



Welcome to Serenity

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When Jeanette Brioché helped launch The Corner Spa in Serenity, South Carolina, she found a whole lot more than professional satisfaction. She discovered the deep and loyal friendships that had been missing from her life. But even the Sweet Magnolias can't mend the terrible rift between Jeanette and her family or persuade her that the holidays are anything more than a season of misery.

Pushed into working on the town's much-loved annual Christmas festival, Jeanette teams up with the sexy new town manager. Tom McDonald may be the only person in Serenity who's less enthused about family and the holidays than she is.

But with tree decorations going up on the town square and a bit of romance in the air, Jeanette and Tom take a fresh look at the past and a hopeful look into the future. Together they discover that this just may be a season of miracles after all.

Welcome to Serenity Details

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Author : Sherryl Woods

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Elizabeth says

I only got half way through this book and had to call it quits. The “romance” in this book is so not romantic. Tom can’t take no for an answer and forces kisses kisses and physical touch from Jeanette. And yet Jeanette is playing some kind of cat and mouse game with Tom, too. One minute her answer is no and the next she’s making a move. How anyone can call this book a romance is beyond me.

Debbie says

Another Romance in Serenity

As I was reading this book, I thought, " Here you go again.....riding a chick lit book...another romance." This book, not so unlike other chick lit books had me thinking about other things as I was reading.

This was the second book I had read here the woman in the story, the main character, was reluctant to fall in love. She had, of course, been hurt in some way in past relationships yet her heart tried to reach out. While repetitive in some areas, I realized that a person scared of sharing her heart would constantly be repeating the same thoughts....I cannot trust someone again.....I'll be hurt again.....I cannot take a chance on another man.....what if,what if, what if...

So, once I looks at the book in this manner, I approached it from a differ not way and put myself in the main characters' roles. I realized I would be much the same way if I approached love again.....when one has been away from love or relationships, how willing is on to open a heart or a comfortable life and take a chance on someone else. I have spoken to many in this position.....and they tell me, they wonder if they would be able to let someone into their life again.....to let someone into their heart again.

So while this might be considered just another romance novel, when I looked at the characters' thoughts, it earned a little more than just " chick lit."

Jeanne says

Couldn't get into this one. Characters and action all a bit too forced for me. The ending was even more of a disappointment. I was sorry I plodded through the story to get to that.

Donna Chapman says

Enjoyed this book very much. I like following the Sweet Magnolias and the adventures in their lives. I usually read a thriller then read something light and this book fits perfectly in that category!

Nancy says

I am still not sure how I feel about this book. For me, the ending was empty with no true conclusion.

Jeanette Brioché, the esthetician at the Corner Spa in Serenity, South Carolina, has her life in order. She loves her friends and their families but she is missing something in her life. In walks Tom McDonald, the new town manager. Theirs is a rocky start and it gets bumpier when she realizes that his mother is the woman that ran her out of the last spa that she worked at.

As the holiday season is quickly approaching, they are both active on the committee organizing the annual Christmas festival. There is an attraction and with Tom trying to work out his growing interest in Jeanette with her need for independence and his mother's need for him to move back home and take his rightful place in Charleston society, things get bumpy before they find their way.

As I said, the ending was empty for me. What did Jeanette actually agree to? Is she going to give up her own dreams and stability so Tom can pursue his own? Not sure where I stand with this book since I have enjoyed, to a point, the previous books. I enjoy the women of Serenity, I just wish that there was some reality before the happily ever after endings.

Tina says

I just finished this one this morning. I loved again the friend dynamic and the small town. I always wonder why I wasn't courted with the likes of the sweet magnolia's men, probably because they just exist in books :) The story is set around the holidays in Serenity and I think everyone will enjoy the fast read

Jans says

Welcome to Serenity is the most recent book in Sherryl Woods' Sweet Magnolias series. This is the most heartwarming, delightful book I've read in ages. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and embraced its characters in the first chapter.

Before I'd read even half the book, I'd already purchased four more of Sherryl Woods' books, including Stealing Home and Feels Like Family, two more of the Sweet Magnolias series.

The Sweet Magnolias are a group of four very close friends who live in the town of Serenity and are founding partners in The Corner Spa. They are the kind of friends we all want and need.

