



## The First Love Cookie Club

*Lori Wilde*

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“Lori Wilde has created a rich and wonderful story about the charm of small town life combined with the power and passion of first love. Delicious!”

—*New York Times* Bestselling author Robyn Carr

Come back to Twilight, Texas with award-winning author Lori Wilde. *The First Love Cookie Club* is heartwarming contemporary romance fiction, the story of a famous writer’s return to the hometown she once fled in humiliation—only to discover that the boy she foolishly gave her heart to those many years ago might just be her Christmas miracle. Fans of Debbie Macomber, Susan Wiggs, Susan Mallery, and Sherryl Woods will delight over *The First Love Cookie Club*, a wonderfully poignant tale of small town second chances.

## The First Love Cookie Club Details

Date : Published October 26th 2010 by HarperCollins e-books (first published 2010)

ISBN :

Author : Lori Wilde

Format : Kindle Edition 385 pages

Genre : Romance, Holiday, Christmas, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Fiction

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# From Reader Review The First Love Cookie Club for online ebook

## Debbie says

Hmmm ... just finished this book. Fairly predictable. The love scene near the end is too explicit, using crude and vulgar words that didn't really fit with the rest of the feelings expressed. Poorly edited - many typos that were distracting. Has been described as a great Christmas read, however I can't really recommend it to anyone, for any season.

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## Penny Watson says

Review for The First Love Cookie Club by Lori Wilde

Even though I am starting to dread contemporary romances, I thought I would give this one a try. Lots of folks are recommending it.

What I liked...the story is very sweet, very sentimental, and chock full of Christmas-y themes. The hero is fabulous...I love him...charming, sexy, an incredible, loving father, and....did I mention sexy? Unfortunately, I wasn't digging the heroine...she was sort of irritating, and frankly, I couldn't figure out why the hero thought she was so great. There was too much deep POV in here (which happens a lot with contemporary romances, and it drives me nuts), but otherwise the ending was very satisfying. I was hoping for an epilogue with a wedding, to bring their mystical dreams to life, but we didn't get one. Oh well. Overall, a very sweet holiday tale.

Grade: B/B+

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## Booklover says

This is my first book of Lori Wilde and must say she writes so well the book kept me hooked from first page to last, its such a cute emotional christmas story ,excellent read though the sexual words(Cock,clit) used made the whole making love scene between Travis-Sarah spoilt it,and I also don't like references to body parts being discoloured or the hero saying `whoops' in the middle of it all. It made for some very awkward reading!

as you start from first page you will realise Sarah loves Travis from the age of 15 and believes Travis is her soul mate and later after 9 years when they meet again Travis-Sarah both bond emotionally also,both know that its not just sex between them its more then that then in between using those words it kind of spoilt the scene for me otherwise i m very happy with story and how Travis-Sarah give space and time to develop their feelings and even confess that their feelings are very strong for each other

book opens with one of the most painful, embarrassing scenes with an awkward adolescent Sarah declaring her love for Travis at his wedding to another woman. Sarah declares she's his soulmate to Travis, his bride and the entire congregation. He tried to let her down easily, but an unrequited first love never truly heals.

A little girl with a broken heart grows up into a woman, goes to college, strikes it big with her first book, *The Magic Christmas Cookie*, and discovers through a letter from a sick little girl that she has an opportunity to revisit *Twilight*, this time as the little girl's favorite author. Perhaps she can regain the self-confidence she lost there. Upon discovering, the little girl, Jazzy, is the daughter of none other than Travis Walker, now divorced after his wife left him, Sarah can't help but wonder if she has a chance to regain a soulmate as well.

Travis Walker also had a difficult childhood and this makes him an ideal match for Sarah because he understands her fears. Unlike Sarah, Travis is very comfortable with others; he's naturally charming and very outgoing. His strengths are all of Sarah's weaknesses.

The secondary characters in this book are also fantastic, from Travis's daughter Jasmine "Jazzy" Walker to Benny Gent, Sarah's agent. The ladies of the first true love cookie club are also important secondary characters, especially Raylene Pringle, Travis' aunt whose idea it was to bring Sarah back to town. Like many small towns, everyone knows everyone's secrets but when one of the ladies secrets is exposed, it almost drives a wedge between Sarah and Travis.

