



Frozen Heart, Melting Kiss

Ellie Darkins

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Food to heal his soul...

Shy and vulnerable Maya Hartney has one great passion—cooking. She's turned her greatest pleasure into a thriving business, and nothing fulfills her more than delighting her clients. Until she's hired by taciturn workaholic Will Thomas to cater a charity dinner....

Only, where Will's concerned, Maya can do no right! The solution? Sign him up for one of her cookery courses and force the man to fall for her food. A week, one-on-one, cooking and tasting, proves to be a lot more intense and emotional than either of them are expecting! And it comes with a delicious new taste sensation...a kiss....

Frozen Heart, Melting Kiss Details

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Author : Ellie Darkins

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From Reader Review Frozen Heart, Melting Kiss for online ebook

Harlequin Books says

"Fun and humorous, this is a love story that's worth sinking your teeth into. Readers will adore Will and Maya's relationship" (RT Book Reviews, 4 1/2 stars TOP PICK!).

Gail says

The hero is as closed off as any I've ever read, refusing to even enjoy food, which insults the heroine. She refuses to cook for anyone who won't like her food, and when she declines the catering job, it gets the hero in trouble with his boss. So he calls to see how he can fix things, and she will take nothing less than his full immersion in cooking and his senses at her cookery school in the lovely English countryside. Basically, she pries him open like a reluctant oyster. It's a nice story. Slow, but nice. I liked it.

Susan says

Reviewed for Eight Book Minimum.

Fiona Marsden says

I really wanted to like this more than I did. It has all the ingredients for a delicious dish.

An emotionally remote and scarred hero. Tick

A needy heroine willing to do anything for love and acceptance. Tick

Sweet cottage in the English countryside to hang out in. Tick

Two people stuck together in a kitchen cooking up some conflict. Tick.

It was obvious very early on that both hero and heroine were destined to follow a character development arc to get over their issues. They had almost opposite yet matching childhood traumas and their response to those traumas was also very different.

I liked both characters, workaholic Will Thomas who had locked away his heart and couldn't even allow himself to like delicious food, and Maya Hartney who uses her cooking to buy affection and respect.

Thrown together for a week they get to know each other, poking and prodding at their respective wounds until something has to give.

Overall this was a sweet romance between two people who complemented each other and despite appearing to be opposites, were believable together.

I found Maya's growth from needy, love me love my food to empowered woman a little hard to believe occasionally. Especially as she went from loving nurturer to unforgiving bitch in half a page at one point. Shall we say her growth was a little uneven. But the end was very nice.

I think, after reading back through what I've said here, is that the reason why it didn't quite work for me was that I could see the mechanics working too clearly. This could be because I read way too many of these books. But I think part of it is that this is a new author and hadn't quite got the knack of hiding those inner workings by sweeping me away.

Final comments. The characters were well done despite being uneven at times, the setting was lovely and the story well thought out despite those minor concerns I've mentioned.

Disclaimer: I was given this book for an honest review and I don't read a lot of sweet romance these days.

Sarah Capps says

I Didn't like this book at all.

Hedy says

A cute romantic story with colourful characters, yummy action and a location that you wish were yours.

Trenchologist says

The character descriptions should have been catnip for me but left me meh instead. A whole, whole lot in the major breakthrough sense happened without my knowing when, why, or how, beyond being told so. That was most of the book--a lot of being told what was happening and how they felt, not being shown that. I had a difficult time getting drawn into them and in the end wasn't invested in their happy ending. It read round-and-round for me, too, as they kept covering the same ground in their heads, but then after all that angst, it was suddenly resolved and gone and they moved on. I don't even know why they fell in love.

I found the heroine's business model of owning a cottage and teaching live-in cooking classes out of it fine on the surface, but then I worried about her safety when I thought about it too much. Which shows that while reading, I wasn't absorbed enough and had time to think about such details too much. Aha.

I wish I liked it more; it had its moments and again, the premise had me excited. But this book & I were not the right match.

Shelly says

This is a quick easy Harlequin read that readers who want a pretty even-keeled romance will like. Business owner and caterer Maya Hartney's latest job is to cater a charity function for Will Thomas's company. During their first meeting, Will's enthusiasm for Maya's cooking is lackluster and humdrum however Will's boss will pull the plug on his work with Julia House charity if Will doesn't at least pretend to enjoy something outside of work. So on 'recommendation' from his boss, Will signs up for one week of Maya's cooking classes.

I wasn't really sure why Will's boss was so concerned about this health because there was never an explanation – like maybe he's Will's mentor, friend etc. So other than convenience, it didn't resonate with me. Both characters had their own version of the tormented childhood – it was almost a competition to see who had it worse. I wanted to like this story much more than I did because I liked the author's debut story and I expected good things with this. I'm a fan of dialogue, I've always been, the more talking the better I'll like the story. Even a bad story can be made better with dialogue, not that I'm saying that this is a bad story because it's not but it could definitely benefit from increased dialogue. Back to Will; he's a nice enough guy but I didn't really like him. He was really standoffish with Maya, to the point I questioned his interest in Maya. I didn't feel the attraction on either side actually.

Maya's childhood fear of rejection kept rearing its ugly little head and after a while I didn't really care if she felt rejected or not because I didn't know why she would even care what Will thought about her as a person when she just met the guy (and he wasn't interested in the beginning). Yeah, he's the client but since when did personal feelings getting hurt come into play when you're trying to run a business – isn't it time to build that bridge? By the time she decided to woman up the end was near.

There was a little side story with Will and his past that I thought would be explored a bit but that wasn't to be. That left me feeling left out because it was told to me that everything was resolved but I didn't see it happening and I didn't like that – I wanted to be taken on a journey. There's no great up and down with Maya and Will – their actual romance happens very quickly and the 'I love you' were even quicker. Even Maya's as non-descript as she was, I expected to get something other than the bright clothing from her that really made her stand out.

Maybe because this is a Harlequin 'Romance' there was no sex and just a tad bit of lackluster kissing. Again, this isn't a bad story but I think that it could be tightened up and be so much better with a bit of better editing.

Happy Reading folks!

Rating: C

*Book provided by author for review

Review also posted on www.redhotbooks.com

Nas Dean says

FROZEN HEART, MELTING KISSES by debut author Ellie Darkins is a Harlequin Romance release for September 2014.

Maya Hartney signs Will Thomas for one of her cooking classes as he finds nothing good in her cooking! But she hadn't counted on the closeness and the chemistry which would spark up between them.

Could Will ever be agreeable? Why was he so prickly anyway? Peel the layers by reading FROZEN HEART, MELTING KISSES and see for yourself why. Debut author Ellie Darkins brought out angst and scorching chemistry between Maya and Will which would keep a reader glued to the pages till the last pages.
