



Something to Prove

Kimberly Lang

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Ryan Tanner went from being a football legend in high school to Magnolia Beach's young, hot bachelor mayor. As a teenager, he never wanted anything to do with a girl like Helena. But when she hires Ryan to do some construction in her grandmother's house, he finds that she's grown up into a different person—one he quite likes.

For Helena, confronting her past has its share of surprises—and falling for the resident golden boy was *definitely* not on her to-do list. But will her reformed ways be enough to get her back in the town's good graces, or will her reputation keep Helena and Ryan apart for good?

Something to Prove Details

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Author : Kimberly Lang

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From Reader Review Something to Prove for online ebook

Billie says

#50states50romances #Alabama

This is the first in the challenge I've set for myself to read a Romance novel set in each state.

It's cute, but I'm not a huge fan of the small town contemporary, so I didn't love it. I do have to give the author credit, though, for not creating some "big bad" villain. The petty grievances of the townspeople and the insecurities of Helena and Ryan are enough of a challenge to Happily Ever After.

Arlena says

Book Description...

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Title: Something to Prove

Author: Kimberly Lang

Publisher: Signet

Series: Magnolia Beach # 1

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Rating: Five

Review:

"Something to Prove" by Kimberly Lang

What I liked from this novel...

After Helena Wheeler's grandmother suffers an injury she knows that she will have to return to Magnolia, Alabama after twelve years where it seemed like 'people don't forget, they love gossip and lets not forget a new flame'. Helena soon finds out that these people haven't forgotten what had happened to her. Now, what all was that about? Why are the town people holding Helena's past against her? Had she really been that 'former wild child' in the past with a very scandalous reputation? The question that comes before us now that she is back is ... has Helena now changed?

Then there is Ryan Tanner who was now the town's mayor of Magnolia, Alabama and who wanted nothing to do with Helena due to her past reputation. Now, why was that...him stayed far away from her as teenagers as it seemed like there was always some kind of trouble that would involve her? However, now that he has to work with Helena in order to help her grandmother, Ryan finds out that she wasn't at all what everyone had said she was. Was she someone he was falling for? Will Helena start to have feelings for Ryan in this town where she had said she would never want to live in? Will Helena be able to live in a town that is against her...will she be able to prove she is not what they think she is? Will she even be able to prove it to herself? Now, that is the real question! Now to answer all of these questions and more the reader will have to pick up this novel and see how well the author presents all of this to the readers where she really brings this town of Magnolia Beach to life with some very interesting characters.

By the end of this novel I found the message that this author had for the reader. You will only have to read this novel to get it. "Something To Prove" was a sweet flowing story that will keep your attention and turning the pages till the end.

Sophia says

I was in the mood for a warm small town setting and a back to the hometown story when I saw this one by a new to me author and a new series. A bit of southern flavor, a coastal small town, some quirky characters, and a woman who can't seem to live down her past made for a bit of fun and enjoyment.

The story opens with Helena 'Hell on Wheels' Wheeler return to the small Alabama sea side hamlet, of Magnolia Bay where she spent her rebel rousing years. Grannie needs her or she wouldn't touch this town and its people with their long, judgmental memories with a ten foot pole. Unfortunately, she needs to get renovations done to make Grannie's old home more user friendly for an old gal who broke her hip so she must hire one of Magnolia Bay's first sons and mayor, Ryan Tanner to do the work. Ryan was good at everything, the rule follower, the popular guy and it appears that things still haven't changed. Helena braces herself every time she goes out for the stares, whispers and criticisms because of her past escapades. It isn't all bad because she reconnects with an old friend, makes a new friend, and gets close enough to Ryan to know that she might have been a tad judgmental herself. But that being said, she doesn't plan to stick around and anything she gets up to with Ryan has an expiration date on it because why in the world would she come back when she fought so hard to break away?

Ryan remembers Helena as the angry girl who ran with the rough crowd and just barely stayed out of jail with her mischief only to run off with a wrong guy and never return again. He never had anything against her personal, but now he sees from an adult standpoint just how wrong he had read things back then. He fights the attraction to her knowing she feels prickly toward anyone from the town and that she doesn't plan to stick around. Dare he try to change her mind? Did he want to change her mind?

