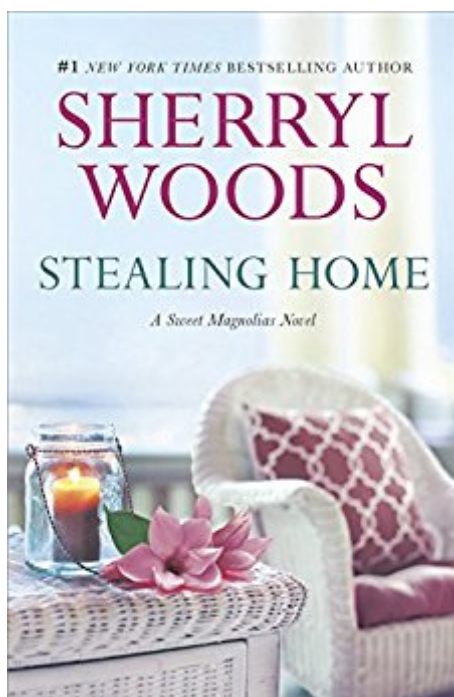


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Stealing Home (The Sweet Magnolias Book 1)



Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author Sherryl Woods returns readers to her world of strong friendships and heartfelt emotions in this classic Sweet Magnolias novel. Maddie Townsend might live in a town called Serenity but there's been nothing calm or peaceful about her life since her marriage broke up. This stay-at-home mom has no job skills, an out-of-control sixteen-year-old son, a talkative fourteen-year-old who's suddenly gone silent, a six-year-old daughter whose heart is broken, an ex-husband whose younger girlfriend is expecting their baby and two best friends who think she's somehow qualified to help them open a fitness spa for women. But if Maddie is a tad on edge with all that on her plate, it's nothing compared to the chaos that ensues when she discovers that her son's baseball coach has feelings for her and the whole town disapproves. Maddie's faced a lot of challenges lately with strength and resolve, but Cal Maddox may turn out to be more than she can handle. Then again, he could just be the one man in all of South Carolina who can help her find serenity.

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Customer Reviews

Maddie Townsend's doctor husband has left her for his pregnant nurse girlfriend. Not only does this stay-at-home mom have no job skills, but her best friends have roped her into managing a fitness spa for women. Her eldest son Ty, the town's star baseball pitcher, suddenly starts failing in everything as the divorce nears. Naturally, Maddie turns to the high school baseball coach, Cal Maddox, for assistance but this only inflames the local gossip and school board. Like the recent schoolboard scandal in Benson, Colorado, the uniformed jealous gossips of Serenity, South Carolina are bent on destruction and retribution. Maddie's life is anything but serene, especially as she feels herself falling for Cal. A true delight! The portrayal of small town gossip is both realistic and so humorous. This novel is pure fun. *Stealing Home* is the perfect read for anyone who has ever had their heart broken, now or any time in the past --- the perfect revenge fantasy that makes your heart bigger not nastier.

Maddie Townsend is devastated when her doctor husband announces that not only is he having an affair with his nurse, but she's pregnant and he plans to marry her. His departure destroys the self confidence of older son Tyler, quiets chatty son Kyle, and leaves his daughter wondering when daddy is coming home. With little job experience in her resume, stay-at-home-mom Maddie agrees to join pals Dana Sue and Helen (an attorney that got her a great settlement) in a new business venture - a women's only spa. When ex-Atlanta Brave Cal Maddox (now Tyler's baseball coach) befriends Maddie, the town gossips are on full alert, and doling out a double standard (okay for Henry to impregnate his nurse while married; not okay for separated Maddie to date the high school coach). Though they are just friends, Maddie is reluctant to become anything more since he is 10 years younger. Henry cannot believe the changes in his ex-wife and wonders if he made the wrong decision. While her children refuse to have anything to do with their father if it includes the woman that destroyed their family, will they have the same reaction when Cal makes his feelings for their mother known? Judging by the initial entry in Wood's latest trilogy, this time set in picturesque small town Serenity, South Carolina, she has a winner on her hands. Great romance, family dynamics, realistic dialogue for the kids, and wonderfully developed secondary characters stand out and keep the reader glued to the end.

I forced myself to read to page 250 and then skimmed the rest of the book to find out how it ended. This book just did not keep my interest. Every time I felt something would finally develop between Cal and Maddie something else would happen that would prevent it. After a while I realized I just didn't care if they got together or not. It seemed like the same boring lines were used over, and over

and over again. The ending was so predictable, I was happy I skimmed the book because I think I would have thrown it across the room if I had read the whole book with the lame ending. I don't understand the rave reviews. The romance is hot and cold for the first 250 pages, and does not really firmly develop until almost the end. To me this whole book was just constant, constant, constant conflict within the family. That is not my idea of a good romance novel. This is my first and last Sherryl Woods book.

An easy read and a good book for a day or two at the beach. The age old story of a wife and mother finding her life changing when her husband of twenty years asks for a divorce to marry his pregnant girlfriend. Of course, the three kids, 16, 14, and 6, are devastated and develop problems. The 16 year old is a more than promising baseball player and a good student. However, his rebellion against his father displays itself in the classroom and on the baseball field. The Sweet Magnolias rally to the rescue and offer Maddie, the about to be divorced friend, an opportunity to join them in opening a Spa. Then there's the hunky baseball coach who not only notices the change in his star player but also his more than attractive mother. Just as the divorce is about to become final the erring father decides he wants to regain his family. By this time the Spa is open, Maddie and the coach have something going, and the entire town is in an uproar over it all. Will Maddie start a new life with the man she loves or will she go back to the unfaithful husband for the sake of her kid? Well, you'll have to read it to find out.

Sherryl Woods provides a great foundational novel for her Sweet Magnolias series in "Stealing Home". When Maddie's husband of twenty-years unexpectedly announces he wants a divorce to marry his twenty-three year old pregnant girlfriend, she is blind-sided and devastated. For the sake of her three children: sixteen year old Tyler; fourteen year old Kyle; and six year old Katie, Maddie draws on all the inner strength she knows she once possessed to give them the stability and sense of security necessary to balance what they see as their abandonment by their father. With the help of her two best friends, Maddie charts a new life for herself which surprisingly includes a relationship with a man ten years her junior: her son's baseball coach, Cal. In this volume, Woods lays a great groundwork of character development for the primary people that the series focused in the small South Carolina town of Serenity will follow. I appreciate Wood's lack of gratuitous sex. Instead, she builds on the growing intimacy between Maddie and Cal, yet allows readers to use their own imagination rather than rely in unnecessary explicit descriptions of the intimate details of sexual encounters. The story is one of family, friendship, small town life, change, gossip and growth. I

enjoyed this book and recommend it to anyone looking for a pleasant low-key reading experience. I am going on line to purchase the next volume in the series NOW!

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