# holiday



WILLOW WINTERS

WALL STREET JOURNAL & USA TODAY BESTSELLING AUTHOR

# ONE HOLIDAY WISH

#### A SWEET & SEXY ROMANCE SHORT



# WILLOW WINTERS

Copyright © 2021 by Willow Winters

All rights reserved.

No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without written permission from the author, except for the use of brief quotations in a book review.

# CONTENTS

Also by Willow Winters

One Holiday Wish

<u>Carla</u>

<u>Carla</u>

<u>Michael</u>

<u>Carla</u>

Also by Willow Winters

**About Willow Winters** 

#### ALSO BY WILLOW WINTERS

Read Willow's sexiest and most talked about romances in the Merciless World

#### **This Love Hurts Trilogy**

**This Love Hurts** 

But I Need You

#### And I Love You the Most

An epic tale of both betrayal and all-consuming love...

Marcus, the villain.

Cody Walsh, the FBI agent who knows too much.

And Delilah, the lawyer caught in between.

What I Would do for You (This Love Hurts Trilogy Collection)

#### A Kiss to Tell (a standalone novel)

They lived on the same street and went to the same school, although he was a year ahead. Even so close, he was untouchable.

**Sebastian** was bad news and Chloe was the sad girl who didn't belong.

Then one night changed everything.

#### **Possessive** (a standalone novel)

It was never love with **Daniel Cross** and she never thought it would be. It was only lust from a distance. Unrequited love

#### maybe.

He's a man Addison could never have, for so many reasons.

#### **Merciless Saga**

**Merciless** 

**Heartless** 

**Breathless** 

**Endless** 

Ruthless, crime family leader **Carter Cross** should've known Aria would ruin him the moment he saw her. Given to Carter to start a war; he was too eager to accept. But what he didn't know was what Aria would do to him. He didn't know that she would change everything.

All He'll Ever Be (Merciless Series Collection of all 4 novels)

#### **Irresistible Attraction Trilogy**

A Single Glance

A Single Kiss

A Single Touch

Bethany is looking for answers and to find them she needs one of the brothers of an infamous crime family, **Jase Cross**.

Even a sizzling love affair won't stop her from getting what she needs.

But Bethany soon comes to realise Jase will be her downfall, and she's determined to be his just the same.

<u>Irresistible Attraction</u> (A Single Glance Trilogy Collection)

Hard to Love Series

Hard to Love

Desperate to Touch

Tempted to Kiss

Easy to Fall

Eight years ago she ran from him.

Laura should have known he'd come for her. Men like **Seth King** always get what they want.

Laura knows what Seth wants from her, and she knows it comes with a steep price.

However it's a risk both of them will take.

Not My Heart to Break (Hard to Love Series Collection)

#### Shame On You Series

Tease Me Once

I'll Kiss You Twice

Then You're Mine

Tease me once... I'll kiss you twice.

Declan Cross' story from the Merciless World.

Spin off of the Merciless World

**Love the Way Series** 

Kiss Me

Hold Me

Love Me

With everything I've been through, and the unfortunate way we met, the last thing I thought I'd be focused on is the fact that I love the way you kiss me.

Secrets & Submission (Love The Way Series collection)

#### **Extended epilogues to the Merciless World Novels**

A Kiss To Keep (more of Sebastian and Chloe)

Seductive (more of Daniel and Addison)

Effortless (more of Carter and Aria)

Never to End (more of Seth and Laura)

# Sexy, thrilling with a touch of dark Standalone Novels <u>Broken</u> (Standalone)

**Kade** is ruthless and cold hearted in the criminal world.

They gave Olivia to him. To break. To do as he'd like.

All because she was in the wrong place at the wrong time. But there are secrets that change everything. And once he has her, he's never letting her go.

#### **Forget Me Not** (Standalone novel)

She loved a boy a long time ago. He helped her escape and she left him behind. Regret followed her every day after.

**Jay**, the boy she used to know, came back, a man. With a grip strong enough to keep her close and a look in his eyes that warned her to never dare leave him again.

It's dark and twisted.

But that doesn't make it any less of what it is.

A love story. Our love story.

#### **It's Our Secret** (Standalone novel)

It was only a little lie. That's how stories like these get started.

But with every lie Allison tells, Dean sees through it.

She didn't know what would happen. But with all the secrets and lies, she never thought she'd fall for him.

#### **You Are Mine Series of Duets**

You Are My Reason (You Are Mine Duet book 1)

You Are My Hope (You Are Mine Duet book 2)

**Mason** and Jules emotionally gripping romantic suspense duet

One look and Jules was tempted; one taste, addicted.

