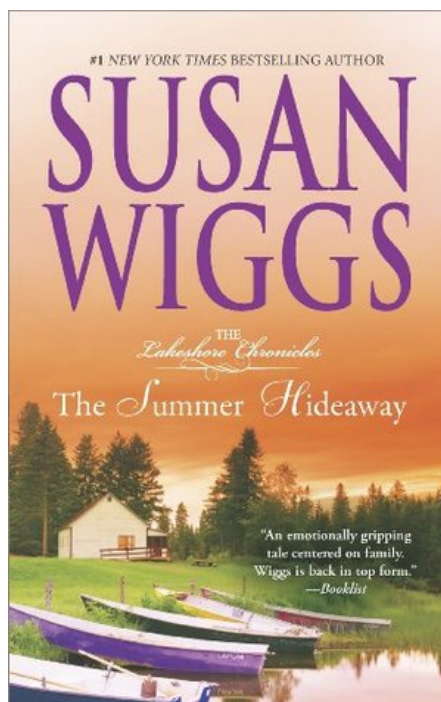




The Summer Hideaway

Susan Wiggs

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The Summer Hideaway Susan Wiggs

Susan Wiggs wrote her way into readers' hearts with stories of every woman's hopes and dreams. Now she returns with a touching tale of secrets and sacrifice, loss and redemption...and a love too powerful to be denied.

Never get attached? Private nurse and protected witness Claire Turner lives by this motto. Fleeing a treacherous past, she knows no other way.

Never give up? In the twilight of his life, George Bellamy makes it his final wish to reconcile with an estranged brother. He and Claire journey to Willow Lake? where it all went wrong for him fifty years ago.

Never let go? George's grandson Ross is ruled by a fierce devotion to family and a deep mistrust of the mysterious Claire...yet sparks fly whenever she's near. In the face of wrenching loss, amid the enchantment of Willow Lake, Ross and Claire dare to risk everything for love.

www.susanwiggs.com

The Summer Hideaway Details

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From Reader Review The Summer Hideaway for online ebook

Mollie *scoutrmom* says

George Bellamy has lost the cancer battle, and decides on palliative care instead of going down swinging. His one regret, that his favorite grandson has not found a woman to love. George interviews private duty nurses for his final weeks, and selects the one he thinks is right for his grandson. George and the nurse leave for beautiful Camp Kioga so he can fill some final life list items and make peace with the brother from whom he has long been estranged.

Private duty nurse Claire Turner is hiding from her past, and has to be ready to run at the least suspicion that she has been found.

Ross Bellamy is returning from duty in Afghanistan only to learn that his grandfather is dying and has apparently run off with a pretty nurse who, according to Ross's mom, is after George's money. Ross thinks he can talk his grandfather out of the clutches of the scheming hussy and into further medical treatments, and gives chase.

Then, as the family is summoned to say goodbye, the villian arrives on the scene.

This book is tearjerker in several places.

In my opinion, all this sounds like a formula for a terrible cheesy story. Not in the hands of Susan Wiggs. This a great romance tale, but the true love story here is the filial love between George and his grandson Ross. The characters are beautifully drawn; the villian gets wiped out in the end. Just what the doctor ordered.

Marleen says

I have to admit that I'm disappointed after reading this one. I have loved all the Lakeshore books, except the last two and they could almost be considered boring. There wasn't the depth of characters that were in the other chronicles of the Bellemy clan.

The story of Claire and Ross did not convince me at all.

I give this book two stars for the story of George.

Darcy says

This one was very hard to read for me as part of the story line hit a little too close to home. Anyone that has had a family member that realizes there comes a time when a choice needs to be made about life will understand, the whole quality versus quantity of life becomes an important one. Do you keep fighting just to have a few more miserable days or months, or do you accept your fate with dignity, look back at your life and do what you have always wanted, righted those wrongs, and just live in the moment.

With a major part of the story line dealing with this you would think this book would be a big downer, and yes, there were sad parts, but for the most part you fell in love with George and his spirit. You know what is going to happen to him, but as he keeps crossing things off his bucket list, you forgive him for his wrongs

and you want him to find whatever peace he can.

