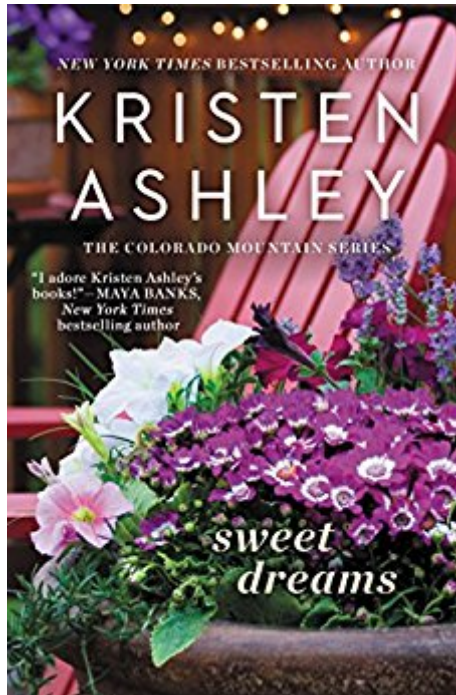




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Sweet Dreams (Colorado Mountain Series Book 2)



Synopsis

"I adore Kristen Ashley's books!"---Maya Banks, New York Times bestselling author > Lauren Grahame needs a whole new life. A simpler life. After leaving her cheating husband, she moves to Carnal, Colorado, takes a job as a waitress, and realizes she might have finally found the hometown she'd been searching for. Except things are about to get a lot more complicated . . . Lauren's fresh start does not include her growing feelings for her boss, Tate Jackson. She'll take the new friends, the new job, not to mention the incredible banana bread from the local coffee shop, but love is not on the agenda. However, the people of Carnal know chemistry when they see it, and they're not about to let Tate and Lauren miss their chance.

Book Information

File Size: 2899 KB

Print Length: 678 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1455599085

Publisher: Forever (December 11, 2012)

Publication Date: December 11, 2012

Sold by:Â Â Hachette Book Group

Language: English

ASIN: B00AHFJAB8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #20,196 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #19

inÂ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Erotica > Mystery #19 inÂ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

Literature & Fiction > Erotica > Mystery #45 inÂ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Erotica >

Suspense

Customer Reviews

Kristen Ashley's storytelling is always above par and Sweet Dreams is no exception. The second in her Colorado Mountain series, Sweet Dreams is set in the fictional town of Carnal, CO, a place I'd love to visit for a while. And that's exactly how Lauren Grahame felt when she landed there after

spending four and a half months aimlessly driving around the country after escaping her old life. A life that had included a cheating ex and a backstabbing best friend. Something about Carnal just feels right to Laurie so she applies for a job as a waitress at a biker bar called Bubba's and settles in at the Carnal Motel. Tate Jackson, former pro football player, current bounty hunter, and part-owner of Bubba's has his hands full with work and seeking full custody of his 10-year-old son. He does not need a complication like Lauren Grahame in his life. Of course, since she hears him calling her "old, fat, and sorry-assed" and can hold a grudge like nobody's business, his chances of clearing the air and making his life complicated in a way he doesn't need seem slim indeed. The story is worth it just watching the relationship between Laurie and Tate unfold. Add in compelling side-characters, a serial killer hunting in the area, exes from hell, and family relationships both good and bad and it becomes even more so. Ashley has knocked this one out of the park. Or perhaps that should be "has scored another touchdown with this one." Immensely readable in print, the audio version is equally outstanding, superbly voiced by Emma Taylor. Taylor's expression, pacing, and unique character voices pull you right in to the story and gives extra depth to Ashley's character development and storytelling. Definitely worth reading and/or listening to.

4 Stars (Originally Read 1/11/2014) 4.5 Stars (Review Re-Read 6/8/2017) Overall Opinion: This has to be my favorite KA book and my favorite book to re-read period, and I can't believe I've never written a review for it! Is it the best book I've read? No. But it never fails in making me feel good -- and that's why we read books, right?! Kristen Ashley is always my go-to when I'm in need for some good closure and a HEA. This book is not the best ending she's written, but it still gives me that smile on my face when I get to the end. AND...I just love Tate so darn much! I am incredibly happy to report that he is everything I love in KA heroes even after a re-read! I was truly worried he wouldn't hold up...especially after being so disappointed in myself after re-reading *Motorcycle Man* and Tack not being the man I had in my head the second go-round. It's no secret that I am not a huge fan of suspense in romance, but this book has just the right balance between romance/suspense/other stuff to keep me interested and eating up the super long book in no time! **See [Goodreads.com/NMmomof4](https://www.goodreads.com/user/show/NMmomof4) for my full review with spoilers ** Brief Summary of the Storyline: This is Lauren and Tate's story. Lauren is on the road trying to find herself a new home after a devastating divorce, and she lands herself in a small town in the Colorado mountains. She gets a waitressing job at the local bar, and she starts to plant her roots by making new friends and finally being herself. She meets Tate, who is a part owner of the bar, and they bump heads right away. When a serial killer hits too close to home, things between them change drastically. There is

