



Due South Boxed Set

Tracey Alvarez

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Due South Boxed Set Tracey Alvarez

The Due South bundle contains the first 5 books of Tracey Alvarez's best-selling series set against the stunning backdrop of Aotearoa, New Zealand. If you like Jill Shalvis, Marie Force, or Bella Andre, then you'll enjoy diving into these heart-warming, sexy & seductive small-town romances with authentic men and women struggling to find their special someone.

In Too Deep (Book #1)

To save her brother from financial ruin, police diver Piper Harland does the one thing she swore she'd never do—return to the tiny island hometown on Stewart Island where Ryan “West” Westlake crushed her heart. West lost Piper once, but now she's back for an unexpected six week visit. Maybe he wants her a little bit, but can he fall in love with such a flight risk? Saying goodbye the second time might just destroy them both.

Melting Into You (Book #2)

Ben Harland is, by his own admission, a bit of a grouch. He doesn't do soppy chick-flicks and he's hen-picked enough as it is with his mother and two younger sisters on his case. He sure doesn't need any more drama in his world. But life has a way of rearing up and biting him in the butt when he least expects it. Cue insta-daddyhood to an eight-year-old girl and an out-of-control attraction to Stewart Island's hot school teacher, Kezia Murphy.

Ready To Burn (Book #3)

Shaye Harland desperately wants the role of Due South's head chef, but the far too sexy Del Westlake muscles in and steals it. A reality TV show plans to feature Del at his estranged father's restaurant—jump-starting his ruined reputation and career in the States—but will the sparks flying in the kitchen burn his chances of ever becoming Shaye's Mr. Perfect?

Christmas With You (Book #4)

Carly Gatlin's doesn't want to spend another Christmas alone since her father died the year before. She's come to Stewart Island in New Zealand to spend the holiday with her stepfamily, though she feels more of a Christmas Grinch than filled with good cheer. Kip Sullivan's big, boisterous family have also arrived en-masse—someone just shoot him before his match-making relatives get out of control. Kip agrees to make Carly's first Kiwi Christmas special, but will he gain more than mistletoe kisses from the woman who threatens to claim his heart?

My Forever Valentine (Book #5)

Love small town romance and Happily Ever Afters?

Dive into the Due South world to find out what your favourite characters are doing to celebrate Valentine's Day with these four short and sweet romance stories.

Due South Boxed Set Details

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From Reader Review Due South Boxed Set for online ebook

Judes says

I would like to begin my review by saying that it was the reading of the book "Melting Into You" that introduced me to one of my "can't get enough of..." "can't wait to read another...", favourite author Tracey Alvarez. She is so solidly locked into my fav list with a top placing, as her style is truly the one of any readers' desires.

I was hooked and had to read the rest of the series as well as anything she wrote. Not only do you have well rounded characters (both main and minor) and locales that lend to the atmosphere of the whole experience but we are also given topics that we all experience within or lives, be it personally or among friends and family. You, the reader are treated to a full experience in a beautiful place, New Zealand, with all its beauty, culture and tradition. So believe me it is truly a MUST-HAVE series and Ms. Alvarez a MUST-READ Author.

How can you cram so much into a book and still be able to deliver so much more into the sequels?

Read them and you'll see why I love them ALL

IN TOO DEEP

This is the first in the series and while I read it second it was a must read for me.

I cannot say enough how much I enjoy Ms. Alvarez's style and books and will recommend her books to everyone who is looking to a full story that gives you more than just an h/H and their romantic journey. Actually the characters are pretty realistic as they all have issues and while working through it they find the ones that completes them, although these alpha males need to basically get hit on their head to realize this. That said...

In this story it's the opposite, as it's the guy, West, who accepts his heart is spoken for and he holds on tight to this vibrant, wonderful, independent potty-mouth girl, who is his heart since he was a teenager. Piper is dealing with a lot... her guilt, her broken heart (Yup for West) and a stubborn brother who treats her harshly as he unfairly blames her for the death of their father.

The town has a life of its own as each member of this small Stewart Island town breathes so much fun and rounds out the story so nicely.

You will love this journey of fiery attitude, emotional rides and ... Yup... Spicy romance that feeds the reader a great balanced meal of YUMMY YUM YUM!!

I would recommend this series, as it truly is a good read, so cock back and enjoy the ride!

MELTING INTO YOU

I read this book as a book within a BOXSET ("Love Down Under") and it catapulted me into a love of Tracey Alvarez books. Truth be told I paused and went in search of her other books and immediately joined her FB and Webpage, as she is definitely an author to tag as a fav.

Her style of writing I keep saying is so easy to relate to and bring you a full wonderful journey.

This story is about a grouchy tongue tied big brother Ben of Piper and Shaye (who we meet in the first and third of the series... Also must-reads)

Ben is totally smitten by the town's kindly teacher Kezia and yet is so out of his element around her he is his own worst enemy. Kezia has a young daughter and been married before so she is gun shy and while she too feels the attraction to Ben she does her best to keep it under covers ... Ha! Right!

It is not possible as they are thrown together and with the surprise of a daughter he did not know he had, Ben is trying to learn to be a Dad under fire, and occasionally needing the guiding hand of a pro in Kezia and her daughter, these two cannot keep it in the friend zone and BOOM!!! Fireworks!

It's so much more than just a romance as we also get backgrounds of each character and the emotional rides of their lives that add so much to making this not a story but a really good book.

So yeah all the needs for a good read covered in this and again Ms. Alvarez hits it right!

READY TO BURN

I am in love with some Due South AHHHHHHH!

