



## **Caleb + Kate**

*Cindy Martinusen Coloma*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

# Caleb + Kate

*Cindy Martinusen Coloma*

**Caleb + Kate** Cindy Martinusen Coloma

**"Romeo + Juliet gets an update in this story of forbidden love. Shakespeare's never been so hip." --  
Jenny B. Jones, author of The Charmed Life Series**

As the popular darling of the junior class and heiress to the five-star Monrovi Inn empire, Kate has both everything and nothing. She's bored with school and life...until she locks eyes with Caleb at a school dance.

Caleb is new to Kate's exclusive prep school, and it's clear he doesn't fit in. In fact, he and his dad work in maintenance for Kate's father. And while Caleb knows better than to spend time with the boss's daughter, it seems that every time he tries to back away, something pulls him right back in.

When their parents demand that they are to stay away from each other, they learn of a fight between their families that occurred more than fifty years ago. It's a mystery Kate doesn't understand...but a legacy Caleb has endured his entire life.

With the world stacked against them, Caleb and Kate will have to walk by faith to find the path that God has planned for them.

## Caleb + Kate Details

Date : Published May 3rd 2010 by Thomas Nelson (first published April 10th 2010)

ISBN : 9781595546784

Author : Cindy Martinusen Coloma

Format : Paperback 288 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Romance, Contemporary, Christian, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

 [Download Caleb + Kate ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Caleb + Kate ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Caleb + Kate Cindy Martinusen Coloma**

---

# From Reader Review Caleb + Kate for online ebook

## Nic says

Rating 3.5-4 stars

*"Is love a tender thing? It is too rough, too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like a thorn." - William Shakespeare*

Caleb + Kate is quick and light retelling of Romeo and Juliet. It is a beautifully written novel all about true love. Not only is the cover gorgeous but at the beginning of each chapter is a different quote from Shakespeare making it one of the most beautiful books I ever seen.

This book has dual narration and I enjoyed getting both points of views. Caleb and Kate were both likeable characters who share some really sweet moments as they fall in love. It was refreshing to read about two teenagers who believe in that one great true love and are sure about their feelings towards each other.

While I did enjoy this book I found it lack that extra something special and also some passion.

Overall, if you're looking for a extra sweet young adult romance read this is the book for you.

---

## Maggie Ollmann says

### Personal Response

I thought *Caleb and Kate* was a good book; I enjoyed the story of Caleb and Kate. They had struggled in the beginning of their relationship, but by the end it was easier on them. One thing that I did not like was that they focused on the past of both families, which was why the relationship had a rocky start.

### Plot

Kate was at school when she got called down to the Headmistress Mrs. Liberty's office. She was told she would have to show the new guy around school on his first day. Kate was good with having to show the new guy, Caleb, around. When she told her parents she had to show Caleb around, their reaction was unexpected to her. When Caleb noticed it was Kate who was going to show him around, he was not thrilled. Caleb knew about the past family feud between them. They had finally gotten over what they first had feelings about and they decided to just be friends. Once they started to be friends, feelings had grown, and they wanted to fight them. By the end they realized the past is the past and they should be happy.

### Characterization

#### Kate

Kate was a fun and outgoing girl. She was thrown for a loop when she had to be the escort for the new student, Caleb. She had never expected to be friends with him when she first learned about the family feud. By the end, she realized her feelings were more important than the family feud.

#### Caleb

Caleb used to be a beach boy, then he had moved to a town where his whole world changed. The school chose to have Kate, escort him around the first day. He was not excited, because she was from a family that

his family did not get along with. He did not want to form a friendship with her in the start, but they eventually had become friends. Caleb and Kate realized they needed to let go of the feud between their families.

#### Setting

This book took place in a small town, in modern time. The school they attended was also where a lot of the book took place. This book, having taken place in modern time, can make it relatable for teens in the present.

#### Recommendation

I would recommend this book to any teenager in high school, boy or girl. This book would be for all high schooler if they like love stories, or a Shakespeare story with a modern twist. The content of the book would also be best for a high schooler to read. I would tell high schoolers to give this book a chance.

