



Love Me at Sunset

Lucinda Whitney

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An ex-con reforming his life. A pregnant widow hiding her past. Will the price of her secrets cost her his love?

Catarina Romano has lost everything: her husband, her house, her lifestyle. She flees to her cousin's empty manor in the heart of Portugal, trying to find peace and to hide from the scandal spun by the media, only to discover she is pregnant.

Afonso Cortez is done with all the lies. Fresh out of prison for trusting the wrong person, he's ready to leave the past behind and look ahead to new opportunities. The remote Sunset Manor, in need of a groundskeeper, is the perfect solution, promising to provide Afonso with the solitude he craves while he restores the grounds to their former glory.

Catarina avoids Afonso at first, not wanting to further complicate her life. But Afonso is intriguing, and she feels drawn to him. If only she didn't feel guilty for all the secrets she's keeping from him.

When suspicious accidents start occurring at the property, Afonso believes his past is catching up with him. Will he be able to protect Catarina or will he lose the woman who might restore his belief in love?

The Romano Family series follows the stories of the Romano cousins of northern Portugal as they find love and their Happily-Ever-Afters.

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Current books in the **Romano Family** series:

- Book 1- *Hold Me At Twilight*
- Book 2- *Meet Me At Sunrise*
- Book 3- *Love Me At Sunset*
- Book 4- *Keep Me At Christmas*
- Book 5- *Kiss Me At Midnight* (coming soon)
- Book 6- *Marry Me At Dawn*

Love Me at Sunset Details

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Love Me at Sunset for online ebook

Isha Coleman says

Love Me At Sunset (Destined For Love: Mansions) by Lucinda Whitney

Their story was bigger than even they knew. A hope for the future, a chance for a new beginning and a danger that neither saw coming. Was it love? Lucinda Whitney delivers small town stories with big time suspense wrapped up in heartwarming reads. Love Me at Sunset is one man's journey to redemption and one woman's second chance at love. Against the backdrop of beautiful scenery lies a tale of heartache, intrigue and romance that is good at keeping readers guessing and hearts racing until the end of the line.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

I loved the setting of this book in Portugal! The author has a real talent for giving the reader a sense of the country and culture in a subtle way that doesn't overpower the story. This is a story of new beginnings for Afonso and Catarina, and their relationship slowly grows throughout the book. I loved the little kindnesses Afonso shows to Catarina and her astonishment at his gentleness and caring. Even though she grew up in a loving family, her difficult marriage made her skeptical of gentlemanly behavior. It was interesting to see the layers of their past lives revealed little by little, and grow hopeful that these two healing people could find a future together. Wonderful romance and special moments between Alfonso and Catarina are really what made this book for me!

(I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions in this review are my own)

Lucinda says

Ah, Afonso and Catarina...

Poor Afonso has been through some hard times. He made some wrong choices and trusted the wrong woman, and ended up in prison as a result of that. But he's ready to put it all behind him when he gets out. He wants to start over and doesn't want anything to do with secrets and lies. He's learned his lesson.

Catarina is adrift. Her husband died fleeing the police, and she's lost everything else as well. Luckily her cousin Filipe gives her a place to stay while she's trying to recoup. To top it all off, she's pregnant.

These two were not easy to write, but so worth it. I knew they were perfect for each other and I hope I've made them justice.

A lot of the Romanos you already know are back for brief appearances and new Romanos whose stories are coming are there too.

And this story has everything, including, bad guys, a birth, a baby, a wedding day, a christening day, and a mansion in a remote place!

Hope you'll love this story as much as I do!

Cathy says

I really enjoyed this book! I loved how the characters meet in the beginning and there is a huge misunderstanding about just who each of them are. It was really fun to see how this part resolved itself!

I liked Catarina, she's a good woman who is recovering from a terrible marriage. She has a lot of things she's trying to work through, which makes any relationship that she might eventually have even more difficult. And I loved how clever she was when it counted the most.

Then there's Afonso, at the beginning the reader knows he's been in prison, but doesn't know why. I liked him even more as his story came out. I liked the way he looked after Catarina, even when he had no idea what was wrong with her. He was kind and compassionate.

I loved the plot of this one. Just when I thought that everything was going to turn out just how it should, there was a twist in the plot. I thought the author did a really great job having a love story with a hint of danger.

This is part of the Destined for Love Mansions series. I loved the house in this one, it made me want to go to Portugal and find a house like it for myself. And the piano in this one is one of my very favorite parts.

