



Anything but Sweet

Candis Terry

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HE'S STUBBORN AND THOROUGHLY MALE . . .

If Charlotte Brooks thinks she and her TV makeover show can turn Reno Wilder's hometown upside down, he'll be happy to prove her wrong. The x-Marine has seen too much turmoil and he likes Sweet, Texas, just the way it is. Traditional. Familiar. A little dull. Everything Charli isn't. But instead of backing off from his scowls like everyone else, Charli digs in her skyscraper heels.

SHE'S TENACIOUS AND WICKEDLY TEMPTING . . .

Reno Wilder is a one-man unwelcoming committee, but Charli isn't budging. It's clear the gorgeous cowboy needs an overhaul just as much as Sweet. Someone needs to break him out of that gruff shell and show him how fun and rewarding a little change can be.

THEY'RE ABOUT TO FIND THAT LOVE IS ANYTHING BUT PREDICTABLE.

Anything but Sweet Details

Date : Published June 25th 2013 by Avon

ISBN : 9780062237231

Author : Candis Terry

Format : ebook 384 pages

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

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From Reader Review Anything but Sweet for online ebook

Lisa Filipe says

Candis Terry at her finest! ANYTHING BUT SWEET is heart-warmingly FANTASTIC!

Where do I even start...I absolutely loved everything about this book! Charli, our heroine, is definitely an unforgettable character. She is spunky, sweet and has a heart too big for her chest...loved her! And RENO WILDER....well, well, well....talk about wanting to lick...I mean...wanting to watch this guy break down those HUGE barriers he puts up and maybe just let himself fall for Charli.

"Just so you know, " she said in her most confident voice, "at the reveal meeting tonight in the community hall, I plan to present the big plan. I want to do you first."

That dark gaze traveled up and down her body like a singles-party cruise.

He was a big strong man. A man's man. With a TRESPASSING sign embedded in those dark eyes. Probably burned into his heart as well.

Reno is everything I love in a hero...Broody...Check....Sexy as ALL GET OUT...Check...Big Ole Teddy Bear...Check....Looks amazing in a flannel shirt and snug jeans that fit JUST RIGHT across his fine ass...Check!

"So you're against hairy chests? You prefer the smooth gym-rat type?"

"Well." She took another pull from her lemonade, licked her lips, and smiled. "If I get to play Goldilocks and have my pick, I do have a confession." She leaned in and whispered. "I've seen your chest. And it's just right."

All I have to say is be prepared to Fall In Love! You will be flying through the pages, with every touch, every kiss, every funny as hell 'One Liner', and be falling so hard for Reno, right there with Charli, and want him to love her back so much...yes...I cried...you will understand how emotionally involved you will become while watching these two lost souls find each other...yep, Candis Terry will have you cracking up, tearing up and dyin for the next book in the Sweet Series...Can we say Sexy Brother Jackson....Yes...there are MORE Wilder Brothers and they are ALL SEXYYYYYY!

ANYTHING BUT SWEET gripped tight to every heart-string I have and I don't think it has let go...I think Reno and Charli will stay with me a long time...and you better believe that they are making an appearance on Tasty's Top Couples of 2013.

I highly, highly recommend you Pre-Order ANYTHING BUT SWEET, and if you haven't read a Candis Terry romance, be prepared to add her to your Auto-Buy list!

Ami says

Charli Brooks, host of a makeover show for small-towns, My New Town came to Sweet, Texas, after being invited by the senior citizens who are frustrated with the lack of resourcefulness from their Mayor. Reno Wilder, ex-marine and owner of Wilder and Sons Hardware & Feed, is probably the only Sweet citizen who is not excited about the change. Reno doesn't want any change. He wants the town to stay exactly as it is. He doesn't see anything wrong with Sweet that needs a facelift. Knowing Reno's reluctance, Charli sees it as a challenge, professionally and personally, to show Reno that changes are not always a bad thing.

I love Charli's cheerful, high-spirited attitude. She is a military daughter, and her father is not exactly one who shows emotion – but Charli still grows up as a “rainbow after the rain” kind of person. She is not discouraged when she knows Reno doesn't agree to the makeover. She makes it her mission to show Reno that she will enhance the town and its characteristics, not destroy it. I love that Charli is a determined woman – but, at the same time, compassionate and understanding. When Charli turns on the flirty mode, Reno doesn't stand a chance *LOL*. This is the kind of feisty heroine that I just love in my books.

