



## Wildflower Wedding

*Luann McLane*

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**Cricket Creek, Kentucky, is a sweet river town known for its baseball, shopping, and weddings. After the recession, business is finally bouncing back, but old insecurities—and heartaches—are slower to heal...**

Growing up on the wrong side of the tracks, Gabby Goodwin had more to prove than the rest of Cricket Creek. Even now, as the successful owner of the local flower shop, she hasn't forgotten her humble beginnings. So when her high school crush, the former class bad boy, walks back into her life, she keeps him at arm's length, protecting her heart—and her pride.

Reese Marino gave up most of his wild ways years ago, graduating from college and becoming part owner of his uncle's pizza parlor. The fact that Gabby still treats him like a troubled teenager drives him mad, but that's not the only thing about the sassy florist driving him to distraction. Despite Gabby's reluctant attitude, Reese is determined to win her over and show her that love often blooms right where you least expect it.

## Wildflower Wedding Details

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Author : Luann McLane

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## From Reader Review Wildflower Wedding for online ebook

### Margaret says

ARC provided by NightOwl

Gabby opened up her dream. She opened up a flower shop in her home town. She also knew that it would take a while for her to get into the groove of everything and make her life happy like she wanted to since her mother died. She never thought that buying a pie of pizza her whole world would change. Her childhood crush is back and she wants nothing better than to be with him. However she does not know if she can trust her already bruised heart with him.

Reese used to be a bad boy in high school. He has now moved back home and opened a pizza restaurant with his family. He never thought that by delivering a pie of pizza would bring him to the love he lost in high school. He wanted to prove to her that he has changed. But when someone comes back into his life that would mess everything up, he needed to know if she would be with him forever.

Throughout the book both Gabby and Reese both knew they wanted to be with each other however the past always comes back to haunt them. It haunted Gabby because she already went through heartache and was not sure if she could trust let alone fall in love again. Reese knew he wanted Gabby but when she doubted him, he was not sure if his love for her was enough to keep them together.

By the end of the book though Gabby finally realized that she loved Reese more and let go of all her doubts about him and their relationship. She even accepted his proposal and planned to get married as soon as they could. It just proves that if you love someone enough the past and doubts just melt away.

I love this author. She is an amazing and unique writer. It makes me want to move and live in a small town. I also loved her double love story. Reading about two couples instead of one just put the icing on the cake. It made me love her even more. I cannot wait to read more.

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### Andrea says

The Cricket Creek series is comfort. You have a small yet thriving town, full of kind people who look out for one another. There's very little high drama, and love. Wildflower Wedding is only the second full-length novel of the series that I've had the chance to read (in addition to a Christmas novella) but I can still say I recommend the entire series.

In Wildflower Wedding, you get not only one love story, but two. I've noticed this pattern with the series, and I like it. With the primary love story, we have Gabby and Reese. They both grew up on the poorer side of town, and were friends. As they got older, Gabby tried to stay out of trouble while Reese searched it out. Both held affection for the other, but believed theirs was unrequited. With Reese's return to Cricket Creek, these two finally get a chance.

The secondary love story involves Reese's uncle Tony and Trish. Both are new to town, and skittish after painful divorces. I really liked their initially antagonistic relationship, and loved how they slowly warmed to

one another. I wish the blurb mentioned this couple as well as Gabby and Reese, because I do believe they're an asset to the story. I enjoyed their love story just as much as the Gabby and Reese's.

I wish I could live in Cricket Creek! Between Wedding Row and the newly formed Restaurant Row, there's a lot going on. I want to go to the barn weddings, baseball games, and girls nights out. I love the strong female relationships in this series, and the sense of kindness each character exudes. If you're looking for a comfort read that will leave you peaceful and happy, take a trip to Cricket Creek.

