



# Serendipity

*Stacey Bentley*

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## **Serendipity** Stacey Bentley

The saying goes that there is a fine line between love and hate...but what happens when the line becomes blurred?

When life hands Phoebe Andrews her dream job, she's ecstatic. That is, until she realizes that in order to pursue her dream she'll have to give up her cosmopolitan lifestyle in Chicago and move to Nashville. As if leaving all she knows behind wasn't enough, a car accident on her first day in town does nothing to convince the city girl that country living is all it's cracked up to be.

As an only child, Dean Montgomery has obligations—obligations which have left him angry at the world. Just as his monotone life has begun to leave him jaded, he is brought back to earth with a bang...literally.

Fate conspires to bring the city girl and the country boy together, but can Dean stay out of trouble long enough for the pair to test the boundaries of their tempestuous relationship?

## **Serendipity Details**

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# From Reader Review Serendipity for online ebook

## Autumn Review says

Serendipity was a light, easy read for me. The characters were likable and the story was sweet. I had just finished some pretty heavy books, so this was just what I needed.

It's been Phoebe and her mother for years, but when she has a job opportunity in Nashville, she can't pass it up. Her mom decided to stay in Chicago and Phoebe sets off to explore her new life in Nashville. Of course, moving is never easy. On her first night there, she gets into a car accident. The other driver is a sexy, yet annoying cowboy named Dean. After a short trip to the hospital, Dean's family takes Phoebe under their wings while she recovers from her accident. What do you think happens next?

Well, despite the fact that Phoebe and Dean can't stand each other, they can't deny their attraction. Slowly, they give in to their feelings. Sure there was lots of flirting, but they also became friends. Not only did they start to bond, but Phoebe became closer to Dean's family. She misses her mom, so having his parents around to give her attention and affection was good for her. Of course, Dean has never had that kind of relationship with them, so he's curious to know what has them so captivated.

Ultimately, they do get together and I was happy about that. Phoebe can be really stubborn, but I did like her and appreciated that she wasn't willing to just jump into a relationship with Dean. Their relationship took time to grow. I liked seeing how their love grew over a long period of time. It wasn't insta-love.

What didn't work for me was the fact that she went to stay with these people she just met. Granted, she didn't know anyone in town and she did need supervision. I guess I just thought that was odd. I'm such a paranoid person, that I would never do something like that. This wasn't a killer for me, it just bugged me a bit.

Overall, it was slightly underwhelming, but I did like it. I read it quickly and it did help me decompress a bit from some other heavy reads. If you're looking for a sweet story that proves fate has a hand in love...check this one out!

Favorite quote:

~Rule #1: Only pursue men above thirty (I like my men older and it insures that they know how to show a woman a good time. Well, most of the time).

Rule #2: Only go home with a man that isn't expecting more. This is key, being on the same page is a must. There's nothing worse than a clingy guy that after one night of great sex and having them think you're 'the one'.

Rule #3: Never stay the night. Staying the night with someone seems far too intimate. I make sure the guy I'm with know this as well.-Loc 88

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## Maribel Giusto says

Stay tuned for ~Sweet Dreams Book Blog's~ Blog tour stop! July 22nd for full review!

This is by far one of the sweetest books I have ever read. I look forward of more from Author Stacey

Bentley!

#### Sweet Dreams Book Blog Review--- 4.5 Sweetly Shining Stars

"They say that fate rears its ugly head, but some people are just too blind to see it.

There's only one word that comes to mind when I think of all of the joy that ones little accident brought me. Serendipity."

Ahhhh... Serendipity .... This read had me smiling from ear to ear, and shedding tears of joy!

Author Stacey Bentley brilliantly put together Phoebe and Dean's story. These two are perfect for eachother!

I love how I felt a part of Dean's family, Mrs. Montgomery reminded me of mom mother in a lot of ways.

The way she took in Phoebe as her own really warmed my heart. It's nice to know that people still believe in the magic of kindness

in such crazy world! (Thanks Stacey!)

