



# A Beautiful Taste

*Lilliana Anderson*

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## A Beautiful Taste Lilliana Anderson

It's never easy to go back. That's something chef, Bradley Rae is sweating bullets about as the date of his school's kayaking team reunion draws near. When his friend and teammate, Elliot Roberts, convinces him to go, he thinks he'll be fine going back there. After all, chances are, she won't be there at all. It's been almost ten years. Maybe she's moved away. Maybe he won't see her at all...

Dakota Morgan is a girl with many regrets, and Bradley Rae is on top of that list. You see, she did something - she didn't wait five minutes, and that tiny amount of impatience changed the course of her life forever.

When her father sets up a fundraising reunion for their family owned kayaking club, her heart beats out of control when she sees Brad's name on that list. Part of her wants to refuse to go so she doesn't have to face him. But a larger part of her needs to see him, even if it's just a window into what might have been...

When Brad and Dakota meet again, will sparks fly, or will the past remain firmly in the past? And what about secrets? Can they survive the reality of what that one split decision, made all those years ago, has done? Or will they let it all go again?

## A Beautiful Taste Details

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Author : Lilliana Anderson

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## From Reader Review A Beautiful Taste for online ebook

### Ann-marie says

I was giving ARC by the author. This is part of the beautiful series but definitely can be read independently from the others. What was cool was seeing a glimpse of Elliott and Page from the beautiful forever. Brad has loved Dakota since he was sixteen and she was thirteen. Unfortunately because of their age it was never possible to have a romance. There's a scene when he finds out how old she is that he's angry and sad at the same time knowing it could never be. The book starts ten years ago when they were teenagers then to present day. Ten years later Brad is a well known chef with his own restaurant but yet his personal life is still without anyone. Never been able to forget Dakota and not understanding how after they spent their first night together many years ago she disappears. He then finds out the kayaking club there were part of (the place belongs to her father) they are having a reunion and he is torn whether or not if he is going. The book is told in Brad and Dakota words. In doing so you can actually feel what each is going through. At the same time Dakota is also freaking out and wondering if Brad will come to the reunion. It so happens something horrific happened the same night she was with Brad many years ago and that pushed her to pull away from him without ever telling him what happened. This book is about what if you could go back and change something in your life in this case a love you had but had lost this book answer the question does love stand the test of the time and in this case it does through clearing up misunderstanding and time and patience. A wonderful addition to the beautiful series. This story also touches on domestic abuse (a character named Ruby who works with Brad) and it is handled very well.

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### Gail says

ARC Given for a honest review

ATTN - SOME SPOILERS.. READ AT YOUR OWN RISK...

I can not express how much I love this author.. I have read 5 of her books in this series (2 of the main then the novellas) pretty much Beautiful 0.5 - Beautiful 2.5 and I just fell in love with her writing.. This is Bradley and Dakota's book.. This is a story of second chances.. Brad and Cody first meet when he is 16 she is 13.. They flirt a lot but she does keep her age from him and when he finds out this does hurt him a bit.. He tries to keep his distance from her.. and their friendship does suffer a bit.. but once she turns 16.. she is ready to take that next step.. After a beautiful night together.. something very very bad happens.. and Dakota does not talk to Brad for 7 yrs..

Brad has been invited back to town for a reunion of sorts.. what happens when he and Dakota see each other.. ? Will the love still be there? Was it never meant to be? You really don't need to read the others in this series to read this.. but why would you not.. Lilliana is an amazing writer and you feel like you are in the story when reading it. :)

My review is also posted on my blog. [www.ndbbr2014.blogspot.com](http://www.ndbbr2014.blogspot.com)

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### Crissy says

\*\*\* I received a copy in exchange for an honest review.\*\*\*

It's hard to write this review being as the story was such an easy read that I don't want to give anything away. However, there was a dark moment or subject within the story so beware. A Beautiful Taste was such a fantastic read. Brad was the perfect crush, boyfriend, love and definitely worth Dakota pursuing. I absolutely loved him; he wasn't perfect but came damn near close. I enjoyed Dakota (Cody) and her best friend Stacey's relationship a lot. The fact that Dakota handled everything in a grown-up way instead of whining or being weak was great to see. There will be moments while reading this book that will make you smile, laugh and touch the heart and the ending was well worth it. This is one second chance romance book I would definitely recommend to friends and I see myself reading again. I can't wait to read Ruby's story.