## **Favorite Quotes**

*"Yeah, all I ever wanted was you." He closed his eyes and sighed. "I'm not a little boy or a mad-at-the-world teenager. I'm a grown man and my feelings for you are real." He opened his eyes and looked at her. "But I wanted to wait to tell you how I feel. I wanted to gain your trust and show you I'm not that messed-up kid anymore."*

*Embarrassment vanished. She felt bold and beautiful. After living a life of restraint, trying to please instead of being herself, this felt even better than a flying leap. This felt airless, like soaring. Tonight could not come soon enough.*

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## **Barb Lie says**

Wildflower Wedding by LuAnn McLane is the 6th book in her Cricket Creek series. This series takes place in a small town in Kentucky, called Cricket Creek. As we have seen in earlier books, things are looking up for Cricket Creek. The town is expanding with many new businesses. In the last book, our heroine Addison opened a bridal bouquet. You do not have to read the previous books, as they read very well as standalones.

In Wildflower Wedding, our heroine is Gabby, who is filling her dream running her own flower shop, which also works well with Addison's shop. Working late, she orders pizza from the new pizza restaurant that just opened, and when the doorbell rings, Gabby is shocked to see her childhood crush, Reese. Reese, who was a wild bad boy back in high school, is now part owner, with his mom & uncle Tony, of the new restaurant. Reese, who is hotter than he was back in his high school days, has also had a crush on Gabby. But neither knew that back in the day. Now their lust hormones are kicking up, and each is trying hard not to show the other how they feel.

Reese, has grown up to be a responsible young man, who now is the main chef in the restaurant. He is protective of his mother, since his father upped and left them both 10 years earlier. They never knew why, nor where he was, and this is a sticking point with Reese. He sees how much his mother was hurt, and hesitates to become involved. This is an added story with the father.

Gabby, having lost her mother a few years earlier, remembers how she thought Reese would just look at her like a nerd, which wasn't really true. She never knew he had a secret thing for her. What follows is a cute romance, with both having their own private issues holding them back from any kind of commitment, even if

they knew they were falling in love with each other. This is romance, which has to have its happy ending, and both couples will work their way to try to resolve their issues, but it isn't easy with the many obstacles that seem to pop up, including their past.

What I love about McLane's stories is that she also has a secondary romance of an older couple. Tony, who is also trying to recover from his wife leaving him awhile back, has sworn off woman. But even though he starts off on the wrong foot with his sexy landlady, Trish, she immediately gets his attention. Trish was also trying to get past her husband leaving her for a younger woman. This was also a fun romance that early on was a hopeless cause. I loved Tony's dog Digger, who was a great addition to the story. So cute when Digger adored Trish, and was very instrumental in bringing them together. lol

LuAnn McLane writes a fun and cute romance that makes us root for both couples. This was a light, fun and enjoyable read, and I look forward to more fun in Cricket Creek. If you like romance, small town atmosphere, a cute couple, an adorable dog, and another nice romance, Wildflower Wedding is for you.

Barb  
The Reading Cafe

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### **Debbie Lester says**

LuAnn McLane continues her Cricket Creek series, with Wildflower Wedding, the sixth installment. With small town charm and southern sweetness, this is a great feel good romance, between two high school crushes. McLane's characters are rock solid and three dimensional. She has a knack for writing about the small town atmosphere and generosity of its people. Cricket Creek comes alive for the reader and McLane does a fantastic job with it. Readers get a two for one with this title because there are two budding romances in this one. A great addition to the series.

What I liked:

I have liked this series since its inception. Being from Kentucky I am always interested in Kentucky authors and how the cities and towns are portrayed in their writing. Kentucky is a state that boasts a lot of great loves from horse racing to baseball and I think McLane hits the nail on the head with her portrayal of Cricket Creek. It reminds me of my own small town, with its eclectic mix of residents, mom and pop shops and wholesome atmosphere. There is definitely something to be said for southern charm and hospitality and that rings true in Wildflower Wedding.

Gabby is the proud owner of her own flower shop. She comes from humble beginnings and doesn't take anything for granted. She earned her own way and pulled herself up by her own bootstraps. She's independent and self-reliant. The death of her mother has affected her in a lot of ways including her love life. She wants a man her mom would be proud of and she isn't sure when Reese re-enters her life, that he could be that man. I liked Gabby. She had some spunk to her. She knew what it meant to be down and she got back up. I thought she took a bit too much time in making her mind about Reese. They had a smoking hot connection from the get-go and I wished she had moved full steam ahead, but I understand her reservations and why McLane wrote it the way she did.

