits and pieces of information that give you a basic idea of what their home life must have been like but leaving you wishing there was more. Again, I'm glad that the love story didn't progress too quickly and that the characters were allowed enough time to establish some sort of foundation before delving into the romance aspect. All in all, this was a good book and I'm happily giving it four stars out of five. ♥

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### **Wit & Wonder Books says**

\*\*\* ARC provided by the author for an honest review \*\*\*

Tempting Fate is the second novel in the Serendipity series by Brinda Berry .

Collin is a single guy . He lives with his two roommates in a nice house and he is trying to find his own way in life . He started up a business with his two friends and it is doing well . His father wanted him to take over the family business , but he had other things that he wanted to do with his life and he had to go out on his own . He is also recovering from his failed relationship with his ex-fiancé who cheated on him about a year ago .

Veronica is running away from home . She has no plan , she just needs to get away . She is running away from an abusive relationship and the repercussions that came from her brother finding out . She is just trying to branch out on her own . She is trying to find direction in her life .

One day on her exhibition to find a place to go, she runs into Collins car . She commits a hit and run when he wants to call the police . She cannot be found while she is running away from her other life .

Collin eventually finds her again when her car breaks down and she has no way to get anywhere . He takes her in and they begin to develop a relationship . He knows that she is hiding things from him and he sees her bruises and wonders about her . But he is just determined to be able to provide her with some assistance .

As their relationship develops , she begins to open up to him and he begins to let go of some of the bad habits that he has developed from the loss of his previous relationship .

This novel was very good . I would be interested in reading the entire series . I would give this novel four stars .

Reviewed by: Nicole W

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### **Elien says**

This review and more on [So Bookalicious](#)

While Tempting Fate is the second book in the Serendipity series it's the first one I've read. Since it's a companion series you can easily read this book without reading the first one in the series.

One accident turns Collins life upside down. He keeps running into her and he can't help the urge to help her. But the thing is Veronica doesn't want to be helped. All that she wants is to get so far away as possible from her hometown and never look back. But Veronica has no other option than to accept his help after she get stranded with her car with no money and nowhere to go.

It took me a while to warm up to Veronica since we didn't really get to know her until we were well into the book. Collin's past is still a bit of a mystery to me, all I know is that he left Chicago after a bad relationship. But other than that I know almost nothing about him. Maybe if I read the first book in the series that I'll know more about him. It was clear that there was chemistry between Collin and Victoria from the start. But I'm glad that the real love story didn't progress too quickly. The characters had time to develop their feelings and to grow as a person.

Overall I really enjoyed Tempting Fate, it was a great, cute read. The book was fast paced and very easy to read. The subject was rather serious but it wasn't written in a heavy way. If anything I found that the book was too short. Everything was great until we were near the ending, suddenly everything happened so fast. It was almost like the author was out of time and just wanted an ending. So I wouldn't have minded if the ending was a bit longer. I would recommend this book to everyone who is looking for a sweet NA contemporary read.

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### **Paula Phillips says**

Fate has a funny way of putting people together. For Collin, who hasn't been exactly Mr. Sunshine after the girl Raquel he was going to marry cheated on him - this day will be one of his worst but also the start of something amazing. This morning on his way to work, Colin was hit from behind and his car damaged. He got out and wanted to call the cops, but the girl Veronica was shaken and wanted no cops involved. He let it go reluctantly after she sped away. Later he saw her on the side of the road hitchhiking and fearing a storm coming on, he picks her up and takes her to the nearest bus station. One thing leads to another, and it's clear she has nowhere to go, so Collin being the "nice guy" takes her to his house where he lives with two friends and offers her a place to stay. Veronica is running away from an abusive ex who has threatened her family and if she's not careful - her life may be in danger. During her time, Collin introduces Veronica to Mal and Ace (from the first book), and soon the three of them welcome Veronica into their circle of friends. Can Veronica see herself staying here long-term? What will happen though when her ex, nicknamed Satan tracks her down and tells her Gunner is in trouble? Veronica must head home to confront her past and save her brother, what if it's a trap though and Veronica is walking into her own grave? Can Collin save Veronica and prove to her that he loves her and wants to care for her and that she no longer has to worry about her ex?

Find out in Tempting Fate by Brinda Berry. A New Adult Romance with a touch of edgy as it does involve domestic abuse violence.

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### **Karina Ramirez says**

#### **3.5 Stars**

This was a super quick reads, but I liked it!