---

### Michelle says

If there was a ten star rating system for Young Adult romances I'd give this book twelve stars. It's the best YA romance I've ever read. Seriously. My heart was actually pounding for the last half of the book. Yes, it really was. I adored Caleb. He was a great guy, and I loved that he was not what everyone assumed when they first met him. The same with Kate. She wasn't a rich snob like he'd expected. I was thrilled that he couldn't hate her even though he had tried. They were so different.

Having met people from Hawaii who were native to the islands, the whole "haoles" reference to white people rang true, too. He didn't want to love her because life would be easier not to love her, but that's the cool thing about true love. It comes unexpectedly. When it hits you right in the heart, it leaves you stunned at first, but then craving more. Kind of like a wild carnival ride. Scary and exciting at the same time. I loved how the author perfectly captured the thrill of the ride in this story without being sappy or cliché.

The YA romance "voice" of this story was perfect, too. So was the male point of view. I loved that he didn't see her and think, "gee, she looks like she might have a wonderful personality. I'd like to get to know her." It was realistic. He thought, "Whoa. She's beautiful." And he kept feeling very drawn to her despite his attempts to feel otherwise. He also had very male teen hormonal thoughts, which rang true. Passion under control is SO heroic. Ahhh...love that kind of story where you fight true love and you lose.

There is something wonderfully elating about being pulled into a story and having it win over your heart. That is what this story did for me. I couldn't stop reading. I wanted to call someone to talk about how much I loved it as soon as I closed the book. It was such a beautiful story and slightly sensual but nothing over the top. These are high school teens here! Anything less than that would seem fake. I loved that they both fought desire. That made the story even better. And the fact that there was a faith element gently woven into the plot made it all the more endearing to me.

This book is making my top fiction list for 2010! Move over *Valeria's Cross*. You have some serious competition here. I now have a tie for the top of my favorites list! That has never happened to me before.

---

## Shxrxn says

The course of true love never did run smooth.

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE The Tempest (Act 1, Scene 1)

Love is like death's cold grip crushing the beats from an innocent heart.

- Elaine

Once upon a time, I believed in love, I believed in the entire happily-ever-after dream.

- Kate

Rules were made to be broken.

- Maggie

Our doubts are traitors, and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt.

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE Measure for Measure (Act 1, Scene 4)

Revenge is more fun than love.

- Monica

When a guy doesn't want to answer the question as to whether or not he's dating someone, it usually means he's seeing someone but wants to keep his options open.

- Caleb

Is love a tender thing? It is too rough, too rude, too boisterous, and it pricks like a thorn.

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE Romeo and Juliet (Act 1, Scene 4)

You better not go down that path, cousin. There'll be hell to pay

- Finn

I wonder if he's thinking of me?

- Kate

My nature has always been to fight. My faith forces me to forgive.

- Caleb

Seems the only people who are angry and bitter are those who have tried to own something that really can't be owned.

- Mr. Kalani

No questions. Only trust.

- Caleb

I am happy, I realize. It fills me up and overflows, this happiness.

- Kate

It's crazy how these moments of joy fill me at times, rare times for sure. Less and less it seems. But now, right here and now, the joy is immense.

- Kate

I think I'm drunk on happiness.

- Kate

It's supposed to be a normal guy thing to have such struggles, but I would've appreciated it if God had made it a little easier.

- Caleb

I was in love with Johnny Depp for a long time.

- Kate

The word perhaps feels like a loose sail to my ship. It flaps untethered and without direction . . . it offers too many possibilities.

- Kate

So this is love—the sweetest insanity, a blinding wonder, a fear-tinged joy.

- Kate

It's torment being apart from her, and when we're together, I can hardly stand that there will be a parting.

- Caleb

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE Sonnet 18

Today I wake with a heart aching with amazement.

- Kate

I wish I could fix time here, stop its ticking, so I can savor the perfection of knowing I love someone and that someone loves me.

- Kate

How I want to love him like this, and he love me, in maybe five or six years from now. I picture years stretching forward, turning from my window to see him sleeping or rubbing tired eyes, then he stares at me as if I'm the most beautiful thing he's ever seen—even after years and decades together.

