



## Summer by the Sea

*Susan Wiggs*

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**This summer Rosa Capoletti is about to rediscover the pleasures of love and laughter, food and wine, friendship and romance...**

With a little determination and a lot of charm, Rosa Capoletti took a run-down pizza joint and turned it into an award-winning restaurant that has been voted "best place to propose" three years in a row. For Rosa, though, there has been no real romance since her love affair with Alexander Montgomery ended without explanation a decade ago. But guess who's just come back to town?

Reunited at the beach house where they first fell in love, Rosa and Alexander discover that the secrets of the past are not what they seem. Now, with all that she wants right in front of her, Rosa searches for happiness with the man who once broke her heart—and learns that in love, as in life, there are second chances.

## **Summer by the Sea Details**

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## From Reader Review Summer by the Sea for online ebook

### Darcy says

I am not sure how this author made it on my radar, but this will not be the last book that I read by her. This book was a very sweet story about first loves, first betrayals, and screwed up families.

The story switches back and forth from the present to the past. In the beginning we see where Rosa doesn't have the time of day for Alex, and I have to admit I wondered why, it seemed like she was out of line. But it is as we learn how these two meet as kids and see their friendship progress that we understand why Rosa is so mad, and yes, then you get why she feels the way she does. At this point I was happy that she was making Alex grovel like she did, he definitely needed to. But yet I really loved their story and wanted them to get together. It doesn't help that their story is basically that of West Side Story, the rich kid that summers at the island vs. the townie that those rich people believe are there to serve them. Of course it isn't just Alex's family that is against them, Rosa's family and friends look down at the "summer" guy, telling her he isn't a forever kind of guy. Among all this strife and love there seems to be one event that everything can be traced back to and just at the end we learn some hidden facts to those, ones that when you really think about it aren't that surprising and put the events in a new light.

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### Lisa says

I was looking for a light, summer inspired, fun read and this was it. Even amid all the family drama I became immersed in this story about love and second chances, the ways people deal with grief, and of course all of the foody talk and the yummy Italian recipes included. I loved the characters and wish for another book with Rosa and Alex so that I could see the rest of their story...some of their happily ever after not to mention seeing the two families finally try to get along.

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### Ns says

When it comes to true love there are second chances in Susan Wiggs' novel **Summer by the Sea**.

From the moment Rosa Capoletti met Alexander Montgomery when she was nine and he ten, they shared an instant connection, one that would create memories of a magical summer. That fateful summer paved the way for several more magical summers shared by Rosa and Alex, oblivious to their differences and circumstances.

For a few summer weeks Alex is a part of Rosa's world but she is never part of his when summer ends. Alex is one of the "summer people", a group of wealthy, affluent people or families who escape to the small-town resort for leisure. For Rosa, the resort-town is her hometown surrounded by the people she love and whose town residents in large part work to accommodate the leisure of the "summer people". When it comes to culture, perspectives, and family values, Rosa and Alex are a world apart, but they are connected by a friendship and a mutual understanding of each other.

As the weeks of summer and summers past accumulate the bond between Rosa and Alex deepen and a love

created by friendship transform into something more intimate. As teenagers during one summer, Rosa and Alex explore their new-placed love, not as friends but as a couple. Then tragedy happens forever affecting them with Alex abruptly disappearing from Rosa's life.

As Rosa picks up the pieces of a life gone amiss and settles into a more secure, safe, if not lonely life, Alex re-enters her life a decade later. Together Rosa and Alex must regain the trust and love they once shared in order to create a future for themselves.

A heartwarming story that is executed wonderfully. Susan Wiggs does not rely solely on the characters' memories to take readers into Rosa and Alex's love story, but devotes parts of the story to a tangible past. The story progresses with transitions between the past and present, a young Rosa and Alex to an older Rosa and Alex. Their differing perspectives are found as well as the mutual love they have both never forgotten. The visit to earlier years reveal more than a simple love, but explore the clash of Rosa and Alex's different worlds and the people who influenced past decisions, in which have affected their lives and brought the characters to their present state.