Veronica is running from her past, a past she'd rather not return to. Not to mention she's having the day from hell. First she hits an Audi and flees the scene when the owner tries to get her information than her car breaks down and she needs to hitchhike a ride only to be met again with the same car she hit earlier that day. If things couldn't get worse it starts pouring and she nearly gets run over by a tractor trailer; finally accepting a ride from him to the bus station she is then harassed by a creepy old man only to be saved once again by the guy in the Audi. Together Veronica and Collin visit local shelters only to be turned down. Not knowing what else to do Collin has Veronica stay over his place with his other two roommates.

One night turns into more and slowly Veronica is worming her way into Collin's life, and surprisingly he wants her there. However when old flames figure out where she is Veronica doesn't feel safe and the option to run is on the table, but Collin doesn't want to let her go that easily.

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I love when authors write in the male POV getting out of females heads is always a good thing every once in a while and being in Collin's head didn't disappoint. Although being in Veronicas head wasn't terrible either. This book was fast paced and a very easy read. The subject matter was a serious topic but wasn't written in such a heavy way. I felt the connection between the characters but I wish there had been a little more depth and emotion out of them.

Overall it was a great book, definitely recommend!

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### **Colleen N says**

Tempting Fate by Brinda Berry is her second book in the Serendipity Series and I absolutely loved it! This is the story of Collin Cordova who we met in the first book "Chasing Luck", as Malerie's friend and business partner. Collin, has a flourishing business, great friends, and he thought the love of his life in Raquel, but he soon discovers that she has betrayed him. He is left bitter, angry, and broken-hearted when Veronica Marshall literally crashes into his life. He can't believe that she rear-ends him and then takes off, only to be found hitchhiking a short time later.

Veronica, is running scared from her life back home. She is fragile, broken, and clearly not in her right mind, but Collin sees something besides desperation behind her eyes. He can't resist wanting to help her, even though he knows he may end up regretting it. "My urge to help her, fix her, know her... is a dangerous one. I can't get involved." When Collin notices bruises on her and that she won't take any calls from her brother Gunnar, he assumes it must be her brother that has hurt her. The truth however, may be far worse.

When Collin offers to let Veronica stay with him one night she secretly wonders if he is a murderer. “What’s in your trunk?” “My what?” “Chainsaw? Garbage bags? Bleach?” Collin can’t help but smile and be a little amused. “You checking my supplies list?” “I’m a girl.” “You must watch a lot of crime drama.” After a few moments he realizes that she really is afraid “Hey, I’m going to call someone to vouch for me. Murderers don’t like witnesses.” “Okay. A girl. Call a girl, but not your mother. Your mother might lie to protect you.”

Both Collin and Veronica find themselves in a sticky situation with chemistry that seems to explode in a room. Since neither one of them had a great family life, they are both scared and hesitant to take a leap of faith. They begin a friendship that requires each of them to let down their walls a little and trust. Something they don’t even believe in considering all they have dealt with. Collin doesn’t believe that there is a woman who isn’t a lying cheat and Veronica doesn’t believe there is a man capable of being kind and good. “Is there such a thing as a nice jackass?” When their worlds collide they may soon discover their impressions are wrong, but will they be able to tear down the walls of protection? Can they find a compromise that allows them to be their own person, but also be together? Will Veronica continue on the run right out of Collin’s life and away from her troubles? Is there really such a thing as happily ever after when two people have been so hurt, betrayed, and let down?

This story has strong main characters and supporting characters. It updates us on Malerie and Ace from “Chasing Luck” and introduces us to Gunnar, Beck, Dylan, Emerson, and Jordy. The writing is captivating, smooth, and so funny at times. I think that Brinda Berry captures the essence of each character and lets us see them from the inside out. The story is told in Collin and Veronica’s POV’s. I can’t wait to get my hands on “Seducing Fortune”

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### **Michelle Pickett says**

My review of: “Tempting Fate” by Brinda Berry

#### **4 1/2 STARS**

Tempting Fate (a Serendipity Novel) is the first book I’ve read of Ms. Berry’s. And for the most part I liked it.

I thought the characters were developed nicely and had full, rich personalities. I did find Veronica a bit hard at first. She wasn’t easy to like in the beginning of the book, but about halfway into the story, she started to morph into a different person. The reader could see her barriers slip a little, giving glimpses of what, I suspect, was her true personality. That was done well, I think, the pacing was just too slow for me.

The plot was good. I think it was outlined well. It carries a good message for women of all ages. And while it gives us a glimpse into a gritty, abusive relationship, we also get to see a normal (almost) relationship bloom, which is sweet and kind of balances out the bitterness of her past.

This was a story not only of a young woman breaking free from a troubled, violent past, but learning to stand on her own. Understanding that she could lean on family, but didn’t require their support to survive. She had to let them go to live her life—and so they could live theirs, as well.