Reno is the protective, stubborn, and tortured hero. He experienced three loses in a short span of time: his older brother, Jared, who was killed in Afghanistan, his father, who died not long after Jared, and last, his fiancée, just days before their wedding. I think Reno's personal grief and reasons why he despises change is written in layers that makes him a great three-dimensional character. It's a guilty survivor attitude – Reno thinks that he doesn't deserve to move on. He feels guilty if he can live his life while his other loved ones can't.

The banter between Charli and Reno is lively. The romance that is built between the two of them is lovely. And, in between, we also have supporting characters that are just as terrific – and make me very curious about their own happy endings. There are Reno's brothers and mother. There are other Citizens, including Reno's friend, Aiden, and his fiancée, Paige. They round up the cast of this small town wonderfully.

Small town romance – where everyone knows everyone, and it's a tight knit community – is one of my favorite kinds of romance. Anything But Sweet is that ... and definitely has done its job to make me feel warm and fuzzy after reading it.

A Guest Review for The Blogger Girls

Jane Stewart says

2 ½ stars. I skimmed parts. Didn't do anything for me.

The characters are likeable. And the author has a nice writing style, she just needs a better plot.

I'm reminded of writing experts who say don't write about ordinary people doing everyday ordinary things. That's how this book felt. I want to be surprised, delighted, see something different - maybe an odd duck character. This book didn't do that. The heroine comes to town, does her job, meets people, has some fun.

Also, I was disappointed with the major sources of conflict - see spoilers.

(view spoiler)

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Length: 371 pages. Swearing language: strong including religious swear words. Sexual language: moderate. Number of sex scenes: 2. Setting: small town Sweet, Texas. Copyright: 2013. Genre: contemporary romance.

Jacob Proffitt says

This is a good small-town romance that hits all the highlights and does them well. I liked Charli a lot and enjoyed her story as she struggles to convince Reno that a *little* change is a good thing and that you don't abandon the past just because life moves on. I liked her perky energy and her creativity in coming at challenges sideways. And I liked her building relationships with the people of Sweet with her open heart and honest joy in sharing their stories, hopes, and dreams.

Unfortunately, Reno is more than a little bit irrationally stubborn and I didn't enjoy him so much. Someone that determined to hurt both himself and those around him with his emotional constipation needs a swift kick in the chaps. Yeah, I get the attraction of the strong, independent cowboy type and Candis Terry does a good small-town tale (it's obvious that she knows and loves small-town Texas). And the banter (when Reno wasn't being a gloom-monkey) was solid and interesting. But gads was he frustrating when he'd retreat into his own despair and block Charli (and everyone else, really) out.

So yeah, I liked the novel and am open to reading more by Terry—particularly if it's set in Sweet. I acknowledge that I just didn't connect well with Reno in an otherwise fine read.

A note about Steamy: This was a mild-to-medium steam book. Two explicit scenes of a couple pages each.

The_Book_Queen says

As I started reading Anything But Sweet, I wasn't sure what I was getting myself into. Candis Terry was a new to me author, and her books looked to be the sweet kind; you know the type, the ones that can sometimes be so sweet you need to brush your teeth after? But as the story went on, and I kept flipping the pages, I realized that this isn't one of those books. Instead, I fell in love with the small town of Sweet, Texas—and with many of the, at times quirky, characters that call it home.

I loved how Reno interacted with his family, how he didn't let his early childhood years, which were crappy, ruin his life. He found out what family really meant, and while he may have tried too hard at times to “fit” in with his brothers, he starts to realize now, years later, that he never had to do that.

Charli was great, as well, and even though I've always known where my home is, I still felt a very strong connection to her and her issues with feeling like she'll never have a place to settle down in.

4 STARS! This may have been my first journey into Terry's small town series, but it won't be my last! I'll be returning to Sweet again, as well as picking up her other books. Fun, charming, and the right amount of sexy, Anything But Sweet is a great book to escape into for the day! And yes, it is sweet, but I mean that in a good way! :D

~ * ~ * ~

For my full review, including favorite book quotes, please visit my blog, TBQ's Book Palace.

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest opinion.

TheBookQueen

Stephanie G says

I've really enjoyed Candis Terry's Sugar Shack novels, so when I saw she had a new contemporary romance set in a small town in Texas, I went ahead and made the request for Anything But Sweet. Her contemporaries are sweet without being overly sentimental, and she keeps the small town, quirky residents to a minimum.