As a companion to the significant aspects and turning points of the story are recipes that characterize Rosa. They represent everything from childhood memories to memories of happiness, sadness, families and love. They create a delicious opening to what the ensuing parts have in store next.

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### **Kelly Moran says**

I always say that I will take sleep deprivation over a bad book any day of the week and twice on Sundays. Thanks to Susan Wiggs, I'm now sleep deprived. This was the first book I picked up by her, and it won't be the last. She has a way of winding love, family, and friendship into a book that's so emotionally powerful you jump right in the setting. Bravo! I love her already!!!

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### **Audel says**

Voici un roman idéal pour l'été !

A travers 6 parties, l'auteure nous narre l'histoire de Rosa et Alex. On alterne entre le passé où on découvre la rencontre des deux protagonistes durant leur enfance, avec le présent où Alex est de retour dans la vie de Rosa après plusieurs années et une rupture difficile. Le tout se déroulant la plupart du temps lors des vacances estivales.

Par cette alternance, l'auteure entretient le suspens puisque se pose aux lecteurs deux questions tout au long du roman : que s'est-il passé entre Alex et Rosa ? Est-ce qu'il va se passer à nouveau quelque chose ?

Rosa et Alex sont différents par bien des points, notamment l'héritage familiale. En effet, alors qu'Alex vient d'une famille riche et importante, Rosa est la fille de leur jardinier. Il est facile d'imaginer les obstacles qu'ils ont rencontrés.

Rosa, bien qu'elle ne comprend plus le comportement d'Alex depuis bien longtemps, reste nostalgique de leur été et ne parvient pas à lui tourner définitivement le dos. Quant à Alex, il commence à se rendre compte que la vie qu'il mène, non seulement n'est pas celle qu'il aurait voulu mais aussi est vraiment très loin de lui convenir.

Lorsqu'on en arrive au moment où le passé rejoint le présent, l'auteure ne ménage pas son lecteur, en lui offrant rebondissements sur rebondissements !

Une romance estivale très sympathique sur fond de différences sociales.

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### **Lisa says**

Rosa and Alex meet as kids during the summer at the beach. They remain friends over the summers as they grow up. They experience a lot of "firsts" with each other. Rosa is out-spoken and a go-getter. Alex is quiet, has asthma, and his mother doesn't let him out much. They part as they prepare to go to college. The author weaves life throughout their story and when the truth comes out; some healing can begin. A nice read.

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### **Laurie Way says**

This was a great read! Credible characters with real lives full of joy and angst in equal measure. Italian food descriptions that you can almost smell and taste. And a bonus, recipes included. What could be better!

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### **Arlene says**

**Summer by the Sea** by Susan Wiggs is a perfect beach side read. This is my first novel by Wiggs and it turned out to be a pleasant surprise, so I was definitely glad I included it in my summer reading bundle.

In this novel, we meet Rosa Capoletti who is a successful restaurateur of *Celesta by the Sea*. It's located in lovely beach town that has been Rosa's home since she was born. As with most summer beach spots, the townies always seem to stand apart from the regular summer residents that occupy the country clubs and local stops. However, when Rosa was eighteen, she made the mistake of falling for Alexander Montgomery, which ended in heartbreak for Rosa.

Now, ten years later, Alex is back in town and hoping to rekindle a romance he mistakenly sacrificed for reasons that slowly unfold throughout the story.

I really enjoyed this second chance romance novel. It was exciting to uncover the backstory that included slow and steady drama that was never over the top. I enjoyed how Susan Wiggs slowly, but purposefully, exposed the events that led up to Rosa and Alex going their separate ways.

Overall **Summer by the Sea** was filled with characters I enjoyed meeting and a storyline that was the perfect backdrop for a beach side read. I enjoyed this one quite a bit!

