



Crossing the Friend Zone

Kelly Eadon

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From the author of *The Wedding Date* and *The Family Man* comes the final book in Kelly Eadon's Belmont Beach Brides series. Event planner Ainsley Sloan spends her days creating perfect weddings for her clients and her nights wondering if she'll ever find her own happily ever after. So when her friend--and total manwhore--Ryan Lawhill starts making her skin tingle and her heart race, she's determined to shut it down. The last thing she needs is another broken heart. But when these opposites attract, can true love ignite?

Crossing the Friend Zone Details

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From Reader Review Crossing the Friend Zone for online ebook

Isha Coleman says

ARC Review: Crossing the Friend Zone (Belmont Beach Brides) by Kelly Eadon

Kelly Eadon is a new discovery for me, but I'm enjoying her work. The biggest lure for me is that she can lighten the mood just as quickly as she can break your heart. All while tempting your soul. Her stories are great way to sit back, relax and get away from the daily grind. Crossing the Friend Zone is a perfect expect novel. Short enough to flirt but just the right length to leave a reader craving more. Ryan and Ainsley blur the line between friendship and seduction in almost as short a time as it takes Ms. Eadon to capture the heart. Lock, stock and barrel. I'm an Eadonite for life.

Cyndi Becker says

The Belmont Beach Brides series is a standout in the contemporary romance. Kelly Eadon has managed to take what are some standard tropes and make them feel fresh; a fake wedding date and a second chance, a single father and an unrequited crush, and friends becoming lovers, all feel decidedly unique by her hand. In this case, Ainsley and Ryan of the seem to find themselves in each others company more often then not, and a challenge is born. Can Ryan make Ainsley take dating without the intent to marry, and can Ainsley make Ryan see that commitment is doable. Basically make the uptight, rule focused Ainsley relax and make "for a good time only" Ryan take relationships seriously.

The story opens with the Ainsley licking her wounds after a breakup, and Ryan playing her knight in shining armor. The self professed Minister of fun has 3 weeks to convince Ainsley to loosen-up and let go of her dating rules.

"He glanced at her quickly. "It's all about expectations. Keep them low, and nobody is hurt or disappointed. I could teach you, you know."

Ryan comes to the fight with his own long endured battle wounds, the why behind his unwillingness to entertain the idea of an serious romantic entanglement, which is all the more reason that seeing Ryan transform is gratifying. He's protective and considerate, but just a little jaded. The ever loyal Ainsley has weathered rejection and disappointment, hanging onto a relationship for way to long, but she's a romantic, hopeful and stronger then she even knows. And Ryan knows a thing or two about romance.

The story unfolds at the perfect pace with the two of them valiantly fighting their attraction to each other. Challenges arise, communication breaks down, and I found myself completely enraptured by the potential of these two together. I've loved both of the characters throughout the series and Ryan is just the sweetest thing. He's got a strong foundation, he just needs to be enlightened.

This is a fun and sexy 5 star read. I recommend the entire series but this one may have been my favorite. I'm already looking forward to Kelly Eadons' next release.

I was gifted a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review

Rê says

3.5 “No Friend Zone” Stars

ARC via NetGalley.

Thank you, Forever Yours!

Crossing the Friend Zone is the third title in Kelly Eadon’s debut series, and I had the pleasure of reading all three of them. Lucky me!

For now (not sure if this is supposed to be the last book in the series or not), The Family Man is still my favorite, but once again Kelly Eadon did a great job creating a sweet romance with likable characters.

In this book, we get to see more of Ainsley and Ryan, characters we met back in book 1, since they’re best friends with the main characters in The Wedding Date. Ainsley is James’ close friend, and Ryan is Kate’s BFF, so I was more than happy to see them happy together.

The road to get to that happiness is a long one, though.

When we met Ainsley, she was engaged and close to getting married to a man I suspected wasn’t as invested in their relationship as she was. The thing with Ainsley is: she’s always a 100% in. That drive sometimes works in her favor, like when she planned the whole fake relationship thing that put James and Kate together, helping them find love; or how she’s so dedicated to wedding planning that she’s made a successful career out of it.