I liked the fact author brought Crystal, Travis ex-wife at the end, her reason for not bonding with Jazzy and why it is so difficult for her and why she ran out and abandoned her own child but still i feel she was very wrong in doing so and then abandoning her twice, i cannot forgive Crystal for it previously when she ran away Jazzy was small doesn't remember but then again at the end running away that 2 when Jazzy is in hospital and so sick

Travis-Sarah both are brave and courageous and liked the way before getting intimate Travis decides to be a open book and confesses all his fears and shares his pains with Sarah and vice versa with Sarah

Good read, except for the sexual language  
Recommend it

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## **Nairabell says**

In *Twilight*, Texas there is a tradition that states if you sleep with kismet cookies under your pillow on Christmas Eve you will dream of your soulmate. Sarah Collier once believed in that tradition, until as a teenager she ended up running down the church aisle on Christmas Day wearing a jingle bell sweater and reindeer antlers to try to stop Travis Walker from marrying someone else. Sarah was completely humiliated and hasn't been back to *Twilight* since. Now Sarah is all grown up and a successful children's author 'Sadie Cool', and has sworn off love completely. But a letter from a sick fan has brought Sarah back to *Twilight*, and she's about to find that Jazzy, her number 1 fan is the daughter of Travis Walker himself.

This was just one of the stack of Christmassy books I picked up this year, and with no reviews I decided to take a chance. I'm really glad I did. From the author's note at the start dedicating the book to the real life inspiration for Travis and Jazzy, who sadly didn't get a happy ending, to the sweet love story and kooky locals this book is a great read.

Sarah is sweet and easy to identify with, and Travis is the perfect hero but both thankfully manage to avoid the standard romance novel cliches. However Jazzy steals the show with her incredible zest for life despite all the odds. The townspeople reminded me a bit of the people in *Stars Hollow* in *The Gilmore Girls*; a bit kooky but kind hearted. The Dickens festival was a bit of an oddball idea in Texas, but it really works with

the story.

The romance itself is well thought out, and doesn't see the characters leap into bed together as soon as they're reunited. It was good to see that each carried realistic scars from their lives that were dealt with sympathetically, and that outside meddling didn't interfere with the characters free will.

I'm definitely interested in reading some of the other Twilight novels - this is actually the third in the series, with The Sweethearts' Knitting Club first and then The True Love Quilting Club both before this, and is followed book 4 The Welcome Home Garden Club. Chances are I'll also be baking a batch of kismet cookies using recipe on the author's website, although they probably won't make it under my pillow.

All in all, a light seasonal read with unexpected depths that is well worth a read.

Plot: 9/10

Characters: 10/10

Ending: 10/10

Enjoyment: 10/10

Cover: 9/10

Overall: 48/50

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### **Fedora says**

Cute Christmas romance--Sarah Collier's 15-year-old self completely bought into her grandmother's charming story about Kismet Cookies. They bake them on Christmas Eve, and when you sleep with one under your pillow, you'll dream of your one true love. Well, Sarah's dreamt of Travis Walker, her grandmother's next door neighbor's son, for years. Although he's five years older than she, he's always been kind and friendly, and she's cherished that hope that he'll love her too, for quite some time. Overwhelmed by the unexpected news that he's getting married that Christmas morning, she impulsively runs all the way to the church to declare in front of God and all the guests that he can't marry Crystal because he's HER true love.

Fast forward eight or nine years, and Sarah's now a best selling children's author, Sadie Cool. Travis's very sick eight-year-old daughter Jasmine, Jazzy for short, is her biggest fan. Circumstances in the form of Twilight's Cookie Club (yes, the same women who populate the quilting and knitting clubs of the previous stories set in Twilight) conspire to get her to return to Twilight to fulfill Jazzy's Christmas wish and maybe bring out some fulfilled dreams for Sarah/Sadie and Travis, too.

While I enjoyed the small-town feel and the secondary characters quite a bit, some of the plotting and characterization really seemed a little too sappy for me; it all worked out in the end, but all the handwringing and drama and heartwarming stuff was just too much for me to love.

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### **Katie(babs) says**

I've read a recent contemporary that's perfect for the holidays. This book is adorable in its telling, and just

steamy enough where you won't need to sit in front of a roaring fire to keep warm.

I adore Lori Wilde's romances, and *The First Love Cookie Club* has a very emotional story behind it. Read the acknowledgments at the beginning of the book and you'll understand why. Lori excels at writing small town romances, and with this latest, the heroine, Sarah Collier returns back to Twilight, Texas. This is where Sarah spent most of her holidays and summer vacations with her grandmother since her cold and distant doctor parents had no time for their sweet, sensitive, very romantic thinking chubby daughter. Her grandmother fed into Sarah's fantasy of finding her one true love, and when Sarah is only fifteen, she thinks she has found that with her handsome older neighbor, Travis Walker. But Sarah is crushed when she finds out that Travis is getting married on Christmas morning. Sarah goes to stop the wedding and announces she and Travis are meant to be together because of the dream she had thanks to the Kismet cookies she put under her pillow. Sarah is mortified in front of the entire town when Travis basically pats her on the head and tells her to run along.