This is a great romance book that you won't want to put down!

Amy Koster says

From the first paragraph to the last sentence I fell in love with this sweet story. The beautiful scenery, small town, and one amazing family Book 3 of the Romano Family does not disappoint. The minute Alfonso was introduced I knew he would be a heart throb. He is a perfect gentleman who learns to love and trust. He is also hilarious! My heart hurt for Catarina. I could not imagine living the life she had all alone. She is strong and brave.

This book, along with the others in the series, is filled with fun, drama, romance, and suspense. Once you start, you fall in love and are unable to put it down. A great clean read all around.

*Please note I received a complimentary copy of the book; all opinions in this review are my own.

Mara says

This is another great story about the Romano family in Portugal. We met Afonso Cortez in Meet Me at Sunrise (Romano Family #2) part of the Destined for Love: Europe series. Afonso is starting over in a small town as a groundskeeper at Sunset Manor owned by Filipe Romano. He wants to leave his past mistakes behind and not waste the second chance he's been given.

Catarina Romano is also starting over. At first, we only know that she's a young widow hiding out from the paparazzi at Sunset Manor, thanks to her cousin Filipe, and she's not happy that he hired Afonso. She's got

quite a few secrets she's not ready to share with anyone, and a lot of guilt from some decisions she made when she was younger.

Afonso really wants to make a fresh start and he's open about the mistakes he made that sent him to prison. He's a hard worker and a caring person who shows it by his actions. It's in his nature to be kind and thoughtful to those around him. Unlike Afonso, Catarina is closed off, not trusting anyone, even her family, with the secrets that burden her.

Their friendship turned to romance doesn't feel rushed or forced upon the reader. The story takes place over a 5 month period and feels like a natural progression for people that spend time together every day. Afonso's kind gestures mean so much to Catarina it made me wonder what had happened in her marriage that she was so affected by something as simple as someone making her breakfast. When she finally unburdens herself you can understand why she was so closed off at the beginning of the book.

I love when she decides to start decorating the mansion. You can almost see her self-esteem growing. I also loved the scene when all the cousins descend upon Sunset Manor--one big supportive family that loved her and had missed her during the years she had been away.

Not everything was smooth sailing for Afonso and Catarina. Although Afonso had left his past behind, it didn't stay there and put them both in peril, but of course the good guys came out on top. There are many Romano cousins which hopefully means more Romano Family stories.

This is a clean romance.

Julie Carpenter says

For those of you who have been reading books about the Romano family, get ready, because here is another great addition. We meet a couple more cousins in this fun family, and I loved that the author brought back characters from previous books. It was so fun to get more detail about those characters and see where they are after their stories had ended. Plus Lucinda set up an introduction for new and upcoming stories for this family (I can't wait!!!). This can be read as a stand alone, even with the scenes showing previous characters. I really enjoy this family and the stories about them so I recommend reading their stories as well. But if you choose not to you'll be fine reading this one on its own. There's enough added into the details to fill in the blanks for Afonso's background (since he was in the previous book).

Catarina is hiding. Hiding from pain, deception, loss, the media and her family. A choice from her past has brought about her current predicament and she isn't sure how she will move forward. Luckily her cousin has given her a place to rest and try to get her bearings. Away from everyone and everything at the beautiful Sunset Manor. The only problem is that pesky groundskeeper who keeps showing up, even if it happens to be at all the right moments.

Secrets, pain, healing, friendship, peril, doctors, family, a swing, decorating, food, beautiful surroundings, four wheeler, a piano, letting go, new life, police, bad guys, sunsets and beautiful music. Those are just a few ways to describe all that's contained within this book. I have read all of Lucinda's books and really enjoy her writing style. I love watching how the characters grow and change. Definitely great characters arcs. And on top of writing style and great characters, I love the descriptions of the settings. Beautiful for sure, and it makes me feel like I'm there with the characters.

Catarina and Afonso, I have so much I want to say about them. With a very tired brain and trying to avoid spoilers, I'm sitting at my computer going through the different scenes in the book with these two. I loved them. Afonso was in the book *Meet Me At Sunrise*, so we know a little bit about him but I loved learning more. All the hows and whys of his character came out. I loved his honesty and straightforward attitude. Yet,

it was his goodness that really connected me to him. His little thoughtful moments, but to someone else, those little things were big. Catarina, wow. It was heartbreaking at some moments to read her story. As a reader, I connected with her and was cheering her on. I loved watching her come out of her shell, so to speak.

