



## The Trouble with Love

*Beth Ciotta*

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## **The Trouble with Love** Beth Ciotta

Rocky Monroe's bad luck is legendary. So it stands to reason that during a quick trip to New York on behalf of the Cupcake Lovers' forthcoming book, she winds up in the arms of the one man she never wants to see again. So what if he's also the man she can't stop dreaming about? Mouth-watering Jayce Bello has always been Rocky's biggest mistake, and she's not going to let history repeat itself ... unless she gets a new taste of his delicious kisses.

When Jayce Bello left Sugar Creek ten years ago, it was the right thing to do—for him and for Rocky, his best friend's little sister. But one passionate night with gorgeous, reckless Rocky is enough to prove that she's the missing ingredient in his happiness. Now, with scandalous secrets souring the sweetness of the Cupcake Lovers' club, Jayce needs to convince Rocky that their love is something to savor ...

## **The Trouble with Love Details**

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## From Reader Review The Trouble with Love for online ebook

### Ami says

#### 3.5 stars

I kept going back and forth between 3\* and 4\* for this ... and after several days musing about it, I decided to go with the middle part. I have what I like and dislike from this book.

Thirteen years ago, spirited and tomboy Rocky seduced his big brother's best friend, Jayce. They had sex. The morning after, Jayce (who was 22 at that time) sort-of-proposed Rocky (who was 17) that they should get married. Rocky thought that it was out of duty rather than love. So she pushed him away and Jayce went. But clearly Jayce and Rocky still carry torch for one another after all this time.

So, on one hand, I loved the idea of reunited lovers. When Jayce and Rocky were together, they were pretty hot :). However, Rocky sometimes was SO stubborn and quickly jumped into conclusions that sometimes just making me nuts. Like when she thought Jayce was asking her for marriage out of sense-of-duty. It was something that they could discuss about, but Rocky was so certain about it, she refused to. At the same time, I also liked Rocky because I could connect with her when it came to her need for independence, to make it on her own, without help from her successful father or brothers.

Meanwhile, I liked Jayce when he was being persistent to knock down Rocky's wall. BUT, I also thought for an investigator, he truly didn't contribute anything to finding out about Jayce's stalker.

Oh, and talk about that stalker case? That was just too much drama for me. It was like this story was trying to find 'what could we do to wreck Rocky's life' even more.

Last... Ms. Ciotta seems to have a style of including updates/progress from previous lovers WHILE teasing readers with future couple. So while the main couple of this was Rocky and Jayce, we also got chapters/views from other characters ... we found out that Chloe got pregnant, we found out that Daisy was moving in with Vincent, and then there was this foreshadowing love triangle between Luke, Rachel, and Sam.

On one hand, I liked the idea that the other characters are still part of this story, that they are not just being pushed back to the background. On the other hand? I thought it also steal away time from Rocky and Jayce. **ALTHOUGH**, at the same time, Rocky and Jayce's thing was easily 'fixed', which means if Ms. Ciotta was only focusing on them, it might as well be novella rather than novel.

So yeah, this review was confusing because I WAS confused about how I felt too \*lol\*. Sorry about that.

PS: For a close family, these Monroes sure keep a LOT of secret from one another \*LOL\*

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### Stephanie says

I read this right after Fool for Love, the first book in the Cupcake Lovers series, and I must say that I wasn't impressed with this one. There's really nothing wrong with the story. It just didn't grab me. It's not like one of those other books that you just can't put down. I just didn't feel a connection with the main characters. I also

thought that there'd be more of a twist at the end, but nope. Again, I thought the ending was very rushed on this book, just like in the first one in the series. I don't know what it is with the author ending her books so abruptly. For this one, I didn't even know I was reading the very last sentence until I turned the page and was met with cupcake recipes (that's how the author likes to end the novels in her Cupcake Lovers series).

I'm probably going to take a bit of a break from Beth Ciotta's books. Maybe, I'll pick her other books up again if I get really desperate and find myself with nothing to read.

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### **Charlie McKenzie says**

Another amazing book by Beth Ciotta. This one is about Dev's sister Rocky and her childhood sweetheart Jayce. I loved this book as they were both such fiery people, the chemistry between these two is great. Even though there has been a lot of bad blood between them they can't deny the sexual energy between them. What I like about Beth's style of writing is that she doesn't leave the last book's characters behind, we still get snippets from Dec and Chloe which I enjoyed as I wanted to know what happened with them both. Loved this book and would highly recommend to anyone who is looking for a good fiery romance.