a good bit of ex drama (on both ends), some big secrets revealed, some friend and family drama, some sexy times, AND a serial killer on the loose...but they do eventually get a HEA ending.POV: This was told primarily in Lauren's POV with a few sections in other character's POV.Overall Pace of Story: Good. This is another long one! On it is listed at 678 pages. I never have issues getting through it though, because SO many things happen! I never skimmed, and it flows well throughout.Instalove: No, they take a while to develop stronger feelings.H rating: 4.75
Tate. My #1 all time favorite KA hero. That's not so say he doesn't get OTT in his alpha jerkish ways at times, but I just can't help falling for him every time I read this.h rating: 4 stars. Lauren. I like her. Yes -- she is a little clueless at times, but I loved how she took care of her boys.Sadness level: Low/moderate. I teared up a few times, but never needed any tissues. I have re-read this several times, and I think I remember tearing up more with those first reads.Push/Pull: YesHeat level: Hot. They have some hot tension, chemistry, and scenes -- but not so much it takes away from the story.Descriptive sex: YesOW/OM drama: YesSex scene with OW or OM: NoCheating: Not IMOSeparation: YesClosure: This has great closure with a jump ahead epilogue and a HEA. KA does endings the way I like!!How I got it: I paid \$3.98 for it on back in 2014.

I imagine that when coming up with a title for a novel sometimes it can be a challenge and sometimes it's just there..ready to be used...no thought required. I'm not sure whether it was a struggle for Kristen Ashley to select the name for this novel, but it couldn't be more perfect. True that, sista.So, Courtney warned me that I wouldn't like Tate at first...um..understatement of the week! He (edit) me right the (edit) off after his first interaction with Lauren. RIGHT THA (edit)OFF. Omigah, no joke. Yikes. And, like Lauren, it took me a while to let my grudge wear off. I was loving how she didn't let him off the hook for his (edit). So the 4-1-1 on these two--she's been searching for a home, herself, her everything since divorcing her douche ex-husband. She ends up in Carnal working in Tate's bar. Tate is...well a lot of things that will be revealed as the novel progresses but the one thing you already know (if you know Kristen Ashley's novels) is that he's a (edit) alpha male. Lauren is spunky and sweet in equal parts. She's like many of us--hypercritical of herself, can't see the good parts of herself, and undersells herself constantly. Tate, as it turns out, is actually a great guy..with a quick temper and a lack of a filter for his mouth...can be good or frustrating.Tate....what can I say about Tate. He is definitely an alpha male, but like Shelley it took me a ridiculous amount of time to get on board with him. It was definitely wild and a dose of reality what he said...and hit me hard. Because that is the worst feeling ever to hear this crazy hot guy insulting you. Ugh. Awful.

Awful. Awful. I would die. I would probably have ran away, and never went back. But I do need to be a little bit more like Lauren because she is a spectacular character. I liked her a lot. While the dynamic between Lauren and Tate is obvious reason we are turning the pages and staying up until 2 or 3 AM to see what happens next, the supporting cast of characters is equally interesting and dynamic. From friends and regulars at the bar, the friends Lauren makes in town, her family and his, to the bikers and the bad guys (and girls) this novel is full of memorable moments. You honestly feel like Lauren and Tate's friends are your friends too (or you want them to be). With the interesting ways that all of the friends and their stories are interwoven, to the threat of a serial killer in their midst, this novel was impossible to put down and required that I tether myself to an electrical outlet to charge my Kindle twice--because I absolutely wasn't going to stop reading! I want to be friends with people like these. The men take care of their families...and have extreme attitude, but I kinda like it..obvs. I thought KA took this series up a big freaking notch, because well...with the serial killer aspect you never knew who was going to pop up dead next. It was pretty intense between Lauren and Tate. I know it gets old, but I won't stop saying it. I love immersing myself in Kristen Ashley land--wish I could live there permanently. This novel just continues to solidify that desire. Yep. Or just move to Colorado and find our own band of Mountain Men. I am down with that too!

Shelley: 5 Stars
Courtney: 5 Stars

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