



Should've Said No

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Welcome to Thistle Bend! Perfect for fans of Susan Mallery, this charming series debut introduces a small town where old secrets are revealed—and wounded hearts are opened to new love.

A year after being laid off from the Smithsonian, Lindsey Simms says yes to a job offer as curator of a heritage museum in Thistle Bend, Colorado (population 1,519). It could be worse—and it is. Because the new museum has escalated a dispute between the Karlssons, Lindsey's relatives, and the Crenshaws, a blood feud which goes way back to a land deal that changed the fortunes of both families. Trying to stay objective, Lindsey can't tell anyone about her conflict of interest—especially not the ruggedly handsome handyman fixing up her cabin, who seems to be keeping secrets of his own.

Although he's the executive director of the family trust and one of Colorado's most eligible bachelors, Carden Crenshaw prefers getting his hands dirty in town and on his sprawling ranch. Staying busy has given him an excuse not to risk heartbreak, but getting to know the beautiful "museum lady" makes him reconsider. Little does he know, the heat between them will only add fuel to the fire—unless this unlikely couple can prove they're lovers, not fighters.

Should've Said No Details

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From Reader Review Should've Said No for online ebook

Strider28 says

Fun loving romance story wrapped in mystery with a couple of “characters”, pun intended, too boot. Lindsey Simms, has traveled all the way across the country from Washington, D. C. to Thistle Bend, Colorado to accept her new position as curator of the Thistle Bend Mountain Heritage Museum, or what will be a museum once she converts an old building that once housed a gas station among other small businesses. It was a long way from her job at the Smithsonian!

Determined to prove her worth as a curator and put her credentials to work Lindsey tries to keep her chin up and her eye on the prize. The prize being to work her way back to a museum in a big city, preferably in D.C. or Virginia.

Lindsey’s first night in town she finds her rented apartment doesn’t quite match up to the pictures she saw online. As she enters the dark house she is met by one handsome man! Carden Crenshaw is there to help fix up a few things before she was to arrive. Lindsey, not at all thrilled at her new digs gives Carden a list of things to take care of just assuming that he’s the handyman.

When Carden first sees Lindsey he’s pleasantly surprised that she doesn’t look like the frumpy middle aged librarian type that he was expecting. So when Lindsey mistakes him for the handyman he doesn’t correct her. He figures he might like spending a little time to get to know this beautiful young woman who has just moved into his tiny town.

As Lindsey gets familiar with the town and its people she realizes things won’t be so bad. She and Carden are becoming friends and she knows a couple of other people in town but they have to be kept secret!

Nobody, not even Carden, can know who these people are. But Lindsey isn’t the only one keeping a secret. Carden has his own hidden agenda when it comes to spending time with Lindsey.

As Lindsey goes about doing her job she discovers a town feud that goes back for centuries. It’s a classic Hatfields and McCoy scenario. The two families hate each other but nobody can find the truth behind the original feud. Part of her job as the curator is to show the history of both of these prominent families in the museum without taking sides unless she can find the source of the original feud. Something she desperately wants to do for reasons of her own.

As time goes on Lindsey and Carden begin a romantic relationship that has them both riding high. Because Thistle Bend is such a small town and gossip travels faster than a wild fire Lindsey and Carden decide to keep their new relationship a secret for now. Which turns out to be a good thing when all hell breaks loose and the lies come out and the truth becomes painful.

Lindsey and Carden part ways both feeling hurt and betrayed. Is there any way for these two people to come back together? Can they throw a love that strong away?

Lindsey throws herself into her work at the museum to forget about her broken heart. She figures the sooner she can finish the sooner she can get distance from Carden. Distance she hopes will help heal her heart.

But there are a couple of people in town that have a secret and they need Lindsey to stay in town to discover that secret. They may also have a devilish side that wants to help Lindsey out in other ways as well.

Discovering the secrets of Thistle Bend is a delightful read with some fun characters. It has a HEA and is a standalone book! Big plus in my book!

I would recommend this to readers who are looking for an enjoyable romantic story that’s light and easy.

BookLover says

ARC requested through Netgalley, and kindly provided by Random House Publishing Group in exchange for a honest review.

Lindsey is down on her luck. Thanks to some distant relatives, she finds herself in a new town with a new job and right smack in the middle of a blood feud that's older than anyone in the town. Add in the sexy Carden, who just happens to be on the opposite side of the feud as Lindsey and the stage is set for a great story!

