



Waiting On You

Kristan Higgins

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Does being nobody's fool mean that you're nobody's love?

Colleen O'Rourke is in love with love... just not when it comes to herself. Most nights, she can be found behind the bar at the Manningsport, New York, tavern she owns with her twin brother, doling out romantic advice to the lovelorn, mixing martinis and staying more or less happily single. See, ten years ago, Lucas Campbell, her first love, broke her heart... an experience Colleen doesn't want to have again, thanks. Since then, she's been happy with a fling here and there, some elite-level flirting and playing matchmaker to her friends.

But a family emergency has brought Lucas back to town, handsome as ever and still the only man who's ever been able to crack her defenses. Seems like maybe they've got some unfinished business waiting for them—but to find out, Colleen has to let her guard down, or risk losing a second chance with the only man she's ever loved.

Waiting On You Details

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From Reader Review Waiting On You for online ebook

Panda Allen says

I've debated with myself about even writing a review, but I'm just too frustrated! I love Kristan Higgins. This is the only book of hers that I've read that has frustrated me so much. Colleen O'Roarke is a tough, take charge woman, who doesn't take any crap from anyone. Except when it comes to her first love Lucas Campbell. Even though as far as she knew he married someone 2 months after Colleen ended their 4 year relationship because he refused to tell her that he loved her and completely freaked out when she mentioned marriage, she's still carrying a torch for him 10 years later and doesn't mind telling him so. Of course he only got married because he accidentally knocked up a one night stand that he had when he saw Colleen kiss a guy while they were "on a break." But here's the kicker, even though he says he still loved Colleen, and that she was his one true love and that the entire time he was with his ex he felt like he was cheating on Colleen, he still stayed married for 6 years, even after his wife had a miscarriage 12 weeks into their marriage. 6 YEARS! Even then it was his wife who ended the marriage, not him! Then when he finally comes back to town, Colleen honestly doesn't make it too hard on him to win her back. She halfheartedly makes a few protests, but eventually goes back to him without much of a fight. Then she starts acting like SHE'S not worthy of HIS love. She tells him that he's her one true love, and when he flips out when he finds out that she slept with his cousin ONCE, 6 years ago, while he was still MARRIED, she begs him to stay, but he goes anyway. When he realizes that he still wants her (but only after a pep talk from his sister) he goes rushing back home to her, and she takes him back. Just. Like. That. The story had it's good points, and I laughed out loud quite a bit, but I was just so distracted by my frustration at Colleen and dislike of Luke, that it just ruined the whole book for me. I ADORE Kristan Higgins, but if this book had been a paper copy, not an ebook, I would have probably thrown it at the wall a couple of times out of frustration. Over 24 hours :-(

Geri Reads says

5 second-chance stars!

Ten years ago, Lucas Campbell broke Colleen O'Rourke's heart. It was devastating. Colleen had moved on for the most part, but fate intervened when Lucas comes back to Manningsport to take care of family business. Suddenly, Colleen's walls are tested especially when Lucas seems intent on winning her back.

What followed is one of the most wonderfully bittersweet story about love second chances, forgiveness, family and community. This book hits all the right spot for me.

Colleen was a wonderful heroine. She's not perfect. She's a huge flirt and she got a reputation for getting around quite a bit. Even though that was just a reputation, she wore it like a badge.

Lucas is gorgeous, infuriating, noble and stubborn. He's one of those heroes that seems to do all the right things until they fuck up. Like real bad. Lucas was like that.

The secondary characters were wonderful and the small town of Manningsport was the perfect setting. There were a lot hilarious moments and also somber ones. The chemistry between Colleen and Lucas was off-the-charts hot. And did I mention that this book was a angst? Yeah. It was, and I loved it.

I was so involved and engrossed with the characters that I totally didn't miss that this book didn't have one iota of a sex scene. It's all fade to black. But it was still unbelievably sexy and hot.

In other words, the stars aligned and everything about this book was perfect for me.

Yodamom says

This was my first book by this author. I was pleasantly surprised to like her work. I found her characters interesting, their issues realistic without being drama rama ridiculous. I liked them I found it easy to connect with them and wanted them to succeed.

Two children from broken families, fall in love and crash in disaster. His mother died and his father was sent to prison. He is sent to live with his uncle and his wife who makes sure he feels unwelcome. She has a father who cheated and left her and her twin alone with their broken hearted mother to raise another family. There are some serious issues that need to be resolved.