No one is perfect, but that's how it felt to be in Mason's arms.

But will the sins of his past tear them apart?

You Know I Love You

You Know I Need You

Kat says goodbye to the one man she ever loved even though **Evan** begs her to trust him.

With secrets she couldn't have possibly imagined, Kat is torn between what's right and what was right for them.

#### Tell Me You Want Me

A sexy office romance with a brooding hero, **Adrian Bradford**, who you can't help but fall head over heels for... in and out of the boardroom.

## Small Town Romance Tequila Rose World

Tequila Rose Book 1

#### Autumn Night Whiskey Book 2

He tasted like tequila and the fake name I gave him was Rose.

Four years ago, I decided to get over one man, by getting under another. A single night and nothing more.

Now, with a three-year-old in tow, the man I still dream about is staring at me from across the street in the town I grew up in. I don't miss the flash of recognition, or the heat in his gaze.

The chemistry is still there, even after all these years.

I just hope the secrets and regrets don't destroy our second chance before it's even begun.

#### A Little Bit Dirty

#### Kiss Me In This Small Town

#### **Contemporary Romance Standalones**

**Knocking Boots** (A Novel)

They were never meant to be together.

Charlie is a bartender with noncommittal tendencies.

Grace is looking for the opposite. Commitment. Marriage. A baby.

#### **Promise Me** (A Novel)

She gave him her heart. Back when she thought they'd always be together.

Now **Hunter** is home and he wants Violet back.

#### **Tell Me To Stay (A Novella)**

He devoured her, and she did the same to him.

Until it all fell apart and Sophie ran as far away from **Madox** as she could.

After all, the two of them were never meant to be together?

#### **Second Chance** (A Novella)

No one knows what happened the night that forced them apart. No one can ever know.

But the moment **Nathan** locks his light blue eyes on Harlow again, she is ruined.

She never stood a chance.

#### **Burned Promises** (A Novella)

**Derek** made her a promise. And then he broke it. That's what happens with your first love.

But Emma didn't expect for Derek to fall back into her life and for her to fall back into his bed.

#### **Valetti Crime Family Series:**

A HOT mafia series to sink your teeth into.

#### **Dirty Dom**

Becca came to pay off a debt, but **Dominic Valetti** wanted more.

So he did what he's always done, and took what he wanted.

#### His Hostage

Elle finds herself in the wrong place at the wrong time. The mafia doesn't let witnesses simply walk away.

Regret has a name, and it's Vincent Valetti.

#### Rough Touch

Ava is looking for revenge at any cost so long as she can remember the girl she used to be.

But she doesn't expect **Kane** to show up and show her kindness that will break her.

#### **Cuffed Kiss**

**Tommy Valetti** is a thug, a mistake, and everything Tonya needs; the answers to numb the pain of her past.

#### Bad Boy

**Anthony** is the hitman for the Valetti familia, and damn good at what he does. They want men to talk, he makes them talk. They want men gone, bang - it's done. It's as simple as that.

Until Catherine.

<u>Those Boys Are Trouble</u> (Valetti Crime Family Collection)

#### To Be Claimed Saga

A hot tempting series of fated love, lust-filled secrets and the beginnings of an epic war.

**Wounded Kiss** 

Gentle Scars

**Primal Lust** 

**Broken Fate** 

#### Collections of shorts and novellas

#### Don't Let Go

A collection of stories including:

Infatuation

Desires in the Night and Keeping Secrets

Bad Boy Next Door

**Kisses and Wishes** 

A collection of holiday stories including:

One Holiday Wish

Collared for Christmas

Stolen Mistletoe Kisses

All I Want is a Kiss (A Holiday short)

Olivia thought fleeting weekends would be enough and it always was, until the distance threatened to tear her and

Nicholas apart for good.

#### **Highest Bidder Series:**

**Bought** 

Sold

**Owned** 

Given

From USA Today best selling authors, Willow Winters and Lauren Landish, comes a sexy and forbidden series of standalone romances.

Highest Bidder Collection (All four Highest Bidder Novels)

Bad Boy Standalones, cowritten with Lauren Landish:

Inked

**Tempted** 

Mr. CEO

Three novels featuring sexy powerful heroes.

Three romances that are just as swoon-worthy as they are tempting.

Simply Irresistible (A Bad Boy Collection)

Forsaken, (A Dark Romance cowritten with B. B. Hamel)

Grace is stolen and gifted to him; Geo a dominating, brutal and a cold hearted killer.

However, with each gentle touch and act of kindness that lures her closer to him, Grace is finding it impossible to remember why she should fight him.

