



## The 51st Thursday

*Mercy Celeste*

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Shelby Bainbridge, former championship winning quarterback and son of an Alabama Senator with presidential aspirations, lost everything one Thursday night fifty-two weeks ago. Lost, alone, battered, and broken Shelby finds comfort in the local bar called Deacon's Place. Week after week, he finds himself drawn to Deacon's for the beer, for the atmosphere, for the solace and for Deacon himself.

Deacon can no longer deny the desire he feels for the man he calls Thursday. When Deacon wants something Deacon is a hard man to resist. The problem is, Deacon never planned to lose his heart. Especially to a man who could be destroyed by an unexpected night of forbidden passion.

## **The 51st Thursday Details**

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Author : Mercy Celeste

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## From Reader Review The 51st Thursday for online ebook

### Nic says

This book had all the elements I enjoy in a story - gorgeous main characters, painful and tragic pasts, hot sex and a happy ending.

Shelby (called Thursday by Deacon) has been visiting Deacon's bar every Thursday for nearly a year. The story starts with a focus on one night. A night of passion between Deacon and Shelby, which occurs one year after Shelby had experienced a terrible tragedy.

Well written scenes gave a real sense of the desperation and passion driving the two men together. (view spoiler)

They share an intense physical relationship but both men need to deal with other issues before acknowledging anything more. Although relatively short, the story addresses this journey well, from the physical to the emotional.(view spoiler)

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### Karla says

3.75 stars!

Whoa! This short read was pretty dam good, definitely wasn't expecting it.

Deacon, owns a bar and he also works there as a bartender, he meets this mysterious guy who only comes on Thursday's. His intrigued by this stranger and finds himself attracted to him and looking forward to his visits. Shelby, aka Thursday is broken has just had his life turned upside down and finds solace drinking at Deacon's bar. He too, feels this pull to Deacon, till one stormy night they find themselves unable to deny their attraction.

Like I said this was a short read but well written and a good solid story. We get to know both characters backstory, and understand the why of their situation. Their chemistry is so hot, especially Deacon, he has such a dirty mouth, sexy and a bit rough. Shelby, was sad his life hadn't been easy but I was so glad when he got himself together and got the courage he needed. Actually both Deacon/Shelby took a stand, and it was great to see that their priorities were their own happiness.

I just had one question by the end, what happened with shelby's father did he win or not? ❤

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### **Candice says**

I enjoyed Shelby and Deacon and even though the author provided enough to give a background on both of them, it left me wanting to know more about them. I think if this had been a longer book it could have been better and allowed for development of the story and these characters, there was a lot of potential with them, but everything just seemed too rushed to get to the end result.

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### **Nile Princess says**

This book was hot and awesome and awesomely hot!! LOVED Deacon and Thursday. I actually found it extremely endearing that Deacon continued to call Shelby, Thursday, even after he knew his name. There were one or two sappy moments but other than that woohoo, heaven!

I am reviewing the longer version (second edition??) with the additional 4000 words. Still a relatively short story, but it gets it done and won't leave you wanting. One of my new faves.

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### **Denise H. says**

\*\*\*\*\* This story is on the dark side....because the flawed characters are deeply affected by their pasts. Joe Deacon , Marine, Cop, and bar owner has screwed up his life and now hops from bed to bed never getting attached to any kind of feelings. "Thursday", Shelby, is a Senator's son, ex football player, who lost his wife and baby to a car accident; he grieves for the life he should have lead, not the one he was told to live. On a Thursday evening, awaiting the hurricane, these two men finally act on the desire that has grown between them. Deacon is crude, crass and seemingly uncaring, but the effect "Thursday" has on him is profound. Also affected immensely is Shelby. He stays away after their super hot one night stand, but only because he needed time to square away his loose ends, and when he returns, the men have a serious talk, and more intense sex. Truths are told, and everything is "out". (Some readers didn't like the frequent use of "Thursday", but I think it packed a huge punch to the overall tale.)

This engrossing tale will grip you and hold you.

Highly recommend. ENJOY the ride !!

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### **A Girl Has No Name says**

#### **4.5 stars!**

*The 51st Thursday* is a **pretty intense and very hot short read!** The blurb has been interesting enough, but once I started **I've been pulled right in.** I wasn't able to put this book down - **Shelby, broken and insecure** and **Deacon, raw and wanting** have been an **incredible couple.**

I loved the dynamics between them and *Mercy Celeste* made us discover more about these two characters with every page turned. And that's exactly the reason, why I won't comment on the plot itself. The **pace has**

**been perfect** and I enjoyed getting to know about Shelby and Deacon's past!

The moment I feel so **enthralled by the main characters of a short story** I desperately want to read about them in a full novel, but I am pretty sure that *The 51st Thursday* is as intense as it is exactly because of its shortness! Highly recommended!

