



Could Be the Reason

Claire Kingsley

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“You don’t know what it’s like.”

“What?”

“Being the one guy who didn’t get the girl.”

Maybe this makes me a dick, but life was easier when all the people around me weren’t enjoying their happily ever afters. I’m surrounded by couples—getting married, starting families. I’m the guy left behind.

And then Sadie walks into my life.

I’m not supposed to want her. But she awakens something inside me I thought was dead and gone. I was numb, and she makes me feel again.

She’s running from her past, but I won’t let it catch her. I’ll protect her from whatever she left behind. She gave me a reason to care; I want to give her a reason to trust. Maybe even a reason to love.

Could Be the Reason Details

Date :

ISBN :

Author : Claire Kingsley

Format :

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Could Be the Reason for online ebook

Debbie says

I would say that Claire Kingsley has done it again, but, she has most definitely outdone herself on Could be the Reason!

Gabe owns his own restaurant and is lacking inspiration for new menu ideas. In walks a new waitress, in the form of Sadie, who has been hired by Clover! Gabe wants her, but she is hiding a secret. When a customer takes advantage of Sadie, Gabe is her knight in shining armour, and later that evening Sadie shares her horrific secret with him. Instead of chasing Gabe away he promises to protect her from her past. Little do they both know how much protecting she needs and thank goodness for the close friendships they have in Jetty Beach. The plot is thrilling from start to finish!

I could not put this book down and read it in one sitting!

I received an ARC of this book for an honest review.

Viper Spaulding says

Gabe is feeling a little off-center lately, watching all his friends pair up while he struggles to regain his passion for his work. Convinced he's doomed to singlehood, he doesn't know what to think when he meets Sadie, a woman with so much hurt in her past that she's all but unable to ever trust a man again. Gabe is the perfect match for her, though, as he needs to move slowly for his own heart's sake and Sadie needs to feel safe before she can ever feel loved. I loved how his protective streak surprised even himself, but that didn't stop him from moving heaven and earth to make sure Sadie would never be hurt again. This story is about a love so strong that neither Gabe nor Sadie could deny its all-encompassing power in their lives. Claire Kingsley is a terrific author, bringing so much heart and soul to her characters and an amazing emotional depth to her stories.

Wendy Douglas says

I was luck enough to receive an ARC for this book, and I'm so glad I did. Gabe and Sadie were great characters, and their love story was something special. He was sad and lonely, watching all the happiness around him, and she was running from her past. She needed a man like Gabe, and he was there for her--in spades.

The love scenes were something special. Yes, they were hot, but they were also tender and gentle and understanding. Gabe operated on the instincts of a man in love, and he gave Sadie exactly what she needed. She was strong and brave enough to take what he offered, and it worked so well.

I loved how friends and family came together for them, and I loved the resolution. The bad guy got his--better than he deserved--and Sadie got closure. Even from her family, although I could have smacked them all.

Great job, and thanks for taking us back to Jetty Beach!

Rachel says

Another 5-star hit by Claire Kingsley! I love her Jetty Beach books so much! I keep thinking they're going to get old or stale, but no - she continues to write characters and story lines that make my heart smile. Gabe and Sadie are meant to be and I love that you don't have to wait for the entire book to finish for them to realize it. Instead of fighting their attraction to each other, they fight a common enemy together. The sweetness between them and the fierce protection Gabe feels for Sadie is incredibly endearing and the tender, compassionate way he loves her . . . well, that's just about perfect! Seeing the family of friends all grow, fall in love, and start families makes everything come together nicely. Very well done -- again!

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Kelly Brock says

Gabe and Sadie

I know we have all wanted Gabriel's book for awhile and this was well worth the wait! I love this author! She is one of the few out there who can write family/friends into a story and you love reading about the supporting characters as much as the main characters.

Gabe is a head chef at his own restaurant. His passion is cooking. He is divorced and seems to be just existing when it comes to his personal life. Sadie is a new resident to Jetty Beach. She had something devastating happen to her and she decided to leave home for a fresh start. She eventually finds herself a friend in Clove and a new job at Gabe's restaurant.

Gabe was so patient with Sadie while they first became friends and even more patient when they both wanted more. But he also wouldn't let her push him away no matter how hard she tried. Gabe knew she was his happy ever after and he was determined to fight for her.

This was a beautiful sexy story about second chances, love, friendship, and finding strength in yourself.

"He showed me that I can trust again. That I'm capable of love, and being loved."

It was also a blissful ending as we see all our Jetty Beach heroes and heroines married with lots of babies running around. They prove you don't have to share blood to be family.