Nine years later, Sarah no longer believes in romance or true love. She lives in New York and is a best-selling author of a children's book under the name, Sadie Cool. She has lost all her baby fat and doesn't care if her parents don't love her. She also hates the holidays, including Christmas, but is cajoled into going back to Twilight for the Christmas Festival where she'll be treated like a star because she's a small town girl who has done well for herself. Sarah is more than nervous about returning. What if she sees Travis again and he makes fun of her? She still hasn't lived down her humiliation over her very childish outburst years ago.

Travis is a single father trying to do his best where his sick daughter, Jazzy is concerned. His wife walked out on them because she couldn't deal with Jazzy's life threatening breathing problem. Jazzy is Travis's whole life, where he'll do whatever he can to make sure she stays well and alive. Jazzy adores *The Magic Christmas Cookie* by Sadie Cool, and her dream is to meet the author. And when Sarah meets Jazzy, she falls in love with the fragile little girl. She's also still very much attracted to Travis who doesn't ridicule her, but welcomes her back in his own special way.

Sarah slowly finds the joys of Christmas again with Travis and Jazzy's help. Travis has thoughts of romance on his mind when it comes to Sarah, although she'll only be in Twilight for a short time. And then when Jazzy has a turn for the worse, including someone from Travis's past who comes back into the picture to causes problems, he turns to Sarah to lean on. She begins to question if she can go back to her sterile, hermit life back in Manhattan when all she could ever want was in Twilight.

*The First Love Cookie Club* is uber-cute. The reason this book struck gold for me wasn't the courtship between Sarah and Travis, but the deep love and devotion Travis has for his young daughter. Jazzy's own story will tug at your heart, and she is the true spirit of Christmas from her innocent excitement and her strength to have a fulfilling life for as long as she can even though she may not have a future.

The ending is way too pat and eye rolling ridiculous, as if someone waved a magic wand over Sarah and Travis to make sure there is no more drama or heartache in their lives. The sudden appearance of a few characters took something away from the plot. And I also found a strange inconsistency regarding Travis's ex-wife that didn't make any sense. It would have been better left out of the story and really irked me, when up to this point, I was really enjoying what I was reading.

Can we say this would be a perfect Hallmark movie that would evoke an ending much like *The Grinch That Stole Christmas*? Why yes, I think I will say that it is.

Other than my issues with the last few chapters and an annoying misunderstanding that comes out of the blue between Travis and Sarah, I really did enjoy *The First Love Cookie Club*. It's one book to read while

snuggling in your snuggie with a cup of hot chocolate at your fingertips. A lovely holiday romance story for those who need some joy and sweet optimism in their reading material.

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### **kari says**

I didn't realize this was the third of a series, so I guess I'd have to say that you can read this book without reading the series and you won't feel confused or that you don't have the whole story.

I understood Sarah, the heroine, of this one and her decision to keep her emotions firmly tamped down. With her upbringing and then her experience with dating, it made sense. Yes, I did think she was a bit too much at times, but still, it made sense and she is a well-drawn character.

The attraction Travis feels for her also makes sense as you get to know who he is. He likes to make those around him happy and comfortable. He is in so many ways a caretaker and not just of his young daughter who has struggled with health issues for several years.

The ending is well-done, wrapping up not only Travis and Sarah's romance, but resolving some family issues.

There were a couple of things I didn't like which is why I didn't give it a five star rating. There is a side story about one of the minor characters and it came out of nowhere. It didn't seem necessary, even to bring about certain events and I think it should have been edited out. There is enough drama to the relationship without some additional angst thrown in for no reason. I just didn't like that.

There was a bit with a pedal boat and the hero comes to save her and I did feel that it was pushing my believability buttons a bit much. First, she's smarter than this and second, I think the women with whom she was supposedly spending time would've come looking for her in a fast minute. And who goes out alone in a boat if they can barely dogpaddle? But that is just my opinion.

And there are some continuity errors, like where someone has his arm around a shoulder and without moving his arm, his hands are folded in his lap in the next sentence. Also, some of the descriptions read almost as if they are copy/pasted as the exact same words are used again describing the same event. These small things were bothersome enough that they did break the flow of the story, but not bothersome enough that I didn't thoroughly enjoy this one.

If you like modern romance, I'd say give this a try.