This is the third in the series and with each book I found it amped up in its.... Everything!

This book truly, for me, hit every one of the markers I look for in a book and then some. You have angst, a fiery tempered lass with a deadly aim, sweet and savory as well as hot spicy romance all broiled into one book that you keep reaching for even when you should catch a couple hours before the dawn light shines in. You get so caught up in this Due South group as they become so much a part of your own clique and you just have to know what's going to happen with each of them. I love how Ms. Alvarez keeps the story flowing from one book to the next and we do not lose the characters from the previous books but we gain new friends and their stories trade place with a twist here and there. This one we see potty mouth sister getting married and we still catch glimpses of her story while (don't get me angry little sis) Shaye's story unfolds with this sexy crusty bad boy Del (West's little bro) who really is a sweetie under a whole lot of junk and attitude but oh o oh so sexy.

You run the range of emotions from laughter at the start with the back and forth between Shaye and Del and the sad hopeful of Bill and his illness and the tears when love seems unrequited... Also when it is as it is done so romantically it touches you in all the right spots. We also get some pretty naughty, spicy scenes (and I eh complaining AT ALL) because they keep the naughty in me happy.

So for a fun, full bodied and totally enjoyable read of some wonderful characters and some beautiful scenes pick this one up and make sure you grab the others, they each can stand alone but I enjoyed the follow along as I met the characters and they meant more as you get closer to them with each book.

CHRISTMAS WITH YOU

At first I thought ok a novella so we will just have a mild light story with superficial glimpses into the characters that doesn't give us enough. I was wrong on all counts but one... It wasn't enough, as I wanted more.

As all Tracey Alvarez stories I've read to date this too hit the markers.

She writes with this comfortable conversational style it's familiar and one can easily envision the scenes and get caught into the story. Not many writers can achieve this as you sometimes have to work out what exactly is the author trying to say or achieve but Ms. Alvarez gets the emotion so down pat that you flow into the story and that is what to me is a reading experience where the reader gets caught into the story.

Again this one "Christmas With You" has a lot of fun and humor that is balanced by some serious emotional issues or getting over loss of family at a family time of Christmas and moving on as you try to find a path to claim as your own.

Carly was introduced in the previous book as a young lady who is now alone save her step-family of Del, West and their Mom who now all live in New Zealand, so she makes the move to claim a space beside them as she heals from the recent loss of her Dad, who had been her sole pilot light for most of her life. To compound the emotional battle she undergoes she has a step-brother who is not so accepting of her, a crush on a co-worker Kip, which she is trying to ignore, and all this at Christmas.

Kip is the main attraction for the ladies at Due South Bar and also a co-worker of Carly, who has to circumvent around a nosy match making family who came down for the season as a surprise. His attraction to Carly is fanned to life and the dance begins.

We are carried along the family events and the emotional journey and the building of an explosive romance. You will not be disappointed as the writing style is so on par with the wants of a good book and while this one was a bit shorter than the others it is a must have to get some sweet Kip and Carly.

MY FOREVER VALENTINE

This one is very different to the rest of the series as it is more of 'catching up' with the couples we have grown to love in the Due South series.

I'm a bit undecided whether I like the layout of the chapters as its like snatches as you peep into windows of each couple and then you're quickly onto the next. Hence, the 4 stars.

I still love the series as I look at this book as more of a 'what has happened after the HEA' and we also get to share in Ben and Kezia's wedding, which is a bonus.

Since we have come to love the characters and wish to hear a bit more of their lives, this book does that. The spice is down played as it is more implied and this is definitely not to be read out of order or by itself as it is a follow up on each couple so be warned and honestly you won't regret getting the series as they are all realllllyyyy goooooooodddd!

"I received a free copy of these books in exchange for honest reviews. I was not compensated for any of my review, and I was not required to write a positive review. The opinion expressed here is totally and absolutely my own."

Rach Lawrence says

All reviews originally posted on Rach Lawrence Books.

I was provided a copy of Ready To Burn and Christmas With You by the author in exchange for honest reviews. I am not compensated for my honest opinion. I have read and reviewed 4 out of 5 books in this set.

In Too Deep (Piper and West)

In Too Deep was a flirty, fun, sexy read. Both main characters were stubborn, but the way the author had them butting heads was entertaining. Just when I thought it was starting to get old, they both gave in to the UST and allowed the fireworks to soar. That wasn't the end of their banter though. It continued even during the intimate scenes, but it was appropriate for the characters as they were written and amusing for the reader.

The story was much more than a romance though. Piper had to let go of her guilt over her father's death, and she also had to mend fences with her family. West had been holding on to a grudge thanks to his mother

leaving him years ago that rendered him incapable of being happy in a relationship. All of these plot lines were tied together nicely with secondary characters who added depth and meaning to the story. There were a few instances of Piper's brother's point of view, but they were integral to the plot and not just there to get the reader interested in the next book (although I'll add they did that anyway!).

I also enjoyed the way the author provided information on diving in a way any reader could understand. It was not too technical yet not too dumbed down.

In Too Deep is a must read for contemporary romance fans.

Melting Into You (Ben and Kezia)

Melting Into You is a standalone novel that is part of the Due South series. Even though it can be read without reading any of the other books, you'll want to read them all. Tracey Alvarez has a way of drawing the reader in to the lives of all of her characters, including the secondary characters in each story. The stories fit seamlessly together, but enough background information is provided in each book so you won't be left behind if you haven't read the others.