There are other times that Ainsley’s dedication doesn’t pay off. Her engagement is the biggest example. The man she was sure she’d marry decides to leave the country without her, and she goes from a woman with a plan (get married, buy a house with a white picket fence and have the 2.5 kids) to a single woman nearing her 30s. Look, unlike Aileen, I don’t think a woman in her thirties need to desperately look for a husband or she’ll die alone. That’s ludicrous, in my opinion, but Ainsley was raised to think that way. Her father is extremely conservative and judgmental, from the little we got to see of him. Point is, Ainsley, the wedding planner and bridesmaid-to-be in Kate’s wedding, is alone and sad. So very sad.

Enters Ryan, the bon vivant allergic to relationships. Due to a childhood trauma, Ryan doesn’t believe he can be happy with the same woman for the rest of his life, so he does the whole no-strings-attached thing and is happy about it. For Ryan, the important thing is to know how to have fun. And he does that quite a lot. When he sees Ainsley’s struggle, he decides to help her get some fun, too. He proposes a three-week plan that will lead them to spend a lot of time together doing things Ainsley wouldn’t, otherwise. As long as he doesn’t do her, that should be fine.

Ryan and Ainsley are the perfect example of opposites attract. They’re nothing alike—Ryan is afraid of commitments, and Ainsley is looking for the perfect guy; Ryan lives life unafraid of what other people will think, and Ainsley smiles even when she’s hurting inside; Ryan is relaxed and carefree, and Ainsley is serious and driven. The list goes on and on. But they have one thing in common: they’re attracted to each other and trying to hide that.

The drama in this book relies on the fact that these two people want different things out of life, but they still

want each other. I really enjoy stories like that. When the character's inner conflicts and life values/choices are what keep them apart. It makes for a fun (and sometimes angsty) ride. In this case, it's more fun than angsty. Like all other Kelly Eadon's books I've read so far, sweet and fun are her stories' trademark.

I had fun watching Ryan and Ainsley banter, than get to know who they truly were—the man behind Ryan's give-no-F attitude and the woman behind Ainsley's give-too-much-F attitude. They revealed their true selves to one another and that was the first step they took toward building a relationship.

I wish things had moved a little faster, or that they had acknowledged their attraction to each other a bit earlier, but I still enjoyed how the book was written. There were a few things here and there that I didn't approve of (mainly Ryan's attitude toward other women in the beginning) or wish had been handled differently, but Ainsley and Ryan kept me entertained and rooting for them.

Another positive was the chance to see Kate and James and Griffin and Beth again. We even got to see Mabel! Let me just tell you, Mabel is still as sweet, smart and funny as I remembered her. That made me extremely happy.

Crossing the Friend Zone is a great addition to the Belmont Beach Brides, and it will please not only this author's fans, but also readers who like their romances light, sweet and fun.

Miranda Owen says

<http://freshfiction.com/review.php?id...>

Diane'sBookReflections says

A copy was generously provided by author in exchange for an honest review.

What an enjoyable read! This is the first time I have read Kelly Eadon, but it won't be the last!! It took me a bit to get into the character development but once the author had set the pace, I couldn't put it down. Ainsley and Ryan were perfect for each other!! They shared the same friends, had known each other for a while, and were friends to each other as well. Quite honestly they balanced each other perfectly (maybe that's a different way to say that opposites attract). And don't they say a good relationship should start out as friends anyway? That's exactly how Ainsley and Ryan started! Of course they fought the attraction they had for each other for a while, and kept telling themselves they were just friends until Ryan had to rescue Ainsley from a mountain top....and boy did the chemistry really kick in at that point!!!

Of course there were the normal difficulties that each character had to overcome to realize that they had indeed meet their perfect match in each other, but they both finally got to their HEA at the conclusion of the book...with each other!!!

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Shrimalya says

Another great read from Kelly Eadon! The third book in the Belmont Beach Brides series focuses on Ainsley and Ryan! All the books in the series can be read as standalones, but I urge you to read all of them as I'm pretty sure you'd love it!

Ainsley has just come out of a relationship. Her boyfriend left for a job overseas without even telling her, when she was expecting him to propose to her. Poor girl! Not only does she have to deal with the questions, but on top of that her snobby, elite parents are disappointed that she remains unmarried. She is a little bit of a control freak and has always been in serious relationships only.

Ryan is her polar opposite. He is a band manager and is not one for commitment. He knows that though he finds Ainsley incredibly attractive, their friends would have his head if he hurt her in any manner. And he would definitely hurt her since she's always looking for a serious relationship. As a favor to her and their friends, he escorts her. But, even though both try to put each other in the friend-zone, certain lines always end up being crossed.