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### **Nancy H says**

I really liked this book, which I won in a Good Reads chat with the author. It is my first taste of Beth Ciotta's books, and it is quite good. I will definitely be getting more of her books. In this story, Rocky Monroe is remodeling her bed-and-breakfast establishment, but has to make a quick trip to New York on behalf of her Cupcake Lovers club, of which she is president. Her brothers insist that Jayce Bello, long-time family friend, check up on her since she is new to the city. Of all the men in the world, Jayce is just the one that she does not want to see because of some past history between them, but as it happens, he is the one who helps her out and whose arms she happens to fall into. Things get more complicated when it becomes known that Jayce has decided to relocate his cyber-investigation business back in his hometown - the same place where Rocky lives. Throw in a zany grandmother, two possessive brothers, an arch rival, some good friends, a stalker, and an arsonist, and you have quite a good story!

To Beth Ciotta - Thanks for a great book and a great read! I will definitely be reading more of your books!

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### **Diane ~Firefly~ says**

[and really, did anyone not see him falling for the girl his cousin liked from a mile

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### **Jacob Proffitt says**

The trouble with this book (see what I did there?) is that the central story is actually kind of meager. We start the book knowing that Jayce and Rocky are in love and that all they really need to do is communicate, really, for it to fall together. You have maybe a novella's worth of things an enterprising author can do to get in their way before things get ridiculous and readers tune out.

Ciotta's solution to the "problem" is to throw in every other relationship around them as part of the story. She didn't compromise the HEA from the first book, but we *do* get a lot of Chloe and Dev as well as Luke and Sam and even Daisy and Monica playing out their own romantic trajectories (to varying degrees of success). The thing is, all that cruft hanging around the main story diffuses the connection somewhat and left it a lot less compelling than the first book was.

And can I say, in public, that the whole Cupcake Lovers thing is stupid? Please? Or will her fans firebomb my house if I do? I mean, I have a hard time imagining an organization of baking women in 1942 putting the word "lovers" in their name just for starters. And I can't imagine that people sent cupcakes through the mail to soldiers in WWII (actually, I can imagine that, I just can't imagine the soldiers being that thrilled by the months-old crumbs they'd actually receive). And the charitable work around the organization, while a cute idea, just doesn't stand up to scrutiny much, either. How much charity can cupcakes actually generate in a small Vermont town, anyway? Yeah, I get that the author has a thing for cupcakes, but let's not lose our heads over it, please.

The cupcake thing wouldn't be so bad, but pages of really clunky exposition are wasted on it at the start of this novel and I *literally* (italics to indicate that, yes, I do know what the word means and I'm actually using it correctly here) rolled my eyes at how awkward it was.

Okay, that's out of my system (I think).

Anyway, it's sad that so much had to be pushed in around the central couple in this story because Jayce is nine kinds of hot (*waaaaay* yummier than any cupcake ever hatched). Rocky is pretty engaging on her own, too, so what we get of them together just *worked*. Every time Jayce pulled Rocky closer, every intimate step they made towards one another, was near perfect. He's that tough competent guy you just want to hold tight and reassure that everything will be better and she's that insecure pugnacious girl you want to cheer on as she tackles her heart's desire. They're a good match and seeing them work towards trust and care was a delight.

So yeah, that three stars is a touch harsh given how thrilled I am with the central couple. There was enough disconnect from the other elements, though, that I couldn't quite boost it to four. Oh, and also because (view spoiler)

**A note about Steamy:** Like the first, this was pretty light. A single explicit scene, with some flirty bits tossed in throughout. Which is a real shame as Ciotta outlined some other encounters I wouldn't have minded being on-camera. Or should I not admit that in public?

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### Tara Chisholm says

I have been waiting for this book for a number of months. Loved Fool for Love, the first book in the series and Beth Ciotta set up the second book so well that I was practically salivating for it.

If I had to dream the perfect book for me, it wouldn't come close to The Trouble with Love. Rocky and Jayce have the perfect give and take to provide us with humor, heart, and passion. Rocky's a feisty little fire starter and Jayce is quite possibly my favorite hero in any book ever.

I would read the dialogue between Rocky and Jayce and get chills at how good and realistic it was. Also, the peeks into the characters' lives that we were able to meet in Fool for Love was great.