As usual, the main characters in this story show amazing growth throughout the tale. Ben is completely clueless about what to do with his daughter at the beginning of the story, to the point where he's literally counting down the hours until she's supposed to leave. With a little push from Kezia in the right direction, he falls in love with Jade without meaning to. The scene where he begs Marci not to take Jade away before he gets back to Oban will tear your heart to pieces.

Kezia, while sweet, loving, and a wonderful mother, is set on doing things on her own and not depending on another man after her relationship with her deceased husband fell apart. Even when Ben finally proves that he wants to be there for her—changing his commitment-phobia ways—she's unwilling to accept his help. It takes a good talking-to from one of Ben's sisters for her to see how pig-headed she's been, but once her eyes are opened you'll be cheering right along with their daughters for them to become a family.

There's even character growth in Ben's daughter Jade, who goes from shy and thinking poorly of herself to a happy, outgoing, strong girl. It's wonderful to see her open up to Ben, call him Dad for the first time, and even stand up for herself.

The romance in *Melting Into You* is perfectly intertwined with Ben's family growth, giving the reader more to focus on than just the growing attraction between Ben and Kezia. Tracey Alvarez has knocked another one out of the park with this five-star must read. She has quickly moved to one of the top spots on my favorite contemporary romance authors list.

Ready To Burn (Shaye and Del)

Ready To Burn is book three in the Due South series, but like the others, it can be read as a standalone. Also like the others, you'll enjoy it so much you'll want to read the rest of the series. Each book incorporates the characters and storylines from the previous novels and provides enough information on the secondary characters to intrigue you to read their stories. This book is about Shaye, the youngest Harland, and her continued quest to become head chef, as well as Del, the forgotten Westlake son's issues with his family and everything he's gone through in the years since he left Oban.

Both main characters have a lot of growing to do in this story. Shaye has an unrealistic idea of what she's

searching for in Mr. Right, and she learns through friends and family that even though you sometimes may want to kill your significant other, what's really important is the love you share and that you'll still only want to share it with that person. Del has a lot of hatred for his father since he thinks his father sent him away. In reality, his father did what needed to be done for Del and his mother to be happy, giving up his own happiness in exchange for theirs. Del finds out that when it comes down to it, your family has your back even when it doesn't seem like it. Although Del dreams of a career as a famous chef, he realizes there's more to life than fame and fortune. He's also surprised when his family supports him with no questions asked when they find out about his drinking problem.

As always, Ms. Alvarez starts the romance off with fireworks of a different kind. Shaye and Del butt heads immediately and frequently, but that switch is flipped at just the right moment, when the characters give in to temptation and begin to see more in each other. There's plenty more to the story than just the hot sex though. Family drama is an ongoing theme, with both Shaye and Del struggling to find their place in their family and learning who they can depend on. I always love when there's more to the plot than just romance, and *Ready To Burn* delivers in spades.

Shaye has always been the good girl in her family, and watching her characterization unfold is so amusing. She keeps a swear jar in the kitchen of Due South, and all the money collected goes to charity. Even in her head, her curses are adorably innocent. Del's foul mouth contrasts nicely, and the two are like yin and yang, opposites fitting together perfectly.

Any contemporary romance fan who enjoys a solid plot with family drama will love *Ready To Burn*, along with the other books in the series.

Christmas With You (Carly and Kip)

Having read several of Ms. Alvarez's books, I knew I could count on her to provide a well written contemporary romance with a happy ending. *Christmas With You* didn't disappoint in this aspect. Although this one is novella length, it still provided all of the aspects that make a good romance. There was attraction between the main characters with a good pace to the developing relationship, but there was also more to the plot than just romance. Both of the main characters had family issues to resolve before they could be truly happy with themselves and their relationship.

The Due South series to this point has encompassed mostly the people who lived on Stewart Island or were coming home to the island. One thing I loved about this book was that both main characters were outsiders, but still able to call the island home. Kip moved away from home two years prior and ended up as a bartender in Oban. Carly no longer had much of a home in the US after her father passed away and her stepbrother and stepmother moved to Oban, so she followed them in order to have some family. Yet both Kip and Carly felt a connection to the island—whether through family or a sense of fitting in—making their story feel like a cohesive part of the series. All of the books in the series are standalone, but you'll get the best reading experience by reading them in order.

The main characters were both likeable people, and Ms. Alvarez did a great job of bringing the heat between them. Their first sexual encounter practically sizzled off the page. I loved that Kip had an undeserved reputation for being a player. Instead of using the contrived player-turned-relationship guy, Kip was truly a one-woman kind of man who didn't let his lust for Carly get in the way of creating a meaningful relationship with her. But don't count him out as a hot alpha male. Bossy Kip was an incredible turn-on!

Romance fans who enjoy a little more to the plot will love this book.

Frankie says

A beautiful series of stories set in the gorgeous New Zealand South Island setting. Romantic, sweet, unique stories of love and discovery that I enjoyed immensely. Each story is related and follows on with the secondary characters from the previous books which is a perfect way to 'keep in touch' with the characters you love from each story.

I think the thing I love most about this author's writing is that she is able to jump straight into the story from page one and keep us intrigued and attentive from that point on. I also enjoy that she is able to insert unique plot points and character backstories into each book to ensure each one is new story for the reader and not just a repeat with different characters.

A solid 4 stars for the series. Any lover of a good romance with a little steam with complex yet likable characters is going to fall in love with these stories too. An added bonus is the New Zealand backdrop and culture intertwined in the stories. One click this series. You won't regret it.

My individual reviews for each book:

IN TOO DEEP: I was lost in it from page one when we begin to get to know Piper as we join her in a police dive. Ms Alvarez is fabulous at creating characters with depth and realistic personalities. Piper and West were both really fun to get to know, and I do really feel like I got to know each of them, and the best part is that each one continued to grow throughout the book.