Bottom line: I liked the plot, although the book had some pacing issues for me. The characters were developed well, but the main female protagonist was written in such a way that it made it hard for me to like

her. And when a reader doesn't like, or connect, with a character, they don't root for them. They don't care what happens to them. And that's when an author potentially loses readers.

Overall—a good book with an even better message.

Happy Reading!  
Michelle K Pickett

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### **Wendy Livingstone says**

This is the story of Veronica who runs away from an abusive and toxic relationship. Colin is a good guy, who is wary of relationships after a past relationship. These two are great together, and the chemistry is steaming. I loved the humour and banter between them, and I was captivated from the very beginning. Cannot wait to read more of Brinda's work, and I recommend her work to all romance readers.

I received a copy of this book for an honest review.

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### **Yamina -Women Who Stare at Books says**

Arc provided for an honest review via Netgalley

Easy and quick read.

The story was a bit predictable and lacking passion for me. However, if you are looking for a cute romance then, the story of Veronica and Collin is for you.

Tempting Fate is my first book by Brinda Berry and even if it is a standalone, I can't help but wonder if I should have read book one.

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### **Holly (epiloguebookblog) says**

Wow. The story in *Tempting Fate* absolutely blew me away. I started and finished it in twenty-four hours, even forgoing sleep at one point—a sacrifice I don't take lightly.

There are so many things to love about this novel, but for the sake of brevity, I'll highlight the most noteworthy to me as a reader.

I really appreciate the effort that went into characterizing Collin and Veronica. Throughout the novel, two notable things about are really emphasized about the former: his tendency toward OCD and his sense of humor. At the beginning of *Tempting Fate*, Collin admits that both have suffered as a result of a deceitful and unfaithful ex-fiancé. Thus, when he's anxious or caught off guard, the author plays up Collin's compulsions toward cleanliness, order, etc. Plus, his personality is rather dry and dull at the start of the

novel. But, as the storyline progresses, his sense of humor resurfaces gradually. The banter that thereafter takes place between the two main characters is so funny at times that I laughed out loud.

As for Veronica, the voice used in the chapters from her point of view is spot-on. She's from Arkansas, and while the particular town may be fictional (right?), the vernacular and descriptions feel incredibly familiar since I have lived and worked in the state my entire life. The flashbacks, Gimme Gas, and her relationships with Gunner and Beck go a long way in characterizing Veronica as a strong, naturally beautiful young woman.

As for sex and violence, both are done very tastefully. Regarding the first, there's a lot of descriptive, convincing build-up, but the play-by-play that some novels provide is absent here. It seems like some new adult books rely on at least two or three explosive sex scenes to carry the work, so I like that a different choice was made here. But I'll admit that a small part of me wanted to "see" the sex through Veronica's eyes, since her previous experiences had been disappointing. When it comes to violence, the little shared is vivid but not terribly off-putting. The antagonist is the right mix of debonair and disturbing, causing Veronica to question her aptitude at judging another's character.

I highly recommend *Tempting Fate* to fans of contemporary romance and new adult fiction. The plot is captivating, the characters likable, and the overall experience enjoyable. Collin is definitely swoon-worthy, so if you're looking to add another book boyfriend to your list, he might just be your man!

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### **Danielle from Short and Sassy says**

Veronica is running hard and fast to get away from her past. She is hiding more than you could have ever expect from everyone. A series of crazy events leads her right into Collin. First there was the car accident, then he finds her on the side of the road, and finally Collin take her home to get her to open up and tell him what is going on so he can help. I have to admit, Collin is one nice guy. Most guys wouldn't put in so much effort to help a bruised and broken stranger.

Collin in attracted to Veronica, but he is also a nice guy who sees a broken and physically hurt women who is in need of help. Collin tries to make Veronica open up to him, trying to become her friend and confidant. He tries to be just a friend, even though he is attracted to her. Collin knows that is not what she needs right now.

Veronica is also attracted to Collin. He is tall and handsome and has the heart of gold. She knows this is not the best time to get involved with anyone, especially when her past is starting to catch up with her.

I liked the suspense of this book. I kept wondering what Veronica was running from and what was so bad that she just left it all. When I found out, it all made sense!

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**Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says**

**3 Okay Stars**

Tempting Fate is the first book by Brinda Berry I have read and while it wasn't a bad read it didn't really do it for me either. It's the second book in the series and can be read as a standalone as I had no problem following the story. I don't know what it was about this book but it just fell flat on me. I didn't connect to the couple. Their relationship bored me and I felt no connection to them at all. I found both of them individually lackluster. I don't know what it was about the book that didn't work for me. I can't pin point anything that turned me off. I just didn't feel it. Nothing about it was bad or made me angry I just never got into it. And while this book didn't work for me, I would give the author another try.

<http://jessicasoverthetopbookobsessio...>

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