Reese was once upon a time the class bad boy. After the disappearance of his father, she just wasn't the same and ended up being sent to New York to live with his uncle. Now he's back in Cricket Creek with more than

just pizza on his mind. He is part owner in his own business and has become a responsible and capable man. Not to mention he is hotter than a firecracker. I liked the fact that Reese had his reservations about Gabby too, but he realized a good thing when he saw it. He didn't give up and his persistence paid off. McLane does a great job with his character and lets the reader fall in love with him, just like Gabby does.

There is also a secondary romance between Reese's uncle Tony and his landlady Trish. I liked the way that McLane was able to add this second romance in without taking away from the lead couple. It is still vital to the story but it doesn't outshine the main thread. I enjoyed the fact that these two characters weren't young. They had seen some hard times of their own and eventually found their way to each other, with the help of fate and a little dog named Digger.

McLane gives readers another sweet heart felt romance that they can count on to make them smile a lot and wipe a few tears of joy, when Reese and Gabby finally realize they were meant for each other. Cricket Creek is finally seeing some revitalization and so are its inhabitants. I have loved all of the previous couples, but something about this couple struck a cord with me. This is my a favorite of the series so far and I hope McLane continues to bring readers quality romances with great characters.

What I didn't like:

As I mentioned it took Gabby too long to realize how great Reese was. There would have been time for more great moments between them had she came to her senses a little earlier. But it wasn't a stickler and was still a top notch novel.

Bottom Line:

I love this series and this author. I would recommend her books anytime. She does Kentucky proud and this is the best of the series so far in my opinion. Strong characters, southern charm and sweet romance combine to make this a great feel good read.

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### **Kimberly says**

My review cross-posted from Wit and Sin: <http://witandsin.blogspot.com/2014/03...>

Wildflower Wedding is sweetness and Southern charm with a healthy dose of sensual romance. There's something innately welcoming about LuAnn McLane's Cricket Creek books and I was drawn into Gabby and Reese's book from the start.

Back in high school, Reese was the classic bad boy with a chip on his shoulder. He's matured greatly in the intervening years since moving to New York and back, but the chip's still there at times...as are his old feelings for Gabby Goodwin. Gabby's as bright and sweet as her name implies, but that doesn't mean she's easily charmed. She and Reese have a history, one that made me smile every time there was a flashback. I loved watching the two of them fall in love, and it's not that far a fall, given the feelings that were already there. Ms. McLane doesn't make it all smooth sailing for them – now that he's returned to his hometown, Reese has trouble letting go of the past and that impacts his relationship with Gabby. Even so, the two of them get a lovely happily ever after with just the right amount of sentiment.

A secondary romance involving Reese's uncle, Tony, is every bit as important to Wildflower Wedding as

Gabby and Reese's love story. Tony's been through the wringer thanks to his grasping, cheating ex-wife and he doesn't want to fall for anyone. Too bad for him, as his neighbor and landlord, a divorcée by the name of Trish, tempts him to start trusting in love again. If two love stories weren't enough, a pair of tertiary romances play out in the background of Wildflower Wedding, adding to the story's message of taking a chance on love. I loved how Ms. McLane balanced all these characters and storylines, giving the lovable residents of Cricket Creek a sufficient amount of page time without ever detracting from her main characters.

Wildflower Wedding is a strong addition to the delightful Cricket Creek series. I finished Reese and Gabby's story with a smile on my face and I can't wait to return to Cricket Creek once more!

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*Note: I received this book for free from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does **not** affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.*

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### **Marie says**

The books in the Cricket Creek series are all so frickin' ADORABLE! The town of Cricket Creek itself is unbelievably charming. It's a small town feel with townspeople you could recognize as your own next door neighbor. I love visiting! In this installment, we follow Gabby, a young florist and Reese, a chef at the town's restaurant. When they were kids in high school, the two of them had crushes on each other – neither one of them realizing it at the time. So when Reese shows up to deliver a pizza to Gabby, all of those old sparks reignite and the rest, as we know it, is history.

Gabby and Reese have been through a lot since high school – leaving them both with issues when it comes to relationships. But with the help of those around them, these two follow their hearts to their perfectly sweet happily ever after. It truly is adorable!