Whole review here: <https://www.amazon.com/review/R37GODN...>

MELTING INTO YOU: Blending these two families was never going to be easy and the road is very rocky along the way, but the path they take to get their very own 'Happily Ever After' is well worth the battles. This story was gorgeous, well written and the characters are so real, with flaws, quirks and all. Add a little Italian firey personality and the passion is off the charts too!

Whole review here: <https://www.amazon.com/review/R1SRVE4...>

READY TO BURN: The pace of the story is great with lots of complex characters. We immediately begin to get to know Shaye and Del although we were already a little familiar with them (or knowledge of them) from the previous books in the series. The chemistry and tension between them is immediate and the tension between them is fantastic.

Whole review here: <https://www.amazon.com/review/R240HSS...>

CHRISTMAS WITH YOU: Although this book was shorter in length than it's predecessors, it packed no less punch. I have to admit it is my favourite in the series! I loved meeting Carly and Kip. Carly with her forwardness, welcoming nature and openness about what she wants out of life is fun and different to the other Harland girls and Kip was fun to get to know and I have to admit he is my favourite male character in the series so far!

Whole review here: <https://www.amazon.com/review/R2QXXOQ...>

MY FOREVER VALENTINE: This is really a quick catch up on the characters we already know and love. We get a little taste of the characters from each preceding Due South novel and a little of the gushy love that we love in a romance.

Whole review here: <https://www.amazon.com/review/R1POM20...>

Playing for Fun is the next in the series and once you've gotten through this set, you won't want to miss it.

My review here: <https://www.amazon.com/review/R2UKZ7F...>

Cheryl Sanders says

In Too Deep (Piper and West) #1

This book has it all. A little bit of mystery, intrigue, squabbling family members and an awesome love story which is happening in, around and behind all the other aspects of this story. I love island life because everyone knows each other and the gossip grapevines work extremely fast. There are rarely any secrets and I say rarely because a few of these residents are holding onto some pretty big ones. It's great the smart ass way Piper, West and Ben talk to each other. I had a few laugh out loud moments, as well as a few moments when I was reaching for a tissue. Great start to an amazing series!

Melting Into You (Ben and Kezia) #2

Tracy Alvarez has done an amazing job at telling this emotionally charged story of two people who have fallen in love but don't want to be in love because of past hurts. It's all about the struggles these two go through to get to that ultimate place in life that most strive for.

Ready to Burn (Shaye and Del) #3

Del is a chef in the U.S. and his mother asks him to return to New Zealand to help his ailing father at his restaurant called Due South. Shaye is the sous chef and assumed that one day she'd take over as head chef. You can imagine her shock and anger when she sees Bill's son Del arrive on the island and she's told Del will take over. She was angry when Del moved to the U.S. with his mother when she was 10 years old. She doesn't want to like Del but the sparks fly when they look at each other. Del doesn't want any ties because life for him is complicated enough right now but he just can't resist her. Shaye has a check list of traits her perfect man will have. Does Del measure up? What happens when they have to work together every day?

Christmas With You (Kip and Carly) #4

With the interference of the Sullivan clan, Kip and Carly don't stand a chance at fighting this matchmaking family. This Christmas novella in the Due South series is fantastic! Characters are funny, witty, and extremely sexy. There are moments that bring tears to your eyes but mostly laughter. My only regret is that I couldn't spend more time in Oban for the holidays with these fantastic families. Thank you Tracey Alvarez for another wonderful visit to this amazing island!

My Forever Valentine #5

Shaye and Del

A look into their cute Valentines Day celebration with Del in the hospital still recovering from giving his dad a kidney. It's not sexy being interrupted by your brother and sister while trying to wish your man a happy Valentines Day. Del in love? Even more sexy!

Piper and West

It's never easy waiting for those lines to appear, or not, on the test sticks. These two make their feelings clear to each other while waiting. They're so in love!

Carly and Kip

There's nothing worse than a Valentines Day surprise gone wrong but with one little scenario, all is right in their world. Kip tries so hard and is completely adorable, while romancing Carly in a situation that is not too romantic.

Kezia and Ben

Theirs is a love story for the books! Kezia's the Italian beauty that fell in love with the island boy. Ben is as

far from sophisticated as you can get but he loves Kezia with all that he is. Her surprise is fabulous even if he's having a "Murphy's Law" kind of day.

The Due South series is fantastic and it has been wonderful to re-visit these couples in such romantic circumstances.

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All 5 books in this boxed set are 5-Star reads! I highly recommend this series full of a few tears and lots of laugh out loud moments, fantastic families and gorgeous/sexy island men.

I was not compensated for my review.

I was not required to write a positive review.

The opinion expressed is my own.

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### **Gia Monet says**

Love these novels - Great characters, strong, sexy men and women living in a wonderful relaxed culture of sun and beaches. I will be reading more books by Tracey Alvarez.

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### **Charles C. Sellers says**

#### **Good reading, editing, strong language**

These five romances were all well written, with good plots, very well fleshed out characterization. Each is inter-related, with a shared set of characters, but each features it's own character focus. For this reason, the reader becomes more and more involved with the small New Zealand island town of Oban and it's occupants.

I would recommend this book but caution that it contains profanity and foul language which is not necessary to the plot in my opinion. Alas, this seems to be the case with most contemporary fiction. The interweaving of the personal stories with those of the other townspeople draws the reader's interest. All in all, I would give it a four plus, and found I hated to put it down.

