



The Room with the Second-Best View

Virginia Smith

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Al Richardson agreed to open a bed and breakfast with his wife after his retirement, but he still has a year and a half left at his job when Millie spies a business opportunity with the arrival of Goose Creek's 200-year anniversary celebration. Even though Al suspects that Millie pulled a bait-and-switch on him, he firmly believes she should stick to their original plan. While Millie's ambition puts a strain on their marriage, she is confident in her ability to be the most gracious Southern hostess. But even she has to admit that her first group of guests is undeniably an odd collection. Meanwhile, the town's anniversary plans are in a state of chaos as the celebration committee scrambles to raise the necessary funds--an effort spearheaded by a "newcomer," which ruffles more townsfolk's feathers than a whole flock of enraged geese. Goose Creek has lasted 200 years. Can it survive the next month? Find out in *The Room with the Second-Best View*, the third installment of the Tales from the Goose Creek B&B series!

The Room with the Second-Best View Details

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Author : Virginia Smith

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RJM says

Excrllent

Very interesting and enjoyable, lots of fun. The characters are so real and lovable I feel I know them personally. A great series and good read.

Lynn says

This is the third book in the Tales from Goose Creek B&B series and I have read and enjoyed every one! The characters are lovable and you will find yourself getting attached to the residents of small town Goose Creek, Kentucky. I can't wait for the next book!

Emily says

This is the third book in the Tales of the Goose Creek B & B series. Millie and Al Richardson are still working on renovations for the stately old home, the one they bought with the intention of opening a bed and breakfast inn.

Things are moving along well until progress is interrupted by plans for a wedding, the Goose Creek 150th anniversary celebration---and Millie's accident.

Like the earlier books, the reader is reminded of small-town life as in Mayberry (the Andy Griffith TV show) or Mitford (Jan Karon's fictional town). Little towns are special because very few people mind their own business. In this installment, everyone except the bride and groom wants an elaborate wedding. And there's dissension among residents about the anniversary celebration as well as who will be the best person to head up the Main Street program. Things do work out in the end, but there's plenty of strife and humor along the way.

I love this series. Being from a small town myself, I recognize the characters, because they remind me of someone I know. You can enjoy this one without reading the earlier installments, but I encourage you to check out the entire series. I can't wait for the next installment.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Harvest House Publishers. I did not request a review copy and was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

<http://tnchristianreader.blogspot.com...>

Becky says

Al and Millie Richardson are working to refurbish an old Victorian home into a Bed and Breakfast Inn in Goose Creek, Kentucky. Justin has been doing the labor in exchange for his room and board until he marries Susan. Everything is going just fine until Aunt Lorna comes to town and tries to take over the wedding plans for Justin and Susan, and actually she tries to take over the B & B. Virginia Smith has given us another installment in the Tales from Goose Creek B and B series.

Aunt Lorna feels that Justin and Susan are planning to fail by not making plans that suit her. She wants them to have a "big" wedding, with flowers, guests, cake, and the works. To say that Aunt Lorna is overbearing is a gross understatement. She tries to tell Millie how to run the B & B (even though it's not open yet, but she arrived three weeks early to take up residence), she tries to tell Susan how to plan her wedding, and she brought her other nephew, Ross, with her to help out.

On the flip side of things, Millie is on the Main Street Program committee to celebrate Goose Creek's sesquicentennial. But before one important meeting, Millie falls and sprains her wrist and bruises her tail bone, therefore Al has to attend the meeting in Millie's stead. One issue in front of the committee is who is going to be in charge of finding the money to do all that needs to be done to spruce up the town. The only one willing to take over as the manager for the Main Street Program is Lulu Thackery--a most obnoxious woman who doesn't understand tact, discretion, or quietness. Millie believes in Lulu and takes the time to help her out, and actually becomes friends with Lulu. Lulu returns the favor by bringing Millie a Parsnip Cake, that surprisingly tastes good.

This is a fascinating book with another look at the people who populate Goose Creek and it is a strong four-star book. There are times that the plot is a bit slow, but overall, it's a good book.

My thanks to Harvest House for allowing me to read and review this book.

Fiction Aficionado says

I really admire writers who can take everyday life in a small town and turn it into an engaging and entertaining read. And that is exactly what this series is. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the residents of Goose Creek as they deal with life, get up each others' noses (in a polite, Southern kind of way), and learn a little bit of grace along the way.

This is the third novel in the Goose Creek B&B series, and although you could read them as stand-alone novels, I think the most enjoyment is gained from reading them as a series. The story lines are self-contained within each novel, but you will have a richer understanding of the characters and their relationships with each other if you have read the previous novels.