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### **Lora Borzelleca says**

I was a little put off by this one. Spoilers ahead. I loved the heroine, Dakota. I thought she was strong, independent and just a good person all around. I was very disappointed in both Bradley (hero) and Dakota's mother. They both kept telling Dakota, repeatedly, that she was damaged and broken from her rape that happened to her that caused her to hide from Bradley. It was like they wanted to keep her this wilted flower. I can understand why Bradley thought this, because he only just found out, and everything was so fresh. But her mother, after knowing what happened to her for 7 years still looks at her that way and treats her that way. If my daughter kept a baby that was a product of a rape, I would worship the ground she walks on, I would put her name in for sainthood. I would be so proud that my daughter was able to overcome all that pain and make something so beautiful. And the fact that Dakota's mom would always look at her grandson with trepidation and at one point was hopeful someone else was the father, actually made me sick. And then when Dakota was confiding in her about her relationship with Bradley when they were kids, and Dakota told her mom that she loved him...her mother was like, oh baby, you never had sex with him, you know nothing of love.....I actually had to put the book down and walk away for a moment. What does having sex with someone have ANYTHING to do with love? I dunno, I always just felt like her mother was putting/keeping her down. Yes I know her mother was scared for her, I mean her daughter was raped. But she just didn't look at how strong and beautiful Dakota had become. I really felt it lessened how strong Dakota really was.

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### **Rachel says**

[ No (hide spoiler)]

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### **Roksana says**

**DNF @ 46**

**2 stars for Dakota, she was very brave heroine many could only be inspired by it!**

What a disappointing read! It started really well with the introduction of a childhood friends and their growing love for each other, but then it got more and more less enjoyable! What upsets me the most were the double standards of the Hero! He dated girls, but heroine did not. I don't like that plot device. Its unequal..so the guy can get away with having sexual experience with girls as "a distraction" to get the love of his life out of his system, but heroine has to be too young and too in love with the Hero to move on physically with

someone else? Yes, I get that she tried to move on and he was chasing "other men" of of her, but isn't that double standards? So he can date and enjoy women but she cannot?

Then another thing that bothered me was the OW that worked with the Hero and had some history with him/aka kissing each other and she was "a present" character for a large portion of the book and I was very upset about that..do I want to read about the Hero allowing to stay the OW at his house and rescuing her from some douchebag boyfriend? The OW that he kissed a year ago and was attracted to? Then the heroine came to his house to explain herself and BAM! the OW was there and he just brushed her off not even explaining her that OW was just a friend in need or something to make the impression that "they were not in any intimate relationship"

**Is that the guy that says:**

**"My heart only feels alive whenever I'm around her. It's always been that way, and I've already waited a decade. I can stand to wait a little longer– time gives us perspective"**

So why when she came to him, he just gave her cold shoulder not even thinking about her..just assuming that the name of a guy he heard was with her? But he was with the OW at that faithful morning so its a hypocrisy to blame her, but not asking himself for his actions what the heroine would think of him seeing him with some nearly naked woman in his house wearing his shirt? Yeah, so he always thinks he is alive when around her, but he did not think that when rejecting her so casually that morning! Also it did not helped that "he went through many women" during the separation, when she was with no one! I don't like that kind of plot, it ruins the book for me and it did in this one!

I am just not into this Hero...he seem to contradict himself and there is far too many emphasis on the OW aka friend of his to help her rather than the actual rebuild of him and heroine on what they have lost years ago..isn't that what the book suppose to portray? A second chance book? It just did not felt that way to me..too much OW involved: with him interacting with her...do I really want to read about OW and how he was attracted to her? Where is the romance that will drag my heart and soul? It did not! and there is too much hypocrisy and double standards for my comfort zone!

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**Amy H says**

Got my arc woooooo!!!

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**Kristine GPI Bookblog says**

I didn't think I could ever truly love another one of Lilliana's hero's the same way I loved Elliot, because he and Paige stole my heart right from the start, I hadn't wanted to fall for Elliot but my resistance was futile, I was instantly attracted to him, what this has to do with A Beautiful Taste and Brad and Cody you ask? It's that there's a new leading man in my life, he's smart and sexy, and he's a chef and he owns me, his name is Bradley Rae, and you're in luck because A Beautiful Taste is his story.

Brad and Cody never quite found the right time for their burgeoning relationship as teens, things always got in their way, whether it was Brad doing what he thought was the right thing, or their age keeping them apart,

but seven years have passed since Cody walked out his door and now that a reunion has thrown them back together these two might finally get a chance to talk about what they might of had and what a future for them could mean.

There's a delicious slow burn to this book, Cody like my other favourite heroine in the Beautiful Taste series Paige, has lived a life that was picture perfect, until it wasn't, what should of been one of the greatest moments of her life, turned into a nightmare of epic proportions. Her journey back to the land of the living has been years in the making, but she never forgot Brad, and he certainly never forgot her.