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### **Elisa Rolle says**

First of all, I like this romance but I think someone else will probably complain for the attitude of one of the two men regarding bisexuality and homosexuality. Deacon, the sexy almost forty years old pub owner, basically says he is bisexual but leaning more towards being gay since he doesn't like commitment, he doesn't want kids, he wants without strings attached relationships, and on and on, and he matches all his needs with a gay sex... now, I have to be true with Deacon, he maybe talked like that because he was scared by his feelings for an almost stranger, he wanted to protect his heart, like denying the love he was feeling before Shelby denied it first. But in any case there is a lot of talking about man meat, big man attributes, about being rough and ready where else sex with women is more emotional, almost like you are weak if you let feelings get at you.

Both Shelby and Deacon had relationship with women, actually they were both married to women, but Shelby has never had man on man experience (even if he was tempted), and instead Deacon lately leaned more on that type of sex ("lean" is exactly the verb he is using to define his preferences). Shelby is recently widower and maybe he is feeling guilty not since he betrayed his wife (he did not), but since he really didn't love her as he should have; basically he doesn't miss her, and maybe that is what is eating him alive, the guilty sense.

Deacon instead did not have a good relationship with his ex-wife, she cheated on him, and he is aware their two children are not his natural offspring, but in any case he loves them, while instead he doesn't have a so great opinion for women in general, maybe due to what his ex-wife did. Deacon is probably bisexual, while instead I think Shelby is gay. I don't see Shelby being able to marry again, or having children, while instead I don't exclude that on Deacon's future; I don't see it really happening only since Deacon is pushing forty and he is comfortable with his life as it's, he doesn't need any other children to prove his masculinity, not to him neither to anyone else. Different matter for Shelby whose family would like to see him being a father, they can probably accept his homosexuality, but they would like for him to be a father.

I have to be true, sometime, especially during sex, I didn't like so much when the men highlighted so much their "manly" attitude, it was like they were trying to prove that "manly" sex was better than gay sex (if that has any sense to you). But again, maybe the author was only trying to let it arrive to the reader that both men were scared by their feelings for each other, and not since they were feeling that for another man, but since they were feeling it, point, love is scaring.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00722Z5K4/...>

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### **Emma Sea says**

This book has an identity crisis.

The first 3/4 is awesome. It's gay porn, on paper. It's brilliant! What's not to love: hot tough ex-soldier bar owner and hot damaged *closeted* ex-football player. Marooned alone in a bar during a hurricane! Yummy! After a year of yearning glances. Double-yummy! Bitter, naked, sweaty, grappling, angry-sex ensues. As a smexy-as-hell PWP novella I give this 5-stars

Then it gets weird. The author brings in all the girly emotional stuff: do you love me? I'm not saying; do *you* love *me*? And a weird subplot with the ex-footballer's dad running for President, which gets left completely up in the air.

If it's PWP then that's cool. If it's an emotional journey of self-discovery and romance then I prefer to have this *throughout* the book, not all clumped together at the end. If I think I'm reading fun porn and then discover I'm not, I get confused.

My suggestion is if you want a hot smexy short story, read this. Then stop before the epilogue! Don't read that bit. Just stick with the PWP and relish it.

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### **SheReadsALot says**

This is a great M/M short story with well-plotted characters, characteristic Mercy Celeste witty dialogue and great sex scenes. Two men who have lusted over each other secretly are stuck together in a hurricane, one bisexual and the other in the closet? Hmm...wonder what can happen?

The back story for Thursday aka Shelby is sad. But through sadness there can be triumph. I loved so many quotes from this book, I would probably just end writing the entire story verbatim. And Deacon...he's how I like my men to be written in M/M romance.

Okay I am a Mercy Celeste fan. There I said it and I'm proud to let it be known. If you're looking for a short story with a plot, give this book a try.

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### **Karen says**

Wow this one was short (the story other things not so much) but very intense. I haven't read a lot by this author and after reading this I do believe I need to take a look at more of her books. While I would have enjoyed a longer story at the end of this I really didn't feel cheated, but I would be very happy to see more of the MC's maybe in a future story? novella? book? The MC's for me were just smokin' hot alpha males and I liked them...yes more would definitely be good, but The 51st Thursday was an excellent start.

