



Bliss

Hilary Fields

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Nothing says "oops" like your naked ass skidding in the salmon mousse...

A year ago, pastry chef Serafina Wilde's seemingly perfect life fell to pieces. So now, when her eccentric Aunt Pauline calls from Santa Fe needing her help, Sera jumps at the chance to start over. Pauline even offers to let her take over the family business, "Pauline's House of Passion," and turn it into a bakery... provided she agrees not to ditch the "back room." Cupcakes and sex toys don't exactly mix but Sera is willing to try, and what she finds in the beautiful City Different is the best life has to offer --- *if* she has the courage to go for it.

Bliss Details

Date : Published November 19th 2013 by Redhook (first published January 1st 2013)

ISBN : 9780316277389

Author : Hilary Fields

Format : Paperback 352 pages

Genre : Romance, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Fiction, Humor

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From Reader Review Bliss for online ebook

LibraryDanielle says

OK, despite a rocky start I totally enjoyed Bliss. but let's start at the beginning.

I saw the ad for Bliss in a newsletter and based on those two sentences and the cover had to read it. I sent in a request at Netgalley and waited. Once I got the approval I immediately downloaded it to Fred Jr, my tablet. I (not so patiently) waited until I finished the other non-YA and Middle Grade fiction I was reading and settled in.... and was disappointed.

the beginning of bliss is awkward and slightly painful. Bliss goes more by Sera, a name thanks to Eragon I find incredibly annoying, and is a hot mess. she isn't sympathetic, and really you just want to shake your head in disappointment at her. not that anyone else in the beginning is much of a sympathetic character, like Austin is a grade A jerk face, but this is Bliss's story.

we open up with Bliss screwing up royally (in more ways than one), and wallowing in it. thankfully, this part doesn't last long and we flash forward to Sera, still wallowing, as she travels to Santa Fe to comfort her distraught aunt. there's lots more wallowing, some waffling (not the tasty kind) but Bliss is growing as a character and not so annoying anymore. I even started to like her a bit. it does take some time, and there are some rocky bits, but after maybe 1/4 to 1/3 of the way through (hard to judge on an ebook) the story takes off.

Bliss decides to stay in Santa Fe and open up a bakery, with a catch. her aunt's side business, adult toys, needs to have a presence too. add in a love interest (of course) and some more personal growth and you've got a story. there's also the ultimate confrontation with jerk face, but that's pretty much expected.

after the aforementioned rocky start I really enjoyed Bliss. the story was light, fun, and interesting. I ended up finishing it in two sittings after the story smoothed out. there was just the right amount of romance, thankfully without any smut, and some humor thrown in. Bliss's character got more likeable, or more relatable, actually, both. after she stopped wallowing I found I could like her and enjoy her story. Pauline and the Back Room Babes were great back ups and awesome characters. the weird vinegar drink gave me the willies though.

I did get annoyed by the constant referrals to Asher's Israeli heritage, and to the weird peppering of phrases in Hebrew, Spanish and other languages though. they detracted from the story and totally weren't necessary. it felt like every time Asher came into a chapter we had to be reminded that he was Israeli. just in case we had forgotten from several pages prior. And just so we wouldn't forget this time there'd be another mention in a few pages. it got to the point that I wondered if that was way Bliss thought he was hot, because he was Israeli. the foreign language phrases were just annoying, like trying to force a vibe.

I truly enjoyed the showdown scene at the very end though. I thought it was the perfect end and am so glad a cheesy epilogue wasn't forced on us.

Deborah says

I received this through a Goodreads/Firstreads giveaway.

I knew I had come across a gem when the first paragraph referenced a t-shirt that said, "*Orgasms aren't just for the young!*" I stopped reading, screaming with laughter, and said to myself, "Oh, I'm going to like this book!" Like it? I loved it! I loved Serafina Bliss Wilde's (cool name, huh?) pluckiness in the face of her troubles and how she came to recognize, wrestle with, and come to grips with her problems which she

