



Bungalow Nights

Christie Ridgway

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Return to *USA TODAY* bestselling author Christie Ridgway's Crescent Cove, California, where the magic of summer can last forever... Combat medic Vance Smith made a promise to a fallen officer: to treat the man's young daughter to an idyllic vacation at Beach House No. 9. One month, some sun and surf, a "helmet list" of activities to check off and Vance will move on. But the "little girl" he's expecting turns out to be a full-grown woman. With silky hair, big brown eyes and smelling sweetly of the cupcakes she makes for her mobile bakery, Layla Parker is irresistible. And Vance shouldn't lay a finger on her. Honor-and one heck of a scarred heart-says so.

To Layla, Vance is a hero who was injured trying to save her father's life. She intends to spend their month of lazy days and warm nights taking very good care of the gorgeous soldier-inside and out....

Bungalow Nights Details

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Author : Christie Ridgway

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From Reader Review Bungalow Nights for online ebook

LaFleurBleue says

Like in the previous book, there's also a secondary love story in this book.

I liked better the characters in this one: the hero being a former bad boy turned military medic with a long story of conflicts with his family and a weak self-confidence in any situations but work. The heroine is a very lonely character longing but really afraid to belong and get attached. Their story evolved nicely, I liked how both of them managed to make the other better. And even the secondary love story was rather nice with likable characters and some surprising moments.

Crystal says

review to come

This is my first book by author Christie Ridgway and I was pleasantly happy I took a chance on this on. This was actually what I would say was a 2 for one. This book was not only about Vince and Layla but also had a nice bonus of Baxter and Addy. This is the 3rd book in this series and I can say that this can be read as a standalone.

Vince is a Combat Medic and he made a promise to his dying Colonel that he would help his daughter have an amazing summer at Beach House # 9 in Crescent Cove. Vince is determined to follow through with the dying wish of the Colonel and books the house and even hires a nanny (Addy March) for the Colonel's daughter (who he mistakenly thinks is the little girl in the picture). He was in for a big shock when the beautiful (and NOT so little) Layla Parker walks up to his table.

Layla is nervous and excited to meet the man that tried to save her father. She has always been the dutiful solder's daughter and as such will follow out her father's dying wish no matter how much it pains her.

This was a great story. Very Sweet and there wasn't a ton of angst in this. This story was about 2 lost souls looking to be loved and accepted for who they are. This was also the story of the magic that is Beach House #9.

I really enjoyed the book. As I said it was sweet, loving and had some cute and laugh out loud moments. I enjoyed the side story of of Addy and Baxter as well as the set up for Skye. I will most likely check out the next book because the author did a great job in piquing my interest.

The only thing that I would have to say that bothered me about the writing is the word usage. There were words that the author chose to use that did not work in the way she was going for. For Example: "He yanked a free chair from an adjacent table and "insinuated" it between her and the guy in the black T-Shirt." While Insinuated "technically" means: maneuver oneself into (a position of favor or office) by subtle manipulation, this is not a traditional sense of the word and is awkward word usage. Perhaps she could have used, shoved, placed or separated instead.

Overall, if you are looking for a sweet story with low angst and an HEA this would be a great one to check out.

Isha Coleman says

Life is an ever changing cycle of love, loss and new beginnings. The key to surviving the evolution of it all, is to make every second count. I consider Almost Everything, my lost in the moment tale. Vance and Layla are an entrancing duo, not easy to let go of. With a little help from above, two wanderers find a home in each others arms. Ms. Ridgway has a profoundness to her storytelling that stimulates the mind almost as easily as it touches the heart. She speaks to that voice inside of the soul, searching for hope in times that may seem hopeless.

A.BookNerd.Bookseller&Bibliophile.Blog says

What started out as an obligation quickly turns into something more.

Vance was expecting a little girl, but.....Layla was far from a little girl. When i read the synopsis of Almost Everything I knew I wanted to read it. Why you ask.....it has a military theme to it.....which I love!!!

I enjoyed the story of how Vance and Layla relationship turned to love.

