



Almost A Bride

Sarah Mayberry

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Tara Buck has always been the good sister, level-headed by comparison to Scarlett, her flaky, impulsive twin. But when Tara learns her fiancé has been cheating on her with one of his school students, the orderly world she's created for herself suddenly feels as if it's falling apart. For years she chose the safe option, but from now on she's going to live a little, stretch her wings...be a little daring. And if that means acting on the long-suppressed feelings she's always had for Reid Dalton, then so be it!

Reid has wanted Tara from the moment he met her, but she's always been out of bounds. Not only is she his patrol partner at the Bozeman PD, she's also engaged. But then her relationship blows up, and Reid finds himself battling his own instinct to stake his claim with the finest, hottest woman he's ever known.

Even if anything did happen between them, it would only ever be temporary - Reid's a born wanderer, while Tara's roots run deep in Marietta. So even if things are good between them, it seems their romance is destined to be short and sweet...

Tara's twin sister, Scarlett, also has a Montana Born Brides story: look out for *Second Chance Bride* by Trish Morey. Find out more at MontanaBornBooks.com.

Almost A Bride Details

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Author : Sarah Mayberry

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From Reader Review Almost A Bride for online ebook

Cruth says

Author: Sarah Mayberry

First published: 2014

Read in: The Great Wedding Giveaway

Length: ~2000 kindle locations

Setting: Contemporary. Marietta, Montana.

Hero: Police officer

Heroine: Police officer

The thing about a novella is you need to grab the reader early and make them *believe*. You need to commit to the HEA straight off, fall for the MCs, and go with the ride. You have to believe the HEA will happen in a very short space of time.

And I didn't. No matter how Tara felt about Simon I struggled with her getting it on with Reid in less than a week.

So it didn't work for me.

2 stars.

The Great Wedding Giveaway:

Book 0.5 The Tycoon's Kiss by Jane Porter - Taylor Harris and Troy Sheenan

Book 1 What a Bride Wants by Kelly Hunter - Ella Grace Emerson and Cam Sawyer

Book 2 Second Chance Bride by Trish Morey - Scarlett Buck and Mitch Bannister

Book 3 Almost a Bride by Sarah Mayberry - Tara Buck and Reid Dalton

Book 4 The Unexpected Bride by Joanne Walsh - Laurent Fletcher and Emma Peabody

Book 5 The Reluctant Bride (also called *The Cowboy's Reluctant Bride*) by Katherine Garbera - Monty Davison and Risa Grant

Book 6 A Game of Brides by Megan Crane - Emmy Mathis and Griffin Hyatt

Book 7 The Substitute Bride by Kathleen O'Brien - Marly Ackers and Drake Everett

Book 8 Last Year's Bride by Anne McAllister - Cole McCullough and Nell Corbett

Book 9 Make Believe Wedding by Sarah Mayberry - Andie Bennett and Heath McGregor

References:

On Marietta, Montana: <https://www.goodreads.com/places/1560...>

Author's website: <http://www.sarahmayberry.com/>

[ISBN 9781940296333]

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MBR says

Almost a Bride by Sarah Mayberry is one of those novels that managed to put a smile on my face, not the least of it because Sarah wrote it; that is always a reason to cheer on. Though this novel is a tad shorter than

the SuperRomance novels that Sarah usually writes for Harlequin, the story nevertheless carried the punch that always comes with a book from Sarah and I loved every minute of it.

Tara Buck and Reid Dalton have been partners for over a year at the Bozeman Police Department. Tara who is engaged to be married to her fiancé Simon finds her world turned upside down when she finds out in the worst possible manner that Simon had been cheating on her. Tara, who had always played it safe and done the right thing to avoid just that from happening suddenly finds herself at a loss on how to deal with the vortex of emotions and self realizations that her life becomes from that point onwards. [...]

Rating = 4.25/5

Caliber SEAL: AWESOME READ!

Sometime says

Sweet, short and a solid 3 stars.