Al and Millie are the nearly-retired, 'salt-of-the-earth' couple at the centre of the series, now working to restore their newly acquired Victorian home so they can open as a B&B when Al retires – in exactly two years and eight days. I love the way Virginia portrays this couple, capturing the nuances in their relationship

after thirty-eight years of marriage – like Al's immediate suspicion when Millie serves up all his favourite dishes for dinner, eschewing her normal wifely concern for his health. What is his sweet wife up to now?

But not even Millie could have envisaged Justin's Aunt Lorna turning up three weeks early for the wedding, bringing her high opinions and meddlesome ways with her; nor working with the grating and tactless Lulu Thacker on the funding application for the Main Street Program. And yet, while there is plenty of the eccentric and the ridiculous to tickle your funny bone, there is also the reminder that even those who annoy us have their redeeming qualities.

I have to confess I was a little disappointed not to have seen much of Tuesday Love in this one. I was kind of hoping that we were building up to something in the previous book in the series (something for the Christmas novella, perhaps?) There were also a few times towards the end that I felt as though we had somehow skipped a scene, being told after the fact how something panned out rather than being shown. But don't let that put you off!

This is a fantastic series if you're after something light, humorous, well-written, and engaging.

I received a complimentary copy of this novel from the publisher in exchange for my honest review.

DJ says

I enjoyed the book very much.

In this book a 'snooty' aunt arrives at the B&B three weeks prior to the wedding of her nephew and the local vet and how her 'persuasion' and suggestions cause more tension and confusion.

The various characters and the daily events kept the story interesting, entertaining and moving right along. I loved how Albert helped and stood behind his wife, Millie at every turn.

I have read and enjoyed the other books in this series.

Becky Lewis says

Readers of Jan Karon or Ane Mulligan, here is another small-town series sure to delight and entertain. While Room with the Second Best View is Book Three of three in the Tales from the Goose Creek B & B, I had no problem entering into the spirit of friendships and difficulties of Goose Creek.

Virginia Smith has populated her town with so many wonderful, quirky people. Unfortunately, some of them are just too true to life. Justin's great aunt thinks her money allows her to control everything, including Justin and Susan's wedding. I loved the way that Millie and Al have learned to work through their issues after so many years of marriage. The town even has Lulu, the requisite person nobody likes, but none can ignore. How do you deal with such an irritating resident as Lulu?!

One word of warning. If you choose to read this book in the presence of others, let them know you may break out in frequent, unexpected whoops of laughter. This is something beyond your control.

I highly recommend this book as an infusion of endorphins for the soul. I gratefully received this book from

Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Alisha says

3.85

Ann says

Another great installment of this fun series about the residents of Goose Creek.

Michele says

Another enjoyable entry into this series about life in small town Goose Creek, Kentucky and the people who live there. The main characters are Albert & Millie who are renovating an old house to turn into a B&B when Albert retires in two year's time. In this one, the local vet, Susan, is marrying a local boy. The other story-line involves getting ready for the town's 150th anniversary.

Great characters, enjoyable story-line and all done without sex or profanity. A great read.

Iola says

This wasn't the easiest book to get into – it took me three tries to get past the first few chapters. I suspect part of that is that it's the final book in a series, and I haven't read any of the earlier books (I didn't actually realise it was part of a series when I requested it for review). This made my first two attempts more difficult than they would have been if I'd read the earlier books in the series.

No, it's not a fast-paced thriller. It's not a romance (although it's certainly a story of love and marriage, with Al and Millie providing some important lessons on how to make a marriage last). But it is a well-written character-based novel with a group of interesting characters and a pile of low-key interpersonal conflict provided by Lulu the annoying neighbour (who has odd recipe ideas--recipes included), and Miss Hinkle, the opinionated unexpected guest (opinionated and manipulative).

The overall tone was light drama—once I got into the story, it had a little of the feel of *The Most Exotic Marigold Hotel*, only set in small-town America (something which is as foreign to me as the Indian location of the Marigold Hotel). Oh, but Al and Millie's B&B is a lot classier than the Marigold Hotel. Especially once Miss Hinkle has visited.

If you've read the earlier books in the series, you'll enjoy this. If not, you might want to read the earlier books first. And if you have read the earlier books (or this one) ... you won't want to miss *A Goose Creek Christmas*, the new Christmas novella, available as a free Amazon download (and probably from other retailers as well).

Thanks to Harvest House Publishers and NetGalley for providing a free ebook for review.

Janka H. says

The best in the series yet!