Ainsley wants to learn to let go and have fun and she thinks Ryan is the best person to help her with it. So they go for a no strings attached relationship, but as always, emotions end up getting tangled!

Ryan and Ainsley were really great together! I loved how Ryan brought out the carefree side of Ainsley and how Ainsley helped Ryan with many other things. It was fun seeing the slow development of their relationship and it didn't feel rushed at all!

Watching Ainsley unwind and learn to have fun was so cute! In the beginning she was a little tensed and the start between her and Ryan felt awkward. So it was quite realistic!

And then it slowly transformed into a sweet friendship and a beautiful relationship!

Loved seeing all my favorite characters from the previous books back again! The friendship between the girls is one thing that I admire a lot! Kate, Beth and Ainsley are all so different from each other, but have each others backs!

And I think this is the last book in the series? If it is, then I am quite sad. But I will be eagerly waiting for more books from Kelly!

Michelle says

Crossing the Friend Zone is an adult contemporary romance by author Kelly Eadon. This is the third book in the Belmont Beach Brides series. I really enjoyed the first two books in the series, but each of the books can be read as standalones. They are all set in the same world, and I enjoy seeing the character crossover. I loved Kelly's easy way with romance and building a connection between characters. Her first book, The Wedding Date, was a feel good read for me, and her next book, The Family Man was the same. And Crossing the Friends Zone was no different. It was a feel good romance that I read in one sitting.

Crossing the Friend Zone is the story of Ainsley and Ryan. If you have read my reviews, you know that I love a good friends to more storyline. Mix that in with Kelly's gift for writing fun, sweet and sexy romances that make you want to smile, and I knew this one was going to be a hit with me. Ryan and Ainsley are both such good people. Yes, neither one of them is perfect and I Ryan has a bit of a playboy in him, but he is what I am calling playboy light. Underneath it all, he is a big softie. The best thing about Kelly's books is that she writes characters that you can't help but like and you can't help but relate to. I felt like I was friends with

Ainsley and Ryan. Like I was watching two of my friends get together, which meant there were a whole lot of cheering and awh moments on my behalf. Plus, he rescued her! That earns major points in my book!

Bottom line: Crossing the Friend Zone, and the entire Belmont Beach Brides series is a very fun read. I love the way the series is set up because you can still read each of the books independently, but if you do read them in order you are privy to some extra insights into the various characters and you get to watch them interact in the background throughout the books. It is one of my favorite setups for contemporary romances. Kelly Eadon is quickly becoming a go-to feel good read author. I know that her books will put a smile on my face.

books are love says

received in exchange for a honest review.

You cannot help but love Ryan. He was like a puppy and a kid in a candy store. So full of vibrant energy and always enjoying life. Inside though he was a little broken. After what happened with his dad as a kid he closed off the idea of love. He feared the person wouldn't find him worth it and run from him. He feared he would hurt those that would love him and leave him. So instead he kept life lighthearted.

Ainsley was the serious friend. She didn't really enjoy stopping to smell the roses. Now she is looking to have some fun and turns to Ryan for help there. Together they do some adventurous things. I love his lighthearted approach to some things. he doesn't let life keep him down. When he needs to be serious he is but other than that he lets life come as it needs to and takes it one moment at a time. They balance each other out. She gives him a sense of calm and wanting to have more. Teaches him to open up and let someone in. To be more responsible and he teaches her it is okay to enjoy life. To let go and live once in a while.

the attraction between them is through the roof. They don't act on it at first. First they get to know one another and just enjoy life as it comes. I love his van moments. He is just so adorable. Once they cross the line from friends to friends with bennies is when things change for Ryan. He gets feelings and emotions. he is wanting more and confused by this. It is Ainsley that keeps things more distant. When he comes with more she steps back. There comes a time though when their friends get on him he backs off afraid of hurting her. unfortunately Ainsley does get her dander up and in a moment to prove a point goes off on her own and puts herself in danger. This is when we see Ryan become a hero and rescue her. We also get them in a steamy and sexy 48 hours.

This is such a adorable and fun book. I love how opposite these two are and yet they both want the same thing someone to love them and be there for them. Someone to make them feel safe, wanted and there for them. Someone to come home to and wake up to. Someone to let in and trust. You can't help but adore the characters and the journey that Ryan and Ainsley go on to find their way to each other.

C bond says

netgalley

A pretty good read. I really liked this book.

Kendra says

Another hit by Kelly Eadon!