I loved this book!!! I settled right in to Thistle Bend and Lindsey and Carden's story. This is my first read by Tracy March and I really enjoyed her writing style. I was drawn in from the very beginning, intrigued by the mystery behind the feud while experiencing the nuances of small town life from Lindsey's perspective. It was delightful! Carden was awesome and I loved how his relationship with Lindsey developed.

Great read!!

Chris N says

I have to say the I really enjoyed this book. Lindsey didn't have an easy time of it being stuck in the middle of a family feud. Feeling pressure from both families to be represented in the top billing of a new museum made things harder for her. Carden is hot! When sparks fly between them it's hot and heavy. Both have been hurt and Lindsey has a secret of her own that might break both their hearts but will the feud come between them?

I loved the story line. It's something fresh and different. I read this in a day and enjoyed every minute of it!

ARC received by Netgalley in exchange for a fair and honest review

CL says

ARC received from: Netgalley

Rating: 3.5*

Cover: Yay

Trope: Small town romance

Chemistry: Low Boil

One-Sentence Summary: A museum curator gets embroiled in a small town feud

Review: This was a very cute small town romance. My gripes with it lies with the fact that there were some notable time-jumps and I didn't understand why it took so long for Carden and Lindsey to get back together after the true history of the feud was revealed.

Bette Hansen says

This is the first in a new series from this author and what a great start it is!! We are introduced to Thistle Bend, Colorado. A quaint small town filled with all the quirky characters you would expect to find, a couple of century long feuding families, and a town newcomer that is inevitably thrown in the middle. In this case Lindsey Simms is the newcomer and setting up the towns new museum is her job. Since the history of this town includes the land deal turn feud she has to get this part right! No one knows that she's actually distantly related to one of the families. Carden Crenshaw is one of the towns favorite sons and definitely on the other side of the feud lines. Their attraction could lead to nothing but trouble but sometimes you just have to follow the facts and your heart!

This one is very well written, has great characters, and really starts the series out with a winner. I highly recommend it.

Deniz says

1.5 Stars

And I am feeling like I was robbed. Those \$2.99 I spent on this? Yeah I regret spending them, I really really do. That happens really rarely.

I had such high hopes for this. I thought this was going to be funny and cute. A lovely cute & fluffy... with a little bit of nice smut thrown in... but it was meh.

Look it's not completely and utterly terrible- well, it's just... predictable, too mooshy, over the top cliche and everything insta.

Just not my thing

Catherine (The Sassy Bookster) says

SHOULD'VE SAID NO is a cute, sweet and fun series beginner about family, love, secrets and a feud spanning several generations, very much in the vein of the Hatfields and the McCoys, only without the bloodshed. From the first page, it's very clear the direction of the story but the journey to the happy ending for Lindsey and Carden is so much fun that it's easy to hang on for the ride with them. I really enjoyed this story but my favorite thing about it has got to be the location. The breathtaking views and lush vegetation described here almost make me want to move to Thistle Bend.

Curator Lindsey Simms is determined to make the best of the opportunity she has to work on the Thistle

Bend museum and plans to leverage that opportunity into a job in a big city. Unfortunately, the job comes with some conditions. She cannot disclose to anyone that she is connected to one of the feuding families and is expected to use her position to suss out the real story behind the feud, while painting her family in a favorable light, of course. Well, no big deal because she doesn't plan to hang around for long, but she does not expect to be bowled over by Carden Crenshaw, the most eligible bachelor in Colorado and a descendant of the other side of the feud. Now Lindsey is caught between her obligation to her family and her feelings for Carden.

Carden Crenshaw has had his share of romantic entanglements but after experiencing a crushing betrayal, all he has to offer any woman is a good time. With Lindsey however, he can't seem to keep his heart locked up as usual, which complicates things in a big way because the reason behind his involvement with her is to sway her opinion in favor of his family.

As you can imagine, their feelings for each other take precedence over the family drama and they fall headlong into a relationship, in spite of their resolve to avoid one. Ms. March did a great job with this story. She took two almost to good to be true characters and a predictable story line and added a sizzling attraction, deeply rooted family history, a decades-long feud as well as quirky, eccentric and unforgettable characters and turned it into a very engaging story that is sure to have readers coming back for more in the series.

Disclaimer: I received this book for free from the Publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

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Heather andrews says

Carden is sweet, cute and his mind often wanders, "sounds decadent." She set her gaze on him and lifted her eyebrows. "Want some? I could probably be persuaded to share." His heart thundered. Did he ever. He wanted plenty of whatever she was offering." Carden is seriously a country boy, "grilling . . . Kissing . . ." He brushed his lips over hers, teasingly light and feathery. "Take your pick, darlin' ;" I think this is going to be a great series, a small town feel and loving characters.