The story is an easy going one that makes for a good lazy afternoon read. The conflict is all centered around

Helena getting past the ghosts of her past and maybe getting a second chance which wasn't that compelling of a conflict for me. Ryan also narrates and his part is that of the good guy accepting the new Helena and helping her get a bit of her own back. There isn't really any action and it's very much about character development and romance which doesn't really develop until late. The town and the secondary characters have their part. There is a nostalgic feel to things because everything and everybody in the present is tied to the past.

When I first started reading this one, I almost set it aside. I didn't take to Helena. She was bitter and just as judgmental as she accused others. She has a bad girl reputation that she both relishes and deplores at the same time. She was an angry, punk teen and she took it out on anyone who crossed her and doing mischief around town. She's self-absorbed and it's all about Helena other than her need to make sure her Grannie is cared for before Helena jets out of there back to Atlanta. I should feel badly for her because her issues aren't all of her own making, but I really just wanted her to get over it. Ryan wisely nailed the issue when he said she was the one who was hung up on the past and was so oversensitive about what people thought of her.

Ryan and the setting helped keep me reading until Helena began growing. I liked watching the romance develop and her eyes to be open toward the new start in the present. Ryan was a sweetie. He is the perfect guy. He loves his family, his town and what he does. He accepts Helena and he's not afraid to apologize when he's wrong. He also called Helena on her crap. I was so proud of him when he refused to be just a booty call or her guilty little secret because she freaked out at the thought of the town discovering their reputable mayor sleeping with the pariah.

In the end, I liked the story, but didn't love it. I felt it needed something more because I couldn't take to the heroine. It was a sweet, but spicy romance in a small town setting that I would recommend to Contemporary Romance fans.

My thanks to Penguin Group for the opportunity to read this one in exchange for an honest review.

Jessie Potts says

Now, we have *Something to Prove* by Kimberly Lang. In this contemporary, we have Ryan Tanner (super hot) and Helena (former wild girl) getting together after years apart, and it's adorable. Watching these two had me smiling and blushing. When I'm in the mood for a contemporary, Kimberly's one of the first authors I go to.

CHAT WITH KIMBERLY

How did you create the world around Magnolia Beach?

Kimberly: Magnolia Beach is what happens when you let a Southern girl really wallow in her Southernness.

It's everything I love (and hate) about the South rolled into one little town.

So, small town or city gal?

Kimberly: I am very much a girl from the 'burbs. However, I very much want to be a city girl, living in New York or London or Chicago. Sadly, I'm too Southern to tolerate snow, and all the cool big cities are too far north.

To see the rest of the interview head over to the HEA Blog!

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/happyev...>

Minette Lauren says

Something to Prove, had me from the first line of the book, which set the tone for its entirety. Kimberly Lang has spun a charming story that makes you want to pack your bags and move to Magnolia Beach. Helena Wheeler, a sassy, smart, independent former resident of this small, quaint beach town finds herself fighting the past when she returns home to help her grandmother. All her previous teen desires are served up on a silver platter in the form of Ryan Tanner. The former bad girl, now a success story, owns her own business, but can she find success in a small town that can't forget the past? You won't be disappointed in this funny, well told, heartwarming tale. I give it 5 stars.

Dorine says

Rated 3.5 - SOMETHING TO PROVE by Kimberly Lang is an unusual small town contemporary romance with a bad girl coming home for a reunion with all the people who thought she'd never amount to anything. Book one kicks off this new series and creates anticipation for book two.

Helena Wheeler, best known as "hell on wheels" to her hometown of Magnolia Beach, Alabama, is forced to return home when her grannie is hospitalized. Helena hires the town's sports-star-turned-handyman, Ryan Tanner, to help with improvements to Grannie's house to better accommodate her rehabilitation. Ryan is also Magnolia Beach's mayor and has had a crush on Helena since high school.

Helena expects to get Grannie situated and go back home to Atlanta as soon as possible without interacting much with the townspeople who still hold a grudge for her many misdeeds. She doesn't expect to fall for the town's golden boy while spending so much time with him. Ryan doesn't care what anyone thinks about Helena because he clearly recognizes that she has changed. But Helena is sure that getting involved with her will hurt his chances of being reelected as mayor. Can the town's triumph and the town's troublemaker convince everyone, including themselves, that they're perfect for one another?