Charlotte “Charlie” Brooks is the host of a makeover show that has come to the town of Sweet, Texas, to do renovations on several stores and Reno Wilder is the owner of the hardware store that's been selected. Reno isn't impressed with Charlie's little dog (who pees on Reno when they first meet), her big high heels, or her plans to transform his dad's store. He makes it pretty clear that he'd prefer if she just packed her things and left Sweet, but Charlie just digs in and makes it understood that she's not going anywhere.

I thought both characters were very well matched. Reno is a taciturn ex-marine that has suffered many losses, including his father, brother, and fiancé. He's also not a blood relative of the Wilder family, but was adopted into their family as a small child and still carries around that baggage with him. Charlie, in contrast to Reno, is a little less damaged, but still has issues that stem from having a career military father. She is very good at her job, but is tired of the constant travel and being uprooted, and wants nothing more than to find a place where she can have a home for herself. I liked how Charlie handled herself with Reno and his bad attitude. She was assertive, but not mean, and has a great sense of humor. In the book, you see how Reno is drawn to her wit and outlook on life and how it greatly differs from his own. The side characters are fun when they're on the page, but they're certainly less fleshed out than the main characters. I do look forward to

reading more about the Wilder's though. The brother's interactions made for some terrific moments in the book.

The dialogue is really fun throughout the entire novel and it manages to keep a brisk pace all throughout the book. Charlie and Reno treat each other like adults and while you see that they're attracted to one another, they don't immediately jump into bed together. My ONLY quibble is with what happens at the end. It's very predictable and somewhat trite. Had the ending been better, my rating would be even higher. While the book doesn't break any new ground, it's a lovely romance that is full of charm and humor, and if you're a fan of contemporary books, I'd certainly recommend that you give Anything But Sweet a try.

Saly says

I am delighted to have discovered a new-to-me contemporary author who does really good small town romances with delightful characters and sexual tension. This book features a super grumpy hero who has been beaten down by life and losses (his brother followed by father & then fiancée) and our heroine who despite never having anyone has such a delightful outlook on life. I loved our sassy, sexy, hard-working and amazing heroine who didn't let anyone even the grumpy hero push her around. She came to town to make-over the town as part of her show and our grumpy hero is resistant to change. But she slowly makes everyone just fall for her, even helping the hero heal. She also has a delightful dog. LOVED this one!

nick says

So adorable!

I want a Wilder brother for myself and I want to move to this cute town!

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Still a KINDLE FREEBIE!! 3-16-15 Don't miss out on this freebie. I adore the entire series. Book 1 is free, books 2-4 are just \$0.99 each!

You can access them all through this link: <http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B009...>

I need to get down to Sweet, Texas, and find me a cowboy to love!

Anything But Sweet has everything I want in a contemporary romance! It's romantic, humorous, passionate, poignant, and oh, so sexy! The characters are awesome and the story is simple but beautiful, and I really can't ask for more than that! Well, except maybe a sequel! There are some other Wilder brothers in need of some serious loving, and I - selfless wench that I am - volunteer to be the woman to give it to them.

I might write more of a review later, but really... I've said all that needs to be said. Just trust me on this and read the book. Every word, every page, every chapter, start to finish... a wonderful story!

4.5 Stars

Many thanks to Avon Books and Edelweiss for providing me with a copy of this story in exchange for an honest review.

What a SWEET treat!

Chris- Bookaddict says

This was a sweet read, I enjoyed it very much. A great story about a Man and a woman and living in a small close knit town.

Reno Wilder Dislikes change , and he dislikes Charli the minute she rolls into his little town and wants to do some changes to the business'. As time goes on we see that Charli is all about the heart of her changes and is not looking to do major changes, just some uplifting to some buildings in town to get more business for them.

She also wants to re-do the Hardware store in town which Reno Owns. Which he wants no part of her doing it. Will she get to do changes to the hardware store? Will Reno like these changes? Guess you will have to read it to find out

The people in town love Charli and love what she is doing to the town, but Reno is stubborn and does not like any of it . Slowly she gets him to come around, and talk to her, and slowly things start to heat up between these two people.

The town people in this book are great, loveable character's. I love Reno's Mom and his brother's as well.

This is the first book I have read By Candis Terry and I enjoyed it a lot .