Serendipity restored my belief in being at "the right place, at the right time," even if things are a little bumpy at the start.

So, like everything really does happen for a reason, and it doesn't always have to be something that we planned. In fact, it seems the more "random" the better!

I want to talk about Dean for a moment.... He. Is. The. Hottest. Cowboy. EVER.

He's so incredibly sweet, with an amazing body to boot! They way he cares for Phoebe, even before he actually realizes it himself, is so

amazing. I loved that Stacey gave us both POVs, it gave Serendipity that something special, and it helped to pull you in.

I found myself anxiously waiting to hear what the other was thinking throughout the story, and I was never disappointed!

With that said, Serendipity should definitely be at the TOP of your TBR list! You won't regret it!!

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#### **Yolanda says**

This was a really cute story. I was a good day read. I loved Dean and Phoebe. I thought they had good chemistry. I would love to read more about them.

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#### **Three Chicks says**

Serendipity is a sweet, quick, light read with just a little bit of drama. It is a story about family, love, trust

and second chances.

We first meet Phoebe, and I will be honest, I wasn't a big fan. She seemed a little snotty, and full of herself and high maintenance. But as time goes on she starts to grow on you. You see that growing up she didn't have much, losing her father at an early age and after that it was just her and her mother, trying to make ends meet. So I think her attitude was more about how much she has accomplished and how proud she is of herself for being able to take care of herself and her mother financially. She started working straight out of high school to help support herself and her mom. She is an extremely hard worker, with not much time for play. So when she gets the job that she wants within the company that she currently works for, she is more than excited. Until she finds out that the job is in Nashville. Phoebe has always been a city girl so moving to Nashville isn't exactly anything to be excited over. Especially when she finds out her mother will not be going with her and the reasons why she is staying behind.

Phoebe moves to Nashville, and as if moving to a new city all by your self isn't enough, her first day there she manages to get into a car accident. But the worst part of it is, the guy that hit her comes off as being a little bit of an ass, but very sexy! His name is Dean Montgomery and he is also the guy that will change her life in more ways than one.

Dean Montgomery is definitely hot, but he can be rude, somewhat obnoxious at times and a complete ass. But you can't help love him. He never seems to do anything right, at least not by his father's standards. He helps run his family's farm in hopes of taking it over completely one day. He works his ass off day and night maintaining the farm. But no matter what he does, his father always seems to find fault in his actions. Even if he isn't in the wrong, like getting into an accident with a girl. To make up for the accident that they think Dean caused they invite Phoebe to stay with them until she is cleared by the doctor to go back to work. Totally not what Dean expected or wanted.

See the thing is that Dean is very attracted to Phoebe, finds her to be very beautiful. But as soon as she opens her mouth she completely ruins it for him. Dean and Phoebe get off to a rocky start. They know how to push each other's buttons and drive each other crazy. There is the constant back and forth bickering between the two of them. But Phoebe holds her own, matching Dean word for word. The physical attraction between the two of them is evident. They cannot stop thinking about each other, but both of them deny any other feelings that they may have. In their eyes there is no way that they can be together. Phoebe is staying with his family for nine days and then she can move on. But things don't always go according to plan and they find themselves crossing that line that should never have been crossed. Can two people who believe they are so mismatched fall in love and be happy or will Dean manage to screw up one more thing in his life?

I loved Dean but there was a moment where I wanted to completely kill him. But honestly he means well and really tries, but feels like a screw up most of the time and just doesn't think things out. But deep down I think he is an amazing guy who loves Phoebe, he just isn't aware of it right away and isn't really sure how to handle his feelings. Phoebe and Dean have never really had a relationship before so being in love is new to both of them. Mistakes were made and hearts may have been broken, but they loved each other and sometimes you have to believe that everything happens for a reason and things will work themselves out. Their relationship had its up and downs, but no matter what, they were in love with each other and they were perfect together.