I would recommend this series to anyone who likes to read and enjoys a good story. Beth Ciotta is great and I have now read her backlist books because The Cupcake Lovers books are so good!!!

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### **Saly says**

3.5 stars

Now that I knew what I was in for after reading the first book, multiple POV, story lines I enjoyed this much more. h/H had a second chance HEA, they slept together once when h was 17, H 22 but have been outs ever since because the heroine felt insulted by H's marriage proposal the very next day. Now the hero plans on letting her escape anymore and wants a genuine chance with her while also dealing with moving back home and his parent's death. There were many other storylines but I was engaged.

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### **Cocktails and Books says**

I knew when the minute that Rocky and Jayce were together in Fool for Love that I was going to love them as a couple. There was just something about the two of them together that I loved. So you can imagine how excited I was for their book to come out. I can tell you, it was definitely worth the wait and I was a little sad when it was all over.

Rocky has been in love with Jayce Bello since she was a young girl. But Rocky's world came crashing down when she Jayce's proposal of marriage when she was seventeen is seen as a duty rather than a heartfelt confession of love. Thirteen years later, Rocky is still harboring that resentment towards Jayce. She tries to channel some of her energy into other things: her B & B, the Cupcake Lovers and her family, but Rocky's convinced she has bad luck. And it seems that bad luck is following her as she goes to New York City with her nemesis to speak with a book publisher about the Cupcake Lover book they are trying to publish for charity. Good thing the last person she wants to reach out to for her, aka Jayce, is there when she needs it most.

Jayce and Rocky has a lot of personal demons they need to dig through in order to get to a place where they can actually have some sort of a relationship. There's Rocky's misunderstanding of just what that proposal meant all those years ago, Jayce's demons when it comes to his family and then all the feelings they have towards each other and if they are on the same page with each other when it comes to a relationship. They have the sex stuff down, but it's all the other stuff that seems to get in their way. The good thing about Jayce and Rocky was once they did get things out in the open, they talked about just what they needed to do to move forward. In some stories you have to wonder if the couple will ever to go their HEA. With this one, you knew Jayce and Rocky were going to make it, no matter what life threw in their way.

A Cupcake Lovers book wouldn't be complete without having practically the entire town of Sugar Creek, VT show up in the pages. They do not disappoint and they add a level of comic relief to the story that has me wishing they were in it more. And Beth Ciotta wets our appetites for book three, Luke's story. You'll have to read this book to figure out just who Luke's going to be paired up with, but I can tell you I can wait.

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### **Ann Lorz says**

This second book in this series is just as good as the first, maybe better. I loved Rocky and Jayce's story. It was touching and sweet, with a little fun put in. It's a must read.

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### **Linda says**

I enjoyed the first book in this series, the first I'd read from author Beth Ciotta. I was looking forward to the next book in the series and the return to Sugar Creek, Vermont.

This time around we get Rocky and Jayce's story. For the record, Rocky is Rochelle and Jayce is some odd man's name. They had sex when Rocky seduced him on her 17th birthday. He's also her older brother's best friend and an honorary family member.

Besides their story we catch up with characters we met in the first book. This time around charming was too crowded with details, characters and coincidences. It didn't work for me.

See my eyes rolling at one too many times calling Jayce an "Adonis" and referring to Devlin's "blueberry blue eyes". Way too much. I also hated the too coincidental accidental pregnancy between Chloe and Devlin from the previous book. It was an especially cruel plot twist since Chloe's best friend, Monica who got Chloe to come to town has been struggling with infertility.

There's another book coming with Luke's story but since in this book he apparently steals the woman his widowed cousin, Sam has pined over I'm done with this series. Nothing in this one caught me up in delight including the cupcake recipes in the back.

Moving on....

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### **Carrie says**

As much as I enjoyed Rocky as the feisty, independent female lead in this story, it was Jayce who really stole my heart. Weary of the big city, he heads home to confront his troubled past and go after the only girl he's ever loved. I just could not help rooting for these two.

In addition to the fun of watching Rocky and Jayce make their way toward happily ever after, I loved the chance to keep up on the lives of the cast of characters introduced in Fool for Love...Dev and Chloe, and where their romance is headed. Daisy, the Monroe matriarch with her funky wardrobe and "life is short" attitude. And just as we got to see a little spark of Rocky and Jayce's story in the previous book, we get a glimpse of Luke's future in this one.