I adored this one from start to finish. It was cute, fluffy, and full of sass. The chemistry is sizzling, and scorching the pages! Crossing the Friend Zone was a lovely, quick read. Any readers of romance would be happy to read this one!

Ainsley is the only one who could tame Ryan, and personally, I wouldn't want it any other way. They were super cute together and fit even more perfectly than I imagined. An exquisite tale of friends to lovers.

Eadon ties up the final couple in the series with a bang. There were characters from the previous books in the series, which I think made this one all the more special. I loved the cameos and felt more involved with the story.

*I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced reader copy for the book tour.

Sarah says

Ainsley is dealing with a broken heart and now she needs to face her friends and family at her best friends engagement party and she's glad to face it with her good friends. When Ryan challenges her she takes in on in hopes to also change him a little too and they both set the same rules not falling in love and no sex, just plain fun. Ryan is not a family or relationship kind of guys he likes to have fun and no connections at all to any women. He is set to show Ainsley how to have fun, relax and live in the moment. Will they both be able to walk away with their hearts in tack?

What fun book the emotions are all over the place through out. The friendship between the female characters seem more like siblings they just were there for each other no matter what. I did not read all the books in the series but I loved the two I read and want to go back and read the other. I really enjoyed the way that the author had both characters in the book struggle and it was not about who was the hero but how each came together. This book has strong language through out and does have some adult scenes so it may not be for everyone. Overall I did find it hard to put down I want to find what twist the author was going to through out next.

The Book Junkie Reads . . . says

Ryan and Ainsley has something special simmering below the surface it just took some time to rise to the top. Ryan had that fun loving guy attraction that drew women to him. He was not over bearing but sweet and endearing. Ainsley felt she knew what was best for her. Keeping Ryan as a friend was what she thought was best for her but life has a way of showing you otherwise. Ainsley and Ryan had a connection that was beyond that of friends. It just took a few well place incidents to open both of their eyes to the possibility.

This was a welcomed addition to the series that gave a friends-to-lovers aspect to their romance. Kelly Eadon has done a great job mixing the characters and bringing them together to make a couple that shows a different side of their relationship and how it could be deeper and more lasting when they both are in it for

keeps. A beautiful contemporary romance series that builds with each new book that is added to the series.

Catherine Wright (Cat's Guilty Pleasure) says

This was an enjoyable book. I loved the friends to lovers story. I also loved that there wasn't a lot of drama and angst. Ryan was so lovable and Ainsley was adorable. I loved them these two together, they made perfect sense and I also loved that they really brought out the best in each other. When the feelings become real, can they commit to them? I really look forward to read more from this author.

Heather andrews says

Ainsley knows how to put Ryan in his place, "since I carted your drunk *** home last night and tipped the doorman to help carry you into my apartment, I think you'll eat what I tell you and be grateful for the food." I loved Ryan he knew how to make his woman feel special, "Ainsley practically skipped up the walkway. Anticipation and satisfaction coursed through him. He'd done this. He'd made her this happy. And it had been so d*** easy too." I really enjoyed this book, I loved the characters.

Danielle says

I have loved every book in Eadon's Belmont Beach Bride series, but I have to say I think Crossing the Friend Zone has to be my favorite to date. I hoped Ryan would get his own HEA from the minute he entered this series and this book was everything I hoped it would be.

Ryan was funny and charming but a total ladies man. I wasn't sure how Eadon was going to transform his ways but as the story progressed I was happy how it was all coming together. His character grew and I loved seeing a different side to the fun loving guy that he started out as.

Ainsley came off as a uptight princess from the very beginning so I had a little trouble really liking her but once she let her hair down a little i definitely liked her much better. Ryan was a good choice for her romantic interest because he was so carefree but in the end these two really balanced one another out perfectly.

From the beginning I loved their banter but I also really loved their chemistry. From the very first page Ryan started to see Ainsley differently and knew that he wanted her even though he felt he couldn't give her everything she wanted and deserved. As they started to grow and form more of a relationship I couldn't stop myself from ginning and rooting them on.

Friends to lovers stories always touch me and Eadon did a wonderful job at bringing these two together. While I love drama in a romance Eadon only added a minor amount which I was okay with. The romance

was sweet but it was the building of it that kept me invested in wanting to read more so I could see how this couple turned out in the end.

Is Crossing the Friend Zone the last in the series? Possibly, but one thing I know for sure is that I will be looking forward to reading more of Eadon's work in the future.