- Kate

I picture a place that was ours alone with his books and music mixed with my books and music. Our food in the cupboards, furniture we picked out together. I want normal to be us and this. Love and passion.

- Kate

If I could just remain right here, unmoving and untouched by real life.

- Kate

And I hope and pray to God as the sunlight grows within the foggy morning that this new amazing thing will last and last.

- Kate

The fairy tales that you lost hope in are suddenly true. Happily ever after might really exist.

- Kate

Food, music, people who love us.

- Kate

I wish there were a better way for me to tell you what's in my heart. But I—I hope to always be your great love, Caleb.

- Kate

Know I'm missing you all day.

- Caleb

Isn't love all about sacrifice anyway?

- Kate

Never ignore the warning signs.

- Susanne

Love. What is it? Why do we need it? Where does it come from?

- Kate

I want to make you happy. If I can't do that, I want you happy without me.

- Caleb

There's no imagining life without this person now. I do not know how I will make my feet walk away.

- Caleb

In reality, people survive such losses every day. I would live without him, my head knows, but my heart can't bear even the hint of it. But I truly believe that if our love ends, a part of me will be destroyed forever.

- Kate

How could I ever break up with you? You are . . . everything.

- Caleb

Faith is nothing until you have to rely on it and live by it. We have to believe that we will get through this. We can decide to make this work. A decision doesn't just mean choosing something. It is making a choice and cutting off all other options. So we live by our faith and decide to trust and believe, and to cut off other alternatives.

- Caleb

We would've made one fabulous-looking couple, though. Imagine the kids. We'd look like a Tommy Hilfiger commercial.

- Oliver

Parting is such sweet sorrow.

- WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE Romeo and Juliet (Act 2, Scene 2)

A decision means choosing one thing and cutting off the other choices. I won't ask you to decide on me forever right now. But decide on me until I get back.

- Caleb

---

## Amy says

Caleb plus Kate? Beautiful. Loving. Great. Just perfect. They're the shapes to a puzzle, one can't be without another. Cindy made a wonderful, breath-taking exploration of a combination of two people. I 100% cherished every page, every word, of this book. I'm still stunned at the beauty of love shown between Caleb and Kate.

I don't know why, but these days, all the books I've read keep surprising me. This book wasn't what I expected, and I kinda blame it on myself (since I didn't pay too much attention to the summary). However, I bet I'd still be caught by surprise even though I've read and memorized the summary by heart. My thoughts of this book at first were revolving around the lines.. 'Bad boy plus Perfect girl- opposites attract' And, of course, I was knocked off my seat while not looking (metaphorically.. lol). Caleb plus Kate was more than what I thought was possible. This book really gave me more hope in life, and the writing was very pretty.

Mainly, you have two people finding this word called 'love'. Is it real? Will there ever be ever-lasting love in reality? I thought the Shakespeare quotes enforced this, and it definitely was smart of Cindy to also include this activity of Kate (the main girl) putting love into words. The poem was.. I can't think of any other word other than beautiful. And breath-taking. In fact, that was what this whole book was. Absolutely, 100% magnificent.

I started growing this hate for Monica, Kate's best friend. It wasn't because of her personality, or her looks (I never judge anyone by looks). It just seemed this character was going to ruin the loving relationship between Kate and Caleb. Then, at the end of the book, I realized Monica was happy for Kate (even though Kate fell for Caleb- which was the thing Monica tried to steer Kate from in the beginning). So, I feel kinda bad for hating Monica. She turns out to be a true friend after all.

The plot of this story was quite good. Cindy gives you a private school, a few school activities (I believe there was only two), and school life (as in gossip). I honestly think the story wouldn't have been as 5-star-worthy if there was no Caleb and Kate in it. For those of you who think books with school going on is boring, don't worry. I don't think Cindy concentrated a whole lot on school, the only real events of school emphasized were the two activities (which was mostly done outside of school).