View Willow's entire collection and full reading order at willowwinterswrites.com/reading-order

Happy reading and best wishes,

Willow xx

# ONE HOLIDAY WISH

One Holiday Wish By Willow Winters

#### CARLA



he light dusting of snow steals my attention as it blows in the bright lights of my headlights and across the sidewalk. It's dark already, even though it's only six, but I'm wide awake with the nervous butterflies in the pit of my stomach.

The sound of the keys jingling is all I'm left with as I turn off my car and sit in the driver seat. Rustling in my bag, I find the stick of sheer berry lip gloss. It matches my nails that I just had done yesterday too. I spent way too long thinking about what I was going to wear. It's just a holiday party, and hosted by my best friend, Lauren. So it shouldn't matter.

Every other Saturday I park my car right where it is now, and head straight into her house without an ounce of makeup on and only in my PJs. I have no shame when it comes to girl's nights. And a holiday party of just close friends normally means making sure I'm wearing real clothes, complete with a bra – even though I hate bras. Not the designer skinny jeans and flowy white silk blouse I picked out just for this night.

My phone pings with a text from Lauren just as I'm smacking my lips together: *You here yet?* 

Just pulled up.

My phone buzzes again with: Shit, I have no red wine!

My lips quirk up into a grin as I snap a picture of the two bottles in my passenger seat and send them to her with the line: *Got you covered*.

You are the fucking best. My smile widens but with her next message, it falls.

Now get your ass in here!

Deep breaths. Dropping my phone into my bag, I open my car door and grab a bottle of wine in each hand which means I have to bump my car door shut with my ass.

It thuds as it closes and so do my heels in the bit of snow.

My coat's not shut tight enough with the loose tie, but even with the chill, I'm burning up with nerves.

He's going to be there. I swallow down my anxiousness as my heels crunch down the snow and I get closer to the front door. I can hear the laughter, the chatter, the faint sounds of Christmas music.

I should be excited, - *merry*, so to speak – but I can't shake the apprehension, knowing Michael Davis, my high school boyfriend, my college on-again-off-again-can't-keep-my-hands-off-of-him-when-we-run-into-each-other-occasional-fling is going to be there.

All of these nerves because of one very important detail.

He's coming back home; he's moving in down the street from me, back into his old house. It was one thing when I could travel a thousand miles and put distance between us after we had a rendezvous. It's completely different when he's a block away and we'll run into each other constantly.

I don't know how I'm going to keep my hands to myself. I don't know if I want to try to pretend like I don't still want him.

Ringing the doorbell, I tell myself the scary truth that has me shaking in my cherry red heels, I don't know if he wants me at all now that he's back. That's the part that makes the butterflies in my stomach beat their wings a little too hard.

#### CARLA



t's irrationally hot in here," I tell the back of Lauren's head as I plop both bottles down on her kitchen table, knocking the bowl of Tostitos ever so slightly.

"Wine! My hero," Lauren drags the "o" way too long as she gives me a hug without wrapping her arms around me because she's got a Solo cup in each of her hands.

"You started without me," I jokingly scold her and slip off my jacket as someone comes into the kitchen from behind me.

"Pre-gaming was like hours ago girl. You and that bakery," she's back to filling the cups as soon as I let her go.

"I'll be in that bakery every day until I die," I respond and my words are full of pride. It's my family's bakery and I'm the one who inherited it from my grandmother. My mother's a nurse and my father married into the family with a career in law. So the bakery – and all the memories that come with it – are all mine. "I wouldn't have it any other way."

Lauren rolls her eyes at me but then winks and gives me a nudge to look behind.

Shit. I almost say the word out loud; I wasn't ready for this. I should be or maybe I should know I never would be. But dammit, I thought I'd at least have one minute... to down whatever is in that Solo cup in Lauren's left hand.

Michael is standing right there behind me, telling something to James that makes him laugh as the two of them open the caps of their beer and toss them in the trash can next to the counter. As Michael lifts his beer to take a swig, his eyes catch mine.

My heart pounds in my chest.

The second he lowers his beer; he smiles at me. Charming, sweet but he fails to hear whatever James said. My floosy of a heart picks up her pace.

"Are you listening?" James questions Michael, clinking the bottom of his beer against Michael's.

"What?" Michael's attention is stolen by James and it's only then that I let my own smile show. Even though I know the blush will stay right where it is and I won't be able to hide that.

"Dude," James shakes his head in disapproval until Michael nods slightly my way. I see him do it and stupidly, I stay put, a hand on each bottle of wine as if they'll save me from this awkward moment.

The movement doesn't go unnoticed and Michael lets out a soft chuckle before pulling his bottom lip into his mouth and biting down on it slightly, shaking his head at me.