Romantic Reads and Such says

For Layla and Vance, Addy and Baxter, their month at Beach House No. 9 is a time of love and learning, of forgiveness and letting go, trust and faith. If you are looking for that perfect book (series actually) to kick off your summer, run out and get Bungalow Nights (and its predecessors - Beach House Beginnings and Beach House No 9). You'll quickly be drawn into a world of sun, sea, surf and love. Full review available at <http://romanticreadsandsuch.wordpress...>

Katie_la_geek says

For this review and more visit my blog

I was really looking forward to this book, I found the blurb really interesting and I was sure I was going to love it, but to my dismay this was not what I hoped it would be and in the end I didn't really enjoy it at all.

The story seemed to float along at an unhurried pace that left me feeling a little bored. I felt there was little substance and to be not enough going on to really interest me. The romance felt cold and I didn't really care if Vance and Layla ended up together or not.

Layla was alright but there was nothing to her, she had nothing to give to the story. I found Lance to be quite unlikeable. I struggle to think of a real moment where he actually considered Layla's feelings. In the second half of the book after he has slept with her he takes her to a spa, then flirts with another woman whilst he is waiting for her appointment to finish. After they go to lunch and he spends his time thinking about how he regrets not getting the other woman's number. I have seen stuff like this before in other books but not so close to the end.

There were another two characters and a romance that was starting between them. I much preferred them and their story so I hope that there will be a book about them soon.

Clearly Bungalow Nights was not for me, it had a lot of potential but I just couldn't enjoy it at all.

The publisher provided me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

Susan says

Very good book. Colonel Parker is the one man Vance wasn't able to get off the battlefield alive. But he made a promise that he would take the man's young daughter on a vacation and do the things he had kept putting off with her. So Vance set everything up and waited to meet the girl. He was stunned when he discovered that Layla was actually a full grown and beautiful woman. He is instantly attracted to her, but considers her to be "hands off."

I really liked both Layla and Vance. Layla has always kept a tight hold on her emotions. Her mother left when she was two, so she was raised by her soldier father and his hippie brother. While she knew she was loved excessive emotions were not something that were shown in her family. Also, as a military brat, relationships of any kind tended to be brief and fairly superficial because their lives were so transient. When she met Vance she too was attracted. She also didn't want to do anything about it because the inevitable end would be too painful. She considered Vance to be a hero so she was determined to go along with his plans. Because of her years of burying her emotions she still hasn't really dealt with her father's death. She also sees Vance's issues with his family and wants to help him get back together with them. Never having had a family like his she doesn't want to see him lose it forever. There is a lot of growth in Layla as she learns to open herself up to possibilities. She still has a tendency to retreat when the feelings get intense, but she also sees the happiness that is possible if she can just reach out and grab it.

Vance's guilty feelings for not saving the colonel are what caused him to agree to spend the month with the colonel's daughter. When he discovered that she was an adult he was ready to run. His intense attraction to her was not in his plan and it made him feel even guiltier. He was also trying to avoid his family who he'd been estranged from for years. He had been a wild teenager, mostly in reaction to what he saw as his older brother's perfection (loved his nickname for his brother). This caused his father to refuse to bring him into the family business, claiming that Vance was too irresponsible to do the job. Then his fiancee dumped him for his brother causing even more tensions. It was heartbreaking to see just how much Vance wanted to reconnect, but refused to allow himself to admit it. He had some really eye opening moments that helped him come to terms with his family and finally find some peace. That caring transferred to Layla and I loved the way he tried so hard to do the things her father wanted done. He tried so hard to resist the physical attraction but every time he thought he had a handle on it something would happen to reinforce it. He too would retreat

when he was trying to resist. I loved the way that he would find himself telling her things that he never told anyone else and how much it would surprise him. He spent a long time refusing to admit the strength of his feelings to himself much less to her.

I loved the way that both Vance and Layla understood each other far more than they understood themselves. There were some very emotional moments between them and also some very fun ones. I loved the way that Layla would step in to defuse tension between Vance and his brother - some of those times were really funny. Vance was also very good at sensing Layla's emotional needs and being there for her.

I really enjoyed the secondary romance between Baxter and Addy. He was so uptight and OCD that seeing him deal with her laid back side was pretty funny. She did a great job of needling him into letting go. I liked his unwilling possessiveness and how he ended up showing it. The mystery she was working on was pretty good, but only partly solved. I really hope we get the rest of it in the next book.