P.S. The recipes in this novel sound amazing and simple to make. The book inspired me to give a few of them a try. I'm quickly becoming hooked on food fiction. YUM!

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## **H2 says**

This was Mystic Pizza retold. Townie v. rich guy, mistakes made, etc. I wanted a happier ending for the lead female character, Rosa. She attends her best friend's wedding, finds out her father's accident was caused by her boyfriend's mother years ago...Questions left unanswered were whether or not he is healthy enough to have a normal life, whether they will make it as a couple, etc. It was supposed to be about giving second chances, but I really didn't feel the closure there. It was well written but I was left wanting more.

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## **Anne says**

Susan Wiggs is an American author, she's written many stand alone novels and also a couple of series. Summer By The Sea is a romance novel, no getting away from it - if you don't like a bit of love and heartbreak then don't bother. If you like a story that makes you feel good, with a cast of interesting characters and a dollop of Italian food thrown in, then this one will suit you down to the ground.

Our heroine; Rosa, is the owner of a successful Italian restaurant in a small coastal US town. Her restaurant has been voted the best place to propose for a few years now and it is the perfect setting for romantic couples. Rosa's food is legendary, Italian and learnt at her mother's knee. The only thing missing in Rosa's life is a romance of her own. She's been single since her childhood sweet heart Alex up and left her ten years ago. But now he's back in town. Rosa is determined not to let him back into her life, he's from an upper-class family, she's a small town girl who didn't even go to college. Alex thinks differently, he's changed over the years and wants to make amends.

This is great writing, easy to read, light but not fluffy - there is a bit of a mystery in the story too and the added bonus of gorgeous sounding recipes from Rosa's kitchen at the beginning of each chapter.

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## **Annette Mardis says**

If you only like romances with lots of steamy sex, don't read this book.

If you only like breezy novels with quick payoffs, don't read this book.

If you don't like well-drawn characters, don't read this book.

But DO read this book if:

- \* You like to read about people finding lasting love the second time around;
- \* You like to see literary puzzle pieces come together in a pleasing plot;
- \* You like to settle in with characters for a while;
- \* You don't mind flashbacks and well-fleshed-out back stories.

The pacing was a little slow in spots, but overall the book kept me engaged. One of the plot twists toward the

end wasn't really a surprise, but another one was.

Susan Wiggs' books are usually good reads, and this one will satisfy her many fans.

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### **Carol says**

A very nice romance novel. Not as sexually explicit as some. However, when the teenager takes his girlfriend out after dark with his telescope to see the 'transit of Mercury' and it wasn't a boondoggle, I thought "What's wrong with this picture?" A transit of Mercury takes place when the planet Mercury comes between the Sun and the Earth, and Mercury is seen as a small black dot moving across the face of the Sun. How are you going to see that at night?? Huh? Anyway you don't just point your telescope at the sun and look through it, unprotected.

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### **Jasmine Whitherly says**

Susan Wiggs possesses great skill in describing the nuances of human emotion and intertwining them into a story line that is real and believable. In "Summer by the Sea" I enjoyed the progression and the complexities of the romance between Alex and Rosa, the flashbacks that put their history into perspective, the descriptions of scenery and the characters' reaction to it. I loved the recipes that fit so well into the theme. Most of all, I liked that the ending was not mushy or overly emotional.

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### **Andrea says**

Warning, do not read this book if you are hungry! :) Loved the aspect of the Italian restaurant and the many wonderful recipes included throughout the book. Although the story starts out strong, there are a few places where it seemed to lull. However, once the loose ends came together, the storyline really picks up and I found that I couldn't turn the pages fast enough! This is one of the best Susan Wiggs' books I've read!

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### **Rebecca Dean says**

Excellent romance novel..... my kind of book. Rosa and Alexander's story was interesting from page 1. I loved the character development by Wiggs. She is great at that....key for a novel to be a good one.

This book had all the right things a romance needs. Loved it!

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