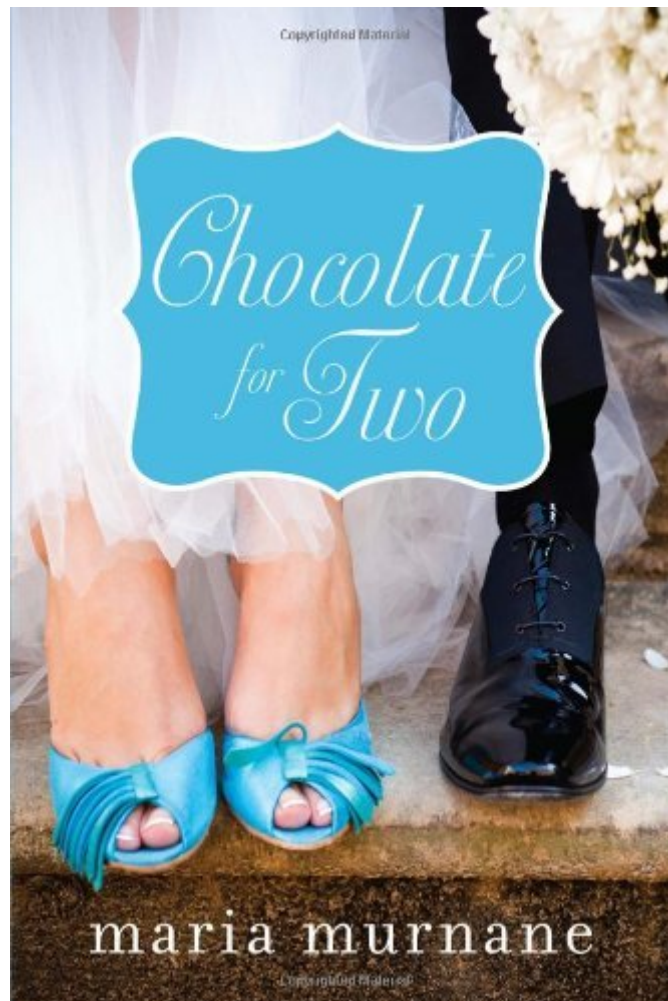


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Chocolate For Two (The (Mis)Adventures Of Waverly Bryson Book 4)



Synopsis

Waverly Bryson's life is officially perfect: She's engaged to her gorgeous boyfriend, Jake; her Honey on Your Mind TV segment is more popular than ever; and Waverly's Honey Shop is growing by leaps and bounds. What could possibly go wrong? For starters everything. This is Waverly, after all, and drama follows her wherever she goes. Why should her trip down the aisle be any different? Now, before she can marry the man of her dreams, she'll have to go head-to-head with his high-society mother, whose vision for their wedding isn't exactly meshing with Waverly's. Adding to the chaos is the impending departure of Paige, Waverly's very pregnant retail partner; the arrival of her suddenly secretive best friend, Andie; and the meddling of a new TV producer who's promising to shake things up. Suddenly Waverly's perfect life feels like it's about to come crashing down unless the irrepressible Miss Bryson can prove to the world—and to herself—that she really can have it all.

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Customer Reviews

This is the fourth novel to feature Waverly Bryson and friends. It's been quite wonderful to watch

Maria Murnane grows as a writer. Life is pretty great for Waverly right now: she's engaged to Jake, her Honey business is going very well, and her stint on a syndicated talk show has garnered her lots of attention. People relate to Waverly - both characters in the book and the reader as well. Jake's mother is, well, she is something that rhymes with witch. She knows that her behavior is cold enough to freeze alcohol, but she seems to feel it's her right as the mother of the groom. Waverly, whose mother is deceased, isn't quite sure how to handle Mrs. McIntyre and thus allows herself to be railroaded in all decisions. Waverly is also facing an increased workload at her TV job. In addition, her friend, Paige, who also runs the Honey product distribution side of things, is pregnant and due to go on maternity leave. Throw in a wedding and an beyond overbearing future mother-in-law and you can feel Waverly's stress come right off of the page. Waverly, Jake, and the rest of the cast of characters are genuinely likable. My one complaint is that Waverly "ums" her way through so many conversations with her future MIL that you want to smack her and tell her to grow a spine. It's annoying when people do that in real life and it's annoying in a book as well. Overall, it's a fun read. I do wish that there had been more of a storyline - maybe less locations, less characters and more substance. Recommend for fans of the series.