Janet Robel says

Unforgettable characters and small-town charm are the hallmarks of this book. Lovely build-up of the romance with plenty of sizzle. I loved the whole Hatfields and McCoys theme here. Lindsey and Carden were both likable right from the start. Readers of contemporary romance will want to try this author.

Mandy says

Lindsey moves to the small town of Thistle Bend, Colorado to help set up their heritage museum. There is a land dispute between the Karlssons (Lindsey's family) and the Crenshaws and Lindsey is expected to find the truth about the land and make an impartial decision. . Lindsey tries to stay objective and nobody in town knows she's a relative of the Karlssons but the real problem for Lindsey is when she falls for a Crenshaw. Carden Crenshaw is in charge of the family trust. He had his heart broken years ago and has a hard time trusting but he can't fight the attraction he has to Lindsey. Carden doesn't know Lindsey is keeping a secret from him.

I really enjoyed this book - the first in a new series about the small town of Thistle Bend. I loved the build up between Carden and Lindsey. They were perfect together and had fantastic chemistry. I can't wait to read more in this series!

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review

Claire Robinson says

4 - "Roots go deep here." Stars!

Tracy March is an author new to me, and the first book in her new *Thistle Bend* series was an absolutely stellar introduction to her writing.

There is a little bit of everything going on in this book, which kept me as a reader on my toes. Lindsey Simms has moved to the town to set up the new Museum, and as you can expect being a small town, not all families are on the friendliest of terms, history runs deep here and memories are long, and that is the case between the Crenshaw's and the Karlsson's, although not common knowledge, Lindsey sits on the Karlsson side of the fence by way of a very thin family connection. Problem with that, she has a very strong connection to one Carden Crenshaw, town bachelor and absolute sweetheart.

He was 31 flavors of trouble, but resisting him seemed impossible.

I really enjoyed this story, some parts of it were predictable, when it came to keeping secrets and the inevitable car crash when it all comes to light, but then other parts were unexpected, and I found the whole Karlsson/Crenshaw feud and the resulting resolution of the situation towards the end of the book, really well thought out and executed.

"You make me believe that things I'd given up on a possible."

The romance is well paced, and as a couple I really liked the general development between the pair of them. This isn't meant to sound disrespectful, but the author managed to take two seemingly uncomplicated and pretty unremarkable adults and give them a story that made them shine. Carden was the perfect gent and Lindsey was just the type of woman you can see yourself settling down with for a chat and a coffee, both of them were confident in themselves and their lives, and the relationship issues from their pasts added relevance, but didn't overly dramatize things between them.

"I'm scared as hell to fall for you... But I'm more terrified to let you go."

Easy-going, entertaining and just generally a great start to a series, I cannot wait to see where the author takes this series next with the release of *Just Say Maybe* in May 2016.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

Jennifer Aldrich says

Received ARC in exchange for honest review.

Should've Said No is a romantic story with some comedy mixed in. This story follows Lindsey and her move to a new town to try and restart her life. There she meets several wonderful and funny people, while also trying to solve the long time dispute between two major families within the town. What follows is sweet and romantic, while also being funny and sad at times.

Tracy March is the author of this wonderful book and I loved how she used the alternating views from Lindsey and Carden. I love when stories use this writing style because it gives us a view of how both main characters feel and gives us their perspective of the events in the story. It shows us readers that one event can be perceived several different ways. It shows us that actions and reactions can set into motion a crazy chain of events that can totally alter the characters' lives. I love that this is true about Should've Said No.

Tracy also did a wonderful job of character development. I could see the minor changes in the characters throughout the story and loved being able to witness the main plot and other characters effecting the main characters. I loved going on a journey with both Lindsey and Carden. I loved watching their feelings change and develop for each other.

The main plot of the book was written beautifully. Although I guessed early on about a portion major plot twist, I was still pleasantly surprised about the overall outcome of the story. I was more surprised that I didn't guess that reason for the main plot twist. I am usually really good at guessing this stuff, so it was refreshing to be caught off guard. Props to Tracy for being unpredictable.

The actual romance in the story is sweet as well. The characters are both in a peculiar spot in the beginning of the story and neither are really looking for anything. Lindsey is trying to restart her life after a devastating development forced her to move across country. Carden is still dealing with issues from his past that are being brought back into the spotlight. I think the small town environment also plays a major part in how this portion of the book develops. I loved every part of it.