The other story line with Ross and Claire was pretty predictable, but it was also sweet as it mirrored so much of what happened with George, with George giving Ross his much learned advice. But this book was clearly George's story with everyone else playing a minor part.

Titinha Scaeiro says

Mais um livrinho fofinho, porém achei este romance do casal protagonista o mais sem sal que houve...

Lynn Calvin says

Amazon preorder

Like a lot of these long series it's getting a little complicated, but while this has a nice romance it really is about end of life and a man who is dying who has taken the step of reconnecting with the brother from whom he has been estranged for 55 years.

The romance between the private care nurse who is attending him and the man's grandson, and the perfectly nice suspense plot concerning her past and the story arc of the man's family coming to terms with the fact that he is dying, and her relationship with the man's grandson are all brilliantly done.

But the coming to terms with dying, with both a life well lived and moving past old issues is what makes this book sing.

Jaime Atkins says

This is a tough review for several reasons. I liked George a lot and I enjoyed getting to know him, but it was a given from the beginning that he would pass away at some point. I don't like reading sad stories. There was not enough of Ross and Claire and I thought the book was supposed to be about them. Also, way too many things were left open. Case in point.....Philip. Don't get me wrong, Susan Wiggs tied her loose ends with conversation and the reader was given a sense of understanding, but....no answers were given.

I could list many reasons, but this was not the best of the Lakeshore Chronicles series. It introduced more questions than answers and I closed the last page sad instead of happy. I think an extra chapter would have been nice to deliver the reader from the loss and into the possibilities of the future.

shawn T Kim says

The book was alright I wouldn't say it's my favorite book of the series but it was alright. There were a few things that confused me, but other than that it was great. What confused me in the book was the scene change; the scene would change from the present or to the past. I've read a lot of romantic novels and this book is number seven of a twelve other books in the series. Each book could go as a stand-alone meaning that you if don't read the one before it wouldn't matter. One of the things I loved about this book was the

"Yes..no..maybe" situations, it was like a strange game of tug-of-war. (Spoiler) It was always interesting to see if Claire would actually be able to love Ross even if she had a false identity. I would always be like "Oh!....OH!" and when I got disappointed with her choice I was like "AWWW WHY! CLAIRE!" The one thing I didn't like about this book was the secret Claire was hiding I was soooooo! curious! on what it was, but when she finally revealed what it was I got back to loving the book. (End of spoiler) This reminded me of an old drama I watched when I was 10 I think lots of secrets and history...I liked it!

ErinReadsTooMuch says

I like all of the Lakeshore Chronicles books by Susan Wiggs. She is very good at delving deep into the emotions of all her characters. So much so, that some times, it can be a little repetitious. I missed a few books between the this one and the last I read, and I feel like I missed out. But the story is heartwarming, along with a little suspense because of the situation of the characters. It is about so many things, most of all, about seizing life while you have it, and not being afraid to take risks. One of the main characters is a man at the end of his life, doing all the things he was always too afraid to do, including righting old wrongs. Where he knows he missed out on some of the biggest opportunities of life, and made huge mistakes, he still revels in the family and the life that he made. It shows that you can love what you have made of your life, and still have huge regrets about things you wish you had done differently. And in the end, accept them both, and just love who you are, and enjoy family - no matter how much pain there has been in the past.

The main love interests are both emotionally scarred from violence - one from being a soldier in a war, the other from witnessing a horrible murder as a teenager. But they find love and comfort in each other, of course (what good would a romance novel be if they didn't?). All the characters are lovable, and the book leaves you with a nice warm feeling, wanting more.

Kathi says

This was one of the most disappointing books from Susan Wiggs. First, I thought there was WAY too much going on - the supposed romance between Ross and Claire, her witnessing a murder and going underground, the impending death of George, the flashbacks of George's life, the added military scenarios that seemed out of place... and I could go on. It seemed like this could have easily been 2 separate books that were crammed into one story. I never bought Ross and Claire's attraction, their falling in love ... it was forced and left me thinking "who cares?" by the end. We never really find out how George and Charles settle what happened between them. Ross and Claire leave one night for dinner, and when they get back, all is well? I don't think so. Terrible book and a waste of money.