Khenta says

Loved this story! I want to say to aspiring authors, "Look closely! That's how a well-crafted story is done!" I've read this as part of the "Australian Bestseller Box Set".

Chi says

Reviewed as part of The Australian Bestseller Box Set

What an amazingly sweet read!

Tara, the more cautious of the twin Buck girls, was wonderful. She had her share of hang-ups, particularly in light of her absent father. I cheered for her the moment she threw caution to the wind... and found the following scene smoking hot. Wow! Reid was so understanding, and you could sense just how much he cared for Tara as a person, as well as a co-worker. Mind you, he also had his weakness, which led to the central moment between them.

In all, it may have been a bit too perfect, but I'm willing to overlook it because the story was just so well-written, and could've easily been about real people, since the characters were so well fleshed out.

Vintage says

Sweet but very low-key story of friends to lovers.

The heroine and hero are police partners. He sees her fiancee coming out of a hotel with a young woman/girl. The heroine kicks the fiancee out and gets on with her life deciding to ditch some of her staid and safe ways.

The story was sweet and nice; both characters were nice people, and their romance is nice. To quote Frank Burns from MASH, "It's nice to be nice to the nice." Maybe a little too much niceness here as the story was lacking tension.

SandyL says

This was an easy, sexy summer read. Tara Buck is in the process of trying on wedding gowns when her cop partner sees her fiance coming out of a motel with another woman. She thought Simon was a safe bet - he was nice, kind, a teacher, reliable, etc., etc. - but it turns out she didn't really know him at all. And after doing a lot of thinking, Tara realizes she was giving up on passion in exchange for safe. Her partner at work, Grant Dalton, has been a great friend for the past year. And it doesn't hurt that he's gorgeous, sexy, built - and now Tara is single! But Grant is only home in Marietta until his dad is feeling better - then he's back to wandering the globe. I liked both characters and enjoyed this quick read.

Jacob Proffitt says

This was short, but sweet, and since I was in the mood for a Sarah Mayberry story, it hit the spot.

Heather in FL says

This was really sweet. We start off with Tara engaged to be married. She's a cop and her partner is Reid. Reid typically works private security all over the world, but he's come home to help his parents after his father had health issues. While he was home, he decided to apply to the local police force as a temporary way to keep himself busy until he could leave again. Day one, there was attraction on both sides, but Reid knew Tara was spoken for, and besides being engaged, Tara knew Reid would leave again. When Reid catches Tara's fiance cheating on her, he tells her. I have to say, I loved how Tara handled breaking up with Simon. She did it with a hell of a backbone and class.

Interestingly, Tara's heart isn't broken. She's disappointed, but she realizes she didn't really love Simon as one should love her betrothed. She chose him because he was "safe". Her charming, handsome, charismatic father had left her family years before, and it broke her mom's heart. So Tara was sort of settling in the hopes of avoiding what her mother went through. So Simon's gone. What now? Live a little! And part of that living is taking a leap of faith that the vibes she's been feeling from Reid since they met are not imagined. Nope, not even a little bit imagined. But while Tara is certain this is temporary -- Reid never stays in one place for long -- Reid has finally found his reason for staying in one place.

I really enjoyed watching Tara and Reid get closer. I loved how Reid helped Tara get over her disappointment over her engagement fizzling. He didn't do it thinking Tara felt anything for him, but he knew she needed a friend and some distraction. And I loved that he was a gentleman until Tara pushed it. They definitely had chemistry. I loved how it ended and the short epilogue.

Laura says

This is a series of books that can be read as standalones. Each book is by a different Mills&Boon author. Although they are writing for a different publisher they are very Mills&Boon themed. I haven't read the other books but this book is about Tara who is the twin of the heroine from one of the other books.

Tara is a cop and engaged to Simon but soon learns he has been unfaithful to her. The news is broken to her by her partner Reid a fellow cop. Tara soon realises that she wasn't in love with Simon. She chose him because he was safe and she thought he would never be unfaithful like her father had been to her mother.