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### **Leebecki Whitehead says**

In to deep: The characters are great I loved piper, west and all there family, it was well written and I will be reading the follow on books I can't wait to find out more about the other characters.

Piper an 18 year old girl who was upset about being dumped by her big brothers best friend goes free diving with her dad who she hadn't realised had been drinking the night b4, when something goes wrong and her dad dies in the sea she has to decide weather to pull him from the sea so she can bring him home to there family or stay in the water with the great white sharks. Living with the guilt for 9 years she returns to the island to help save her brothers home and the family business this would be easy if she hadn't turnt her back on her family in guilt and being blamed by her brother for her dads death, to become a police officer and diver officer, when she returns to the island she not only has her brother to deal with but west her ex

boyfriend who she has to work with to help save her brother, lots of history and tension make for a great book, after ups and downs they finally fall in love once again, will it be a happy ending, I won't spoil it for you, but if you love a sweet romance then this is the book for you.

Melting into you: another brilliant book i actually read this first and loved it so started the series.

ben Harland pipers older brother who never wants to settle down who's playboy ways soon catch up with when one morning while laided in bed dreaming about kezia the sexy widow who lives with his sister gets the shock of his life when he's woken by a pounding at the door, who turns out to be Marci a women he hadn't seen in 9 years and didn't remember until he heard her laugh. They had spent to nights together when he was in his 20s, ben wondering what she was doing there was then shocked when she introduce jade his daughter, ben knows nothing about children and is shocked more shocked when Marci tells him she's leaving jade with him for the summer so she can go off with her new boyfriend who doesn't like children. Ben and jade don't hit it off very well and he doesn't know what to do he calls on kezia to help who has an 8 year old daughter, the 2 girls become instantly friends, this means ben and kezia spend a lot of time together and bens feelings grow into something more than a quick fling but will kezia give him a chance to prove he wants more than a short term relationship which she won't settle for. The summer is hard for ben he's fallen in love but not just with kezia but with his daughter jade who is due to be returning to her mother but things change when Marci says she's not coming back. Bens life changes 10 fold he now has a full time daughter and a puppy as well as his business to deal with. With the help of family and friends he manages. On jades birthday her mum Marci returns and says she's taking jade back and the only way Ben will be able to be in jades life is to move with them and Marci wants him to marry her so they can be a family, jade doesn't want this to happen and runs off to kezia and tells her best friend, kezia decides she loves Ben but won't stand in the way of his life with jade. I won't ruin the end for you but its a brilliant read.

Ready to burn: another brilliant book, this time its about bens other sister shaye.

Shaye Harland wants to become head chef at the hotel she loves the job and when West's dad becomes ill and needs to stop working she hopes she will be made it as he has been training her and told her one day she will run the place, but then del Wests brother returns from Hollywood for west and pipers wedding, del and his dad don't get on because del left with his mum when she split with his dad. West asks del to take over the head chef roll much to shayes annoyance. Del agrees as long as he can get a top chef to film for a tv show del wants to put the place on the map by turning it into a trendy restaurant. Shaye starts to get renewed feelings for del even thou he drives her mad, will shaye get the happy ending she's longing for or not .

Christmas with you: Carly and kips story this book is lovely and I think Carly and kip are my favourite couple.

Carly is west and dels half sister she helps out at due south behind the bar, kip also is a barman at due south. Carly and kip are friends who's relationship starts off as friends with benefits but both there feelings develop to become more. This book is brilliant and my favourite I won't spoil it by telling you the end.

My forever valentine.

This is a collection of short stories about each couple and there valentines day, a sweet little book.

These books are brilliant and have lots of romance in mixed with the right amount of sassy a must read .

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## **Virginia Hill says**

DNF at 4% - Chapter 4 of In Too Deep. May return to it later. It's just not holding my interest.

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## **Carol [Goodreads Addict] says**

Due South: 5 Sexy New Zealand Beach Romances is an anthology of Tracey Alvarez's first five books in her Due South Series.

### **Book one In Too Deep**

Piper Harland left Oban, the township on Stuart Island she had lived in her entire life, when she was eighteen years old after losing both the love of her life, Ryan Westlake (West) and her father. Now, nine years later, she is forced to return to help her brother, Ben, who has broken his leg, run his charter boat service while he recuperates. As she and West are forced to work together, they are also forced to deal with their relationship. The attraction is still there between them but Piper's time on the island is supposed to be temporary. Piper and her family are also forced to deal with the long buried issues of her father's death.

### **Book two Melting into You**

Kezia Murphy has been let down by everyone that ever mattered to her. So she and her eight year old daughter moved to Oban to start fresh as the town's school teacher. She feels attracted to Ben but she can't let herself give in. She knows from experience how things would turn out. Not to mention that she has to concentrate on caring for her daughter. Ben doesn't do touchy feely. But he gets the surprise of his life when an ex shows up on his doorstep with quite a surprise. He needs guidance so he turns to Kezia for help. Neither Ben or Kezia were looking for romance but they were just so sweet together. Will they give in to their attraction?

### **Book three Ready to Burn**

Del Westlake, Ryan's brother, was forced to leave Oban when he was a boy and their parents split up. Now, his brother is getting married and his father is sick and can't run the family restaurant, Due South. Del goes back to Oban even though he swore he never would. Shaye Harland is Piper's sister and has worked at Due South since she was little and has dreamed of running the restaurant as head chef. But now Del is back and his father has named him as head chef. Del is also trying to restart his career and wants to invite the film crew for a reality tv cooking competition to Due South to film. With the film crew recording everything, Shaye and Del's chemistry grows, both in the kitchen and outside of it. But, Del does NOT fit the criteria Shaye has on her "perfect man" check list and Del is not planning on staying in Oban.