seemed to do with a heaping helping dose of humor - sometimes self-deprecating but always amusing. I **adored** her crazy Aunt Pauline, a feminist and proprietor of Pauline's House of Passion(a naughty toy shop) whose goal in life was to see every woman educated about her sexuality and empower them so they too might achieve their...um...bliss often. Talk of Ourgasms, the Pink Panthers and PH of P's Back Room Babes had me rolling with laughter. Of course, Asher Wolf had me reacting in a different way. Teehee! He was Mister Sweet and Sexy. You know, the kind of guy that...*Ladies probably tucked panties with their phone numbers embroidered on them into his pockets as he strolled down the streets.* Whoa, baby! And, what is a good story without a villain? Blake Austin, Sera's boyfriend, chef extraordinaire (just ask him), puts the capital 'A' in Asshole. Once Sera gets on his bad side (I think all his sides are bad), Austin makes it his mission in life to destroy her, destroy her personally, destroy her professionally, grind her into the ground. It takes a woman who is stronger than she realizes and the support of some kick-ass friends to see that he gets his just desserts...pun intended. Bliss was warm, funny and insightful with an important underlying message that...*those who were happiest were the ones who were open to life's possibilities, and who challenged themselves to accept new things, however scary they might be.* Great words to live by. Kudos, Ms Fields!

Margreet Asselbergs says

<http://ripeforreader.blogspot.ca/2013...>

Let me start by saying..... If I could give 10 stars, I would for this book!! It is rare I have felt this strongly about a recommendation!!

My rating: 5 of 5 ??

It's been a year since Serafina Wilde's rather public fall from grace. Or should I say forcible shove off a cliff, since that is more like what happened. 'Clean' as a whistle, eager for a fresh start and called upon by her free-loving aunt Pauline for help, Sera moves herself and her culinary expertise to Santa Fe. Having been raised in part by the very, very liberated Pauline, the somewhat more 'reserved' Sera should have suspected that the family business she is there to help with, consists mostly of dildos and buttplugs and anything else to maximize the female orgasm.....her aunt Pauline's ultimate goal in life.

Despite her initial misgivings, Sera finds herself enamoured with the store's quaint location and promising interior. And when her aunt proposes a combined invasion of the senses, through taste and touch, by turning the front of the store into a bakery, all Sera needed to be convinced was one good look at her delectable hunk of a landlord and neighbour!

Impassioned with the new concept and bolstered by the support of new friends, Sera sets out to bring the bakery/sex shop to life in short order, while at the same time setting out a new and exciting path for herself. That is, until the slimebucket that shoved her off that cliff a year ago, decides to make an appearance.....

Absolutely delightful!!!! I cannot recommend this story enough!! A MUST read!!

It is creative, outlandish, insightful, succulent and extremely tasty!! ALL of its characters are utterly charming and so well portrayed I can picture them easily. From aunt Pauline's gay lover, Horsey, to gruff pie-baker Malcolm.....each and everyone comes with such a rich personality, they pop off the pages!

Underneath the hilarious dialogues and antics, play some deep emotional stories that are not skipped over, but seriously considered in a less dark manner than we are perhaps used to. There is an overall sense of acceptance in this story, with these characters, that allows for failure and grief and mistakes to be absorbed as a normal part of life's pattern. It allows for healing and change and improvement, without guilt or recrimination. We have humour, food, sex, friends, proverbial beating-of-the-bad-guy, and puppies!! Did I mention sex?? Brilliant!

I laughed hard.....and I teared up here and there, but never for long. The positive attitude in this book carries and it is an absolute blast to read!!!

?Vibrant, scrumptious and stimulating Bliss, where taste and touch collide!?

ARC provided by NetGalley and Redhook in return for an honest review.

Suzanne says

CAUTION: NO SPOILERS, BUT MANY, MANY HACKY FOOD PUNS ENSUE.

Hilary Fields has constructed a confection of a book as delightful as her heroine's signature dessert. I gulped it down in one day of long flights and longer layovers, but I plan to go back over it to savor all the little local references and foodie in-jokes. It's a sexy, realistic romance, it's an excellent portrait of a moment in recovery, it's got vivid descriptions of both mouthwatering food and the enchanting city of Santa Fe with all its quirks. And at one point, two rows' worth of women on my plane asked me why I was laughing so hard. I won't tell you why, because SPOILERS, but it was not the last nor the loudest laugh this book gave me.