Susan and Justin's wedding is close. Millie, hot-headed as she is, plans to unofficially open their B&B just a bit sooner (read: 2 years sooner), so she invites a few guests to stay with them in hopes Al would be OK and everything will process smoothly.

Wrong assumption.

The town prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary - but there are no money. Some funding is possibly available - and the potential conflicts is in brewing for the position of a fund manager, mainly as Lulu Thacker steps up to the challenge.

Relationships are tested, obstacles are to overcome and the prejudices are to be explored in this hilarious, witty novel. I have laughed like crazy, I nodded my head in considerations and I have even cringed as the faulties in the characters hitted close to home a few times. Humans are petty here - and also loving, warm and full of surprises. This is a whole food for thought hidden here in the guise of a parsnip cake (which I need to try!).

Great read which I have thoroughly enjoyed.

Daphne Sharpe says

A great easy read that is most enjoyable and part of a series about the small American town of Goose Creek. Al and Millie Richardson live there and are the central characters. Millie wants to turn their home into a Bed and Breakfast, Al wants to wait until he retires. When Justin, the local handyman, who has been helping Millie and Al renovate their home, needs a place for his aunt to stay before his wedding to the local vet Susan, Millie offers her a room at their house.

Justin and Susan want a quiet, simple wedding, but they reckon without Lorna, who is a force of nature, a hurricane of taste, money and the desire to do her very best for the young couple. Lorna is a strong, bossy, domineering character, but her love for her nephew is real. She interferes in his wedding plans through good intentions, and turns the lives of Al and Millie upside down- because she can! However, Lorna is likeable and melts your heart- eventually.

I loved Millie, she loves her husband and is content in her life, she is the perfect antidote to the stress and strains of modern life. I found this a comforting book, like the Waltons would be if relocated from their mountain into small town America. It shows that the rural idyll of peace and quiet is greatly desired, no matter which side of the pond we live.

I received this book as an ARC in return for my honest opinion, thank you.

Teresa Snyder says

Another delightful Goose Creek story. Laugh-out-loud funny. If, like me, you're a Fanny Flagg fan you'll love the Goose Creek books! Looking forward to the Christmas novella - A Goose Creek Christmas.

Kristina says

The Room with the Second Best View by Virginia Smith is the third book in Tales from the Goose Creek Bed and Breakfast. Millie Richardson has convinced her husband, Al to sell their home and buy this beautiful, big Victorian home. It will be a bed and breakfast that they will run after Al retires (in about two years). In the meantime, Millie and her friend, Violet have been working on each room along with the handyman, Justin Hinkle. Justin had been staying in the house, but now he is moving into his own home and his marrying the local veterinarian, Dr. Susan Jeffries (of Goose Creek Animal Clinic). The two have planned a simple wedding, but Justin's Aunt Lorna has some different ideas (and she always gets what she wants). Millie is going down the steps in her bunny slippers one morning, slips, and falls. Millie sprains her wrist and her caboose. This puts a wrinkle in some of Millie's activities and the burden is going to fall to Al. Millie agreed to let Justin and Susan's wedding guests to stay with them. Millie considers it a trial run for the B&B (she is going to find out how unprepared she actually is for this new venture). Al is not thrilled especially now that the works is going to fall on him. Millie assures him that the guests will only be there for a few days. But then Aunt Lorna shows up three weeks early with a mountain of luggage (demanding the best room in the house). There is no other place in town for Aunt Lorna to stay. Justin's new home is not furnished. This is just the beginning of the problems for Al, Millie, Justin, and Susan. Will the four of them make it to the wedding day? What is going to happen to Justin and Susan's "simple" wedding? What else is in store for Millie and Al? You will have to find out by reading The Room with the Second Best View.

The Room with the Second Best View is a must read. It had me laughing frequently throughout the story (especially Aunt Lorna's antics). While it is the third book in the series, it can be read alone (background information on characters is provided). The writing is very good, and the book has a good flow. I was totally engrossed in this book while reading it (and I got annoyed every time my mother interrupted me to ask why I was laughing). The characters are entertaining and very relatable. Ms. Smith really brings them to life through her writing. I did not want the story to end. I give The Room with the Second Best View 5 out of 5 stars (I loved it). I am definitely getting the other books in the series to read. I especially like that there is no foul language or sex in the books (it does not need it). The author achieved just the right tone with her humor (it is not over the top and the incidents are things that could happen to any of us). I hope I have nudged you in the direction of reading this charming book!

I received a complimentary copy of the book in exchange for an honest review. The comments and opinions provided are strictly my own.