Jeanette Brioché meets Tom McDonald when both are assigned to work on the town's annual Christmas

festival. Jeanette and Tom are both reluctant to work on the committee, but Christmas spirit grows as they become better acquainted. Old hurts are healed and new bonds forged among friends and family members and the residents of Serenity.

There is just enough back story in *Welcome to Serenity* to define relationships and whet the reader's appetite to read more about the folks in Serenity. This is not a pulp novel, nor a bodice ripper. There are no car chases, nor action adventure scenes; just a wonderful story about very likable people. It's a feel good read from first to last page.

Serenity seems like the kind of cozy, small town community in which anyone would love to live. I encourage readers to grab a copy of *Welcome to Serenity* and the other three books in the series and join me in spending the winter making friends with the Sweet Magnolias.

My grade: A

Samantha Fetalvero says

Rating: 4.0

Yay! Finally finished! Again, this fourth book in this series deals with another romantic relationship between two complicated characters. Enjoyed the Christmas theme of this novel, but thought the storyline dragged out a bit longer than anticipated. Overall, it was still a pleasant read.

Laurie Smith says

A holiday story with the spirit of the season. A family mended and two people brought together who have lost the Christmas spirit. But with help from their friends and family they find their holiday happiness.

Jodi says

Jeanette Brioché is a Christmas humbug. She has her reasons. So does the new town manager. Tom McDonald has only memories of a form over substance holiday and sees no reason to get excited. Unfortunately, both of them are responsible for putting together the town's Christmas festival. Tom and Jeanette hit it off (in a match and flame sort of way) immediately but soon see beyond that and discover they like one another. But Jeanette is looking to make a home in Serenity and Tom sees Serenity as a stepping stone to something bigger. Neither one knows what to expect when love makes a Christmas miracle. This is a sweet story with pleasant and appealing characters. I found the southern charm a bit off-putting but most people will lap it up. There is a reason why the Sweet Magnolias is a popular series.

Valerie says

Great read, grab the Serenity series!

Love Serenity and all the fabulous stories in this fictional town! Tom and Jeanette's story, along with their back story kept me turning pages.

Thank you, Sherryl Woods!

Susan W says

okay okay okay,...I am torn with this one. I enjoyed the book and travelling to the town Serenity. What I didnt like was the Tom/Jeanette relationship. The new guy in town runs into this woman and wham he is taken with her. Ok....sometimes that happens yes. But what I dont get is she tells him off, tells him no and doesnt give him any leeway to believe there is a chance from what I was reading and yet, he pursues her still. Yes, there are those that believe anything worth fighting for is worth taking an ego hit once and a while, but to have SOMETHING between two people in their 30;s there has to have been some sort of conversation between them!!!! one minute they are barely in each others company, the next they are looking for houses for him, then she buys it and then "when he only had a finite amt of time to convince Jeanette that they had something special". how on earth do we at thirty have something special without having deep conversations with a person????? LOL seriously. This is my second book by this author - the other as well had parenting issues that didnt sit right with me. so, I rate the relationships 1.5 -2 in this one and the story itself was more enjoyable about a 3.

Tobborah says

This installment was like a breath of fresh air. There was less history between the two main characters, Jeanette and Tom. In fact, Tom is new to Serenity. They both have histories that bring a challenge to a budding relationship, especially since Jeanette doesn't want one and Tom has plans of moving on, not of finding a woman he can be serious about. It was a warm hearted read and while the story ended too abruptly for my happiness, I'm hoping subsequent installments give me the rest of their story.

Carol says

I'm still enjoying the Sweet Magnolia series. I like the way they have expanded the original group of three woman to include others who live in Serenity, but still maintained the closeness of the group. I'll be back in town soon.

Alyssa Edmonds says

The story line deserves a 5 out of 5. The reason it got a 4 was because at the end, it left me feeling empty and like there was still another few chapters left of the story before the book was over. Instead the story ended and there is another book in this series that I'm going to read but I don't know that Tom and Jeanette's story ever really wrapped up. Not as great a plot as the others but nonetheless it had two couples stories wrapped up into one book and Sherryl Woods does that well. I haven't read a book in two days and when I do, that means it was awesome! It keeps me on the edge of my seat the entire time and not wanting to put it down! Soo exhilarating!