I loved the addition of Dean's family. They took her in and treated her like a daughter. Dean's father showed her the love that she has missed so much since her dad died. And being with his family also helped her to realize a few things when it came to her own mother. Serendipity will make you laugh and frustrate you at times. There are moments when you will want to slap some sense into both of them, but overall I really

enjoyed their story. My only wish is that there was more of them. But overall you will fall in love with Dean and Phoebe and find yourself rooting for the both of them to find happiness together. Plus it had a perfectly sweet ending. Great job by Ms. Bentley. Cannot wait for Josh and Hadley's story.

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## **Leslie says**

Super cute, funny, sassy, frustrating and then swoon worthy book...

City girl gets a job transfer to country-ville...Nashville!!! She literally crashes into Dean (country boy, hot, tall, tan, ripped, and did I mention HOT!) her first day out in the town. Phoebe is frustrated because she had to move to a 'small country town'...but of course, FATE has its way of working out for Phoebe and turning this change in her life into the most positive and lovely Happily Ever After she could have ever imagined!

I loved Phoebe's personality...loved Dean! Loved that we get both POV's...ABSOLUTELY LOVED Dean's family and friends....and of course love the bond that Phoebe shares with her mom.

This was a fun and fast read. Definitely loved it...just wish it was a little longer, but hope to read more about Dean and Phoebe in Josh and Hadley's book which comes out this fall.

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## **Daisy Sloan says**

Phoebe takes a chance and moves from Chicago to Nashville for her new position with her company. She's leaving behind everything and everyone she knows to make this move. Right after she moves to Tennessee, she's in a car accident with Dean. Since she doesn't have anyone to help her through her recovery she moves in with Dean's parents. Let the fireworks begin.

I didn't really care for either Dean or Phoebe. She was a bitch and he was an ass. They were always sniping at each other. I did feel bad for Dean in that his parents were always blaming him for everything. They were always taking Phoebe's side without even hearing the whole story. They also seemed to have forgotten they had a son. Phoebe just took over everything.

Phoebe's a weak character. She's snarky for no reason. She lets Dean's mother just take over, not standing up for herself. She's an absolute witch to her mom when things don't go her way.

The romance between Dean and Phoebe wasn't really there for me. They were attracted to each other but were too busy sniping at each other. When they did finally call a truce it was toward the end of the story. But, by that point we were told about the truce and how they felt instead of being a part of it.

I really wanted to like this book. I love stories like this and I wanted to like. I just didn't feel the passion and romance between them.

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Stella says**

Quick, cute summer read! What I loved most about this book was the family dynamics! Dean's parents are the sweetest, most hospitable people in Nashville, and I loved how Phoebe and her mom were practically BFF's! Although under the circumstances that Phoebe was brought into Dean and his parent's lives was not the most favorable, Emily and Keith welcome her into the family with open arms and I felt that they gained a daughter they've always wanted.

I thought cutie country boy Dean and Miss. perfect Phoebe were adorable together when they weren't making slanderous marks and trying to kill each other. His many nicknames for her were hilarious and I loved the moment when they could no longer deny their attraction to one another and take it to the next level. Ending was perfect and I loved the time frame the author set up for these two to become full circle!

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### **Lisa says**

*<3 Another FAVE of 2013 <3*

**HOLY Smokes! This book was amazing. AH-MAY-ZING! Let me say that again, AMAZING!** This is the second book by Author Stacey Bentley, and I noticed a huge growth since her first book. I know you're probably thinking, "What is this crazy reviewer talking about, PUP isn't even out yet." Well let me answer this real quick, I was fortunate enough to read that great book, but now that I have read *Serendipity*, I know Author Stacey Bentley is a literary genius. Stacey, Stacey, Stacey, I just wanna kiss your **FACE!!**

Little Miss Perfection Queen Phoebe is off the wall ridiculously marvelous, along with gorgeous and meticulous. I have a bit of girl crush on her. I feel like I can relate to Phoebe to an extent. She didn't have the ideal life, but she and her mother made do. They became the best of friends along the way. That made me love Phoebe more, and her mother too. Phoebe is paving her own path in life, and making sure her mother is along for the ride. Her momma is her first priority and the reason behind her headstrong ways. Girl doesn't even do the relationship thing, because she wants to be self-sufficient. She lives by three rules, and believe me they are great. Are you ready for this? Ok here goes nothing:

***1. Only pursue men above thirty (I like my men older and it insures that they know how to show a woman a good time. Well most of the time.)***

***2. Only go home with a man that isn't expecting more. This is key, being on the same page is a must. There's nothing worse than a clingy guy that after one night of great sex and having them think you're 'the one.'***

***3. Never stay the night. Staying the night with someone seems far too intimate. I make sure that the guy I'm with knows this as well.***

With these rules, it allows my girl crush to be very guarded. And with that it, it truly means that she doesn't

do the relationship thing.....be prepared for some interesting turn of events peeps!!

And the Award for Mouthwatering Country Hunk goes to, Dean Montgomery!!! Ladies, you are about to drool all over the place. Dean is a package of all hot and yummy. He has a way with the ladies too...ok maybe not all of them. But most of them, including me. I have dibs on him....so take a number and wait until I am through with him. I think I am drawn to his charisma for life and the fact that he is such a hardworker. He may not seem to be always peachy, but once you peel back a few layers of that onion shell he wears, you will see how lovable and fun he is.

Dean and Phoebe could not be anymore different, even if they tried. Phoebe is more like a Prissy Barbie whereas Dean is all man; sweat, hard-worker, and abs for days! These two are so perfectly flawed, that they can't seem to get over their own pettiness. For me it seemed like Phoebe and Dean were constantly fighting over the right to be the Alpha, in their weird relationship. They had their very own pissing contest, in a way that made me wanna smooch them both. Because honestly it was hilarious and sweet. The relationship that they have, makes me laugh. They share a few glances here and there, but they also give each other that evil eye. I felt like they were both equally working to push the others buttons, constantly. Fate brought Dean and Phoebe together, and it may not have been the a great way....but a way that made me giddy. Hold onto your reader big girl/boy panties because Dean and Phoebe know how to bring the greatness!!

I loved everything about this book. The dynamic of Dean and Phoebe was simply perfect. They are night and day, but also hold the same family values and morals. I am just completely head over heels in love with Dean and Phoebe. **LOVE LOVE LOVE THEM.** You are so drawn to these characters that you never want this book to end. My only warning to you, the reader, is that once you start this book you won't be able to stop until it is finished! *Serendipity* is a story of chance, fate, love, and learning to own up to things. Make sure to get your copy as soon as it goes live on Amazon. I give *Serendipity* **5 Boot Scootin' Stars!!!!**

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## Jessica Figueroa says

4.5 stars

Phoebe has worked hard to get where shes at and jumped at the chance for a raise and a transfer for her job. She was ecstatic until she heard that she'll be relocated to Nashville Tennessee. On the way to Tennessee she gets up in an accident.

Dean has an ok relationship with his mum and dad and work hard on the family farm. One day running an errand he ends up in an accident with a girl he calls barbie. Knowing his parents they are going to blame it on him he lets them know about the accident.

His parents take it upon themselves to take the girl into their home and care for her until she is fully healed afterwards she can walk out of their lives and never look back. What they weren't expecting was how much the family would be into her and after a while "Barbie" starts to feel like family. As the two start to fall for eachother, Dean has a hard time keeping himself out of trouble.

I really loved this quick and fun read. I loved that I got both POV for Dean and Pheobe, it really helped me enjoy the characters more. I liked that I got to see how they dealt with certain situations and feel sympathy when mistakes happen to go ruin things. I don't think I would've liked Dean if I didn't get his side of the story. By getting both their POV they felt more like living breathing people who make mistakes and think



about their actions. I liked how the pace was set for the book and my only problem was that I felt like it was a bit rushed towards the ending with the whole bunch of months passing by but that fine. I loved the ending and I don't feel as though there was anything missing. Such a great book.

Overall I loved the book and highly recommend you lovely readers to check out this book.