There is a simple elegance in Anderson's words, where this story has inherent sexiness, there's also a great deal of heart and hope in this story of second chances and finding your way back to what you thought was lost. For lovers of this series Brad and Cody will be sure to steal your heart the way they did mine, but for those new to the series, each book is written as a stand alone with recurring characters that allows you to dive right in. Like every new instalment in this series, I was swept away and lost in the world Lilliana creates, she once again left me swooning, and falling over myself in love with this sexy chef, with a heart of gold, and the good intentions of a saint, and admiring and loving a woman who's been to hell and back and is strong enough to try again and find the happiness she always sought.

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## April says

**\*\*\*\*Received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*\***

Second chance romance for Brad and Dakota that started when they were teenagers, ended abruptly and several years later they pick up where they left off. This book is different than the others in the Beautiful series. The romance and hook-ups were slow building as the characters got a chance to actually date and get to know each other all over again. At first they got on my nerves with all the secrets and sexual tension but towards the end, I was kinda happy for it. Characters nowadays immediately jump into sack before they truly know each other. These characters already knew other but still choose to take their time. It was so sweet. Brad is the epitome of a good guy. He has what I like to call a 'want to save and help everybody' attitude. It often got him mixed up in strange situations. Dakota..... I am not sure how to describe her without giving away too much of the story. I will say this, she wants what she wants when she wanted it and she was determined to get it. Their relationship reminded me of high school teenagers getting to know each other and all the cute little butterflies that you get when you first start dating. You take everything slow at first then the magic happens. LOL!

A Beautiful Taste was tastefully written, not a lot of sex but a good storyline to keep you hooked anyway. Warning..... Don't read this book if you haven't had breakfast, lunch or dinner because your mouth will water from the meals/dates and your stomach will growl. All the food that Brad cooked made me EXTREMELY hungry!! GEEZ!!!! The ribs..... OMG, I can still remember how he cooked them, arranged them and how it looked in my mind. I love ribs and I have been craving them since I read this book. LOL!

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## Adriana says

I was honoured enough to receive an ARC of this book.

Firstly I would like to say thank you to Lilliana for giving me the opportunity to read and review this amazing book.

Let me start by saying i have only read the first in this series ( yes i know i have alot of catching up to do lol) What I do remember is that i loved the book. So when i got this book even though it was number six I was like yes i know this is going to be amazing, and to know that i could just jump in even though i haven't read all the others in the series and i would be fine, so thats what i did jumped right into this amazing book.

Bradley and Dekota met when he was 16 and she was 13, they flirted like crazy but she hid her age and when Brad found out he backed off, but they became friends and eventually something happened that changed everything, and Dekota changed forever.

When Brad suddenly comes back into her life she doesn't know if its a good thing or bad, part of her wants to face him part doesn't. What happens when they finally meet? Will Dekotas secret be revealed? How will Brad take it?

This is a story of Second chances, Will it be a Happy Ever After or will they just realise it was never meant to be and move on?

I suggest you read it and find out. Trust me you will not be disappointed. Like I said if you haven't read the rest of the series don't worry just jump in and read it. Lilliana really draws you in you feel so much emotion and your heartbreaks but it such a amazing book . loved every second of it.

I RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TO EVERYONE THAT LOVES ROMANCE AND SECOND CHANCES!!

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### **Lynn (Ellesea Loves Reading) says**

Dakota Morgan is both head-strong and naïve as a thirteen year old girl. She has a crush on Brad Rae, an older boy who's enrolled in the Summer kayaking programme run by her parents. She knows he's interested in her too, but left feeling humiliated when he confronts her for being three years younger than himself. Over time, her love for Brad only get stronger and just when they reach a point they can finally act on their mutual attraction, everything they hoped and dreamed for is destroyed.

Thanks to his Aunt Sara, Brad's future prospects don't look quite as hopeless as they could have been. He may have dropped out of school, but he's working in a restaurant to train as a chef. He works during the evenings, so spends his days hanging out with other kids on the Summer programme he's attending. Brad can't believe that the girl that has caught his eye is three years younger than himself. Even worse when he's asked by her father to keep an eye on her so other hormonal teenagers in the group don't hit on her. He wants to move on, but the feelings for Dakota just wont go away, so he settles with a friendship. Just when there relationship is moving forward, and incident beyond his control changes everything.

