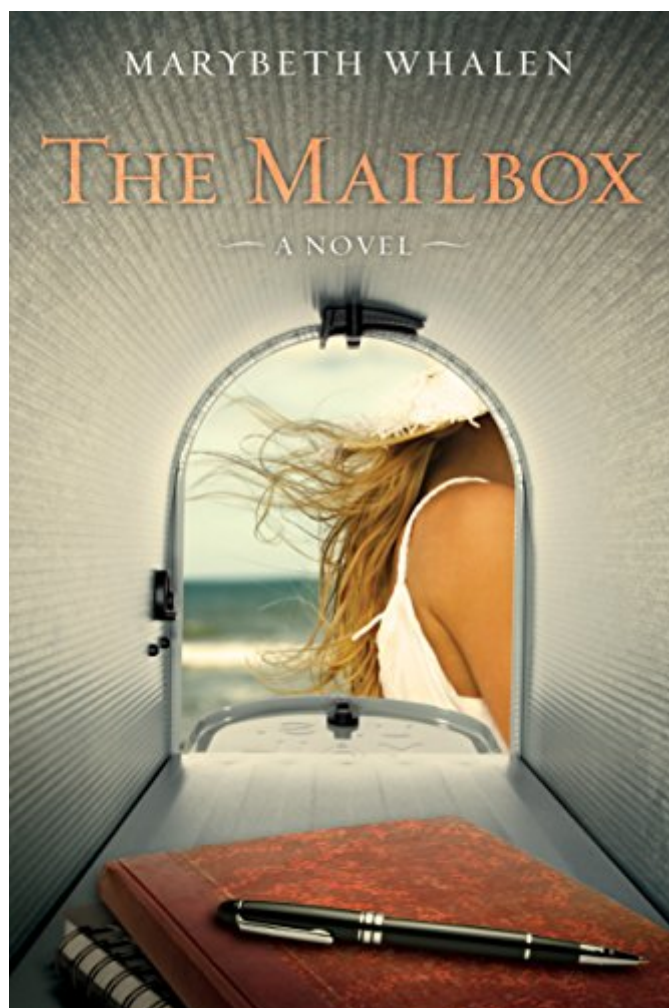


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The Mailbox: A Novel (A Sunset Beach Novel Book 1)



Synopsis

Centered on a real landmark on the coast of North Carolina, *The Mailbox* blends intriguing folklore and true faith with raw contemporary issues that affect every woman. When Lindsey Adams first visits the Kindred Spirit mailbox at Sunset Beach, she has no idea that twenty years later she will still be visiting the mailbox—still pouring out her heart in letters that summarize the best and worst parts of her life. Returning to Sunset for her first vacation since her husband left her, Lindsey struggles to put her sorrow into words. Memories surface of her first love, Campbell—and the rejection that followed. When Campbell reappears in her life, Lindsey must decide whether to trust in love again or guard herself from greater pain. *The Mailbox* is a rich novel about loss, hope, and the beauty of second chances.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Mailbox was reminiscent of a Nicholas Sparks story- it had all the same sort of elements. There's heartbreak, redemption, second chances, young love, and renewed love. For Ms. Whalen's first book, this was a pleasant read. There is a mailbox at Sunset Beach, North Carolina. It is called the Kindred Spirit. There are notebooks and pens for visitors to share their stories with the Kindred

Spirit who reads what they write. It becomes a place of special meaning to Lindsey and Campbell. It is somewhere Campbell brings Lindsey during their first summer together. She begins a yearly devotion to writing to the Kindred Spirit and sharing her feelings, dreams, desires, and heartbreaks. The story spans 1985 - 2004 through flashbacks and some of Lindsey's letters. From this background we learn that Lindsey is currently in the aftermath of a painful divorce. She is packing to take her two kids to Sunset Beach, a trip that used to be made as a family. This is their first sojourn, minus Grant, her now ex. Being at Sunset Beach always brings back memories of her first love at fifteen, with Campbell, a local. He is still there, divorced himself with one daughter. You know that it is only a matter of time before they run into each other. In this sense, the story is predictable. You can see what is going to happen. But their reunion journey is still a sweet and touching thing to witness. I enjoyed the flashback portions that help weave in what happened in the interim years. The only thing that I didn't quite understand is why the story stopped at 2004. I was expecting there to be an epilogue at the end that was "Present Day" but there wasn't. It would've made more sense since this is published in 2010 for the years to go to at least 2009... This is a small thing I know but it was a bit odd.

While this book didn't "wow" me, I was pleasantly surprised by how good it actually was. I was interested right from the very beginning, and I found myself not being able to put it down after a certain point, although it was a pretty quick read. The whole mailbox part of the plot was so intriguing to me -- and I love that it's actually a real thing in North Carolina! For me, Lindsey was such a relatable character. Still haunted by a teenage summer love affair that happened when she was fifteen, Lindsey tries to move on with her life while dealing with two children and a recent divorce from a cheating husband. When she shows up for her annual beach vacation to the town where her old ex-boyfriend still lives, things get complicated when she realizes that she is finally free from the shackles of marriage that have stopped her from pursuing the relationship that she's secretly missed for the last twenty years. Although I've never personally had a summer love like Lindsey, I've been haunted by past relationships, as I'm sure many people have. One of the things that made me like this book so much was how it had an aspect of mystery to it. Who was the person that she had been writing to at the mailbox for all of these years? Would she ever find out and be able to connect with this person? There were also a few surprising moments in the novel that I really didn't see coming. Usually chick lit books don't have that aspect to them, so I really enjoyed that there were some twists and turns that I didn't see coming. There were two aspects of this book that I didn't like, though. First of all, on the ebook version, for some reason, the acknowledgements and a

million reviews of this book were included right at the beginning.

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