### **Book four Christmas with You**

Kip Sullivan has lived in Oban for two years and is the bartender at Due South. Kip was supposed to take

over the family dairy farm but that just wasn't what he wanted. So he fled to Oban to find out what he did want. Carly Gatlin is Del's step sister. She and Del were close and she missed him when he moved to Oban. So she packed up and moved thousands of miles to be near her step brother and step mom. After getting a job at Due South, the attraction between she and Kip becomes too much to fight. Add in a Christmas visit from Kip's huge family and you have a Christmas to remember.

### **Book five My Forever Valentine**

I loved this one. It's Valentine's Day and we get to revisit all four couples from the first four books to see how they are doing and how they spend Valentine's day together. I get so attached to couples I fall in love with in my favorite books so the chance to check back in with them was awesome.

I have loved this series from the start. The books are fun, sexy, sweet, and just plain awesome. I have also read book six in this series, *Playing For Fun* which I completely fell in love with and book seven, *Drawing Me In* is due out in May of 2016. Tracey also has an additional wonderful series, *Far North*, which I have also read and loved. So don't miss this chance to read these five wonderful books. I hope you'll enjoy getting to know these endearing residents of Oban as much as I have. I have also reviewed each book individually so for a more detailed review, please see each book's individual listing.

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### **Jennifer G says**

Tracey Alvarez is the Queen of taking the ordinary and making it extraordinary. *Due South* is one of my favorite series ever. I always say it's like going home, but it's not. The island is better. It's full of fun, hot people, caring for each other, having amazing sex, living lives we should all envy. Sure, they face obstacles, but they never have to face them alone. It's a sample of how home should be.

Piper's snarkiness, Kezia's loyalty, Shaye's family values and determination, Carly's simple sweetness, and desire to belong, Holly's fear of standing up for herself, Bree's mask of control that she presents to the world. These are the traits I identify with each of these women. I dare say you can relate to each one in your own personal way. West, Ben, Del, Kip, Ford, and Harley are all beautiful men that know how to satisfy a woman. They are all flawed and in need of something. The women are all the best of friends, true to each other like only women can be. The men share a brotherhood that is special and the entire group is like wh?nau.

The *Due South* stories follow a pattern. When you read one of the *Due South* books you know what you are getting; a love story that will face some rough patches, but will end in a happily ever after. That's only half though; the pleasure is in the path to get there. Whether it's set in a bar, a kitchen, a beauty salon, on a boat or a schoolhouse, you know the real story will take place at a kitchen table, a living room couch, a bench or a bed. The real story is between the people. Tracey creates such true characters with real depth facing real life situations. There is never any need for ridiculous, extravagant plots; she gives us the rawness, the beauty, pain, and fears of lives worth living. The evolution of each character during their journey to love leaves me feeling happy and eager for the next set of characters. That's a wonderful quality in a series.

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## Lucia says

These are five, well written, full length books that can be all read as standalone books, with no cliffhangers and happy ever afters (HEA), but once you start reading this series, you will be hooked! All books are written from dual points of views (POV) which allows the reader to get a greater understanding of both main characters in each book.

I've rated each story below out of the normal five stars on Amazon. Definitely recommend you read this series and you will no doubt fall in love with not only Stewart Island but many, if not all, of it's residents!

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**In Too Deep - Addictive Second Chance Romance that will pull you in! - 5 stars**

In Too Deep was the first book I read by Tracey Alvarez. I was gripped from start to finish by Piper and West's story, so much so that it was even better reading it a second time around!

In Too Deep is the story of a second chance romance between Piper and West. Piper is in the process of trying to make an important decision over where her future is heading, career wise after her heartbreaking history starts to have an impact on her present. Finally heading home, we start to understand Piper and Tracey Alvarez's development of Piper tugs at your heart strings, at times, with how torn she is, especially when throwing her history with West into the equation.

Although the characters have history, I liked how the author was able to carry their tension through the story, while also capturing their chemistry, and actually dealing with their issues, rather than just sweeping them aside and moving the characters forward to a happy place. The dual points of views also strengthen this story further; it was great to see both Piper and West's troubles from both their points of views.

The descriptions of the locations were very vivid and enhanced this story further. I felt In Too Deep was well paced, with a unique storyline on what could be seen as a 'typical second chance romance' story; I definitely couldn't predict where the story would end up. The HEA gave Piper and West's story a well rounded finish with no cliffhanger.

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**Melting into You - Heart strings will be tugged in this single parents romance story! - 5 Stars**

Having first met Ben, Kezia and Zoe in In Too Deep, they were intriguing characters who I'm glad got a story of their own.

Melting into You will tug at your heart strings almost from the get go and throughout, with different characters getting you at one point or another. This to me was a clear indicator of Tracey Alvarez's ability to develop believable characters with real emotions. The challenges that are faced by all aren't easy to deal with but the way they are handled is with sensitivity, delicacy and fittingly at times, humour.

I also liked how the author didn't have them 'falling in love' instantly, making the story more believable to the reader, especially with Kezia's history of previously being married and everything she has been through. The reluctance didn't feel like it was just the author's way of dragging out something, which can often feel like the case with some stories.

With a great writing style that draws you in, *Melting into You* definitely gives a different take on single parent romances.

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Ready to Burn - Things are getting hot and steamy in *Due South*'s kitchen and I'm not just talking about the cooking! - 5 Stars

Out of the whole of the *Due South* series so far, with *In Too Deep* my personal favourite, I think this is definitely a very close second! I wasn't really sure what to expect with this story with Shaye and especially with Del being more unknown but let me tell you, it definitely blew my expectations out of the water.