Book Blurb:

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If Charlotte Brooks thinks she and her TV makeover show can turn Reno Wilder's hometown upside down, he'll be happy to prove her wrong. The x-Marine has seen too much turmoil and he likes Sweet, Texas, just the way it is. Traditional. Familiar. A little dull. Everything Charli isn't. But instead of backing off from his scowls like everyone else, Charli digs in her skyscraper heels.

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Nadia says

I don't know, maybe it's me, I gotta lot of things going on at the moment, but this book was so boring, I'm dying here. The beginning - interesting. The heroine - awesome. Random funny things - check.

But round about 60% when they started talking about crazy love and how they possibly couldn't be in love because they've known each other for a short time, I was like insta-love, really? Gimme a break! Then there was all this, well brainwashing seems a bit harsh, but I don't know what's the subtler way of saying *manipulating someone's opinions by strongly suggesting some things are better than others*. Like small towns are such a good place to live and big cities are bad and wrong, ranching and farming is *so* good for you, country music is just so meaningful, and all the Army propaganda. By the 70% mark I started skimming. Probably read only a fifth from then on.

Maybe I could've tolerated the bullshit this books spews better if the hero was a worthy one, but he turned out to be a giant douche. Dickhead. Jerk. Asshole. Count his brother Jackson in this string of insults, too.

Know what?! The more I'm into this review, the more I realize how this was *anything but sweet*. Screw this book, I have better things to do.

Nancy says

This is the first book about reality TV that I've read, and I enjoyed it. I'm not a huge reality TV fan - except for HGTV, which is exactly what ANYTHING BUT SWEET is based on. The writing was quick, witty, and fun, and the characters were believable. Each back story was clearly well thought-out by the author, and she gives it to the reader in perfectly-rationed doses throughout the book; I felt I really understood where Reno and Charli came from, and what they hoped to achieve in their lives without having to suffer through the typical flashback mechanism.

Charli is a fun, admirable character who knows what she wants and isn't afraid to go get it. In the overwhelmed market of stronger-than-thou alpha heroines, it's actually nice to see a sweet, nice woman who's career-driven but wants to find a life balance, who won't take any flack from anyone, and who loves her life but recognizes when it's time to change things up a bit. Charli is positive throughout almost the entire novel, and that is the best thing about her. She's not sticky-sweet, she's not cutesy, and she's not fake - all of which one might expect from a TV hostess. She broke every expectation I had of her, and I loved that.

Reno tends to fall into the more typical alpha hero mold. He's an ex-Marine (read: stubborn, handsome, brave, loyal) and a Texas cowboy (read: sexy, loves his family, shoulders lots of responsibilities). His gradual fall into Charli's arms is a slow, highly resistant one - and it's believable because Charli's positivity infuses everything and everyone around her in an honest way. She doesn't pressure Reno into anything, but she consistently disallows his stubborn ways to derail her own plans.

Sweet, Texas is a well-crafted place full of southern charm and welcoming people. You definitely get the feeling that once you decide to make a life in Sweet, the people would envelop you in its arms, offer you a glass of sweet tea and dance in the hot summer breeze late into the night. The Wilders are the backbone of this community, and I look forward to reading about Reno's brother, Jackson, in the next release (SWEETEST MISTAKE, January 2014).

This is a fun read, but there's no plot that drives any outer conflict, which is something I really love in my

escapes from reality. However, this is a well-written, character-driven book - and I did enjoy it. It's a perfect book for a girls' night in, so I give it three and a half out of five stars.

(Disclaimer: I received an Advanced Reader Copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an unbiased and truthful review.)

Laura the Highland Hussy says

Review posted at Got Fiction? Books

So I've said before that I'm not much for small-town or Contemporary Romance, and this book is both. Yet. . .I really liked it!

Anything But Sweet is about a small town in Texas called Sweet where the townspeople have entered a town makeover reality show. And sure enough, they win! But sexy ex-Marine Reno Wilder wants nothing to do with the show. So what if there's peeling paint and rusted awnings? It just gives the town character, right?

And his distaste for the show's sexy host has nothing to do with his grumpy attitude.

Charli loves being a designer, and she loves her job as a TV host/designer, but she's tired of travelling constantly and never really having a place to call her own. Sweet, Texas is looking more and more like a town she doesn't want to leave. And it has everything to do with the grumpy Reno Wilder.

Charli is everything Reno never wanted, but never knew he needed. She pushes him to see past all the grief in his life, and she shows him that he's allowed to be happy, he's allowed to have a life, and his friends and family only want him to be happy. And she knows that she may or may not factor into his happiness, but she'll be darned if she won't try!