Other than school, the plot also included time at the MONROVI HOTEL (Why did I capitalize that? It's very important in the book), a small cove-like place, and time between Caleb and Kate. Plus the family feud. The family feud, I believe, started between Kate's grandpa and Caleb's grandpa. They fought over property (land) a few 'decades' ago, and also over a woman. And (I just realized this), each person won one thing. I don't want to be a spoiler, so I'll not name what is won by who. Anyways, the feud still goes on, and don't worry, it doesn't affect Caleb's and Kate's relationship much. The feud just spices up some interest and tension, which,

I think, made the story more great.

I enjoyed all the other characters, and background characters. They were like mini-puzzle pieces included to support the main pieces(What am I kidding, they're all main pieces). Without them, the relationship(between Caleb and Kate) would of flowed more smoothly, but it wouldnt be as reality-like as it is with obstacles. Other than that, the other characters added a sense of family & life. Each and every character was there for a reason, if only to keep the story moving, or to add obstacles along the way, they made an impact in this book.

I would recommend this to all. From young to old, small to big, nerd to popular, whatever. I think this was worth a read, so it might be worth it to you too. Prepare to be hit by a beautiful story.

-AlienAmy

PS: A five-star!! Finally! It's been so long. So many four-stars. No offence to the four-stars or lower out there, you're all great too.

-- End of actual review --

(I'm a spoiler!! The next portion of this review, the 'Characters' portion, is really spoily. I don't recommend reading it, but if you do, most likely you'll get lost anyway.. PS: this next portion is on here on all my reviews b/c I kind of developed a habit of jotting things down.. a lot.)

Characters:

Kate Monrovi: a junior, blonde and tall, a Christian,has a heart-shaped face,blond and tall,brown eyes,in the middle of her senior year(about six months after Caleb left to be with his grandpa) she and her family went to Hawaii to see the grandpa and end the feud,

Jake: Kate's little brother(is going to Gaitlin Academy next year),

Allie: Jake's terrier mutt,

Kirsten: Kate's older sister(was adopted by Kate's parents after several miscarriages),

Bobby: Kate's brother-in-law and Kirsten's husband,

Grandpa Augustus: Kate's grandfather,

Mr. Monrovi/Reed: Kate's dad and the owner of many hotels,

Elaine: one of the juniors in Woman & Literature class, has black glasses with thick lenses, choppy raven-dyed hair,

Katherine: one of 's friends at the private school, broke up with her boyfriend(Blake) the day before prom,

Monica: one of 's friends at the private school,

Caleb Kalani: built, tan, has black hair n deep brown eyes, got into Kate's private school by scholarship, has tattoos on his back and upper arms, rides a motorcycle, works at Kate's dad's hotel(his father works there too as the head of the maintenance team),goes to prom when Finn dares him(Finn says he'll give up his Jeep for



a month to C),after the trust project.. he and Kate start dating,is heir to his grandfather's money,seventeen-years-old,had to return to Hawaii to be w/ his grandpa(since his grandpa has cancer) and when he told Kate she got so scared and mad that she said if he leaves.. never come back(the next day he didnt leave on the flight tht was scheduled so he can see her.. but he went on the next flight scheduled),

Gabrielle: Caleb's sister,

Mr. Kalani/Ben: Caleb's dad,one of the best employees Mr Monrovi ever had,

Robert Kalani: Caleb's grandfather,used to be in love with the same woman Augustus used to be in love with(the woman became his first wife.. and he was no longer friends with A),has cancer,

Finn: one of Caleb's cousin,

Meela: Finn's sister and one of Caleb's cousins,

Luis: a Mexican immigrant,

Laina: Caleb's ex-girlfriend back in Hawaii,

Oliver: Kate's best guy friend,

Ms. Liberty: the headmistress at the private school(Gaitlin Academy),

Ted Brackinton: a guy Kate used to like,

Bryan Fischer: Ted's best friend,

Family Feud.. Kalani vs Monrovi:

Apparently, it was over land. As in, Caleb's grandfather and Kate's grandfather fought(legally) over land. The land where the Monrovi hotel was built was very important to the Kalani(s), but during the war between the grandfathers in court, Kate's grandfather built the Monrovi hotel there.