Although this story is typical in many ways when it comes to small town scenarios, it's not all sweetness and helpfulness at first when it comes to Helena. She doesn't exactly enthuse the residents to come to her aid or get giddy over a reunion. Helena is pretty much an outcast and made to seem even more so by her nonchalance about anyone actually caring about her then or now. It helps a lot that everyone in town adores her Grannie and gives Helena a second chance because of their respect for the woman who raised her.

I had a hard time enjoying Helena's character. She grew on me by the end of the novel but she was a bit too hardened by her small town past and down on herself in general for me to feel a connection. Ryan was the typical small town football hero who is used to everyone's approval. When Helena seems to be able to walk away from him without a backwards glance after becoming intimate, Ryan is more than a little shook up. Helena has this man in a tither and it's painful to watch because Ryan is a nice guy and so not deserving her rancor. I guess it took me just as long as some of the town members to warm up to Helena. In the end, this novel has some good emotion and I was pleased with the conclusion.

I was attracted to this story because of my love of Alabama coastal towns. There wasn't as much detail in this novel as I had hoped to make me feel as if I'm there again, but it was enough to give the novel some atmosphere. I'm hoping for more in the next book since this one concentrated heavily on the friendships of the past and new ones forming that will affect the series.

SOMETHING TO PROVE is an unusual small town contemporary romance with a bad girl coming home for a reunion with all the people who thought she'd never amount to anything. It's an interesting twist. I enjoyed Helena's gradual revelations about all the naughty things she did when she was a teenager. Some of them were pretty funny. I adored Helena's relationship with her best friend from high school, who is now the town's veterinarian, Dr. Tate Harris. He's a cute geeky sort and I can't wait to read more about him. I also appreciated Helena's newfound friendship with Molly Richards, another troublemaker and owner of Latte Dah, the local coffee shop. SOMETHING TO PROVE raises anticipation for Tate and Molly's story coming in January 2016 in EVERYTHING AT LAST.

Review by Dorine, courtesy of Romance Junkies and The Zest Quest. Print copy provided by the publisher.

Abra says

I liked this book a lot more than I thought I would. Full disclosure: I received this book free at RT15, but my opinions are unbiased by that.

At first I didn't expect to like this book since I read One In a Million by Jill Shalvis just before I read Something to Prove. Shalvis' book involves the common plot of the heroine returning to her small town to take care of her aging grandmother (there being no other family). She left the town due to a bad situation and is only there for a few weeks to do what she needs to do. The heroine falls in love with a man named Tanner Riggs, but neither believe in love. Grandma has a boyfriend and they have an active relationship.

In Something to Prove Helena left her small town as soon as she could to leave her not entirely deserved reputation as a bad girl behind her. Her grandma is sick and she needs to return to remodel Grandma's home so she'll be able to live in it after she returns from the nursing home. Helena's father is dead and her mother has been out of the picture since Helena was 15. Helena falls in love with Ryan Tanner, but neither believes in love. Grandma has a boyfriend and they have an active relationship.

I know I've read this same plot multiple times. In Charmed Sprits by Carrie Ann Ryan the heroine comes back to town to clear an elderly relative's home after they've passed away. There's another series in which the newly divorced sheriff falls in love with a woman who's just come back to clean out her grandma's house to clean it and then return to her life. It's a pretty common plot.

Something to Prove took this tired plot and made the characters seem much more real than usual. There was the usual insta-attraction between Helena and Ryan Tanner went a bit over the top. The work he was willing to do on the house and the price he was asking was very, very, low for that stage of their acquaintance. The big difference for me is how we slowly peel the layers back from Helena and find out that she was yet another teenager acting out as a reaction to events she couldn't control. In addition, her mother wasn't a model citizen so Helena was prejudged before she did anything. After a while denying everything that was attributed to her was pointless and she finally gave up and left town as soon as possible. After that she pulled her life together and created a good graphic design business in Atlanta. She flies her grandmother to Atlanta for frequent visits.

The townspeople were particularly nasty in this book. This can't possibly be representative of small towns. The love interest, Ryan Tanner, is the town golden boy and is now its mayor. Ryan and Helena finally have a date and the next day Ryan's sister interviews every single woman in town (including his employees) telling them that he's interested in them and wants to go out. Her reason for this? She doesn't want Helena to mess up Ryan's life and his future as town mayor since the town needs him so badly.