Rosy says

I have never been happier about my OCD, than while i was reading this book. I'm glad i followed the pull and read the books in order, even if it's not necessary to follow this story, since every book stands on its own in the series. Just the mention that the setting would be Willow Lake had me giddy with anticipation for this book.

Out of all the other books, i think this was the best yet. The underlying mystery was fascinating. I kept trying

to guess and although sometimes i was right, i was also shocked a time or two. There were some twists and turns that just kept me at the edge of my seat. It was hard putting the book down even for breaks.

I have no complaints about any of the characters. Which was surprising on its own since i always have at least *something* to bent about. Unlike the other books the story revolved more around George and not the "main" couple. Looking back at his childhood, adolescence, and as an adult was great. It gave a clear picture of what when on and honestly made me feel ok about the bittersweet ending. I was even happy for the tears! I also don't think George's story overshadowed Claire and Ross'. If anything i think it strengthen how their relationship evolved.

There were some questions that were subtly answered that had me wondering whether Wiggs will mention them in a later book. I was eager to see some Daisy sighting, but alas we only "heard" about her in passing. What little we read about what is happening with her though, had me quite intrigued and already anticipating the next book. I'm glad we're finally going to get her story and i can't wait to have it on my greedy hands.

I should also mention that the opening scene in the Middle East really made me pause, and honestly think about our troops. I've read many other books lately with a military theme but none had me wishing for this war to end as hard. I congratulate Wigg's on a fantastic job from beginning to end.

Michelle says

I was really disappointed in this story. It started out with a lot of promise. I liked the initial characters and their problems. Then it started to go downhill. Especially once the reminiscing on the past started. That made it choppy and it totally lost momentum. By the end it felt more like George's story than Ross and Claire's. The story mostly tells what is going on, rarely showing us. For example, Ross and Claire continue to get closer and closer, but we see very little of their interactions. I usually enjoy Wigg's character development, but it was really lacking in this story. But my biggest complaint was how Claire's dilemma was resolved. How anticlimactic. The bad guys are done for in about three pages and then bang the story moves on to the epilogue and is done. I would recommend passing on this one.

Maria says

Ms Wiggs has a way of getting under the skin of things. In this book, she describes the end of a life, and brings an understanding and bittersweet look at what it is like to love and lose, to father a large family, to have one's life changed irrevocably at the age of 13 and again at 23, and to have regrets as well as gratifyingly deep connections with others. The relationship between Claire and Ross is secondary but beautiful. Both are somewhat needy but very strong characters, who gradually come together over Ross's grandfather's last illness. The reader's involvement is complete with almost all the characters. There is even some hair-raising suspense towards the end of the book, but it is the depth of the characters that is the secret to the success of Ms. Wigg's Lakeshore Chronicles. They get hurt but they survive, the pain strengthening them in later life. By the way, the first chapter of the book takes place in Afghanistan and is particularly intense. It makes you aware of what our soldiers are doing every day in a way that the reader will find hard to forget or brush off. There are honorable mentions of other wars, World War II, Viet Nam, and Desert Storm, as well.

Gloria Bernal says

This opens with Ross Bellamy, a young helicopter pilot in the army just rounding up his tour of duty in Afghanistan. He comes home to learn that his beloved grandfather George Bellamy, a retired journalist and the closest thing to a father he has ever known, is terminally ill with brain cancer.

George has opted to stop all treatment, live his last few months doing whatever he wants (with a bucket list of sorts) and dying in his place of choice, Willow Lakes Camp Kioga, where he spent the happiest days of his life.

In his company is his hired nurse, Claire Turner, a professional in assisting those at the end of their lives get through what is to come. Claire has secrets of her own. Not her real name, she is a young woman in hiding from a murderer whom she saw slay two young boys when she was a foster child in his home. For years she has moved around and lived all her life ready to run. Now she finds herself yearning for normalcy and a chance at family life. The Bellamy men capture her heart as she learns more about the ties that bind in familial love.