Pages: kC-59 reunion-82

---

## **Kita says**

I'm sorry but whomever described this god-forsaken book as a 'quick, light Romeo+Juliet retelling' needs to go read it again. Paying special attention to that 70% of the book which is bogged down in meaningless, repetitive internal-dialogue. Let's go through the bad points of this book shall we?

### **The Characters** \

Everyone from trying-hard-to-be-a-modern-Romeo Caleb to the Gossip-girls-in-the-sweet-valley-of-the-travelling-pants minor female characters, reeked of daytime-soapie fakeness. None of their relationships were interesting and I personally found them impossible to relate to.\

### **The Ties to Romeo and Juliet**

-didn't work. Just absolutely failed. So yes, there was a 'big' family feud (something about land rights and blah-di-blah-di). However, it just about amounted to near-zilch. The 'plot' ended up being some dusty old-guys being mad at each other for something that happened decades ago. This would have been fine if something interesting was added in; perhaps the new generations had been informed about this and were ready to off each other at the nearest opportunity. Instead the only feuding that goes on is petty school-ground teasing at the initial meeting of Caleb and Kate

### **The Ties to Religion**

I wasn't aware that this book was Christian lit. Otherwise I wouldn't have purchased it. However I did. Trying to push through the PAGES and PAGES of teenage musings about God and Love and blind Faith and what-not was absolute torture. I don't hate religion, I don't hate God, however I'm not a particularly religious person so these reflections bored me to tears. I understand that this calibre of Christian lit. was probably not intended for a person such as me who cannot stand the stuff, I understand that I probably should have checked before I bought it and that it is my fault. However even for someone who doesn't read a lot of Christian lit. I understood how terrible it was. Kate goes ON and ON for pages about how (direct quote) "I don't know how to live without him now."

I was really disappointed in this book. I love Romeo and Juliet retellings and was quite upset when I realised this book was pathetic.

---

### **Abigail S. 8B says**

When I finished the book, I wasn't ready to end it because it was so amazing. I think the author did a great job with detailing and wording. Now, I'm just waiting to see if there is a sequel or not.

---

### **Lauren says**

I was browsing through the YA section of the library when I found *Caleb + Kate*. I love discovering a great new book and this one doesn't disappoint. It's a modern (loose) retelling of Romeo and Juliet, and very sweet.

I liked that the author incorporated texting and social media into the book, because it very realistically depicted teens these days and I don't think enough YA authors incorporate it to the extent that they should.

Kate and Caleb's relationship does develop very quickly, as many people have mentioned. Or at least it goes very quickly to the "I love you" and this is "true love," phase. It is also a bit dramatic at the end – though teens' emotions are always over the top, and the story of Romeo and Juliet, which the novel is based on, was also a bit extreme (at least in the: I'm going to kill myself because I can't live without you).

I was pleasantly surprised to find that this was a Christian novel. Or at least Kate and Caleb are Christians, who are also regular teens. Thus struggles they have are depicted realistically. I've been pretty disappointed with a lot of contemporary YA books where teens jump to having sex without any hesitation. I like that this book shows both the feelings and desires that a couple has for each other, but also teens (well one anyway)

who are committed to abstaining. Although it's written about in a very mild way and there's no real reason given for the person's convictions, it was refreshing to see.

I found it interesting that the author chose to have Kate and Caleb notice issues going on with their friends (view spoiler)It's common to have friends who deal with these issues as teens, but neither Kate nor Caleb confronts their friends. I know this book was focused on their relationship with each other, but I think the author may have missed an opportunity to address some real situations that teens deal with.