\*Advance Reading Gallery

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### **Katie(babs) says**

This is a cute and at times sexy small town romance I really enjoyed. Love the dialogue and the closeness of the characters. Also the small town feel is spot on. The ending fell a little flat for me though with this out of place mystery that pops up half way through.

Also, there is a character called Billy Burke. I kept thinking of the Billy Burke who plays Charlie, Bella's dad in the Twilight movies. He's also a sheriff here! I wonder if Beth planned that? If so it made me chuckle. I really do like Billy Burke the actor.

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### **Kelly at says**

The second book in Beth Ciotta's Cupcake Lover's series was just as much fun as Fool for Love. We get to learn what the heck happened between Rocky & Jayce.

Rocky Monroe has had a major problem with Jayce Bello for all of her life, it is a love/hate relationship. But when Rocky finds herself in the big city mugged and slightly hit by a car the first person she calls is Jayce.

Jayce has never really understood what he did wrong all those years ago. All he knows is that Rocky still hates him, but Jayce is going to change that. With or without Rocky's help.

Rocky and Jayce have some major history which makes their interactions so much fun. I wanted to talk some sense into Rocky. But she is beyond stubborn and has to learn the hard way. And boy does she learn.

If you have read Fool for Love then you will understand the tension between Rocky and Jayce. While you could read The Trouble with Love alone I think it would be best to read Fool in Love first.

Disclaimer:

I received a complimentary copy of the book in exchange for an honest review. This review is my own opinion and not a paid review. Review will be posted at [www.books-n-kisses.com](http://www.books-n-kisses.com)

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### **Sue says**

I was so happy to spend more time in Sugar Creek!! :)

This is Rocky and Jayce's story. From a very young age Rocky was in love with Jayce, her big brother's friend. After one big night together on Rocky's 17th birthday, she misunderstands Jayce's reaction and decides to avoid him as much as possible from then on. Not hard to do when Jayce moves away and first joins the police force, then starts up his own PI business in the big city.

Rocky is not into relationships, and 13 years later she's still managing to avoid Jayce. She is fiercely independent, running a B & B on her own...even if it is falling apart because she can't afford the upkeep! During a lull in business, Jayce is in town and Rocky's brother decides Jayce should stay at her B & B. Dev has no idea what's happened with Jayce and Rocky, just that there is a huge rift between him and he doesn't like it!

Being pushed together proves to Jayce that the spark is still there. Rocky still does it for him, and it's more than just a sexual haze of lust! Despite Rocky feeling it too, she still wants to hang onto her grudge and is happy to see the last of him when he heads back to the city. But Jayce just keeps showing up and rescuing her! When Rocky goes to the city for a weekend, gets mugged and hit by a car, it's Jayce she calls and who

comes. He doesn't tell her right away, but he's also moving back to Sugar Creek. The time he spent with her just shows him she's worth fighting for, and he's willing to put his all into having a relationship with Rocky!

Of course, Rocky is livid when she finds out he's coming back...but next thing Jayce is helping her with a stalker problem and they've come clean about their past relationship with her brothers. Rocky has a lot on her plate...with a loan from Dev she's renovating the B & B, and she's also putting in a lot of work for the CupCake lovers and the book deal they hope to get! Does she have time for a relationship with a guy who pushes all of her buttons? Can she let go of past hurts and see what's right in front of her? Does Jayce have what it takes to win her back and the patience to wait for her?

I loved, loved this second book in the CupCake lovers series!!! It was a fast, smooth read with a lot of action packed into it! I loved revisiting with all the characters from Fool for Love and catching up with them. I liked how even though The Trouble with Love focuses on Rocky and Jayce we spend a lot of time with Chloe and Dev and their romance, lots of laughs again with Grandmother Daisy, and wondering what everyone else will do next!!

I loved Jayce!! He left Sugar Creek because he felt it would be too difficult to face Dev everyday after what he and Rocky had done, but he had other issues that made him unhappy in Sugar Creek too. Hopefully he can resolve these issues or find some peace from them and move on and be happy! I'm really rooting for him!

Rocky I had a bit of trouble with because I just could not understand what her problem was!!! As far as I could tell there was no reason for her to be so relationship wary, never wanting help with anything, not wanting to let anyone close. I found it a bit much she held a grudge against Jayce for so long, making them both miserable.

I'd highly recommend this fantastic romance! There's laughter, love and a little spice to heat things up!!! I absolutely can't wait for the next book in this series!!

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