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### **Karen says**

I had a really hard time finishing this book. Phoebe is a bitch and completely unlike able, IMHO. Dean's parents are weird, especially his mother. Who the hell takes in a stranger for a week? And she expects Phoebe to come out of the shower naked and gets miffed when Phoebe is uncomfortable doing that in front of a someone she's know for a couple of hours? Creepy weird how that woman just ingratiated her way into Phoebe's life. Dean was okay - he didn't really bother me all that much. He's not treated very well so when this girl literally comes crashing into his life, his parents treat her better than him, much to his dismay. They treat him like he's 12 rather than a 26 yer old MAN. And then she feels all upset and hurt because she caught Dean with someone else? They weren't together yet; in fact she told Dean that "this doesn't change anything" after their little tryst by the lake. She doesn't know if she can trust him? Months go by and she's still having trust issues??? Bad choice he made but he didn't cheat on her. I just didn't feel anything for these characters at all. By the time they got together, I didn't care.

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### **Stephanie says**

Swoon-worthy 4.5 Stars!!!

There are several things I love about this book. #1 It highlights (for me) the fact that everything happens for a reason. #2 We get both Dean and Phoebe's POV. I LOVE reading POV stories. I like getting into the head of both characters. And finally #3 Stacey writes Dirty Dancing into the storyline...no need to explain this. :-)

So we start off with Little Miss Phoebe...selfish, bitchy and pretentious. I really struggled with her at the beginning. But as time moved on through the story, she eased up a bit, realizing the things that she thought she wanted, weren't really things that she needed. Her mother is her first priority, and they've had to work hard for what they have. When Phoebe gets a great job opportunity she jumps on it...thinking it is in LA or New York. She wasn't planning on picking up and moving to Countryville, USA....Nashville, TN. Oh fate...you're such a funny thing sometimes. Phoebe is all business...and hardly ever any play. However, when she does go out she has rules.

1. Only pursue men above thirty (I like my men older and it insures that they know how to show a woman a good time. Well most of the time.)
2. Only go home with a man that isn't expecting more. This is key, being on the same page is a must. There's nothing worse that a clingy guy that after one night of great sex and having them thing you're 'the one.'
3. Never stay the night. Staying the night with someone seems far too intimate. I make sure that the guy I'm with knows this as well.

So with those rules in mind...enter Dean Montgomery. He is country boy through and through. Tan, muscular, abs of steel, and relationship flawed down to the bone. But, so is Phoebe. He is the typical son of the farm family. Up at the crack of dawn and works his ass off til the sun goes down. The world needs more Deans.....SWOON!!! He can't seem to do anything right...but you just have to love him for trying. His dad is a hard-ass; he rides Dean on everything, but his mother is the true picture of southern hospitality and love.

When fate takes it's turn for both of them, we are left with a curious situation. Mama Montgomery takes Phoebe under her wing and insists on her staying with them. Dean and Phoebe have a love/hate relationship for most of the book until they both open their eyes to find one another. It's like I wanted to scream "STOP IT AND JUST MAKE OUT ALREADY!" LOL They push each others buttons to no end. DRIVES.ME.CRAZY! But I think that's what made this book so lovable. Two souls completely miss-matched (in their eyes) that fall head over heels in love. They really are very similar, in that family means the world to each of them, work ethic is sickening strong, and they are both flawed in the trust department. Seems like a perfect match to me. Of course there can't be a happily-ever-after without some drama, and tears...both happy and sad.

This book has a little bit of everything. Family, trust, love, fate, accountability and second chances. Stacey did a great job of molding lovable characters and making them relatable.

Serendipity: Look for something, find something else, and realize that what you've found is more suited to your needs than what you thought you were looking for.

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### **Moon Love says**

This is another book I read on and off. I really enjoyed the beginning of the book, but somewhere along the line I stopped enjoying it and became confused. There are so many things which play big roles in who Phoebe and Dean are that aren't dealt with. They're mentioned many times, but not addressed fully. For instance it's always been Phoebe and her mom and they're best friends, yet they aren't upfront and honest with each other and the reason why isn't fully answered.