Tara and Reid have been working alongside each other for a year. Reid never stays in one place for long and is already lining up his next job. However, he has always been attracted to Tara and so they start to spend time together and are soon in a sexual relationship. Tara knows Reid will be leaving soon but that doesn't stop her falling in love.

This was a sweet read. I liked both Tara and Reid. It did feel a little rushed towards the end and I wished it had been a bit longer and explored their relationship more but for a short read, it was enjoyable.

Camille Flores says

4 1/2 stars!

The story in a nutshell:

Tara thought she has her happiness completely in the palm of her hands: a good career as a police officer, a stable relationship with her family, and an almost fairy-tale romance soon to be perfected as her wedding date draws near. But everything collapses when she learns that her fiancée has been cheating on her. But more than the end of that fairy-tale, she's surprised that she doesn't feel that devastated by the end of that relationship and what does that tell her? Maybe it's telling her that always taking the safe route doesn't get her anywhere. Maybe it's telling her that she doesn't always have to be the good girl. Maybe it's telling her to act on her long buried attraction to her patrol partner, Reid Dalton.

What worked for me?

I seriously love every single thing that Sarah Mayberry has written. This is no different. As always, she writes some of the best romances.

I love how she develops her characters. Even in this shorter than usual novel, I got to know Tara and Reid very well. I love how they were friends first but even when they first met, they both knew something sparked between them, but because they're pretty decent people, they have remained friends because Tara had been in a relationship then. I love how they eventually got together and the conflicts that they had to resolve before they got to their HEA. It may sound simple and maybe it is, but Sarah Mayberry weaves her magic wand or magic hand again and writes an amazing story from all this simplicity.

What did not work for me?

I wanted more not because there wasn't enough but because it was so good and you just want to read more

and more of Sarah Mayberry's writing.

My over-all take on it?

If you need to get in a relatively short but sweet and still completely captivating romance, then you've got to get this story in your hands. Amazing chemistry, equally amazing characterization, and lovely, just lovely romance.

Katie says

I really enjoyed this one! The kind of romance that made me jealous at the end.

The relationship was fast in some ways (I don't care if she realized she didn't really love her fiance, that's still a breakup of a serious, long term relationship), but it pretty much worked for me.

And I do like the novella format in romances.

Sue says

In *Almost a Bride* by Sarah Mayberry, Tara has vowed for her entire adult life not to end up like her mother. Tara's father left his family when she was 13, and her mother was completely devastated, never really getting over it. Tara has no intention of ever letting herself be set up for such devastation by a man. In her quest for relationships, she chooses safely. At least she thinks she does, until her safe fiancée turns out not to be Mr. Upstanding after all when he's caught cheating on her with one of his students.

Initially Tara is devastated, but I love, love that she doesn't let this break her. Of course she is hurt and angry, but after a day or two of misery, she realizes it's only herself she's been trying to fool. The break up of her relationship frees the inner Tara, she finally starts to open up and do things she's always wanted to do but never has. One of them might just be Reid.

Reid is her partner on the police force. He's only temporarily in Marietta to help his parent's out on their orchard. He definitely is not staying forever, he never stays anywhere for too long. Since the day Reid and Tara met though, there has been an unacknowledged spark between them, almost a forbidden chemistry they wouldn't act on. Now there is no stopping them. Tara knows whatever they have will only be temporary, but she has to know how things would be between her and Reid. They already know each other very well, maybe it's time to take things to the next level...

Can they do that though and be ok when Reid leaves? Being together changes a lot of things for both of them.

Almost a Bride could almost be called a friends to lovers romance. Tara and Reid have always been friends, but there has also always been that underlying current between them that they've been ignoring up until now. I really enjoyed the realism of their situation and their relationship with not only each other but with their families. Sarah manages to bring Tara and Reid right to life in *Almost a Bride*! Tara and Reid are both strong, mature characters who have experienced life and are using those experiences in a positive way. They

are a very easy couple to like and relate to!