This was a cute and (dare I say it?) "sweet" story. The romance is slow, but once it takes off, the pages will singe your fingers! I loved Charli, Reno was a great hero, and the cast of characters were fantastic. From spunky elderly cowboys to mama bear Jana Wilder, there's nothing better than a well-written supporting cast! And I really want to read the novella Home Sweet Home in the Crazy Sweet Fine anthology— It's about Aiden and Paige, 2 of the awesome supporting characters I'd mentioned.

***Review copy provided by Avon Books and Avon Addicts

Lily (Night Owl Book Cafe) says

Cute story. Was something different and completely refreshing from the normal things I had been reading this week during the power outage.

I absolutely love small town stories and this one takes places in a small town of Sweet, Texas. I am going to say this now because I loved the supporting characters in the book as well as Reno's mother and his brothers. They were an absolutely blast.

So change is coming into town in a form of Charlotte Brooks, a show host and designer that sets her sights on towns in need of her 'help' and picks out a few places she is going to fix up. Of course Reno the ex-marine

does not like change and his store just happened to be on the list that Charlotte wants to change when he battled so hard to preserve it. Sparks fly and soon Reno is found himself had to head with a woman who looks like she don't belong there. Charlotte is not one to back down from a challenge, even if it comes in a form of a hot rancher that makes her heart beat fast every time he flashes those dimples.

I loved Reno, he was so swoon worthy. Besides being stubborn, and I have to say I respected him for that - he is also hard-headed and ruggedly amazing. His an ex-marine and so are the rest of his brothers, but his favorite past time to escape is to paint - which I found endearing. Reno also has a lot of heart and his need to hold onto things and dislike change is a familiar feeling.

I had a hard time connecting to Charlie, I had to admit but she was actually a little too bubble and girly for my taste. It was an odd combo of a rancher and a girl like her but I have to admit the girl has a lot of passion for what she does. Of course the chemistry is there and the bickering between the two drives the storyline of the book. It was fast paced, sassy, witty and fun. I loved the story it was so different and I found myself laughing more then once. I hope there is going to be more of the series, because the writing was truly beautiful. Once I found myself immersed in Sweet, Texas I had a hard time leaving it. Looking forward to more from Candis Terry!

Susan says

I loved this book. I have a soft spot for small town stories anyway and this one was particularly good. Charli has come to town with her makeover show to help give some of the businesses a boost. One of the businesses she wants to do is Reno's hardware store and he wants absolutely nothing to do with it. He likes his store and his town just the way they are and he has no problem telling her so. But Charli isn't going to give up - on the town or on Reno.

I loved both Charli and Reno. Charli is the daughter of a military man. Her mom died when she was eight and her dad was never around. They constantly moved around and she was left with a longing to belong somewhere. She never expected to have a job that also kept her on the move. One of the things that she loves about her job is spending time in the small towns and getting to know the people there, even though it always hurts to leave. She liked Sweet as soon as she arrived and couldn't understand what Reno's problem was. She won't give in to his refusal to change and finds ways to get him involved even as he resists. The more she gets to know him the more she realizes that there is more behind his resistance than just grouchiness. She knows she is falling in love with him, but she too worries about the risk to her heart. One of the things I like best about Charli is the way that she is so upbeat about her work. She can see the best in almost anything she looks at. Her love for small towns shows in everything she does, from the changes she makes to the way she makes friends with so many different people. I especially loved the way that she bonded with Reno's mom.

Reno is content with his store and his town just the way they are. He doesn't need some big city woman coming in and changing things around. He's had all the upheaval in his life he can stand and wants nothing more than for Charli to pack up and leave town. He does his best to be uncooperative, but somehow she always seems to get her way. Pretty soon he finds himself enjoying their interactions and the sizzle between them really starts to take off. But Reno refuses to think of a future between them. He uses his refusal to change as a way to protect himself. He clings to the memories of his father, brother and fiancée, thinking that keeping everything the same is the way to honor their memories. I loved seeing the way that Charli starts to chip away at his walls. Sometimes he'll think that a future is possible, but mostly he thinks he doesn't deserve to be happy. I loved seeing him finally let go of his fears.

I also loved the secondary characters. No one was perfect and no one was all bad. Everyone had their own

lives and issues both good and bad. I loved Reno's mom and the way that she kept her boys in line when she needed to. She seemed to have that southern velvet covered steel that got her just where she wanted to be. I'm really looking forward to the next one.