This is such a heartwarming story and was immediately drawn to the protagonists and into the plot where we hope that love conquers all. You will root for Brad and Dakota to find a way back to each other and, will them to overcome both the physical and mental pain stemming from that fateful night seven years ago. Whilst it is easy to understand the anguish and resulting consequences Dakota has faced and is now living with. We are reminded that Brad also has to come to terms with what happened in order to move on. The author has done a wonderful job of dealing with a sensitive incident in a compassionate way, translated via the actions of the main characters. Dakota is living each day the best she can, but is suffocated by her overprotective parents. Brad is protective, caring and compassionate way beyond his young age. He's willing

to do whatever it takes to finally be with the woman he loves.

I'm familiar with and like the author's writing style but unfamiliar with The Beautiful Series. I read "A Beautiful Taste" as standalone novel, but plan to catch-up with the rest of the series as soon as I can.

#### **4½ Stars**

\*\*\*arc generously received from the author in exchange for an honest review\*\*\*

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#### **Mya says**

3.5 really.....First I would like to thank the author for the arc copy I received ....As I promise an honest review

It had it moments where you wanted to hit the characters and not brad I love brad

But Dakota was so difficult at times to relate to she had her ups and downs

STACY IS A TRUE FRIEND AND SHE KEEPS THE RECORD STRAIGHT I admire her for dat

the plot was very nice but times like her mom I hated it or when she cried for no reason I wanted to punch her

But thank for the chance to read it

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#### **☆ BJ's Book Blog ☆Janeane ☆ says**

ARC received for an honest review

I am quite new to Lilliana Anderson's books, and I have not read the first 5 books in the Beautiful series, but they can all be read as stand alones.

They say you never forget your first love. Well, how would you feel if you ran into your first love a decade later?

This is what happens with Dakota (Cody) and Brad. We get told their story from when they first met as teenagers to the present day. I loved that we got past and present, and also got both POV's. Sometimes when reading in dual POV's it can be hard to keep up with who is telling their story, but Cody and Brad both has such distinct voices that this was not a problem with A Beautiful Taste.

From the minute we met Brad, I was hooked. Even as a 16 year old he was the kind of man so many others could only hope to be in their wildest dreams. Can understand why Cody was swooning over him

I adored how through the years our lovelies were still so attracted, were still circling around each other, just biding their time.

But has their time passed? Will their reconnection lead to the continuation of their great love, or is it all too much/

Nope, for that you are going to have to read for yourself.

Another things I love about Ms Anderson's writing is that a lot of it is set in the area where I grew up. I can completely immerse myself into the places she is writing about, as so many times I have been there and know exactly how to picture it.

There are some great secondary characters in this book, and I am sure as I go back and read the previous books in this series, I will get to know a lot more about their lives and loves. I look forward to finding the time to actually do this!

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### **Cassandra (Thebookishcrypt) says**

"Ten years down the track, we're finally beginning."

4.5 stars!

The author was generous enough to send me an ARC of this book to review and let's just say that I dropped everything I was doing in order to read it. This is the second book I have read from her and I was not disappointed! The perfect thing about this series is that the books can be read as standalone too! That really saved my rear with this. Lilliana gives her readers a ticking bomb and all we can do is wait for it to go off. Anyway, those first chapters into Brad's and Dakota's story made me fall in love with them right off the bat! Brad is one of the best male characters I've read about. He puts his loved one's needs before his own and goes through great lengths for them. I wish I could keep him for myself considering he's a chef! Who doesn't love a guy who can cook?

Dakota's story is a heavy one and it's not to be taken lightly. I never saw all of her hardships coming and I loved seeing how Brad dealt with the situation with her.

I loved how the author mentioned a lot of my favorite things (Johnny Depp, Arrow, American Pie) and it had me grinning and laughing all throughout the story!

This was a fast and easy read with only a handful of grammar errors. I will definitely be continuing with this series! I can't wait to read Ruby's story! I hope you all give this author a chance!

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### **Susan says**

\*\*\*ARC given from Author for honest review\*\*\*

This is the 6th book in the series each being a standalone. I must say this is a beautifully written book of pure love at young age that has many obstacles to overcome.

Brad was older than her and had so many emotions about the age gap. Dakota was younger but mature for her young age. She loved him and was open about it to a fault. Brad loved her quietly afraid of his feelings

till that one Moment that the chemistry explodes between them and there is no turning back. But with ever amazing coming together moment there is something that will either make or break you and then what do you do with your life. Dakota experiences so much in her years that no one should have too. Mistakes are made but she never knew what her future would hold till Brad came back into her life.

Thank you Lilliana Anderson for this beautiful series and story of 2 amazing people that not only can I identify with and connect with but the story is so wonderfully written you can feel the chemistry bounce off the pages. Again thank you for the opportunity to read and review your book.

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