This is the first book I have read by author, Maria Murnane, and it might very well be my last. I will admit that I got this book without realizing it was part of a series, and perhaps that's why I didn't connect with the characters. Waverly Bryson, our heroine, seems self-indulgent and while I can forgive that if the writing's fun (The Shopaholic series for instance) because I couldn't connect with Waverly I began to see her as petulant, and that turned me off. Jake, Waverly's wonderfully boyfriend/fiancee seems fine, but in a book like this - just OK - doesn't really cut it. He wasn't dynamic in any way, and because of that I was once again, unable to connect. Truth be told about half way in, I found myself not caring if I connected with the characters. For instance, Jake's Mom - she didn't seem like a bad person, protective of her son sure, but not manipulative or nasty in any way, and yet Waverly seems convinced of this? Overall, I couldn't get into it, and though I didn't find anything inherently wrong with Murnane's writing style, I just can't recommend this book.

This is the first book in Murnane's series I have read. Another reviewer comments that Waverly, the main character, is not as well developed in this book as she is in earlier books in the series. I agree that she, and all other characters, are poorly developed and, therefore, emphasize that the book may be better when read in sequence. Considering *Chocolate for Two* in isolation, however, I found Waverly, the ostensible heroine, to be utterly self-absorbed and inconsiderate to those around

her: her fiancée, her best friend, and her former employer... Waverly's mother-in-law-to-be, another key character, is mildly overbearing but not really dastardly in any creative or unique way. Waverly's fiancée (whose name escapes me and thereby speaks to how interesting he is) has no apparent capacity for independent critical thought; if he has any redeeming quality, it's that he forgives anybody for everything (which I didn't find very redeeming). Granted, it's not impossible to write a good novel that has no characters who are likable. (Gillian Flynn's novels come to mind; they're packed full of twisted people.) But in such good novels about not-so-good people, the complexity, creativeness, colorfulness, and credible unpredictability of characters--along with unexpected developments in the plot line--propel the story anyway. In this novel, in contrast, once the characters' transparent and formulaic traits are established, nothing very subtle, interesting, or unpredictable happens. When I finished the book, I was embarrassed that I had read it. Chocolate has a lot of calories, but it tastes really good, so I often eat it. But for me Chocolate for Two was a waste of time, without the guilty pleasure one gets from straight chocolate.

"Chocolate for Two" is the fourth book in the Waverly Bryson series by Maria Mumane. I have read only this one, so take that into consideration when assessing my review. As this book opens, our heroine, Waverly, is recovering from having been almost literally left at the altar by a cad who appeared on her doorstep two weeks before the wedding and proclaimed he did not love her. A popular young woman with many love interests, Waverly is a well-regarded talk show host who also owns her own very successful business, Waverly's Honey Shop. Despite all this, her self-esteem is shaky until she meets Jake McIntyre, a wealthy scion of an upper class family. Naturally, they fall in love. We seem to be headed for a story book ending, but wait--we need some drama. Enter Jake's parents, specifically his mother, who is controlling and insufferable, in the nicest possible way (ahem). She hopes to take control of the wedding and make it a huge expensive affair in Florida. Waverly and Jake, meanwhile, want a small intimate wedding in New York. Jake is besotted with Waverly and pretty much defers to her on every issue, but at the same time he does not help much in dealing with his overbearing mother. The novel is a fun beach read, good for a rainy day on the porch. There is humor and emotion, as well as many sidebars with Waverly's career and business. Eventually, Waverly finds a retailer who somehow makes her see everything, both professional and personal, in perspective, and the ending is light and satisfying. You probably will not remember this book too long after you read it, but you will be entertained as you read, especially if you are a fan.

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