(view spoiler)

---

## **YA Reads Book Reviews says**

Kate Monrovi has the quintessential perfect life. Her family is loaded, she's got the money to buy whatever she wants, whenever she wants, and she goes to one of the most elite private schools the West Coast of America has to offer. She could be anything she wants, go to any college in the country, do whatever she wants with her life, but as we learn more about Kate, we realize that Kate has absolutely no idea what she wants from life. Money, it seems, can buy a lot of stuff, but it can't buy Kate's happiness. Before you go thinking that Kate is one of those rich kids so spoiled she's unhappy with everything she has, think again. As far as characters go, she's as down to earth as they come, especially compared to the snobs that make up her friendship circle. She carries no pretentious attitudes regarding her status, class, or position in society. To Kate, people are people, no matter who you are and where you come from, and all people deserve the same amount of respect.

So when Caleb Kalani – the new scholarship kid – saunters on into the prom, Kate doesn't see the apparent differences between them that everyone else seems to. To her, he's not 'the scholarship kid' or the poor laborer working for her dad – he's just Caleb: strong, beautiful, Caleb.

Caleb knows a thing or two about Kate Monrovi even before he lays his eyes on her. Their two families have been locked in a feud for almost fifty years now, and every bone in his body tells him that getting to know the Monrovi girl is the biggest mistake of his life. But how can he help himself, when his heart thumps so forcefully when she's around? Caleb quickly realizes that, when it comes to matters of the heart, sometimes the head has no control, no idea about these things.

And so starts the forbidden romance that is Caleb and Kate. Yes, it resembles a very Romeo and Juliet-esque story – but it's supposed to. It's very clear that Martinusen-Coloma intended this to be the case. But you know what? Even though the star-crossed lovers thing has been done over and over, I never get tired of it. Caleb + Kate is a real pageturner, and although you just freaking know that it's all going to work out in the end, you won't be able to stop reading.

Kate is a very likable character. If there were more Kate's around, the world would probably be a much better place. I think she's a great role model for young girls everywhere. And Caleb is swoon worth for so many reasons, but his most attractive quality is the fact that he's a complete slave to his emotions. He doesn't try to fight it, because he knows Kate is the real thing.

Although it has an air of predictability about it, this story is definitely worth a look in. I think you'll find being in Caleb and Kate's heads is a complete delight. Two very big yaReads thumbs up.

---

## Trianna says

I read this solely because I marked it “to read” in 2013 and wanted the satisfaction of crossing it off my tbr. I can’t say if 2013 Trianna would’ve enjoyed this, but 2018 Trianna sure didn’t.

---

## Kai says

Review posted at [Amaterasu Reads](#)

It's a Romeo and Juliet re-telling with a different twist. One that goes deeper and more complicated. It's about family, faith, love and the sacrifices we need to do in order for us to be happy.

Kate thought she had it all. She's rich, she attends a prestigious school and have two of the best friends anyone can have. She thought she wouldn't ever be in love. Not in the foreseeable future anyway. But that was until she meets Caleb, the son of the maintenance guy, from Hawaii, tattooed and a bad boy. Everyone keeps on saying he's bad for her, but Kate thinks otherwise. When it seems like Caleb feels the same way and they both gave in to their feelings, will their relationship survive a family feud, different social statuses, and ultimately, their fate for their love for each other?

I am still reeling from the intensity of Caleb and Kate's feelings for each other. It's the kind that's instantaneous, that's just suddenly there but you know you can't do anything about it. It's the kind of love that just doesn't seem to make sense, yet feel so right. Or wrong, but still you know you won't be able to resist it whatever you do. I am not a fan of insta-love but Caleb + Kate makes readers believe that it can happen. It's about first love and the overpowering feelings that can grip you. But it's also about the kind of love which will make you think of what you have, and what you will lose if you decide to fight for it or forget it.

Oftentimes when either of them seem to lose their way, Caleb and Kate turn to God for guidance. It's also one of the aspects I love about this book, how they try to work things out and still rely on Him to guide them through whatever difficulties they will encounter. Faith plays a big part in this book, because sometimes it's what's left for Caleb and Kate to rely on. Frankly speaking, I don't really get how the feud can get between Caleb and Kate, but I guess that's how it works for wealthy families. It's not an issue whether Caleb is poor or not, but it goes back to the bitterness between two people, and the anger which they can't let go.