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### **Kaetrin says**

I got about 41 pages into this 55 page 99c Kindle book. The concept was good - guy goes into a bar each Thursday for 50 weeks, on the 51st Thursday there is a hurricane - the bar-owner Deacon and Thursday are trapped in the bar and hijinks ensue. Unfortunately, I just didn't buy the mutual unrequited passion of the

pair. Shelby (aka Thursday) came into the bar each week yes, but they didn't speak to each other, apart from the basics or ordering a beer. They didn't exchange names or anecdotes or stories or anything. Deacon identifies as bisexual with a leaning towards men and at the start of the book, Shelby identifies as straight - by the point I got to, he seemed to accept he was gay and no-strings Deacon seems to have fallen in love - so that's a lot to unpack in a 55 page book. The early sex scenes had an element of dubious consent to them which bothered me a little - it was consensual but there was... a sort of threat which lingered in the air. In the end, it was late and I was tired and I just didn't care enough to read to the end.

There was confusion for me too with which "him" was being referred to in sentences from time to time - it seemed to change and made parts of the story hard to follow. And, as much as I liked the concept, I felt a bit hammered by the overuse of Thursday by page 10.

However, plenty of people like this better than I did, so YMMV.

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### **Ami says**

One one hand, this story has potential. The characters are intriguing enough to follow -- they show some interesting background. The slight "rough" sex amidst Hurricane Sally on the outside paints powerful scene. Unfortunately, the ending is abrupt; there is a sense of something unfinished between the two of them. I dislike the ending, the path that they take to "make the relationship work". It leaves me cold. I think if the story stretches out a bit more with a different ending (hey, I want me some romance, okay?), I might give this more stars.

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### **Katrina Passick Lumsden says**

The premise was cool. The execution? Not so great. I really liked the idea of this guy coming into a bar every Thursday at the same time for 51 weeks and then, whammo, he and the bartender are tossed together. What I *didn't* like was....well, the rest of it. I couldn't find it in myself to like either hero, their first sexual encounter is just bizarre, and the ending is rushed and unbelievable in its abruptness.

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### **T.A. Webb says**

Deacon's Place has come to be something of a shelter for Shelby Bainbridge. The damaged man limps into the bar one Thursday and finds...peace. Well, as much peace as he can, given what happened. So he comes in every Thursday, has a couple of beers and then heads home.

What he doesn't know is he's been noticed. Deacon has seen this man and is intrigued. Wonders about him, and what his story is. The fact he's hot as hell - an added bonus. So he's taken to watching out for him every Thursday.

When a hurricane forces most of his regulars out on the 51st Thursday, Deacon doesn't know if Thursday, as he's come to call his hot man, will be in. When he does, and can't find a taxi to take him home, Deacon makes his move. And the attraction he feels for Thursday - Shelby - well, it's returned.

But when they wake up the next morning, will anything have changed? And will the secrets that are exposed pull them together, or apart?

Mercy Celeste outdid herself with this steamy, sexy, hot but surprisingly sweet story. The sex is some of the hottest I've read, and as I got to know these two men, the romance some of the sweetest. This is a short story, so there's not time to flesh out all the daily things that make a relationship. Didn't matter to me - I enjoyed the hell out of this.

Because these two men are broken and vulnerable, and try hide it behind their rugged exteriors. But at their hearts, they are so very tender and wanting.

And that's Ms. Celeste's wheelhouse - sexy hot men. Strong. Damaged. Hiding. Tender. She takes all these things, does her magic and creates men who I want to know. Want for my own.

Very, very nice.

Tom

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### **Stellarria says**

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Well, that was a surprise!

I picked this book only because I wanted something short to read due to the lack of time I had. The blurb promised two hot alpha men and well, who can say no to that? Not me.

Deacon is a bar owner, divorced with children and gay. Shelby is a former quarterback, son of a senator and in the closet. Their first meet was 51 thursdays ago. I thought the author's approach counting the days like that was great. And Deacon calling Shelby 'Thursday' was so sweet.

The chemistry between them was instant and intense. The inner monologue I liked the most. There was anticipation and crazy hot sexiness in this story. And the most surprising part for me was that even though the story was too short I not only liked the two complex main characters, but they gave me the butterflies in my stomach.

The end of the book was not so good though. Not because of the HEA, the HEA was great. I couldn't understand why the author included the waitress character (I forgot her name) and the whole out of nowhere dialogue between the three of them. She had no place in their story and absolutely robbed the fifth star I was going to give to the book.

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