The time lapse in this book was done really well. It wasn't an insta-love over just a couple days or weeks. All said and done, it was around a year and the change from week by week or month by month was done very smoothly. I loved that it created the opportunity for these two characters to develop, heal, and that as a reader, I was able to watch their friendship bloom.

To all those music lovers out there, we get some great scenes with music and talking about music. I loved it. I'm a pianist and singer and love having music scenes (especially piano) written into a story. Very well done in this one for sure. I wanted to curl up in an arm chair in the music room myself just to listen.

Now, all is not rosy and beautiful and happy within the pages of this story. The past has a way of finding you. And these characters, for all their healing and moving forward, were thrust back into their past. Or maybe I should say that their past definitely did find them. The build up for the peril was done nicely. I kept thinking the resolution would be different and was expecting some big bang, but it wasn't. As I was reading that final part, I kept thinking that the way the author handled the resolution fit perfectly with the pacing and feel of the story. It matched these two characters very well.

If you can't tell, I definitely enjoyed my time while reading this one. I didn't want to set it down for any interruptions. So if you pick it up, maybe find a nice quiet evening that you can sit and enjoy this book of hurt, healing and love.

Content: Clean. Some moments of peril but nothing graphic. I think readers of YA and up would enjoy this sweet read.

I received a review copy from the author. All thoughts and opinions in the review are my own.

Happy Reading!!!

Debora Wolff says

Catalina and Afonso were not looking for love but as they spend time together they find themselves falling in love. Anabela is an evil woman from Afonso's past that is bent on revenge and they are in her target. Can they survive her evilness?

Margaret Watkins says

Love Me at Sunset is a warm-hearted, emotive romance. Despite the dreamlike quality of this book the suspense in the story builds from the opening chapters and takes the reader right through to the climax as the story gallops to an end. The original meeting between Catarina and Afonso does not happen on the best of terms. However as they get to know each other and find themselves thrown into each other's company, they begin to develop an undeniable attraction for one another. Ms Whitney has an incredible ability to create deeply romantic stories without having to resort to unnecessary bedroom scenes, and in this case Afonso's

wooing of Catarina is tender, gentle and almost has an ethereal quality to it. However, a dark undercurrent starts to develop as Afonso's past intervenes, bringing threats to the safety of the inhabitants of the estate. I love the main characters in this story, the gentle love story between two wounded souls, and the descriptions of life on the estate. I reluctantly closed my book when it came to an end. Although this book is part of a series and many of the characters in previous books involving the Romano family appear in this one too, it is nevertheless a standalone and has a delightfully romantic ending. I received a copy of this book as a gift and this is my honest and voluntary review.

Jessie says

I loved reading *Meet Me At Sunrise* in the *Destined for Love: Europe* series. My only complaint had been not having all of the details about the sabotage aboard the river cruise. Now I understand why. *Love Me At Sunset* takes place after *Meet Me At Sunrise*. It follows the life of Alfonso Cortez after the incident on-board. While the books are related, you do not need to read *Meet Me at Sunrise* first. Alfonso is pretty upfront over what landed him in jail for the past few months, so you understand that backstory just fine if you chose to read the books independently.

Love Me At Sunset is about new beginnings. Alfonso is fresh out of prison after trusting a woman that he shouldn't have. Thankfully, his old boss recommends him to a cousin for a job as the landscaper at a mansion in the Portuguese countryside. Also looking for her own new beginning is Catarina Romano. After her husband's death, she just wants to hide, from the media and from her past, she does so at her cousin's estate.

Alfonso and Catarina are so different. He is an open book, willing to tell her anything, even about why he was in jail. She barely offers up any personal information at all. I loved Alfonso's patience with Catarina. He could have easily given up on her, or become frustrated with her secrets, but he kept standing by her, and being the friend she needed.

There was also a mystery. Fences are being cut, and accidents are occurring. Something strange is going on at *Sunset Manor* and Alfonso is determined to find out what it is, before Catarina gets hurt.

This is the third book that I have read by Lucinda Whitney that is set in Portugal. I love learning more about the country and the culture. It sounds beautiful. I was thrilled to get to know more of the Romano family, and hope to continue seeing more of them.