Two high school sweethearts break up after a dramatic event is kept from her. She is understandably upset things are said that put their futures on different paths. He heads off the college where he she stays in her town waiting till loneliness drives her to try living. An unexpected surprise take them farther from each other, all hope finally gone. Then an illness brings him back to town where they are forced to reunite and finally hash out what should have been discussed 10 years earlier. The side characters are fantastic with all their quirky problems. Rufus, steals the spot light every scene he's in. It gets, ugly, funny, sad, angry, sigh worthy and intense.

I already reserved more books from her

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

I am in serious love with this author.

Yolanda says

4,75 porque me ha hecho pasar tannnnnnn buen rato, me he reido tanto y tambien me ha tocado el corazoncito.

Me encantan Colleen y Lucas.

Me he reido lo que no està escrito. La verdad es que me ha encantado porque tiene unos momentos de risa que bueno, bueno... y a la vez tiene su punto profundo que me ha hecho querer mucho a Lucas y tambien a Colleen.

Todos los personajes te sacan una carcajada en algùn momento.

Me lo estoy pasando pipa con esta serie y me han gustado todos perooooo, de momento, este el que màs.

Olga gracias por acompañarme con esta serie porque lo estamos pasando tan bien que esto no se nos olvida, estas risas siempre merecen la pena.

♥Sharon♥ says

I am really enjoying Kristan Higgins writing and this Blue Heron series is fantastic. But I am in a bit of a reviewing funk and can't seem to pull my head out of my Well you get the picture right.

I've already moved on to book #4 but wanted to let you all know this one got thumbs up from me. :)

Didi says

10 +++++ STARS!!

How do you write a review about a book so perfect, you can't stop thinking about it? Crying happy tears about it? Wishing you could tell the world about it?

Giving this book 5 stars doesn't seem fitting. It isn't enough of a rating to justify how I felt reading it. LOVED IT! This is the 3rd book in KH's Blue Heron series and although I fell in love with the first one, The Best Man, this is probably the best of the series so far. We finally get Colleen's story, the vivacious and flirty owner and bartender at O'Rourkes in beautiful Manningsport, NY.

Colleen is the single and outrageously flirty bestie to Faith Holland. She's also the town matchmaker, setting everyone else up except herself. See, years ago, Colleen fell in love with Lucas Campbell. And he broke her heart.

She's never gotten over it, over him. Until a family situation calls him back to the town where he fell for beautiful Colleen. Now he's back...can a second chance be on the horizon for this lovelorn couple? Kristan Higgins, YOU'RE A GENIUS. This woman writes, I read. If you've never read this author...you really should. Her novels are so complete, so thorough, so heart wrenchingly beautiful and captivating. She's the only author that I love that uses the fade to black for sex scenes. But she is that good, THAT GOOD, that you don't notice. The story is too perfect and emotional for you to give a care.

Colleen and Lucas's story broke my heart. Their respective upbringings were so different yet they were so perfect for each other. Colleen had never really had to work in getting noticed but 'the dark prince' as she calls Lucas, changed her world, made her notice HIM.

When he returns to Manningsport, his presence is engulfing and distressing and she finds herself right back where she was 10 years prior. And holy crap, Lucas sounds WOW!

Dark, gypsy hair, dark, soulful eyes that speak volumes, a voice evocative of dark chocolate....NEED I SAY MORE??

I think Lucas is KH's sexiest and most alluring male hero so far. All her hero's possess similar qualities: quiet

intensity, a strong and determined presence and an unequivocal, heart stopping love for the heroine. Seriously, I love this author!

Her books also always have strong secondary back stories. It adds richness to a book, fleshing out the characters like nobody's business...GAH! Can't say enough! And her backdrop? Can I move my family to Manningsport? Endless acres of vineyards, forests and natural living, sigh.

And it's not just gorgeous storytelling, compelling backgrounds and emotional attachments in this book. It was freaking hilarious! Several scenes had me gasping for air because I was laughing so hard, wheezing with the effort!!! Lovely, fantastic, incredible book, L-O-V-E-D I-T!!!! Highly recommended! Now I can't wait for Jack Hollands story and Jessica Dunns story!!!!, the next books in this wonderful series!