I LOVE this series. I wish she'd write one-hundred more, and cannot wait for the next book!

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### **Pamela Devereux says**

Welcome back to Cricket Creek. This is Reese and Gabby's story. Reese is the bad boy who mom sent away to Uncle Tony's in Brooklyn to straighten him out. Gabby is the wallflower. They grew up in the same trailer park. They looked out for each other. Reese is back in Cricket Creek with his uncle to open a new Italian Pizza/Restaurant. He is also go to get the one girl he could never forget. Gabby has just opened her flower shop. From the first time they see each other again, the sparks are flying. Can Reese get past his bad boy reputation and can Gabby get past the mantra her Mom instilled in her that she date steady & reliable men. Loved that the wedding was in the springtime. It is a time for new life and new beginnings.

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### **Marina says**

This is my 2nd book read by this author. This is not exactly how I saw myself reading more of her books. But, shrugs, am going to roll with it. =0/

I give this book 4 stars in spite off my attention drifting everywhere but on the story near the end. I am not sure why that happened. Shrugs.

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## **Valerie says**

### First Impressions...

The cover doesn't wow me but it was enough to get me to read the blurb. That hooked me. While this is the first book in this series that I have read, it can easily be read stand alone. The small town definitely has lots of stories that I've missed but I didn't need to know them all.

### The Characters...

What's really fun about this book is the number of characters that I loved. The main "hopeful" couple is Gabby and Reese. I love them. They knew each other growing up and Reese always had a thing for Gabby. It's a second chance love story for them. But there are more couples in this story. You have Tony & Trish that are an other couple that are heating up the bedroom plus Clyde & Joy that are a senior couple - so cute. Loved them all.

### The Story...

This really is a sweet small town kinda story. Everyone knows everyone. News travels fast. Everyone pitches in. And it's just so sweet.

I loved the way that Gabby & Reese needed to work through things to get to a good place together but there wasn't a lot of angst and stress. It felt more real than some stories that pour on the pain waiting for them to figure things out. I just enjoyed reading this one. It was just what I needed.

### Could I Put It Down...

Why would I do that? This book reads so fast and is such a joy that I read straight through.

### In The End...

I would happily read the rest of this series. It's such a sweet town with good people. Sure they have problems but it's a happy kinda read with a side of sexy.

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## **Heidi says**

I enjoyed this story by Luann McLane, which I won in a Goodreads giveaway. It is a sweet story of young friends who grew up in a trailer park, drifted apart after high school but find themselves back in the same small hometown as adults who are attracted to each other yet not quite sure if they should proceed with a romance.

As this was the 6th story in the Cricket Creek series, I plan on checking out and reading the other 5 books to become current in the series.

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## Ellie says

Wildflower Wedding, Cricket Creek #6, by Luann McLane

Grade: B-

“Can’t you feel it, Gabby? This thing between us?”

Gabby Goodwin loves her life in Cricket Creek, Kentucky especially since she is now the proud owner of the town’s flower shop and shedding her trailer park background. The only thing missing in her life is a man and she is shocked when Reese Morino comes walking back into her life and sweeps her off her feet. Gabby finds herself with everything she ever wanted but abandonment and trust issues rear their ugly head and she finds herself losing everything she’s gained unless she can believe in Reese.

Reese Morino is back in Cricket Creek after years of being away and hoping that the town has forgotten what a troubled kid he was. Now a proud business owner with his mother and uncle things are starting to look up for Reese especially when he realizes the one girl who would never give him the time of day still makes him have butterflies. Gabby Goodwin was a fellow trailer park kid but she steered clear of Reese at all costs but now that they are all grown up Reese isn’t letting Gabby go this time. Unexpected visitors and harsh feelings return and it’s up to Reese to put things in the past or lose his future forever.

Cricket Creek is a very cute series that I have been reading since the second book came out. I have had my ups and downs with the books and characters but I really enjoyed Gabby and Reese. Like all the Cricket Creek books there are two love stories going on at the same time, one with younger people and one with “elder” people. The second storyline involves Reese’s uncle Tony and his new landlord Tessa both of whom are divorced and trying to pick up the pieces. I really liked Tessa but Tony rubbed me the wrong way at times with his attitude, treatment of Tessa and his flip-flop feelings for Tessa.