Ariadna Basulto says

This is the third book in the Almost Series and my first book by author Christie Ridgway. Although it is book three in the series is can't be read as a standalone novel.

After her father is killed in Afghanistan, Layla Parker has come to Crescent Cove to complete a bucket list of things he always wanted to do with her and that he always carried with him in his helmet.

Injured combat medic, Vance Smith has arrived at Crescent Cove on a mission to fulfill a promise. The promise was to complete a list along with the daughter of an injured Colonel Parker whom he tried to save and couldn't. Armed with a a wishlist and a photograph of Colonel Parker's ten year old daughter, Vance books a month-long stay at Beach House #9. But when Layla arrives Vance is surprised to learn she isn't the ten year old child from the picture. She's an adult and the most beautiful woman he's laid eyes on. Despite the attraction is he feels and the unease at having to spend a whole month with her, he is determined to fulfill his promise.

This was such a sweet story with equally endearing characters. The connection and attraction between Vance and Layla is sweet without being over the top and too obvious. The writing was very good and had me anxiously turning the pages to get to their happily ever after. I look forward to reading more from Christie Ridgway and the previous two books in the Almost Series. 4 stars.

Pam says

Vance Smith is determined to rescue everyone & live the motto of the military "leave no man/woman behind". When he couldn't rescue and revive a fallen soldier, he made a promise to the officer. They had discussed a bucket list of items that the officer wanted to experience with his daughter & Vance was determined to make sure she experienced all of it. Too bad the officer didn't tell Vance what age his daughter was. Imagine Vance's surprise when he encountered a young sexy woman instead of the little girl he was expecting.

Layla has a lot of respect for the military even though her father wasn't around for the important moments of her life. She has her uncle to lean on. When her father died during his tour, the medic injured while trying to

rescue him became a hero to Layla. At least her dad had someone with him. Now, the medic has reached out to Layla for some reason. She's determined to spend the month helping the medic relax & recuperate. Who knew he'd be such a sexy hot male that pushes her buttons.

I enjoyed the interactions between Layla & Vance. Their wit & sarcasm were matched with the tenderness & warmth through out the story. Vance felt survivor's guilt & Layla was determined to make him realize he had nothing to feel guilty about. The secondary characters & their interactions with each other & the two primaries supported the general feel of the book & added an extra dimension. There were some twists & turns in the plot that were not expected. Ms. Ridgeway has a way with writing emotional stories with very descriptive narrative that makes you feel as if you were in the same scene with them.

Donna says

"Love didn't force the two of us together, Layla. The two of us together create the love."

Vince is a Combat Medic and he made a promise to his dying Colonel that he would help his daughter have an amazing summer at Beach House # 9 in Crescent Cove. He's determined to fulfill that promise.

After her father is killed in Afghanistan, Layla Parker has come to Crescent Cove to complete a bucket list of things he always wanted to do with her and that he always carried with him in his helmet (his helmet list).

Vince and his family are estranged. He and his brother had a major falling out. His father won't allow him to have anything to do with the family business. When Vince goes off to Afghanistan, he only send his family an email to let them know he went. No personal goodbyes, he does not keep in touch regularly, he cuts them off from his life. Except for his one cousin, Baxter, who he's very close to.

So this is more than just a romance, but a healing of hearts! A healing of Layla's hearts, Vince's heart, and his family's too. This was a beautiful story!!!! There was a side romance between Vince's cousin, Baxter and Addison. I thought at first that I wouldn't be interested, and got irritated because it was interrupting Vince and Layla's story. But the story of Baxter and Addy grew on me. There was a healing of hearts there too.

I really loved this book!!! I'm not surprised when it's written by one of my go to authors. This Always Series has been SO special!!! Beach House #9 truly is magical!! I am really looking forward to the next one, Almost Paradise!!! If you enjoy really good romance, with so much depth to it, then I highly recommend this book and this whole series to you! They can be read as standalones, but are much nicer read as a series.

Jim son of Jim (formerly PhotoJim) says

I liked this one best of the series. No good reason why as they weren't all that different. I think I liked the heroine just a bit better.