Olga says

Como todos lo de esta saga, es un libro para reir (mucho, muchisimo), sonreir e incluso tener un momento de reflexion sobre la vida de los personajes... Es el libro que mas me he reido por las ocurrencias de la madre (y demas menopausicas), las situaciones de intentar hacer de casamentera y los pensamientos de Colleen.... Leer libros asi da gusto, te deja con una sonrisa en la cara para todo el dia y eso se agradece mucho.... Seguire esta saga con ganas renovadas cuando saquen los siguientes libros (le tengo ganas al gemelo y a Jack)....

Jennifer says

★★★½

Waiting on You is the third installment in Kristan Higgins's adult contemporary romance series titled: [Blue Heron](#). This was another very likable addition to a sweet and romantic series. Waiting on You incorporated complicated family dynamics in regards to the hero which made me tear up a bit. With palpable emotions and a few pretty laughable scenes, this one was a great addition to the series.

My favorite quote:

“I’ve found that if you expect the best of a person, you generally get it.”

“What happens when you don’t?”

“Live and learn. Emphasis on learn.”

The [Blue Heron](#) is a series of romances set in the community of Blue Heron. Each book showcases a different couple with cameos from past/future characters. The series includes the following installments as of November 2017:

#1-The Best Man

#2-The Perfect Match

#3-Waiting on You

#4-In Your Dreams

#5-Anything for You

Jonetta says

Originally posted at The Book Nympho

The Matchmaker gets matched!

The set up

Colleen O'Rourke has a breezy personality with a witty, flirty retort for everybody. But underneath that generous heart is a serious bruise, created when the love of her life, Lucas Campbell, the only man she's ever loved, left her 14 years ago. Now he's back in town for a brief stay and he still takes her breath away.

The issues

No one understood why Lucas left Colleen so abruptly, including her. He had his reasons but they had nothing to do with him not still loving her. Though she's Googled him a little bit, Colleen really doesn't know what's happened in his life the last few years. He definitely hasn't a clue about her life but Lucas was a bit unprepared to face his unresolved feelings about her either.

What I loved about this story

Everything. No, seriously, everything. There's not a perfect person in it and most are pretty likable. I laughed my butt off, cried a lot, got angry occasionally and had a few "aww" moments.

I loved Colleen whose mission in life is to see everyone matched with their soulmate and she's got quite the track record to back up her success. No matter how many times life punched her, she persevered and came back with her head held high. Lucas drove me nuts on occasion but he's a really great guy despite his harsh upbringing. Those important in their lives play substantive roles in the story and are completely fleshed out.

The bottom line

I loved these two characters and their messy lives and romance. Lucas is über sexy and Colleen is just the dream heroine but is definitely no angel. There's a surprise punch near the end but I was prepared for it and it just made the story richer. This will always be one of my favorites as I couldn't get enough of these two and the crazy people around them.

(I received an ARC from NetGalley)

Duchess Nicole says

I truly think this is Kristan Higgins best book that she's written so far. No lags in pacing, her characters are multi-layered and down to earth, and there just seemed to be so much depth to this entire story...so many people involved and yet they all played a decisive role in how this book played out.

My heart is thumping in my chest...what an ending, what a story!

This is my first five star read by this author and it just blew me away. This is quality writing... laced with more than a touch of humor, inundated with heartfelt emotions and a large, endearing cast of secondary characters, it's the type of story that sets the bar high on women's fiction.

This is a second chance romance for a couple that has always loved each other passionately. Colleen and Lucas obviously belong together. Often with second chance romances, the initial conflict that tears them apart seems contrived for drama. But this conflict, while able to be attributed to their young ages and immature actions, is one that could play out between many a young couple. At first, it seems to be something that they can overcome quite easily but add in a few unexpected factors and misunderstandings, and you have a couple who is ripped apart unfairly...then reunited by fate a decade later.

Lucas was the kid from the wrong side of the tracks, Colleen the popular girl who accepted her lot in life but never acted better than anyone else.

Oh, Lucas...my heart broke for him. He's such a good guy. Never trying to be liked or even loved but he deserves so much. Colleen was his everything for a few short months. As was he to her...they are just so meant to be! Colleen has stayed in her little hometown, and puts on quite a show for the residents who frequent the bar that she and her twin brother own. Everyone thinks that she's happy. Even Colleen thinks that she's happy, until Lucas comes back into town and she realizes how deeply she still loves him.