I also liked how Sarah also tells some of Almost a Bride from Reid's point of view. It's fun to watch their relationship grow and evolve from 2 perspectives.

Some of the characters in Almost a Bride you will recognize from the first 2 Montana Born Brides books. I liked seeing Tara and her sister Scarlett interact, the relationship they had and how it's changing. You will definitely not be lost if you read Almost a Bride as a stand alone though, it does stand very well all by itself.

If you are a romance reader looking for a romance with an engaging couple with great chemistry and a lasting impression, I'd highly recommend Almost a Bride. It's a novella of the perfect length for the story to be told.

Alison says

I actually read this book as part of The Australian Bestseller Box Set but since I had already read some of them before I thought I would give this a separate review too.

Tara Buck and Reid Dalton are cops in the small town of Marietta, Montana. Reid only returned about a year ago after his father took a nasty fall in their orchards and took longer than expected to heal. Reid is shocked one day, on his way home from a basketball game, to see Tara's fiancé Simon leaving a motel with a woman that is defined rely not Reid's partner Tara. After he breaks the news to Tara she realises that she has got engaged to a 'safe' man to avoid the devastation her mother suffered when her father left - that didn't work out so well.

When Tara decides to do all the things she was afraid to try before, because she was playing it safe, her twin Scarlett gets concerned and calls Reid worried she might have crashed her motorbike or be in trouble at the rough bar with bucking bronco ride.

Tara and Reid as on the unspoken chemistry between them, but with Reid set to leave Montana soon and Tara with her family and roots firmly in Marietta it can only ever be a fling, or can it?

Sweet, sexy romance with a man in uniform not afraid to strip off for a good cause.

Kanoko says

This novella is all sorts of adorable. You don't need to have read the other books in Montana Born Brides's "The Great Wedding Giveaway" series, but this one does feature characters from the one written by Trish Morey, *Second Chance Bride* .

There is desire that you act on, and there is one that you don't. Patrol partners Reid and Tara have always fought the hot pull of attraction sizzling between them. For a year. In an enclosed space.

Tara, after all, is about to get married to a good man...who turns out to be not quite the person she imagined. Betrayed by the fiancé she thought she loves and suddenly unsettled with the realisation that she's done nothing but playing safe and settling most of her life—no thanks to her own father's abandonment and her

mother's breakdown—she creates a bucket list called "Fuck-It" with help from her more impulsive twin sister Scarlett. It's time for a little recklessness, to live life up a little.

Reid's wanderlust takes him places, and he's just about ready to move on from Marietta's police force and his family's apple orchard now that his dad has recovered from an accident a year ago. Everyone's sure he's got that job in Chicago in the bag. He's going away soon one way or another, so anything he starts with Tara will be short-lived.

But not giving in to temptation at all will always make them wonder what could've been between them.

The story made me snicker, sigh, smile and swoon. Reid and Tara are comfortable with and trust each other; I like their easy camaraderie even as only friends and partners. But the undercurrent of attraction burns deep, and they soon fall into bed (prologued with steam at the car seat, I must add). All stops pulled, they begin to recognise that what they have has always been more than just physical chemistry. Such great development in both our main characters and their deepening relationship in such a short and sweet story. I wish it went on a little longer, but how everything comes together in the end is just right and very satisfying. It definitely helps that there's an epilogue for a more solid closure. :D

I don't think I can praise Mayberry's writing enough. She has a way that makes me feel connected to the story and get invested in the characters, and it's no different with this novella. There *are* a few things that might prove distracting for a second: Tammy's absent because she "hadn't been unable to attend", some formatting boo-boos (those thoughts really should be italicised), an instance of "you're heart". They're not deal-breakers, I think, but here's a fair warning nonetheless. That said, *Almost a Bride* is one beautiful, nicely-paced romance I very highly recommend.

(I need to add this! I made a huge, happy, giddy face when Reid told Tara, "The only part that's not negotiable for me is you." Darn, man.)