The book is saved by the complex character of Helena and her interactions with her new friends. She knows what battles she can fight and which to step back from. People begin to see her differently, but she is looking for acceptance, not forgiveness. The writing was very good and much less simplistic than Shavis' writing.

Aftan says

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review

What an absolutely wonderful read! This was a great read with characters that I immediately connected with and a story line which was fun and not too complicated. It made it a great beach read this weekend that I could not put down.

Andra Weis says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/so...>

Review:

Almost from the get go I was totally captivated by the story. Haven't we all got something in our past we wish to forget and/or move forward from? Helena must return to her roots (Magnolia Beach) to tend to her grandmother (Ms. Louise Wheeler) as she recovers from an injury (a fall where she laid at the bottom of the stairs for two days with a broken hip, broken ankle, 3 cracked ribs and a concussion!). Helena must confront all those people she left behind shortly after high school graduation who remained in Magnolia Beach. Helena's nickname was "Hell-on-Wheels"...

As Helena comes into town...we get an immediate glimpse into how it will be...the stage is set:

“If I’d known I was going to attract this much attention, I’d have worn lipstick.”

This also allows a peek into Helena’s sense of humor...and a really great sense of humor it is.

In order to get Ms. Louise’s home ready for her homecoming, Helena must hire a contractor to install appropriate fixtures for the washroom, ramps, etc. to make the home accessible for Ms. Louise’s new walker. The contractor recommended by many is Ryan Tanner, the town mayor as well as an entrepreneur with his own contracting business.

I love how easily Helena was able to reconnect with Tate. Love it when a friendship passes the test of time. From the reintroduction though, you could sense that Tate wants to be more than friend’s with Helena...always has. Now how that plays out is predictable, but the path it took to get to the predictable resolution was well told, with a few kinks along the way. Given this is the first book in a new series...I expect some interesting things (aka – a love tale) to happen to Tate in the future?

Now I really loved the proprietor of the coffee shop, Latte Dah (great name!!!). Molly right from the beginning seemed like a perfect fit as a new ‘bestie / BFF’ for Helena. I found one particular passage with unique descriptive characteristics of the town while Molly and Helena were bonding over the reasons why Molly opened the coffee shop:

It took Helena a few minutes to find enough breath to speak.

“Oh my god. We are so messed up. You’re like my soul twin.”

“I know.” Molly fanned her face and coughed as she calmed down.

“It’s so refreshing. I love this town, but I swear everyone seems so mentally healthy, it’s just downright weird.”

“Oh, trust me, they’re not. Scrape away the Mayberry frosting and you’ll find magnolia Beach is a nutty fruitcake underneath. And it’s not the cute, small-town eccentrics you see on those made-for-TV movies, either. I could tell you tales of dysfunction that would make you feel like the poster child of good mental health. We just don’t talk about hem in public.”

Another favorite character for me was Tank...the hairless dog, with a rat-like appearance that belonged to Ryan. So not the dog one would imagine for Ryan...but perfect none the less.

As the relationship between Helena and Ryan develops (and you know it had to) we got to see a playful and fun side...and I loved the playfulness between Helena and Ryan:

“Missed me, huh?”

“Oh, don’t get all cocky,” she said as he took her over, pulling the shirt up and over his head and grinning at her, happy to hear her admit it.

“A woman has needs, you know.”

“So you think you can just snap your fingers, and I’ll come running to take care of those needs?”

“You’re here, aren’t you?”

The banter that frequently occurred between Ryan and Helena seemed so natural. I think the attraction, while of course physical, is also deeply rooted in the personality of each individual. There really is a mutual respect for each other, once they got past the high school stuff.

As with any relationship, there are ups and downs. I found it interesting how Helena came to reconcile the past with the present. The upsets were well written and kept me engaged in the story. Frequently I get bored but I was fully engaged throughout. And the love scenes...very tasteful and left the reader using imagination in conjunction with the written word to visualize the physical connection between Helena and Ryan. VERY HOT! So read the book to find out how it works out!!!!

All in all – a great beginning to a new series. I will wait with anticipation for the next book in this new Magnolia Beach series.

OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review

Lisa Cobb Sabatini says

I won a copy of Something to Prove: A Magnolia Beach Novel by Kimberly Lang from Goodreads.