Predictable, yes, as some have mentioned, but presented in a captivating tale of the past and the present, which is a favorite format for me as a reader. Ms. Wiggs has done an excellent job of providing us just the right pace to keep us wanting to learn more, and her descriptive prose makes us want to be there at Willow Lake. It sounds so peaceful and beautiful, just like the cover. We laugh, we cry, we feel. What more can you ask for?

Cintya Larasinta says

ASTAGAAAA.....jujur aku tidak pernah bc buku Susan Wiggs bahkan buku ini sdh lama diterjemahin oleh GPU jelas2 aku tdk menyadari bahkan aku cukup menyesal tdk mengoleksi buku SW dan stlh selesai menutup buku, aku mendadak menyukai seluruh crt summer Hideaway, bahkan perlahan aku mulai berkenalan keluarga besar Bellamy dan seketika itu, aku penasaran keluarga bellamy ada di dalam seluruh buku berseri yang harus kuburu mencari buku lainnya. lama-kelamaan aku mulai menyukai buku yang bertema tentang keluarga, teman bahkan cinta, atau mungkin karena aku keseringan bc bk genre contemporary romance ini.

dan ohya, aku mendapatkan buku ini karena diskon murah, tnp pikir aku beli ini dan tertarik sinopsis Summer Hideaway pula. aku cukup beruntung mendapatkan buku dan tdk menyesal memiliki buku apalagi aku menyukai buku juga. Well... aku sgt menikmati membaca Summer Hideaway. Summer Hideaway adalah cerita tentang George Bellamy yang begitu panjang, mendalam, dan sangat emosional dan cukup meningkatkan ketertarikanku. Di sini juga menampilkan asmara sedikit diantara Ross dan Claire tapi cukup bagus.

Perawat pribadi dan saksi yang dilindungi, Claire Turner yg berusaha melarikan diri dari masa lalu yang berbahaya dan dia tahu tidak ada cara lain.

Di menjelang akhir hidupnya, George Bellamy membuat keinginan terakhirnya untuk berdamai dengan saudara terasing. Dia dan Claire pergi perjalanan ke Willow Lake - dimana melakukan kesalahan George selama lima puluh tahun yang lalu.

Cucu George, Ross Bellamy telah kembali dari pertempuran Afganistan sebagai pilot evakuasi medis selama 2 tahun dan diperintah oleh pengabdian sengit untuk keluarga dan ketidakpercayaan yang mendalam diri Claire gadis yg misterius ... namun ternyata setiap kali dia dekat. Dalam menghadapi kerugian memilukan, di tengah pesona Willow Lake, Ross dan Claire berani mempertaruhkan segalanya untuk cinta.

Cherise says

3.5 stars

George Bellamy has a terminal disease and after waging a heroic battle against it at the Mayo Clinic, he has decided to spend the remainder of his days his way. He hires a nurse, Claire Turner, to travel with him to the site of his childhood summers, there he plans to make amends with his past and his long lost brothers, reconnect with some family, and make a dent in his list of things to do before he dies.

Ross Bellamy is returning to his Grandfather George's side after two years spent in Afghanistan. He isn't ready to say Good-bye to the man who has been everything to him, but he wants to spend all the time he can with his Grandfather.

Claire Turner is also battling her own private war. She has a past she has successfully hid and run from since they age of 17. She has made her life what it is today out of necessity. George has an agenda for Ross and Claire, one that doesn't fit in the carefully planned world Claire lives in.

This is really a story containing four stories. You have the stories of George Bellamy's past and his present and then you have the stories containing Claire's past and present. The author does a great job of tying them together and making the reader look forward to each chapter.

It's a painful and poignant tale, laced with a good dose of hope and love. It is a story about the intricacies of families and relationships, unbreakable bonds, first loves and the battle we wage between our heads and our hearts. It's about facing the past and regrets and coming to terms with them and accepting the life you have lead and the paths you have chosen.

At times the book was remarkable, at other times predictable. While the majority of the story cruised at a lazy pace, the ending seemed hurried and rushed. I would have liked the ending and conclusion to have had the same care and thoughtfulness that the rest of the book seemed to have. Otherwise I would have rated this book higher, as I really enjoyed the first three quarters of it. I would still recommend this book, highly, as all in all I really had a great time getting to know these characters.

Cherise Everhard, April 2010