Elysian Fields says

This is the wonderful story of Sadie and Gage. Sadie is in need of some care and comfort and maybe some protection as she is running away from a man who is stalking her. She is working at a café to make her way

and to hide out when she meets Gabe. Gabe happens to be just the man she was not looking for. He cares about her and protects her. Gabe is the best man ever! I loved his heart and his ability to be both alpha and sweet. It was great to read Gabe's story as he was such an essential part of this series, in the lives of the other characters; that I really wanted and needed his HEA. Another hit for this author and another great story to read and enjoy for any reader. I would recommend this story and the others in the series as they have not only romance, but heart, depth, and amazing characters. This is the best story in this series and a wonderful way to end it. I received an ARC and am leaving a voluntary review.

Peggy R says

To sum this book up in one word - Amazing. This is a great series, but I think fans and readers have been waiting for Gabe's story and this book is well worth the wait. Gabe and Sadie's story is perfect and you will once again fall in love with Jetty Beach. What I love about Claire Kingley's writing is that she creates strong, independent women and pairs them with men who love and respect them for who they are. Readers are taken on an emotional journey as we are reminded of the power love has to heal. This story is filled with love, fate (courtesy of my favorite heroine Clover) and an incredible journey that is filled with so many poignant moments. The love scenes are steamy (as we would not expect anything less from a Claire Kingsley book) but also tender, sweet and healing. I am a huge fan of this author and series and for me it is hard to pick just one, but if push came to shove I think this would be my absolute favorite. The story and characters have stuck with me even after I turned the last page.

I voluntarily read an advanced reader copy provided to me by the author.

Kel Wood *Kel & Mel Tell Book Blog* says

Claire delivers yet again another epic book boyfriend for us to cherish forever!!

Gabe and Sadie both have been delivered low blows in life.....and neither one of them think happiness, real and true happiness, is something they will ever find.

And they aren't looking either.

But that's when it happens right? When you least expect it?

So goes the journey of Sadie and Gabe and it's guaranteed to give you dreamy eyes and make you sigh....and swoon too of course!

As always with Claire....there is the perfect balance of love and drama to make a wonderful story that you want to read time and time again.

I enjoyed getting the story of Gabe....he's a broody one.....and to be a part of his HEA was something special!! You don't want to miss it either!!

(Bonus....all of our favorites from Jetty Beach are here.....!!)

I voluntarily received an ARC of this book for an honest review!

C.M. Lally says

I honestly loved it. It had a few surprises that I wasn't expecting from this author, which is always a good thing! Claire really knows how to wind great detail and description into a story that you feel like you know these characters as real people. I'm impressed, as usual.

There are a few typos with missed words, but easy to overlook with everything else going on in this story. I was drawn in from the beginning.

Overall, good book!

Spoiler: Favorite part near the ending where there are babies galore for this whole series. I found myself smiling from ear to ear in knowing the series is ended and love has won me over again and again and again!

Maria Di Pasqua says

I must admit that every time I read a book written by Claire Kingsley I always think it's amazing. This time I want to dare and say more, it is simply marvelous. I know that the word is a synonym to the word "amazing" but the reader must believe me that this story is more than just a romance. Gabe and Sadie's story brings up a spiny topic of our present day that is "stalking and harassing" on women. Sadie has been running from her past after being raped and stalked by her brother's best friend. She is broken inside but when fate takes her to Gabe's restaurant, it will be the perfect occasion to restart her life. The entire book gave me so much strength and hope because their love was so strong that Sadie overcame her fears towards a man that had tormented her for so long. Gabe on the other hand is the epitome of the perfect man. Besides being stunning, he is also generous, strong and loving. Lastly let's not leave out their friends, already come across in Claire's previous books, who will help them give justice to the couple. With any doubt I highly recommend this book.

Sunny Shelly Reads says

At long last, Gabe gets his HEA in *Could Be The Reason!* We've met Gabe before as a secondary character in many of the *Jetty Beach* and *Return To Jetty Beach* books, and now he's finally gotten his own love story!

The chef and owner of Ocean's Mark is a workaholic, married to his career ever since his marriage blew up in smoke... because of his dedication to his career. Since then, Gabe has seen all of his friends pair up and marry off, and starting families, while he spends his nights alone with his kitchen tools, frustrated with his life and lacking inspiration as a chef. But then Clover hires a sweet redhead named Sadie as a server at the restaurant, and Gabe FEELS for the first time in ages. He feels protective of a woman he barely knows, he feels like he wants to spend more and more time with her, he feels a spark of inspiration to cook again.

But Sadie is running from a dark past. She's been hurt not only physically, but shunned from her family as a result of what happened. As a result, she has some trust issues and as attracted as she is to Gabriel, she's afraid to get too close. After some amusing misunderstandings and miscommunications, Gabe and Sadie finally get on the same page, realizing that the other does indeed like them more than just as boss/employee.