But meshing their adult lives is even harder now than it was back then. Lucas' dying uncle and good ole boy cousin need his help and guidance, and Colleen's cheating father, nerdy but sweet little sister, and needy mother need her shoulder as well. Amid the chaos that is life, will these two be able to hold on to the love that they both know is...and always will be...the one?

Five huge stars. I'm officially addicted to Kristan Higgins.

Advance Copy provided by Harlequin HQN via NetGalley

MRB says

I love the way Kristan Higgins writes. Her writing offers more style, flair, wit and warmth than pretty much any other contemporary romance author out there. (Speaking of which, prospective readers should know that she focuses so heavily on the characters' friends, relatives and various subplots that many have always considered KH's work 'chick lit/woman's-centric fiction rather than actual romance anyway.) The fact that I love the way this author writes helps explain why I continue to try her books despite often not liking *what* she writes.

The Blue Heron series has proven sadly disappointing for me so far, and this book may have been my least favorite of the three. I took an unusually strong and immediate dislike to the 'heroine', Colleen. One very common criticism of KH's other books is that so many of her heroines are pitifully insecure, spineless doormats who are cringe-inducingly desperate in their pursuit of the hero. This heroine felt almost like a deliberate response to that criticism, but it took us so far to the other, more unpleasant extreme that I found myself yearning for the doormat-y heroines of her other novels! Colleen is 'sassy', gorgeous and ever so sexy. We know this because she reminds herself and the readers of this many, many, MANY times.

Everyone worships Colleen (for reasons that never became quite clear to this reader, by the way!), and no one more than Colleen herself, who has to be among the more arrogant heroines I've ever come across.

Harper, the heroine of KH's *My One and Only*, was also a physically beautiful character and not immediately 'likable', but she had a lovely arc during which she developed into a better person. By contrast, Colleen thinks she's ridiculously awesome from the start, and nothing and no one ever compels her to call that into question. She doesn't grow, she doesn't change...she just stays really annoying and laughably conceited in a

way that I think is supposed to pass for 'admirable confidence' but crosses the line. She's also, as other reviewers have noted, a total 'player,' a trait I like in neither my heroines nor my heroes.

Oh yeah, speaking of heroes...Lucas is an okay but thoroughly unmemorable man who married someone he impregnated because he's just that much of a 'good guy,' though apparently not too good a guy to gush all over Colleen while he's still married. He wants Colleen, of course---what male on this planet doesn't?!---but I found myself wishing he'd travel back to where he came from and find someone else. At one point towards the end he just sort of throws up his hands and gives up on Colleen entirely, which I found unintentionally amusing but which probably won't sit well with people who like their heroes to ardently pursue their heroines without ever wavering :)

Even when my overall reaction is disappointment, I nearly always find at least *something* to love about KH's books: either the heroine or the hero, some of the familial relationships and friendships, a few of the minor characters, or at least the humor. In this instance, while the writing itself was typically strong, I just didn't connect with the characters or their world. Hope springs eternal, though, so I'm trying to muster some optimism that I'll enjoy KH's next novel as much as I did some of her earlier ones!

Mo says

**Coleen was popular;
not mean-girl popular,
just really well liked**

I think I have read almost all the books that Ms Higgins has written. I have loved them all and she is an auto-buy for me. This one was no exception. Actually this one was nearly better than all her other good books.

She'd forgotten how he looked, like a pirate, like Heathcliff of the moors, dark and slightly dangerous ... except for his eyes, which could be so sad. And so happy, too.

Colleen O'Rourke is in love with love... Coleen and her twin brother own O'Rourke's Bar in Manningsport, New York. She loves giving advice to her friends, doing a bit of matchmaking. Lucas Campbell, was her first love and he broke her heart...

Lucas is back to town, for a family emergency and he still has the power to get to Coleen. Will it work out for them second time round?

The thing I love about Kristan Higgins's books is that the heroines are always strong, there is always humour in the books, sex scenes are non-existent, families come across as normal. Some of the stuff in the book had me laughing out loud. So funny. Of course with a name like O'Rourke, there is the Irish connection which usually will keep me happy.

I really liked the Mom, She really came through in the end for me.