Overall, I think Trace March has a hit on her hands. Should've Said No is a brilliantly written book that is both heart-warming and refreshing. I would 100% recommend this to friends and family. I have nothing but good things to say about this story and would read it again in a heartbeat. I feel privileged to have been able to review this book.

Plot = 5/5

Characters = 5/5

Heat = 5/5

Writing Style = 5/5

Overall Rating = 5/5

Nancy Naigle says

I loved this book. Especially the setting ... out west in Colorado where I've never been before. That's the great thing about Tracy's books, she always takes me on a little voyage and gives me the feeling I've spent time in a new place.

"Should've Said No" is a wonderful story of family, honor, trust and generations of unexpected secrets. Meet a quirky cast of characters in this masterful marriage of old town history and current-day quandaries. Escape to the quaint mountain town of Thistle Bend, Colorado, where there's serious sizzle between local boy, Carden Crenshaw, and the new gal in town. Jump on an emotional roller coaster as you root for this perfect match to become forever flames, because it takes more than sizzle to resolve a century-long family feud. Enjoy your escape to Thistle Bend...I sure did. Already pre-ordered "Just Say Maybe" - the next one in this series.

Amy R says

Happy sigh. Should've Said No by Tracy March is a charming, sexy contemporary romance story. The plot is original and the characters are amazing. I am such a character-driven reader and Should've Said No definitely met that interest of mine. Carden (hero) and Lindsey (heroine) are easy to read about. They had their flaws but you instantly liked them without thinking they were over-the-top perfect. Lindsey is so inspiring and I love when characters can do that for me.

March created Thistle Bend as a town where everyone wants to live. Yes, there is a family feud that Lindsey is tasked to get to the bottom of as part of her job, and the town has its struggles but it sounds so lovely. The descriptions of the stores and houses are done so well that I could visualize the colors and vibrancy easily. I could practically taste the food that the characters were eating, too! I was constantly hungry while reading this book for ice cream and pastries.

The pacing of the story was spot on as I found myself turning pages quickly. The romance between Carden and Lindsey was compelling. It was easy but it wasn't. It had the typical do-we or don't-we aspect but it was written well because I wasn't quite sure how things were going to play out. The intimate scenes in the story were passionate, fit the story and characters well and the only downside was that there weren't enough of them! However, while I wish there were more, it would have upset the flow.

The supporting characters in Should've Said No really added an extra layer to the story and I found myself either loving them or wanting to shake some sense into them. March set this Thistle Bend series up nicely and I will be auto-reading the rest of it for sure! If you are looking for an engaging, feel-good, sexy contemporary romance, I suggest you give Should've Said No a try!

ARC received for purposes of review.

Didi says

3.75 stars

Welcome to Thistle Bend, Colorado - crime rates zero - where you could leave the house unlocked nobody would steal anything. The town's citizens were so laid back and close-knitted, everybody knew everybody's business - which meant it's hard to keep secret. But the biggest secret yet is to be revealed here in this book.

Should've Said No is a modern tale of Hatfield and McCoy land dispute which went back four generations. Though the dispute was more on how one family member jumped over the other family bid to buy the land way back when.

Our heroine was placed smack in the middle; being adopted into one family and building up relationship with a progeny of another.

Reading this was like watching a rom com movie with quirky supporting characters. Front and center was Lindsey Simms, a city girl who got laid off from her DC's Smithsonian Museum position. She's a likeable character - passionate about her work and loyal to those involved in her life. Promising to keep her words put her budding romance at stake. But she didn't wallow in it and instead powered on.

The love interest, the most eligible bachelor in Colorado, Carden Crenshaw was a too good to be true hero. He got look, personality and stability - in another words: he's filthy rich. PLUS: he's the town's famous handyman.

What's not to love about him, right? Except, I felt he's waaay too slow in putting wrong (moves) to right. Perhaps he was bidding his time, the right moment and all that crap. But this non action of his really compromised my judgement.

That, and the closing chapter being too all-casts-gathered-together to give a perfect happy ending. Sometimes, too perfect could become imperfect to me.

That said, I truly enjoyed reading this story. A nice introduction to Tracy March's works. And this was the start of a new series, which means there's more to Thistle Bend folks I get to see in the coming books.

Note:

ARC was kindly provided by the publisher via NetGalley for the exchange of a fair and honest review.