The writing, as always by Tracey Alvarez, is witty, funny and smoking hot; the chemistry between Del and Shaye quite literally simmers between the two characters from the get go, when they meet again in a rather embarrassing but sets the tone so well situation, until it boils over and you get to see just how 'perfect' these two are for each other, despite their own personal issues and preferences. The visuals described seemed even more vivid to me in this story and I think it shows just how well Tracey is able to describe places and by venturing briefly out of the main areas of Stewart Island and Invercargill, you really do feel like you are there and can picture the scene clearly. With each book in the series, I never feel like I'm constantly re-reading the same things twice, especially about the locations on Stewart Island.

One of the things I actually really liked about how this story was written was the interesting dynamic seeing both Shaye and Del in the same career, yet not clashing too much in regards to wanting to beat, or compete, against each other and sabotaging things for the other, as I would have typically expected. Yes, you get a bit of that rivalry over becoming head chef but you can also clearly see they respect each other as equals after the first few teething problems are overcome.

The changes both characters go through from beginning to the end felt like natural changes in both characters, which were already starting to occur and just grew stronger as the duo grow closer. It was also nice to see previous characters popping up and having an impact on both Shaye and Del's story. I loved Holly's reaction when talking about the revenge with the macaroons! We also get to learn a lot more about the Westlake family in this book, which actually if you were to re-read *In Too Deep* adds to Piper and West's story further.

As I say, definitely one of my favourites.

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Christmas With You - Let Kip and Carly steal your heart this Christmas! - 5 stars

I was relatively surprised by this little treat of a story in the *Due South* series. Unlike in the first three books, which were based more so on the three Harland siblings, Westlake family and established characters Kezia and Zoe, Kip and Carly are two relatively unknowns other than brief mentions in previous books, Kip especially more so than Carly. I was intrigued to find out more about these two characters and where their story would fit in with the whole *Due South* series but thoroughly enjoyed their story.

*Christmas with You* is a sweet little romance set during the festive period where things heat up between a naughty sexy bartending santa and his horny little lost elf. I liked how Kip's family were introduced and used throughout, adding depth to Kip's character in a subtle way, especially regarding his surprising childhood and teenage years that you would not have expected. I also liked the added dimension of the story with West and Carly; it was quite a poignant way of reinforcing Carly's emotions and struggles aside from her



relationship with Kip.

The story as a whole was relatively drama free but with enough tension at times that it wasn't overly sweet and false feeling. Carly's past christmas mission traditions and how they were incorporated into the present in the story was a sweet way to link her past with his present to create their future.

Christmas with You is a sweet, well written, heartfelt, HEA christmas story.

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My Forever Valentine - Whet your appetite with a teasing glimpse into the lives of our favourite couples on Stewart Island! - 5 stars

This is such a teasing and sweet glimpse into the futures of the lives of our favourite couples from books 1 to 4 in the Due South series. The book is well written, unsurprisingly, and give just enough to whet your appetite without going too far. A word of warning, you do have to have read the other books first for each couple to fully understand these four short stories and they do contain spoilers on outcomes of stories, especially in Shaye and Del's case.

I won't say too much about the story but Shaye's was the most shocking, I think, because who would of thought that our sweet and innocent little Shaye could get up to such ninja style antics! Ben and Kezia's story twist I didn't see coming and Kip and Carly's story was so funny with the situation they ended up in; definitely not the most romantic place but so perfect and sweet in the end. My favourite, overall, has to be Piper and West's story but that is personal preference as they were the first couple I read about and made me fall in love with this Due South series.

Also, these mini stories answer questions you didn't realise in some ways were still lingering on from each couple's books in some ways, especially Shaye and Del's and Ben and Kezia's.

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading this series so far, and can't wait to read more from Stewart Island!

I received a free copy of these books in exchange for an honest review. I was not compensated for my review, and I was not required to write a positive review. The opinion expressed here is my own.

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## **Teri says**

### **In Too Deep**

These two have a love hate relationship going on, the kind that's kinda hard to take since they really are quite hard on each other him especially. But when it comes down to it they find out what's important and find their way around her tough exterior walls and his prickly mean ones. Good read

### **Melting Into You**

This couple was much easier for me to relate to. When the grumpy man of few words Ben gets his world turned upside down again this time it's for keeps. But when he makes that focus allow him to make decisions it may cost him his happily ever after just cause he is hardheaded and a man. Great story of love and support and friendship.

### **Ready To Burn**

Not a bad read but the characters just didn't do it for me. I just didn't get the attraction by the end it just became predictable and repetitive with Del.

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## **Cathy Geha says**

Due South: Five Sexy New Zealand Beach Romances

By Tracey Alvarez

What a treat this boxed set will be for anyone looking for great romances set on a beach in New Zealand. This is a place I would love to visit with people I would like to claim as friends. I have read each book as it has come out and written reviews for each one. Below are the individual reviews:

### **IN TOO DEEP (#1) – 5 Stars**

This may be Tracey Alvarez's first novel but hopefully it will not be her last. The characters she has peopled her story with are all multidimensional and interesting. The small town in New Zealand where this story takes place is inviting, charming and one that I would love to visit...if it exists in real time. I found that there is a Pinterest page with photos that were inspiration for the author when developing the book's characters and the location of the story – what fun!