I really enjoyed Gabby and Reese a lot. I found them to be very sweet but they both still had issues from their past that they had to deal with until they could be really happy together. I did find things between them to be a little predictable which wasn’t the best but their romance was enough to keep me interested. There is also a third romance going on between Joy and Clyde from the senior citizens home and I do wish that we could have gotten a little more about their romance.

All in all this was an adorable book in a very sweet series. I had a few issues with some characters but for the most part it was a great read. I have no idea who will be in the next installment of this series but I’m keeping my fingers crossed for Mayor Drew to get his heart tugged around by some tattooed spitfire who can give him a run for his money.

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## ♥Rachel♥ says

3.5 Stars

**Wildflower Wedding** is two heartwarming romances set in a small town with very little drama or angst; a feel-good story to pass an afternoon away. This is part of a series, but it’s not necessary to read the previous

books to enjoy this installment.

Gabby grew in Cricket Creek in the wrong side town, one of the poor kids living in the trailer park. Even though she's now owns a successful flower shop some of the old hang-ups from her upbringing still hold strong; like falling for the wrong guy, the one who'll love and leave you. When bad boy Reese Marino moves back to town, her long held crush comes roaring back. He always showed her his sweet side, but Gabby stayed away knowing his reputation with the girls and for stirring up trouble. It seems Reece has made a lot of changes, but still she's cautious.

After his father's abandonment Reese went through a time where anger and hurt fueled his actions. When things got out of control his mother sent him away to live with her brother, Uncle Tony, in Brooklyn. Reece made something of himself during that time by going to the Brooklyn Culinary Institute and he's now back in Cricket Creek with his Uncle Tony and his mother opening up a family restaurant. Growing up he's always had a thing for Gabby, but she always kept him at arm's length. Reece could understand it back then, especially when he was nothing but trouble, but he's not that troubled teen any longer. Will she open up her heart and be able to see it?

Uncle Tony has his own baggage after his discovering his wife was cheating. Even a few years later he's still bitter and hurt. Trish, his landlord has recently moved to Cricket Creek as well and suffered a similar blow. Can these two put aside their pain and trust issues enough to be happy? There's definitely a palpable attraction and draw between the two of them.

I really enjoyed both of these romances, but if I had to pick I guess Tony and Trish's appealed to me just a little more being they were older and had experienced marriage. I'm not divorced, but I'm no stranger to the struggles you can face as a married couple and can imagine the pain of betrayal that both Trish and Tony were struggling to get past. Plus, they had a bit of an antagonistic relationship to start off and I adored the fun push and pull between these two.

I did love that for the most part these couples dealt with their issues and reservations maturely and there wasn't any over the top drama or third party involvement. Thank goodness! I've had my fill for a while of angst, drama filled reads lately! **Wildflower Wedding** is a sweet, and at times spicy romance sure to leave you happy and satisfied in the end.

*A copy was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.*

Come visit The Readers Den for a chance to win a copy of Wildflower Wedding.

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### **Camille says**

This was my first book that I have read written by Luann McLane and now I can't wait to read the rest of her books. This book was so good that at times I had to put it down just to digest what I had read. I love how real the characters are and how I felt a part of their lives. Would absolutely recommend this book to anyone wanting a good romance.

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### **Geri says**

Sweet story of two couples. The first is a younger couple in their 20's. Reese is back in towns he has always loved Gabby but he was the bad boy in town. Gabby is a good girl but growing up poor she wanted some stability. Reese had some issues to work out and they didn't all resolve by the end of the book even though they got their HEA.

The other couple are in their 40's. Reese had a bad relationship. His wife cheated on him. Trish had a bad relationship. Her husband cheated on her. Together they had an immediate attraction but past hurts caused them to have doubts about taking a chance.

Everyone in the story had advice about life and love for each other but none seemed to take their own advice.

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### **Becca says**

A cute love story about childhood friends finding a second chance at romance. I really enjoyed this book, even though it was the first out of this series that I read, I had no trouble with previous characters and their storylines. It was a good as a stand alone and I assume will only be better having read the rest of the series. I definitely will be visiting the rest of the Cricket Creek Series books.

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