**She grinned and Lucas felt it like an electric shock.
Once, Coleen had been the prettiest girl around.
Now, she was beautiful.
And not a girl anymore.**

"I'm trying, Coleen," Mom said, sighing as only a Cataholic could.

Maybe it is the Catholic in me that so GETS lines like that!

Lucas didn't have an easy life growing up. He lived with his Uncle Joe and cousin Bryce for a while. This is how he came from the South Side of Chicago to Manningsport. I won't mention Didi, the bitch. Bryce was fairly immature but I suppose he had been spoiled all his life.

Colleen was Manningsport. She was the heart of the town and she wouldn't leave, and he wouldn't stay

Would they be able to work out whatever hurdles were in their way and find their Happy Ever After?

Don't bullshit a bullshitter, Lucas

The stars burned and blazed overhead, the night was soft and dark ...

**But.
She was always there, that river of dark, fast water.**

There was one part towards the end, in an exchange between Lucas and Bryce, if that doesn't have you

shedding a little tear, I don't know what would.

Seriously, if you have never read anything by this author, go and check her out. You won't be sorry.

[image error]

Karen says

5 STARS

Another winner.

Toni says

This book was a real page turner for me and I kind of wished it didn't end yet after I read the last page. Unfortunately, I make these comments for the wrong reasons...

It's a page turner for me because I couldn't stand a lot of the scenes, particularly the ones where the author was probably trying to set up funny moments (eg any scene involving Paulie and Bryce or Colleen trying to cook dinner for Lucas). A lot of other readers may find them funny, but they just made me cringe and feel immensely embarrassed for the characters involved. So I just had to skim through them and go to the next pages.

I didn't want the story to end on the page it did, because even though the ending was a "Happily Ever After", the road to get there wasn't convincing and satisfying at all. Maybe, if the author replaced some of the annoying LOL moments with the minor characters (eg again Bryce and Paulie; the team Menopause crowd) with more pages showing more interaction between Colleen and Lucas instead, then I would have probably been more satisfied with the ending, rather than feel cheated and frustrated.

I apologise for the spoilers, but I have to note them down to give an honest opinion about this book. Anyway, a lot of other reviewers have mentioned them already.

In the beginning, the book really got me hooked. I liked how Colleen's and Lucas' passionate love story started and the very sad way they broke up. Unfortunately, as the story unfolded, I just got more and more frustrated by the actions of both characters.

A hero not worth pining for

The character of Lucas for me is one of the most unlikeable romance hero I've ever read... and that's quite something because I've read dozens of romance and chick lit novels. While I can understand why a lot of the other readers are swooning over him (I was at the beginning as well), I cannot understand how any woman (including Colleen) would ever want him back or pine for him for such a long time. Based on his actions and thoughts, and even the happy ending, I still can't be totally sure if he truly loved Colleen or he still has a thing for his ex-wife Ellen. Seriously, when I finished the book, I couldn't help but think of this scenario, if

Ellen and Colleen were trapped in a sinking car, who would he save first? If this novel had a more convincing ending, I'd say Colleen, but honestly, I don't know....