Readers who delight in small town romances will love Something to Prove by Kimberly Lang. Any reader who has ever dreaded going back to her hometown will identify with the female protagonist, especially those who left town with their reputations in tatters. Though lighthearted, Lang tackles a difficult issue, creating a fun yet insightful story.

Karen says

3.5 Stars

Marie Buccellato says

Goodreads Giveaway Winner

Looking for that next series that will make you laugh & take you on a journey to a town where everyone knows who you are?? Magnolia Beach is all that & more. I cant wait to read the next book in this series.

D.G. says

2.5 stars

I'm not a great fan of the "girl hated by townfolk because of teenage misdeeds" plot, so who knows why I picked up this book. Maybe because when I read the first few pages, the heroine seemed so mature about it, not letting herself be provoked, so I thought this was going to be handled differently. No such luck. The heroine was OBSESSED with the town not accepting her instantly so that was the end all and be all of the conflict in the book.

The hero was the mayor/construction guy and because of this, he didn't have a very distinct personality. I don't know, he didn't seem very "mayorly" to me. His family was annoying and his mother treated them all like little boys. It wasn't appealing.

The romance was just...blah. The love scenes were glossed over, so even when they were doing it, you didn't get much details. After a while, they were all fade to black. I like my romance on the steamy side so I only enjoy tame romances when the plot delivers. This one didn't.

Didn't like this enough to continue the series or read anything else by this author.

Thanks to Netgalley and Berkley/NAL for providing an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Talk Supe says

Loved this one. Helena was an entertaining MC to follow.

Barb Lie says

Something to Prove by Kimberly Lang is the 1st book in her new Magnolia Beach series. This was a nice sweet romance with a wonderful heroine, who returns home after many years, and tries to live down her wild past that still remains in the minds of the Magnolia Beach residents. Helena Wagner is our heroine, and I really liked her from the start. Having left Magnolia Beach after graduation, Helena returns home after 12 years to help her grandmother, who suffered a major injury. She dreads coming face to face with most of the residents, as she was always the wild girl they never forgot.

While her grandmother is in rehab, Helena decides to fix up the house to be safer for her grandmother, when she comes home. Helena asks Ryan Tanner for help with the fixtures, and is shocked to find the former football legend golden boy is now the Mayor of Magnolia Beach.

Ryan is our hero, and has always been Mr. Popularity, which has not changed. In their school days, neither of them hung around each other. Ryan stayed clear of the wild Helena, and she hung around a different and equally wild crowd. Helena's grandmother has always been well liked in town, and everyone looks out for her, and Ryan accepts the job to make changes in the house.

Ryan, as he spends more time with Helena, begins to see a different side of her, that slowly changes his opinion of the girl he avoided during their teenage years. Helena finds herself coming face to face with many townsfolk, and senses their continued dislike of her. But she holds her head high, and goes about doing everything she can to help her grandmother. Her friend Tate, who was her co-conspirator during those crazy days, is now the town Vet, and his past shenanigans were forgiven. He tries to get Helena to go out with him,

which she does as a friend. She isn't interested in anything more, as she plans to leave when her grandmother is better. But that is not all. She finds herself attracted to one person who can never be right for her, Ryan. Helena knows the town and his family would never allow him to become involved with her. Even some members of his family go to extremes to make sure this does not happen.

What follows is a heartwarming story that shows Helena proving herself to many of the residents, especially with all the hard work she does when her grandmother comes home. She forces herself to ask for help, and in doing so, opens the eyes of others to her being a different girl. It was really nice to see some of those that hated Helena and how they treated her when she came back, to slowly change their opinions.

Ryan sees the real Helena, and knows that the wild girl in the past was a façade to hide her own sorry life. He begins to fall hard for her, despite everyone trying to stop it. Helena herself does not want to ruin his career, since she feels the sins of the past will always come back to haunt them. Will Helena forgo her feelings for Ryan and leave town? Will Ryan allow the town's hatred of the girl he is falling for effect his relationship with Helena?

Something to Prove is a wonderful romance, with a storyline that had our interest from start to finish. Kimberly Lang has written a wonderful story that pulls on your emotions and never lets go until the end. I look forward to reading the next book in this series, and suggest you read Something to Prove.

Barb
The Reading Cafe