Lisa says

I received a complimentary copy of this title and voluntarily reviewed it.

This is the third book in Christie Ridgway's "Almost" series, but this is my favorite book so far. This story deals with two couples, Vance and Layla, and Baxter and Addy, and how personal insecurities play a major role in their forming relationship.

The main couple is Vance and Layla. Vance is a medic in the army, who returns home when he is injured trying to save an officer, who happens to be Layla's father. Unfortunately, because of his youthful wild ways, Vance is estranged from his parents who don't trust him.

Then, Vance's brother returns for a visit accompanied by his girlfriend who was formerly Vance's fiancee. All of these cause Vance so much anxiety that he asks Layla to help him save face by pretending to be his girlfriend.

This book caught my attention from the first chapter and, between Vance and Layla, and Baxter and Abby, I had trouble putting the book down until I finished it. I was never totally sure how both couples would overcome their self-doubts enough to give in to their love.

I really enjoyed this book because I can relate to the theme of the story – how insecurities can affect a relationship. Even though Vance comes from a loving, caring family, and is medic who has saved many lives, he is very insecure about his worth as a man. He returns home after losing a patient, Layla's father, and must interact with his parents who don't trust him and his ex-fiancee who left him.

Then there is beautiful Layla who owns a travelling truck where she creates novelty cupcakes and sells them in different places. However, she feels unworthy because her mother left her when she was 4, and her father, who is career military, never stayed around long enough to spend time with her.

Insecurities, also, turn up in Abby and Baxter's relationship.

The characters were so realistic that there were times when I wanted to take one of the characters aside and tell them to stop being so stubborn and to listen to their heart. In spite of them, I kept rooting for the characters to overcome their doubts and listen to their hearts.

Debra says

ALMOST EVERYTHING is a terrific read!

Layne Parker is on her way to Crescent Cove to fulfill her Dad's bucket list.

Vance Smith is on his way to Crescent Cove to meet the daughter of the Colonel he tried to save on the battlefield and keep a promise. Expecting a young girl, imagine his surprise when he realized he will be spending a month at a Beach House #9 with the most gorgeous woman he ever laid eyes on.

Ms. Ridgway writes stories I love to read. Her characters are strong yet vulnerable. This beautifully written story will grab your heart. I highly recommend!

Amanda says

This is a great second installment of Ridgway's Beach House series. I really enjoyed this story. I've also written this review twice and have deleted it. I really like how Ridgeway weaves the story and characters together. It makes sense how the main and secondary love story go together. The pacing is just right and the book moved along at a great pace. However, I wanted more of the secondary characters. They are so great, they could have had their own book.

The only thing Ridgeway gets wrong is the family politics involved in a business. This could be because I have experience with dysfunctional people who have no business running a business. I thought the story with the extended family resolved too easy. That could be because our issues with the family and their business ended up totally different than the book. But, this is a romance novel, and I was happy to see someone resolve their conflicts and have a HEA, even if they were extended family.

Overall, Ridgeway has given us another great story that is poignant. I highly recommend this book for all romance readers.

2OCC Reviews says

Almost everything was about grief, heartbreak, family, love and letting go of the past. There was something about this story that had me hooked from the first page to the very end. The love in this story is evident all the way through the story and the relationship between the two main characters I absolutely adored reading about. I loved the way that the relationship developed between them and the way that it happened naturally.

Laylah was a strong female character that has been let down a lot of times in her life. But that didn't let her down because she always had a smile on her face as she sold her beloved cupcakes. I really enjoyed the way that she was trying to help the main male character in the story Vance and I loved the relationship that she had with her uncle.

Vance I absolutely loved from the first moment we met him. He was a combat medic who was with Laylah's father when he died and was fulfilling his dying wish. I think he was a completely beautiful character for wanting to fulfil his wish and look after Laylah. I felt for Vance throughout the story so many times and loved the way that he took care of Laylah.

Almost everything is about Laylah Parker who was upholding her father's final request to spend a month at Crescent Cove with the Combat Medic Vance Smith who tried to save the life of her father. However, will that be all that happens during the month or will something more happen.

Almost everything was a beautiful story that had characters that I completely adored. I absolutely loved this story and definitely recommend it to everyone.