- 1) Through all the years he was with Colleen, before the big break-up, he never once said he loved her. Ok, maybe he showed it, but sorry, if I was his girlfriend, I still would have wanted him to say it. Especially, when years later, he doesn't hesitate declaring his love for the woman he married whom he only dated once then married.
- 2) When they had their first fight, he doesn't make any solid effort to reconcile and he gives up immediately on Colleen after he sees her flirting with some guy. Given their intense history, you would have thought, he could have/should have tried harder to reconcile.
- 3) With Colleen he always insisted on them using two types of birth control because of his fear of making her pregnant. But with Ellen, he didn't mind going ahead having sex with her and taking her word that she was on the Pill. (Ok, he was distraught at the time because of how things were with him and Colleen, but still, given his genuine fear, I couldn't believe he was ok with Ellen saying she was on the Pill.)
- 4) He tells Colleen he doesn't want to marry while they're young, when he couldn't support them, etc., etc., but two months later he doesn't hesitate asking Ellen to marry him when he finds out their one-night stand led to her pregnancy. I suppose, it helps that Ellen's family is rich, so...
- 5) He lies to Colleen at first on the real reason he was going to marry Ellen. That is, he doesn't tell Colleen that he was only marrying Ellen because he knocked her up. So if you were Colleen, how would you feel if the guy who refused to get married to you just two months before, now tells you he's marrying someone else who by the way just happens to come from a very wealthy family? To top it off, the real reason he doesn't tell the truth is because Ellen requested him not to tell anyone else about her condition. Seriously?! He honours the wish of this girl whom he only had a one-night stand, but never once thought that his girlfriend of more than 4 years, the one he claims he really loves, deserves to know the truth?! Didn't he think for one second, the blow would be less hurting if Colleen knew he was only marrying the girl because she was pregnant and not give the impression that he loved this girl more than Colleen?
- 6) So alright, he has a sense of honor. He marries and stays with Ellen even after she miscarries a month after they got married! But he stays with her for 6 years and tries hard to make their marriage work, even if most of his nights, he thinks of Colleen and feels he's cheating on her! In the end, it is Ellen who calls it quits on their marriage. Wow! Now remember, as a reader, you know he was pining for Colleen, but as Colleen (or as a non-mind reading person), you wouldn't know this pining was going on. In fact, from Colleen's perspective she never knew, because guess what... he never said so. There was a scene somewhere in the book when they reconnected and Colleen asked why he got divorced if he loved Ellen, and his response was that, "he didn't love her enough". Now I don't know about you, but from my perspective that's a very ambiguous answer. Since I'm not a mind reader (so is Colleen) and didn't know all the pining he was doing those past 6 years, I couldn't immediately conclude it was because he loved Colleen more. His words could easily imply that his wife felt that he didn't love her enough and told him so, so she left him. Note that there were also passages in the book wherein he expressed his worry that he "didn't do a good job" of being a husband to Ellen. If he really loved Colleen wouldn't it be better if he just said, "Because I couldn't get you out of my mind" or "Because I didn't feel the same way I felt about you" or "Because I loved you more". You know, less ambiguous!
- 7) When he and his wife get divorced, does he seek out Colleen? Nope. Instead, 2 years and 3 months later, he only returns to Manningsport because his dying uncle requested him to come home. When Colleen

confronts him about this, does he provide a good explanation why he didn't seek her out? Nope.

8) When he returns to Manningsport, he just swoops down on Colleen as if he has every right to do so, as if what he did to her didn't happen. I mean, shortly after he returns, he kisses her in public like he owns her. Then later on, he makes statements like "You and me are going to happen, it's just a matter of when..." Seriously?! No attempt first to say he's sorry for everything that has happened, and just assumes he could easily just hook up with Colleen (not that Colleen was any good at playing hard-to-get... more on this later).

9) All throughout his stay in Manningsport, even though he tells Colleen that he wants more than just a fling with her, he doesn't do anything to reassure her that he wants a more solid permanent relationship. He doesn't instigate discussions on whether he'll stay, or propose to Colleen to come with him. He ponders on how to make their relationship work, but doesn't make any solid steps to do so.

10) Neither did he make any steps to show Colleen that he is completely over Ellen and reassure her that she is the ONE, not Ellen, which was quite obvious Colleen needed given her insecurities about Ellen. In fact if there is anything consistent about Lucas, it's the fact that he seems more determined to show how much he cared for Ellen when she was his wife and how he still cared for her after they divorced because she was still his "best friend".

a) In one instance when Colleen just makes a comment about him and Ellen, he immediately barks to defend Ellen even though Colleen's comments were hardly critical.

b) All throughout the book he never once told Ellen how he really felt about Colleen. Granted he was justified to lie to Ellen in the early years of their marriage, it didn't make sense he never came clean about it later on given that i) it was implied even Ellen knew his heart was not in their marriage; ii) Ellen had confessed her feelings for another man she met; iii) Lucas was dating Colleen again. I mean in that scene when Ellen suddenly arrived in his apartment because of problems with the booking she made with a local B&B and Colleen was obviously upset about this, Lucas hardly made an effort to reassure Colleen, apart from a half-hearted Romeo scene wherein he tried weasling out of the situation by making light fun of it. It would've been nice if he stayed over at Colleen's apartment instead and had a heart to heart talk with her. But nooo... he goes back to his own apartment to reassure Ellen that Colleen wasn't upset (even though she was). Then when Ellen starts talking about how her father misses Lucas and smugly states that he would be back in Chicago in the near future, not once did Lucas say anything about his feelings about Colleen, that he may want to stay in Manningsport or convince Colleen to come with him to Chicago.