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### **pleasureofreading says**

Ein Fall von "Einfach zauberhaft die ersten 50 Seiten..." und dann gefiel es mir immer weniger.

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### **Samantha says**

An emotional read that will pull on the heart strings and bring readers a lot of holiday cheers.

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas! After reading this book, I'm in holiday mode. The book starts off with fifteen year old Sarah Collier who is spending the Christmas time with her grandmother, Mina in the small town of Twilight, Texas. Following in the tradition of her grandmother, Sarah bakes kismet cookies and places them under her pillow to dream of her one true love. Year after year, she dreams of Travis Walker. This year when she learns that Travis is marrying another woman, she rushes to stop it but she is unsuccessful. Heartbroken and embarrassed, Sarah buries her beliefs in true love and the Christmas spirit.

Years later, Sarah Collier is now Sarah Cool, a successful children's author living large in New York City. She is stumped to get her next book out by the end of the year and her agent, Benny has a plan. A little girl name Jazzy is ill and wishes for nothing more than to see Sarah Cool, so Benny enlist Sarah to attend a book signing and honored in the Twilight's festivities. Sarah is mortified upon learning that she will be back in Twilight. She has yet to overcome her embarrassment with Travis but she doesn't want to disappoint Jazzy.

No one is more surprised than Sarah to learn that Jazzy's father is no other than Travis. Though she knows she can't avoid him forever, it makes their reunion more difficult. Since Travis and his wife split up, the ladies of the First Love Cookie Club have tricks up their sleeves and they are playing matchmaker.

This story is very emotional and touching. The characters will make readers laugh and cry. I fell for Travis immediately. The devotion and love he displays for Jazzy will pull at readers' heartstrings. He goes through so much to make sure that she has the best possible care. As the story progresses, more obstacles are thrown in his way but he remains so optimistic and calm.

The love between Travis and Sarah is gradual with sexual tension. Sarah is afraid to lose her heart to Travis again. Travis whole world revolves around Jazzy but the chemistry between him and Sarah is hard to ignore. Jazzy is a great child character and she makes the story that much more emotional. Readers will want to know if there is a happy ending for her as well.

The secondary characters make fore a great addition to the story. They add spice and side stories that keep the book from becoming too hokey. One of the ladies harbors a secret that she is afraid for the town to learn, especially her husband. Well, I don't want to give anything away but once the secret is revealed, I was slightly disappointed because there is no resolution. I went back to make sure I didn't miss what happened next for this character but nope, the author left me hanging. I hope that the author explains what is to come for her in another book but I still felt cheated.

Overall, a very light romance that will get readers ready for the holiday season.

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## **S says**

There are times when I wonder why I read romances at all and this is one of them. Every time the kismet cookie comes up, I cringe. Every time the cookie club members scheme to bring Sarah and Travis together, I cringe. Basically, all the other residents of the small town, aside from Travis, Jazzy, and perhaps a few more, make me cringe. I think I like Sarah too much to want her to put up with all that nonsense. Other than those parts, I quite enjoyed this book.

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## **Cheri says**

I'm enjoying the books from this series. They all contain a Christmas theme snuck in it. Twilight is a small quaint town so everybody knows each other. The Sweetheart Tree brings first loves together. A little mystery is always involved as well as romance, humor, and a little sex.



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### **Lauren says**

This book was a lot of fun, like reading a Hallmark Christmas movie. It was a fun read, and the characters were engaging enough for this read.

I think the main negative for me with this book was that I read a Christmas novel in the middle of April, while it was 80 degrees here in San Diego.

I probably won't follow through with the series, but I will definitely be reading this cozy romance again-when the season is right.

I would recommend this to anyone looking for a Christmas-y romance. It's exactly what you would hope for.

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### **Maryann says**

Another feel-good romance novel, this one was interesting. I'd never heard of kismet cookies before so that was a first for me. The idea behind the magic kismet cookies was really cute and then bring in Sarah and Travis' love story, made it even sweeter. Travis' daughter was the icing on top of the mountain of sugar that made up this novel. There's a lot of nervousness, anxiousness and uncertainty on Sarah's side coupled with Travis's never-ending love and determination for his daughter fighting her illness, I really rooted for the couple.

The novel revolves mostly around Sarah, Travis and his daughter all becoming closer as they spend more time with each other but ultimately the trio do get their happy ending and I was glad for that. Travis' daughter, Jazzy (Jasmine) is the main catalyst in bringing together the couple and I'm not sure if Lori Wilde intended it to be that way, but without Jazzy you don't really have a story. Jazzy was the spice, or in this case, the sugar icing that made everything gel together. The rift between Sarah and Travis isn't actually that interesting until Jazzy comes in to bring the two together. It's very endearing but there isn't much more to the story other than Jazzy's attempts to push her dad and Sarah together.