There were a lot of interesting characters in this book, each of them had their own stories to tell. Readers will love Caleb, but you won't help but think of people like Oliver. He's the kind of guy friend that is there for you even when his life is even more messed up than yours.

“You know, my Katie, if I could be someone who could take care of you, fall in love with you, make you fall in love with me, you know I’d do it. It would keep us together. I don’t want to lose you. But I can’t seem to fall in love with anyone who is good for me.”

Caleb + Kate is an awfully romantic tale between two people who brave the odds for love. It's a tale that will

make you believe that true love does exist, something that will appeal to every girl and every boy's romantic side.

---

## **Kari says**

In a simple form, Caleb + Kate is a modern take on Romeo and Juliet but the “house divided” aspect manifests in a different form. Two separate families from different backgrounds and cultures, holding a common link in the past but now in battle make up the most basic premise for this book. Built on top of that is a relationship formed out of teenage emotion and one sparked on despite each party’s original intent to ignore the other.

Kate is a rich heiress, the daughter of a man who owns a large chain of wealthy hotels. The original hotel- and the one most important to her family- makes up the setting for a large part of this novel. Despite her money and status, Kate is a mostly down to earth girl and aware of how fortunate she is. Though she isn’t sure she could easily give up her life of luxury, she holds no delusions that anyone with less than her is beneath her. Attending a private college prep school completes the rich snob image but the chapters from her perspective get the point across quickly of her worldly and mature mental state. Though she has her moments of weakness and at times slips into the “rich brat” type of mindset, her compassionate nature overrides the rest of the book.

Caleb is from a different background, full blooded Hawaiian and used to spending his days surfing rather than wearing a uniform to a school full of stuck up people. Working alongside his father as part of the landscape and maintenance team for Kate’s family hotel creates some interesting- and opportunistic- situations. Caleb is a genuine guy, devoted to his faith and his family but not so closed minded as to shut everything else or ignore chances and people because they don't immediately fit into the mold set out for him. In many ways, he compliments Kate and though only a teenager, he has a mindset of long term dating rather than someone for now.

There is a strong faith and Christian element in this book but it is brought about in defining the characters. Both Caleb and Kate are mostly unwavering in their faith, thinking of their beliefs even when teenage emotions and situations threaten to take control. Despite this facet, this is certainly a book to be received by a wide range of readers regardless of religious views. It never comes across as preachy or pushy. Caleb and Kate are Christians. Their faith is a part of them and this isn’t glossed over or held back as a method to please the masses.

As the plot progresses, both the reasons these two families are feuding as well as the relationship between Caleb and Kate develop and intertwine. The teenage appeal of first love is strong and the reader will fall into it, wanting more of the budding romance while also wondering what will happen under the pressure of their families. Rarely did the plot drag as there were enough elements and events woven together to keep things fresh and paced.

The teenage main characters come across strongly and develop beautifully, giving a strong backing to teenage first love- and something that very easily could continue to last. Their love is tested increasingly more as the novel progresses, leaving the reader wondering if things will work or if these two will be separated. The intrigue is present throughout before leading to a wonderfully written ending. Clear mental voices, personal struggles, and overall accomplished writing help pull this novel together, making it a must

read for anyone looking for a teenage romance.

---

### **Katrina Burchett says**

Kate Monrovi's family owns a chain of hotels, so this young lady drives a Lexus and she can afford a \$500 pair of shoes. Caleb Kalani and his father don't have much as far as material things but they are hard workers with integrity. Kate is white, Caleb is Hawaiian. A relationship between these two young people begins with a dare but some family members don't want them to be together. It isn't a racial issue -not totally. Their families have been against each other for more than fifty years for another reason. Caleb knows the story, Kate doesn't have a clue.

I liked Kate. Her family had money but she was down-to-earth... If more of the wealthy in the world helped the poor, we'd have less of a divide between us - I liked that she felt that way. I really liked Caleb. He was easy-going - meek, not weak; he had no problem speaking his mind. These two made lots of preconceived notions about each other for a while there but they weren't as judgmental as Kate's friend, Monica or Caleb's cousin, Finn.