(Full disclosure: I went to college at the same school as Ms. Fields lo, these ::coughity:: years ago, and we are now pleasantly reacquainted. That fact changes not one thing I've written above.) Go. Read it. I'm going to go start her second one, Last Chance Llama Ranch.

Donna Riegel says

I loved this book talking about Mexico and the Zozobra. Very interesting. The story about Sera not having the big "O" was a little strange but it was cute the way it was told with her aunt and the back room in here bakery. Enjoyed this book.

Karen says

A light summer read.

Rosalie says

I enjoyed it. Made me laugh a lot.

Ashley says

Love love loved it!! It's one of my favorites!

Sara says

Cute, funny, and frequently mouthwatering!

Hilary Fields says

Well, I am biased, but I think it's pretty darn good!

Beth says

Truly delicious contemporary romance that's just a bit off the beaten path of chick-lit. Serafina is a brilliant pastry chef, but a rather messed-up human being at the the start of the book--or at least that's the way she feels after a major social and professional disaster. She's pulling pieces back together when her aunt, a warm and very open shopkeeper and women's-orgasm advocate, needs her desperately--so Sera flies out to Santa Fe.

The story has just the right mix of baking and pastry descriptions, sexuality, humor, challenges, and loads of warmth and sensuality of every kind. Not too spicy but just enough to delight in and get your own imagination going. Also cute puppies, awesome fully-fleshed-out secondary characters, celebration of the beauty of all women's beauty regardless of 'body type,' and a same-sex relationship handled the same as heterosexual relationships. I especially loved about it is the pacing--no waiting impatiently for the romance to move forward, the crisis to resolve, etc.

Bliss made me want to dress more flamboyantly, enjoy life more, and take a nice long vacation to New Mexico featuring Santa Fe.

Ideal summer reading, to recommend to a friend who is breaking out (or trying to) of a bad situation, and of course to read yourself.

Polly says

Oh I loved this book! Not only was it warm, and funny, with a host of very loveable characters, it also dealt with some serious life situations. Great read.

Kat (Kindred Dreamheart) says

I really liked this one!!! I'm hoping for a sequel just so some the other characters find love too!

Kay says

Really enjoyed this book. I won it through a Goodreads giveaway, thank you Goodreads and Hilary Fields. I'm amazed at how many new authors I've met and Hilary is now on my follow list.

Bliss, aka Serafina Bliss Wilde, is a pastry chef and alcoholic living in New York when the story starts. She's just had the day from hell, having discovered her live in boyfriend and boss Blake Austin being pleased by another woman, and she decides to get even by getting even more drunk and seducing the busboy Lorenzo in the cooler at The Maidstone Club while catering one of the biggest weddings of the year. Don't let anyone tell you that drinking, seduction and pastry creating mix well, they DON'T, and Sera found that out first-hand. Although being the girlfriend of a first rate cad certainly doesn't set the stage for Happily Ever After.

Fast forward approximately a year, and Sera found herself in the Albuquerque, NM airport meeting her aunt Pauline. Aunt Paulie raised her after the death of her parents when when she was 13, and when she had called Bliss (as she called Sera) for help after the loss of her partner Hortencia, Sera flew to her rescue. Since she was still trying to recover from the alcoholism and the meltdown at The Maidstone Club, the break was appreciated.

Once in Santa Fe, her aunt asked if she would be interested in possible relocation and opening a bakery, named Bliss, in the space that aunt Paulie currently used for her shop 'Pauline's House of Passion'. Yes, just what it sounds like, a sex emporium, with a LOT of advice from a very well versed, experienced lesbian lady, Pauline herself. Bliss could have the major, front portion of the shop as long as Pauline could keep her shop in the back room. Now, considering Bliss was rather a prude, possibly from overexposure to Pauline and her very progressive thinking in Bliss' early years, this arrangement made for all sorts of interesting adventures.

Add in a totally hot landlord, Asher Wolf, puppies, fireworks of every conceivable kind, new female friends of the empowering persuasion, well, then you have a really great story. When it includes the comeupance of a totally nasty ex-boyfriend, you even had the icing on a cake of superhero proportions.

I'd love to know people like Bliss, Paulie and the entire entourage. There would never be a dull moment.

Lav And says

I thought it was entertaining and very colorful. I like it when a book is written so well that I feel as if I am watching a story as opposed to reading it.