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### **Heather andrews says**

I love books when the setting is on a farm in the country and there's cowboys, they're just always so polite unless you pi\*\* them off. Dean he comes off as an a\*\* actually he really is always an a\*\* it seems like in this book, "shut up and relax. You just got out of the hospital and nearly passed out when you stood up. You should be thanking me." Phoebe, I mean she gives it back to Dean but she really kills him with the kindness, "um, your parents said that you didn't look too well this morning and that you skipped breakfast, so I thought I'd bring you lunch since it looks like you're working hard." You know when Dean is being completely honest that's when I find him so desirable, "I'll tell you what's wrong with me... I'm miserable! I can't eat, can't sleep, everywhere I look I see you. I hear your laugh, see your smile, and fall into your deep blue gaze every time I close my eyes." I'm really excited about the next book.

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## **?B? says**

This is a quick read and if you are looking for something that is a light read this might be something you like. A city girl that ends up being sent to the country for her job and running into a country boy.

What can I say.

I have put off the whole cowboy books so I was a little hesitant about starting this one. But once I started it I learned that it wouldn't necessarily fall into a 'country' red. If that makes sense.

Dean grew up in the country and is a gentleman, well tries to be. He and Phoebe have this 'like' hate relationship. They hate that they are attracted to each other. We get to see how they try to one up each other.

There were moments that I wanted to slap her and just tell her to stop being a stuck up little prissy city girl. Then there was a moment that I wanted to just kill Dean. I absolutely loved his parents! I am not from the south but to be honest they are exactly what I think of when they say southern hospitality!

I would have to say that I do wish that we would have gotten a little more on some parts but I understand that to some part the perv in me wanted more. :) This isn't an erotic novel, so if that is what you are looking for you will not feel satisfied when you read it. I think for me the reason I wanted it was because the tension between the two of them was so thick you just want it to all of a sudden to turn dirty and raunchy but that isn't how she writes, and that isn't how this book is written.

I did want more for the gin between parts, because when we get to see how things are going for 9 days and we get all 9 days it is fun watching how things are growing between them. Then we will go a few weeks out. To be honest I wanted more I really did but at the same time what I enjoyed about this was that it was such a light fast read perfect for the summer, and if she would have gotten into every little thing in between it might have just been too drawn out. But I am not in her head so I am not 100% sure.

If you are looking for something that is light, fast, fun and sweet then this just might be what you are looking for. It is a good between book.

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## **Jennifer says**

Ahh... that proverbial line between love and hate, you know the one, that line that often blurs between malevolence and passion? That's what this story is all about.

In Serendipity, Stacey Bentley introduces us to Phoebe Andrews. Phoebe is a young independent woman from the city focused solely on her career. She lives her life by three rules, and believes that because she's worked hard to achieve her goals, she deserves the finer things in life. Having lost her father at a young age it's always been her and her mom against the world. An amazing job offer uproots her from her comfort zone landing her in Nashville, and smack into a life she never knew she wanted.

Her first day in a new city is wrecked with havoc. She is in a car accident and in walks Dean Montgomery and the Montgomery Family. Dean is all country. He's tad bitter with life and his family. Being an only child, Dean has given up his dreams to take over the family farm. To say that these two are from different

walks of life is an understatement. They are thrown into a situation where they have no choice but to coexist. They are drawn to each other immediately, the problem? Their disdain is palpable.

This story had a slow start for me but it did pick up, I found myself drawn to their relationship. It turned out to be a sweet tale with a happily ever after that I enjoyed. In the beginning, I loathed Phoebe but am pleased that she did a turn around and became someone I started rooting for. Although I found a few things in the story hard to believe, in the end I enjoyed the character dynamics. I'm a sucker for families and this was a family I'd like to know in real life. I can't wait to see what Ms. Bentley has in store for us in her next book about Josh and Hadley.

"Phoebe promises don't mean anything unless they are backed up with actions. Six months ago I gave you that promise ring, I meant everything I said, and now I want the opportunity to prove it all to you."

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