c) During his Uncle Joe's wake, he never made the effort to show Ellen and his family that he is indeed with Colleen already. Apart from giving her a few looks, he didn't ask her to stand by his side to greet the attendees, properly introduce her to her former in-laws and just stood by as she acted like a waitress during the wake.

d) Finally, there was also this scene when he felt a "pang" when he saw how Levi cared for his pregnant wife, Faith. When he sees this, what does he think? Does he think about a future wherein perhaps one day he too will be in a similar situation with Colleen? You would think so if he really thought she is the ONE. But nooo... he thinks about the time when he was caring for pregnant Ellen, and the trauma of her miscarriage, then goes off to pray that this time around he hoped Ellen's pregnancy would go smoothly and not end as tragically. Yes, noble thoughts, but still gives the impression he's thinking more of his ex than a future with Colleen.

11) When he finally declares to Colleen that she is "his everything", he only does so because he got all distraught because his beloved uncle didn't want him in the room during his last few minutes alive. In other words, he felt rejected by someone else. I don't know, somehow, I would have liked his declaration more if it was said because he thought about this himself and not spurred on by some tragic event.

12) Unfortunately, shortly after his declaration, he finds out that Colleen slept with his cousin. How does he react? He erupts like a volcano and starts looking at her like she was a slut, regardless of the fact that Colleen did this when he was still MARRIED to Ellen. Seriously?! He sleeps with another girl and marries her less than three months after telling Colleen he doesn't want to marry her, but he gets upset with Colleen when she sleeps with his cousin years after they broke up and he's married to someone else. Talk about double standards! If his standards were that high, why then did he not get pissed with his ex-wife when she revealed she was seeing someone else already on the day their divorce was getting finalised? Doesn't it imply that she was seeing this new guy while they were still married and was probably why she called it quits on their marriage? Doesn't it bother him that while there he was trying hard to make their marriage work, she's out there already playing the field? Nope. He's quite happy to hear his ex-wife has moved on to be happy. But hey, with Colleen, God forbid she was out there playing the field so she herself could be happy when he dumped her!

13) In the end, he only reconciles fully with Colleen only after he receives a pep talk from his cousin and his sister, and receives some final words from his dead uncle through a letter he wrote. Wow! Despite his intense relationship with Colleen and their history, it would take all of these people to convince him to come back to Colleen. And what a comeback too! Just another stupid declaration at the bar for the entire town to see, rather than him working hard to gain her back (but then what do you expect when you only have a few pages left on the novel after wasting it on silly side stories!).

You know how in a typical romance story, the reader is introduced to a third party (other woman) character that keeps the hero away from the heroine. Often, that third party is portrayed as a character with questionable morals, unpleasant, and often times it is revealed the hero doesn't really love this character. I have this suspicion that the author here wanted so badly to avoid this cliché, so she tried hard to portray Ellen as a "decent" person whom Lucas loves and continues to have a very friendly relationship even after their divorce (hey at one point he even cites Ellen as his best friend as one of the reasons he ought to return to Chicago and not stay in Manningsport!) In my opinion, this ploy kind of backfired because to me it looked more like Lucas had more of a thing with Ellen and made me doubt of his true feelings for Colleen.

The supposedly sassy heroine who acts more like a doormat

If Lucas is annoying, Colleen is equally irritating. All throughout the novel, the author took great pains to point out that she is a confident, sassy, strong, intelligent woman who has managed to get over her disastrous love affair 1) through humor; 2) by constantly letting the world know that she is aware of her beauty; 3) by flirting with lots of men and not at all being bothered by the fact she has built up a reputation of being a tramp; 4) by being a matchmaker. Well here's the thing, I don't think I was ever convinced she is that strong given that she seems to excel more in becoming a doormat for a lot of people and acting like an idiot when Lucas was around.

1) Despite a few feelings of jealousy, she didn't show enough anger towards Lucas's relationship with Ellen. For example, in that scene wherein Ellen suddenly shows up and she got really mad at Lucas about this, she lets him easily off the hook after a pathetic Romeo act from him.

2) She never pursued the issue as to why Lucas never came back sooner or sought her out after his divorce.