Caleb and Kate fought temptation when it came to having sex, but I got the impression that Kate would have lost her virginity in a heartbeat if Caleb wasn't strong in his convictions. It's always nice to read a story where a teenage guy is willing to wait. It also would have been nice, though, if there would have been more showing and less telling with this part of the story.

Monica and Oliver (Kate's two best friends): What I liked most about them is that they didn't give Kate a hard time because she was a Christian. They respected her choice. Maybe that was easy for them to do because they didn't feel judged by her. Kate was like Christ in this area; she accepted her friends just the way they were. I hope she included them in her prayer time, though, because they did have issues. But then again, it seemed Kate needed a spiritual revival (Page 132).

The fight between Caleb and Kate's families: It seemed to me Kate's family was in the wrong, so, even though Caleb's grandfather did have his ways, I don't see why he was the bad guy. No, it isn't good to hold grudges, but I understood why he was upset.

This was a good story. Caleb & Kate is very well-written and honest.

---

### **Isamlq says**

Keeping it short again...

I have mixed feelings about Caleb+Kate. Picture this a family feud, on one side is a family that's well-off, and on the other one is one that does not seem as wealthy. From the first is the girl, and from the second, the boy. Where the girl is bored and lacks passion, the boy is loyal and passionate and fiery. By some twist, they meet. Initially, they rub each other the wrong way, but after some exposure, they realize (after a month!) that they might be falling for each other. But the pesky patriarch of each family must be considered. It all rang of Romeo and Juliet that's time and again mentioned. And there were all the other people to consider as well~

the teen socialites with snobby their attitudes ala-Gossip Girl and Caleb's cousin Finn, who read bad boy and burned.

Look, I appreciate love stories, but this one went over board a couple of times. At least there was one very big surprise~ their faith, both Kate and Caleb allude to their faith and how it faith held them distinct from the rest. I suppose it was this addition that held them closer together. At one point Kate actually uttered the phrase God is Love, which elicited from me an eye roll. But after shaking off my initial surprise then opening up a little I could see that her/their faith was authentic even if their love developed rather quickly, passionately.

Did their love story read real and possible? Honestly, no.. everything was to intense and passionate given the span of time that they knew each other. This was so, despite the history and antagonism between their families. But I did appreciate the moments where each character had to "wait and think.."

**2.5/5**

---

### **Christina (Reading Extensively) says**

*Caleb + Kate* is a sweet love story, told in alternating chapters from the viewpoint of Kate and Caleb. Kate may be very wealthy but she is not spoiled. When she does something wrong, she willingly takes the punishment and she cares about the welfare of others. Still, Kate has some lessons to learn about life and her friendship with Caleb helps her to grow and see things in a different way. After the death of his mom, Caleb's father and younger sister moved to Oregon but Caleb stayed behind in Hawaii with his bitter and demanding grandfather. Instead of following his grandfather's lead and hating Kate and her family, Caleb chooses to be more like his dad and he forms a reluctant friendship with Kate. Their relationship develops into love as they overcome their initial prejudices and get to know each other. They have great chemistry. I thought both characters were well drawn but that the supporting characters are not as well developed.

While it is a Christian fiction novel, the faith elements are not preachy. There is a positive message about love and forgiveness woven into the storyline. The plot revolves around a falling out between Caleb's grandfather and Kate's grandfather but it is never discussed in detail nor is there any resolution. That is the part of the novel that disappointed me. There seemed to be a buildup that led the reader to expect more of a confrontation but it never occurred. Still, I really enjoyed the romance and cared about the characters. It reminded me of a Christian version of *Perfect Chemistry* by Simone Elkeles. I would have loved this book as a teen. Back then Christian novels for teens read like incredibly preachy after school special books. Thankfully YA Christian fiction has improved since those early years. I look forward to reading Cindy Martinusen-Coloma's other YA fiction.

**Readalikes:** *Perfect Chemistry* by Simone Elkeles, *Crazy Beautiful* by Lauren Baratz-Logsted, *A Walk to Remember* by Nicholas Sparks, *Leaving Paradise* by Simone Elkeles

---