Piper, a police diver working in Wellington, is called home to assist with a family emergency. When she left at 18 she never really thought she would return to the island she grew up on. Upon her return she is forced to confront and deal with the past and that includes her first love, Ryan. The plot and characters are multi-dimensional, the twists and turns interesting enough to draw you in and make you wonder what will happen next. And, though I have never considered underwater diving with a tank I could easily visualize all that was written about. I was also introduced to the sport of free diving and just how scary it would be to compete in such a sport.

I believe anyone who enjoys a well written Adult love story will enjoy this book.

### **MELTING INTO YOU (#2) – 5 Stars**

Another wonderful love story set on an island off of New Zealand has been written by Tracey Alvarez! Her first book rated five stars with me so I wasn't sure what to expect with this, her second book in the Due South series. Tracey has created a story that deals with the ideas of responsibility, sharing of emotions, love, parenting, dyslexia and family in this wonderful adult novel.

Ben is a carefree dive boat owner who ends up with a young daughter he never knew about until the day her mother brought her to stay with him. He asks his neighbor, Kezia-the young widowed schoolteacher with a daughter the same age, for assistance while learning to deal with this addition to his life. The ups and downs of Ben and Kezia's love story along with the interactions of Ben's daughter, Jade, and Kezia's daughter, Zoe, are entertaining and a delight to read. I am a sucker for happy endings and this well told story of love was one I thoroughly enjoyed. I look forward to reading the next book in this series as soon as it comes out!

### **READY TO BURN (#3) – 4 Stars**

Tracey Alvarez has created a community with characters that are one hundred percent likable and set them in a small coastal town in New Zealand that I would love to visit. This third book in the Due South series is the story of Del Westlake, chef from Los Angeles, and Shaye Harland, sous chef in the kitchen that Del's father

owns. The characters in previous books do make a few appearances but the book is mostly about Del and Shaye, their dreams and the fulfilling of them, their families and what makes them tick, and of course the development of their relationship with a few hurdles to overcome. I look forward to reading what will happen in book four and have a feeling it might be about Carly and Kip.

#### **CHRISTMAS WITH YOU (#4) – 4.5 STARS**

Tracey Alvarez has the ability to create characters with depth and worthy obstacles to overcome while they are falling in love. As part of the Due South series this novella tells the story of Kip the bartender and Carly the stepsister of two brothers that have starred in previous Due South books. The attraction is strong and believable, the scenes well crafted and entertaining; the problems of Kip and Carly that must be overcome are often faced by real people and the story in its entirety a true delight.

#### **MY FOREVER VALENTINE (#5) – 4 STARS**

Tracey Alvarez had created a series of love stories based in her Due South series that are all filled with great characters and storylines. It is hard to say goodbye to the couples at the end of each book but having this Valentine's collection of short stories allows a glimpse into the lives of the couples met in each of the previous four novels. There may be only fifty or so pages in this collection but each page is well written telling an excerpt from the lives of people I would love to have friends - and – the stories left me wanting to read more about the couples, or other couples, in the future

I was asked to review this anthology by the author but do have to say that I have recommended this series to my sister and to others.

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### **Jeene Hobbs says**

#### **Kiwi HEAs, 4 of them**

This is a set of 3 novels, a novella, and 4 Valentine's short stories about the couples from the previous stories. All set in a small coastal town in Stewart Island, New Zealand.

I honestly had a hard time getting started but once I was about 1/2 way into book 1, it was pretty easy going. These are stories about folks who grew up together for the most part. Their youth together sometimes adversely impact their futures.

Spicy, but not crude or vulgar. At times very witty. I will most likely read the rest of the series.

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### **Natasha says**

I love the "Due South" series!

In "In Too Deep," Piper and West are great characters. Piper is feisty and takes no crap from anyone, West is the charming local business owner who always helps his friends. I thought the whole setup was realistic, but with enough wiggle room for it to still be fun.

The push-and-pull between West and Piper let me see how much they still wanted each other, but how hurt

they both were from their first relationship together. The way both characters' families influenced how they view romantic relationships was honest and relatable.

"Melting Into You" was a solid follow-up to "In Too Deep." The chemistry between Ben and Kezia is fantastic and the story has the right amount of twists, so there were still situations and solutions I didn't see coming. The sweet local teacher falling for the supposed bachelor turned surprise dad takes place in a small island town. This adds a sense of caution to upsetting Ben and Kez's friends and community if their romance soured. This was my favorite book in this set.

Book three, "Ready To Burn," is also great. Shaye, sweet yet fiesty, standing firm but never becoming a bitch. Del, a self-involved jerk, who starts to realize he doesn't have to be that way.

I wasn't sure what could happen so I would actually like Del, and was pleasantly surprised. He definitely became a guy I could realistically and happily see Shaye with. I appreciate how forgiving Shaye is, but not doormat forgiving.

I like how the entire cast of characters show different aspects of rural, island life, but they are not so far out there that I can't relate. The location continues to be an aspect of how this close-knit community interacts.

"Christmas With You" is a sweet and spicy Christmas novella. Since this is a Christmas-themed story, I thought the contrasting family situations worked well. Carly is still mourning the death of her father and is having a hard time as their favorite holiday approaches. Kip moved to the other end of the country to escape unwanted family expectations and isn't overjoyed to learn of his family's surprise visit.

Even though I expected a fair amount of family/community interactions, I wished there had been more Kip and Carly one-on-one. That being said, none of the group situations felt forced and it felt like the whole community was prepping for Christmas and all that entails in a small town.

I previously received "Ready To Burn" and "Christmas With You" as free books in exchange for honest reviews. I purchased "In Too Deep" and "Melting Into You" myself, and thoroughly loved the entire series.

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