



Home Improvement

Barbara Cool Lee

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Kim Bishop's quirky group of friends are trying to convince the young widow to start dating again. But after several duds, she might find that the right guy has been under her nose all along in Home Improvement.

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The Pajaro Bay stories are filled with light and breezy, heartwarming fun, and always leave you with a happy ending. Collect them all:

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Home Improvement Details

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Nancy Hammons says

I wasn't sure about this, it started with Kim returning from her husband's funeral, but as usual in short stories the time frame was condensed and things progressed well. Her husband's best friend, Gage was a gentleman and nobody knew. It worked out well and I loved it.

Debbie says

I like the continuation of characters through the series, but you can read each book on it's own. This was a short story that was still able to have good character development.
This is only my 2nd Barbara Cool Lee book and they are definitely "Harlequin Romance" type books. I really enjoy the Northern California small town coastal setting, where everyone knows your name...and business. Sweet books.

Yvonna says

Just too brief

I liked the characters so much that I wanted more of them. The story was much too brief to be satisfying.

Christie Maurer says

This is a charming story--how "the right one" can be under your nose all along. I enjoy Barbara Cool Lee's Pajaro books, and it whetted my appetite for the next one. Love the old house they're fixing up.

Kris says

This was listed as a Christian story, but it certainly was not. I am glad it was a short story or I would not have bothered to finish reading it. Nothing new here--too obvious what was going to happen.

Linda Walters says

I was so disappointed with this story. Too bland, too short, too predictable. There were no twists or turns to the story and I kept waiting for it but it wasn't very interesting. There was no time to even develop much about the two main characters, who I think I might have liked. I was expecting a whole lot more. You see, the first novel I read was "The Honeymoon Cottage (A Pajaro Bay Mystery Romance) and I loved that one. Yes, I know it says its a short story but, I guess from now I will steer clear of them since this one wasn't worth the time I invested in it. It really needed to be a longer story, then maybe it would have had enough

time to develop some kind of depth.

IslandRiverScribe says

Kim Bishop is a new widow, her husband, Bryce, having been killed in an auto accident. After the funeral, she returns alone to the historic island cottage that they had been renovating. Noticing Bryce's toolbox on the floor, she picks up his hammer and proceeds to decimate the plaster wall in front of her, screaming out her anguish with every blow of the hammer against the wall.

With this magnificent scene, Barbara Cool Lee begins a 24-page short story to accompany her Pajaro Bay series. And then the author skips the action forward six months.

With a tale this short, the reader cannot expect any significant level of background story or any in-depth character development. A story this short is simply a few snapshots, not the whole photo album. But those snapshots need to be clearly focused. In that regard, the second scene of the story was a staid, formulaic studio pose and the last scene was clearly blurred.

The studio pose has nothing to do with the "widow" scenario per se. It is the premise of the young, childless widow with a large insurance settlement who has no driving necessity to put food on the table, put clothes on anyone's back, pay a mortgage or move on. Other young widows should be so lucky. So this set-up that allowed her to wallow in her grief and self-pity for 6 months soured my sympathy for her.

The blurred scenario was the last of the story where Kim and Gage Kelly get together and pledge forever to each other. Even though he was Bryce's best friend, and Bryce has been dead for over six months, Kim has no clue Gage loves her. We do; the author lays the clues nicely. But what she doesn't lay out is any indication whatsoever that Kim feels any spark in his presence. One minute he is a constant reminder of the loss of her husband and the next he is the man she will live with forever. The story doesn't need any additional scenes to un-blur the lines; it only needs a few sentences interspersed within previous scenes to make the ending believable.

Tommie Morris says

Pavarotti Bay

I really like ms Lee's stories!! She has a witty way with words! This was a short, but sweet tale, with referrals of past characters from the series.... feels like you are friends.....ty.....

Elle (Ligia) says

Such a sweet little story!
Now, I'm tempted to check out the rest of the series.

Beth says

Short story that is a prequel to the Honeymoon Cottage by the same author. This was enjoyable; it was about a widow who is fixing up a house, and her late husband's friend who is helping her. Because it's so short, it's a bit difficult to see the progression out of her grief and into feelings for the friend.

Lisa (Remarkablylisa) says

This book was just so boring.

Cecly Ann says

Thoroughly enjoyable short read. The characters were genuine and the settings totally believable. Who would think up a Fashion store for Dogs? Who would plot that into a story about love and second chances? Ten stars.

Bj Hoover says

I know this is a short story, but I love the world so much, that I always want more! It was fun to revisit Pajaro Bay and catch up with some old friends. This is a cute little romance and does not have the suspense and mystery of the other books in the series, but a joy, never the less. Great fun...

Sherry McWilliams says

Received a free e-book copy from the author. I loved the characters and the story line. A cute romance that leaves you with a smile.

Betty says

Kim Bishop is a new widow who is grieving the loss of her husband. After about 6 months her friends are trying to get her to re-enter the dating world, but she isn't sure she is ready. After a bit of pressure she agrees and the blind dates start. Is funny that we don't always see what is staring us in the face and this is what Kim experiences.

This is a wonderful, short, romantic story, that I truly enjoyed. I definitely recommend it.