If you are looking for a sweet romance, with a hint of a mystery, taking place in a beautiful foreign land, *Love Me At Sunset* is for you.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

I've been reading the Romano Family series since the beginning and I think this one might just be my favorite so far. Why? Afonso.

I think I just might be a titch in love with Afonso. How sweet is he?!! It's in the small things- the noticing, the listening followed by the actions. He's just kind. I LOVE kind.

There are moments of frustration, sweet romance and even a bit of suspense thrown in. I loved it all!

I also love that as part of a series, characters from previous books make an appearance. It is a family series, after all. Even though this book is part of a series, you can read these books in any order. They easily stand alone.

Content: clean, some kissing, mild peril

- I received a copy of this book for free. All opinions expressed are my own.

Paula says

Casa do Sol Poente—Sunset Manor

Wonderful story of two people looking for a new beginning and wanting to hide from the past and the mistakes hiding there. Catarina and Alfonso are so real and so right together, but both believe they are not good enough for the other. A refreshing, clean story of love finding its perfect mate.

Katie W says

I've loved the Romano series, which takes place in Portugal, and I've also loved the Destined for Love series. Combining the two is brilliant!

Afonso is a great, standup kind of guy, especially considering what he's just endured. I can't think of a kinder man. Ex-con or not, he won my heart from the moment I met him. Just out of prison, for reasons that unfold as the story progresses, he's working to clear his name and he sure works hard at cleaning up the grounds at a mansion of his friend's. Catarina is recently widowed and her story also gradually unfolds. Appearing as a timid, sickly little rabbit of a woman, it's quickly apparent that she has a core of steel.

I'm also up for a good, swoony romance and I'm happy to report that this one delivers. Although Afonso moves slowly, so that he doesn't scare Catarina off, the sparks and chemistry smolders throughout and I desperately wanted them to take it to the next level and start dating. I know, patience.

I love the importance of family throughout this series and it's apparent that the characters really value their support system as well. I really adore this family--is it possible for them to adopt me? I also love the way the setting is vividly portrayed. Portugal is on my list to visit now, thanks for this set, and I almost feel like I don't need to go because I've already visited a couple of times in my imagination. Almost...

As for the mansion series, it seems that there is a tiny mystery and suspense element surrounding each installment and this one has an edge that almost borders on creepy. That could be because I read it at night while my husband was out of town.

Content: mild romance (kissing, implied affairs); mild violence

I received a copy, which had no influence on my opinions.

Jacob Proffitt says

This is third in a series and there were times I was confused about things because I haven't read the others. I'm kind of glad I didn't because it looks like some of the previous book also "featured" the idiot Anabela and her "machinations".

This book has a lot of nothing in it. The main characters are both ditherers and Catarina is also one of those people who blow everything up way bigger than they are. I mean, she's mildly dismissive of Afonso the first time they meet (which is understandable as she had just been barfing in the bushes—morning sickness, not the other you might assume). But throughout the rest of the book she's thinking about their "disastrous start". And she completely mischaracterizes (to herself as well as her cousin) her reaction when Afonso tells her he had been in prison. There are enough of this kind of exaggerated mischaracterization that it felt like the author was blowing things up for the drama because the rest of the story was boring.

But then, I might just think that because the rest of the story was boring. Maybe the author meant it as a part of Catarina's character. That she's the kind of person who blows stuff up to exaggerate the drama, I mean. Only that doesn't hold together, either.

Anyway, Afonso and Catarina dance around each other making googly-eyes and having touching moments set up by a benevolent author and falling in love. They take their time falling for each other. And then more time mumbling around having fallen for each other. And Afonso's past shows up in the form of the Anabela chick. Who's motivations make zero sense and whose planning is hackneyed and stupid and the "surprise" wasn't even a little bit surprising because (view spoiler)

So yeah, I'm being a little generous in calling this 2½ stars. And even more generous in rounding up. I'm justifying that on the basis that the writing didn't suck and the sense of place was strong and I kind of want to take my next vacation there because it's so prettily described.

Rosemary Hughes says

This must be one of the sweetest love stories I have read in a while. I loved the two main characters, Afonso and Catarina, who have both been hit hard by life up to now. Loved the softness that Afonso could show, even when he knew he wasn't being told the whole truth. The trust and understanding to wait until another is ready to talk is awesome.

Yes, a book that draws you in to the story. Tissues may be needed! !

I voluntarily submitted this review after reading an advanced copy of this book in digital format.