3) Despite a few pathetic attempts of resistance (ie saying it wasn't a good idea for her and Lucas to get together but almost all the time she acts like an idiot or an animal in heat whenever he's around), it doesn't take long for her to allow him to sleep with her. Note that not once did he show remorse or say sorry to her for breaking her heart! She then goes on with the relationship without him showing any real signs he is there

for a real long term relationship.

4) What was the point of cooking dinner for Lucas?. What exactly was she trying to prove? To be worthy of him again, she ought to cook him dinner even if she hardly has any culinary skills or knowledge? And by the way, wasn't he the same guy who broke her heart, so why should she be the one making all this effort? (If the primary reason is to draw a few laughs from the readers at Colleen's expense, well sorry, the entire scene was simply painful than funny!)

5) By the way, wasn't she trained as a nurse? How did she pass being a nurse when she faints upon seeing Bryce's bloody hand after he has an accident with a nail gun while helping Lucas with a building project? (Again another LOL moment that is not really funny.)

6) When Lucas became mad at her when he found out she slept with his cousin, she didn't defend herself enough, tried to joke around and then took great pains to apologise for what she's done, even though it was so clear Lucas had no right to judge her given he was married at that time!

7) In the end, she just accepts his few words of "sorry", and "I love you" and that's it. I don't care if she says, "I'm easy". I just wanted to shake her and say, "Have some pride, woman! Make him work a little bit harder because he treated you like sh&*!"

8) Even with her Dad, she is like this. She goes off her brain blaming Lucas for her parents' marriage breakdown when it was hardly his fault, but doesn't show the same strength to tell her Dad truthfully of how she feels about his betrayal. Noooo... Instead when her Dad invites her to dinner so she could meet his soon-to-be-new wife and he shows no remorse or guilt for what he's done, and demands she show up without being uncivil, otherwise she'll be cut off, how does she react? She shows up for dinner without any sign of being angry.

9) After years of being angry with Gail, Gail just makes a few "Boo-hoo-hoo" whinges about her pitiful circumstances (when Colleen's Dad's started the process of divorcing her), and suddenly she decides she "will try to be Gail's friend".

Lastly, the annoying matchmaking activity. I don't know how she could be considered an excellent matchmaker when she plots Paulie's match up with a loser like Bryce. I'm sorry, despite his "animal lover" redeeming character, he's a slacker and loser whom I have no doubt is likely going to end up being like Colleen's Dad who would dump Paulie in the future for a bimbo. You know, a lot of comparison has been made about Colleen and Jane Austen's Emma character. But at least, even Austen wrote Emma making a huge mistake in some of her matchmaking attempts. It would've been more interesting (and realistic) if Colleen makes a huge mistake with Paulie and Bryce, and Paulie found someone better on her own because she deserves someone better!

Too many annoying minor characters with uninteresting sub-stories

Normally, I don't mind a large cast or a multitude of plotlines in a novel (I've read and enjoyed a couple of Maeve Binchy novels), but in this novel I found myself agreeing with other reviewers' opinion that most of the characters and some of the sub-plots were just irritating! It was extremely frustrating when just as you are getting into an important development in the relationship between Lucas and Colleen, you are forced to read through another minor character's story and sub-plot. For example:

1) Bryce who despite his "redemption" towards the end of the novel, never really felt the full consequences

of his stupid acts (such as having a brief affair with a bride trying on a wedding dress)

2) Paulie who despite her physical strength and brains acted like a complete idiot when she's around with Bryce (I wonder if the author deliberately made this character pathetic or needed another comic relief when she already had so many)

3) Gail the Tail – the trophy wife who still expects sympathy from Colleen despite the fact that she is the other woman who broke Colleen's parents' marriage. Granted, Colleen's Dad wasn't honest with her about his real marital status (didn't tell her he was married) and the real circumstances of his relationship with his then wife (he claims he was in the process of a divorce when he was not), she still marries him anyway and expected absolute fidelity from him? Sheesh! I'm really sick of mistress characters like these who act all surprised when the married guy they eventually marry end up cheating on them, then expects sympathy without feeling a single smidgen of remorse or guilt for what they did to the first wife and the first family!

I probably wouldn't have minded these minor character and sub-plots at all if the hero and heroine were appealing enough... Sadly they were not.

I'd rather read Jennifer Crusie

This is the first novel I've read from Kristan Higgins. I am seriously wondering if I should bother reading her other books or go back to reading Jennifer Crusie for funny contemporary romance stories.