The story is very simple and straightforward. I didn't think there was a lot of humour or witty banter in this story as much as I expected from other reviews, but I guess my humour runs toward the dry side. Overall the story is sweet and easy to get through.

2/5 stars.

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### **Susan says**

I really enjoyed this book. I felt like the problems and emotions were ones that were realistic. While both Travis and Sarah have issues, none of them seem to overwhelm the story. It starts with Sarah as an awkward teenager discovering that the guy she's been dreaming of is about to marry someone else. After humiliating herself by trying to stop the wedding she swears she will never risk her heart again. Fast forward nine years, and Sarah has become a successful children's author. When she receives a letter from a sick fan, she

reluctantly returns to Twilight, only to discover that the little girl is Travis's daughter.

I had a little trouble connecting with Sarah at first. She was so resistant about going to Twilight that she came across as a bit selfish. Even once she was there she seemed rather standoffish. Some could be blamed on her memories of that day, but other things about her life are slowly revealed and begin to explain her problem. Her initial meeting with Travis shows her that she has never really forgotten those feelings for him. She also knows that she won't stay in Twilight so there's no sense in starting anything with him, tempting though it may be. She doesn't count on the ladies of the cookie club doing their best to push them together, or that Travis seems equally drawn to her. As the week goes on Travis and Jazzy start to break down the walls that Sarah has built up to keep people out. She starts to connect with them and others, but still doesn't see herself as able to have that happy ending.

Travis was a wonderful hero. From his kind attitude toward Sarah on his wedding day to the amazing father he is today he is awesome. He may have made a mistake by getting his girlfriend pregnant when he was twenty, but he was determined to do the honorable thing and take care of them both. He was an involved father from the beginning, and even more so when Jazzy got so sick. He took on the role of both parents when his wife left them, making Jazzy the center of his world. When Sarah came back to Twilight he was surprised by the strength of his attraction to her. He would be very happy to see where it goes, but he has some of his own baggage to overcome. Between watching his dad fall apart after his mom's death and then his disastrous marriage, Travis resists the idea of soulmates, fearing that his life would fall apart too if he were to lose someone he cared about that much. I really liked the way that he saw Sarah's pain and fears and gave her the space she needed to process what they were beginning to feel for each other.

Even as they began to acknowledge their feelings for each other, there were still some obstacles to overcome. Jazzy's mother comes back to town, causing Sarah to question her own place in their lives. Sarah has some professional problems that also interfere with her decision making process. Then there is a health crisis with Jazzy that brings a whole host of feelings to the surface, causing both Sarah and Travis to take a good look at what they really want from life.

The town itself is another character in the book. I enjoyed seeing the various Christmas traditions and how they worked with what Travis and Sarah were going through. The people had the usual small town nosiness and tendency to interfere, but mostly in a positive manner. There was a secondary storyline that was left hanging, but it is addressed in a later series of novellas.

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## **Penny McGill says**

Quite possibly the worst book ever. I hesitate to give it that title because I might read a book that I liked less than this someday but I'm not sure that is possible. I'm always keen to try something new because I'm pretty sure that there is a reader out there somewhere for every book (didn't someone say that once...) but I that seems unlikely with this book. Lori Wilde promises us a 'first love cookie club' right on the title but that is a tiny part of the book. Disappointing. Cookies are baked and there is a club but that's as much as I feel needs to be said about that part of the book.

Trying to bounce back from being mistreated by the title of the book I thought I'd focus on the quirky romance part of the story. Famous author returns to the town she knew as a child, meets the man she always wanted to marry and things turn out for them. Sounds good. She's beautiful but distant and he is handsome and gregarious. Opposites attract (plus there is a little side story of his seriously ill child who loves the

famous author as soon as she meets her, oh and her father is divorced so available for famous author to reconcile with) and poof, romance blooms.

Well. Romance almost blooms. The possibility is there for some serious heat and Lori Wilde blows any chance she has for at least making the sex interesting by using some of the best cliché lines I've ever read in a romance novel. He growls. She murmurs. All words and phrases used before by people with a gift for writing this stuff until he felt "the riptide of biology dragging him under". Yup. Nothing like referencing science in a sex scene.

So I'm adding a new shelf to my Goodreads account. Worst Book Ever. I hope that I don't read another book that comes close to unseating this one.

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