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# Barefoot Summer (A Chapel Springs Romance Book 1)



## Synopsis

Madison's heart has been closed for years. But one summer can change everything. In the years since her twin brother's drowning, Madison McKinley has struggled to put it behind her. Despite the support of her close-knit family and her gratifying job as a veterinarian in their riverside town, the loss still haunts her. To find closure, Madison sets out to fulfill her brother's dream of winning the town's annual regatta. But first she has to learn to sail, and fast. Beckett O'Reilly knows Madison is out of his league, but someone neglected to tell his heart. Now she needs his help--and he'll give it, because he owes her far more than she'll ever know. Madison will do anything--even work with the infamous Beckett O'Reilly--to reach her goal. And as much as she'd like to deny it, the chemistry between them is electrifying. As summer wanes, her feelings for him grow and a fledgling faith takes root in her heart. But Beckett harbors a secret that will test the limits of their new love. Can their romance survive summer's challenges? And will achieving her brother's dream give Madison the peace she desperately seeks?

## Book Information

File Size: 3065 KB

Print Length: 336 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Up to 5 simultaneous devices, per publisher limits

Publisher: Thomas Nelson (June 4, 2013)

Publication Date: June 4, 2013

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00B7QRAYU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #10,057 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #65 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Literary Fiction > Sagas #94 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Romance > Contemporary #94 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Religious & Inspirational Fiction > Christian > Romance > Contemporary

## Customer Reviews

Denise Hunter is one of my favorite authors. Her writing is fun, romantic, God centered, and entertaining. This book is no exception, it is the perfect summer read. Madison has held a lot of pain from the loss of her twin brother and decides she needs to make her brother's dream come true. Afraid of water and unable to swim she signs up for sailing lessons and fixes up her brother's boat. Much to her dismay she discovers the man she set lessons up with is unable to teach her, someone is sent in his place. As the story continues, Madison grows and confronts her past, even when secrets come out in the open. I really loved this book, I read it in one evening. Fun characters, believable story line, and I really liked Madison's family. Highly recommend!"I received this book from Litfuse for free in exchange for an honest review."

Denise Hunter has done it again. Great book. Great story. And the best part, with the large McKinley family there will (hopefully) be lots of books in the series. Beckett O'Reilly is the son of the town drunk. The former high school bad boy (who doesn't love a bad boy) who later turned to God. He has been in love with Madison McKinley since high school, but she was way out of his league. Madison has been grieving her twin brother, Michael's, death for 10 years. She is so angry that God took Michael that she's closed her heart to him, and everyone else. Madison's hopeful winning the sailing regatta, something Michael wanted to do, will put an end to the hurt and pain caused by his death. There's just one small problem, she doesn't know how to sail, and she's afraid of water. She turns to Beckett for help. And the sparks fly ... In more ways than one. Adored Beckett. Madison, not as much. At least in the beginning. The ending was a sigh type of ending. I can't wait for the next book.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Barefoot Summer by Denise Hunter. It is an easy read that you don't want to put down until you have finished the book. The characters are well developed and there is a bit of mystery surrounding the hero that makes you wonder how things will work out between him and the heroine. Madison McKinley, a vet, has to face her biggest fear to meet her goal that she has set for herself - to win the Sailing Regatta before she turns 27; a goal that originally was the goal of her deceased twin brother. In order to meet her goal, she must win the bid for sailing lessons that are being auctioned off. She wins the bid, but her plans backfire on her when the instructor has some family emergencies and asks Beckett O'Reilly to teach the lessons. While Madison has had a crush on Beckett since high school, she blames him for her sister, Jade's, disappearance, and is Madison's biggest rival for winning the Sailing Regatta. Beckett also has feelings for Madison, but blames himself for her twin brother's death and feels that he isn't worthy of her due to his family

background. Will Madison and Beckett be able to overcome the obstacles and find love? What will happen to Madison's dream when her partner for the Regatta has an emergency and can't make it? Will she still be able to sail or will she have to give up on her dreams? I received this book free from Thomas Nelson through the BookSneeze™ book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

The first half of this book was too slow. The author doled out the backstory piece by piece which took up too much print. I was starting to get bored with the book and would have put it down if not for this review. The second half of the book was interesting and exciting. The pace of the story started to pick up and the story line was finally interesting. The story is about Madison McKinley who struggles with the loss of her twin brother who died tragically 10 years ago. She stuffed her emotions and tried to move with life, but that never works. She finally has to face her emotions and the truth of what happened. When she does, she finds hope. I liked the story, but I wish the backstory was not so slow in developing. I still recommend the book because of how the characters had to deal with real emotions and face real truths in their lives. Thomas Nelson provided me a free copy of this book in exchange for this review which I freely give.

This is the first book in the Chapel Springs series centered on the McKinley siblings and what an excellent way to begin! Madison is a daughter from the highly-esteemed McKinley family. Beckett is the reformed bad boy. They grew up on the "opposite side of the tracks" but a slow unfolding of their history shows they've been attracted to each other since high school. Madison is drowning with grief over the death of her twin brother, Michael, almost a decade ago. She thinks if she can fulfill his dream of winning a sailing regatta, her grief/nightmares will go away. She and Beckett are thrown together while Madison is learning to sail. However, Beckett has a secret of his own about Madison's brother and feels guilty about keeping it from her. This was definitely an original storyline for me and the characters fairly sizzled with romantic tension. This story was different because Beckett was stronger spiritually than Madison. I seem to read stories where the woman is stronger spiritually so it was nice to see a strong Christian hero who encouraged the heroine. The plot thickens as Beckett's secret comes to life and as he grapples with his self-worth, especially with his parental history. I was a little skeptical of the revelation about Michael's death, I thought it was a little too convenient but I still loved this story! I loved this couple together, they were very well-drawn characters. This book also introduces the McKinley family and sets up the story for younger sister

Jade in the next book, *Dancing with Fireflies* (A Chapel Springs Romance Book 2). Overall, this was a wonderful beginning to the series!

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