Their first time together is so tender and sweet -- wow, does Gabe really give up control to her there! Slowly, he's able to break down Sadie's walls, but when her past catches up to her present, can Sadie trust Gabriel enough to be her protector?

Readers should be aware that Sadie is a rape victim, so there are possible triggers in this story. *Could Be The Reason* is a wonderful story of overcoming strength, learning to trust again, and finding a reason to want to live life to the fullest once again. I received an advanced copy and voluntarily left a review.

Jackie D says

Ah another Jetty Beach story, I love these stories and the men that come from there! This time it is Gabe's turn to get some swooning action! Having the restaurant is all he feels he got his divorce, well that and his friends in Jetty Beach, but they are all pairing off- getting married, making babies, poor Gabe starting to feel like the third wheel when he hangs out with his good friends. Well, that's about to change! Thanks to Clover and her magical skills, she hires Sadie a women down on her luck who needs a job as a waitress. Wouldn't you know.. Gabe needs a server, has for awhile... After the initial shock of Clovers newest meddling tactics wears off Gade sees how much of an "asset" Sadie is. What he does not know is how much trouble the poor girl has following her.

Sadie is about to find an insta all, or nothing man, who will take will not take no for an answer and will help her in more ways than she can imagine.

GAH- I loved it so much! Oh did I say that already? Opps sorry, I just think it bears repeating! This romantic, catch me in the feels story, was one of my favorites from Claire Kingsley! Sexy and fun, with emotionally charged scenes that brought tears to my eye, with so much alpha maleness floating through the pages it was a book I could put down! I highly recommend this book and the others in the Jetty Beach collection

I voluntarily read an advanced readers copy of this book

Alexis says

5 stars!! ??????????

I was lucky enough to receive an ARC for this book in exchange for an honest review.

I loved Gabe and Sadie's story!! It has all the feels!!! I have been wanting to read this series for a while and this actually ended up being the first Jetty Beach book I have read! (Though it is part of the series it is a standalone and I did not feel lost at all while reading it! It has made me very excited to jump into the rest of these books!!)

Claire Kingsley is such a talented author, I could not put this book down from the moment I started it!! Sadie is sweet and has some demons she's running from. Gabe is stuck in a rut as the head chef of his restaurant. A moment of fate has Sadie landing a job at Gabe's restaurant and that's where their story unfolds! This book is seriously amazing!!! A beautiful story with a super sweet HEA!!!

Caroline F says

"I'm drawn to her; she pulls at me like gravity."

Sadie is a woman in hiding. The way she reacts to certain situations hints at something pretty disturbing in her past. However, she seems to land on her feet when fate and circumstance has her working at Gabriel's restaurant. From the moment he sees Sadie, she affects him. He's completely drawn to her beauty and, as he gets to know her, to her personality. After years of being a virtual workaholic, he finds himself preoccupied with thoughts of Sadie and what she's running from, and, for the first time in a long time, he's finding himself connecting with someone and feeling protective of her.

“I’m caught in a haze of conflicting emotions. Fear. Longing. Doubt. Tenderness. Hope.”

Gabriel longs for what his friends have – love, companionship, and a family. He’s also lost his creativity. He feels like he’s stagnating. Sadie seems to give him new purpose, new life, and reignites his passion for his work. I loved how much he cared for her and put her first. Sadie’s trepidation and fear wills him to be patient and go softly, especially when he realises that he wants everything with her. I loved that Sadie wanted to push against her fears to be with him; that she wanted to move forward with him, as he’s sparked a desire in her that’s always been missing. When Sadie’s past explodes back into their life, Gabe is willing to do whatever it takes to keep her safe because he knows that his life is nothing without her.

“In me, she found a reason to trust again. In her, I found a reason to care.”

This was a sweet, sexy, tentative story with a touch of brutality. I really liked the characters – Gabe is a solid guy – a real sweetheart. His care of Sadie made my heart melt. Sadie is tougher than she thinks. I loved how she was willing to walk away from the best thing in her life, towards a lonely future, to keep him safe. They really belonged with each other.

Yeluz Selarom says

Loved it Gabriel Parker was super swoon worthy, he's sweet, sexy, and an awesome chef. He's inspiration and his love for the food is what got me all wrapped up in him.. when I first read about Gabriel in a previous book I was dying for this book to come out and let me tell you it does not disappoint. Awesome job Kingsley loved it and Sadie was a reminder that even when we feel like we aren't strong enough we really truly are she was a character to admire even though she lived in fear and disappointment because her family didn't believe her I feel like starting over in new places is harder than ever. And the best scene was punching the guy in the nose at the beginning..