Instantly, those butterflies move lower, so does every bit of heat in me. It's his broad shoulders, I think, that does it. Lauren and I narrowed it down based on my celebrity crushes. The way he hovers over me, dominating my space and closing me in. I am a helpless victim to it.

And that lip that's trapped in between his teeth right now, I'd like to bite it too. In fact, I have. On multiple occasions.

"Carla!" James is the first to speak. He and Michael roomed together at college. He knows every sordid detail of what Michael and I have done, and unbeknownst to Michael, he also kept me up to date when I wasn't there, filling me in on any and every detail of any girl Michael could have gone after. He never did date anyone else though, even when I broke it off, admitting that the distance was too much. He had school. I had the bakery. It wasn't going to work.

But James and his wealth of information are the reason I always fell into Michael's bed whenever Lauren went to see

James, her brother, and she needed a travel companion, or whenever Michael came back here, to this small town. James is the one who told me I was all Michael ever talked about and said he didn't want anyone else.

I didn't want anyone else either. But when we hooked up that first time after the break up, I didn't want to put a name on what we were. So it was on-gain, off-again, whenever we were around each other, or miles away. Just hooking up, but I didn't want to hook up with anyone else.

"Hey, I heard you were coming back," I say off handily, peeking up at Lauren to save me, but she's busy gathering a bag of chips from the cabinet.

"So that's how you're going to play it?" Michael's question catches me off guard.

"What do you mean," I play innocent and peek at James just as Lauren bails on me, practically running out of the kitchen with a twinkle of mischief in her eyes and the widest smile I've ever seen. Michael asks James to leave us for a minute and before I can even turn around, we're alone.

"So you don't want them to know?" Michael asks and I stumble on my answer.

"Know what?" Adrenaline races through me. We've never talked about what we do and I sure as hell don't spread the gospels about how I still spread my legs for Michael.

It only takes three foreboding steps from Michael. One. Two. Three. Until he's standing over me, invading my space and making me crane my neck to look up at him. I can smell him, feel the heat radiating from him. I could taste him and that lip of his if I wanted to right now.

"That I fucked you last week on my sofa... and then my desk. And that you already know I'm coming home because I mentioned it before you left."

"They don't know." I answer him with a shake of my head. Michael's facial expression gives no hint of what he thinks about the fact that I kept it a secret. Whether he likes that I've kept it a secret or otherwise. His statement is simply matter of fact ... and dripping in sex appeal. Until he clarifies with another question.

"So you haven't told anyone?" His eyes flash with something. It's gone as quickly as it came, and too soon for me to place it. Maybe guilt? I feel it too. Everyone in here knows what we used to be and I don't want them coming between what we have now simply because I'm happy with the way it's been. Even if we don't have a title.

Or I was... until he decided to come home. Still, we don't need the opinions of the peanut gallery.

If my nerves would calm the hell down, if I could breathe whenever Michael gets close to me, I'd be a better fighter in this battle of flirtation. But as it is, Michael dominates every piece of me the second I smell his woodsy scent, or see that dark stubble that lines his sharp jaw all the way down his neck.

"You're staring at my lips, Carla," Michael's voice is deep and husky, and the way he speaks sends a heat straight to my core. "You want something?"

I only nod, and let my fingers reach up to the last button on his long sleeved Henley. The deep groan that slips from him is accompanied by a roar of laughter from just on the other side of the wall in the living room. Lauren's house is small, it's all her own, but this is a tight space to hide something like what I want to do with him.

"You want to go upstairs?" Michael asks me, glancing behind him and I follow his gaze. No one's there but the shadows of people are coming.

The second I nod, his hand is on mine and I creep up the stairs of Lauren's two-bedroom townhouse as quietly as I can. "We won't have long," I whisper and wish I'd had at least one glass of wine so I can blame this on that, but the way Michael looks when he pulls me in closer to him at the top of the stairs has me drunk on lust already.

"We can be quick here," he leans down to nip my bottom lip before adding, "And then we have all night."

#### MICHAEL



missed the slower pace of this town and how everyone knows everyone.

I missed being able to walk everywhere and know that every single building has a story to tell.

I missed all of this when I left for college.

But most of all, I missed her. My Carla.

Pushing my hip against her belly, I back her up until her back hits the wall. Grabbing her wrists in my hand, I pin them above her head. No one can see us here, but if anyone came up the stairs, they'd have a view of everything.

Carla moans into my mouth and my cock is instantly hard. I rock it against her, making sure she can feel what she does to me.

She breaks the kiss before I'm ready, leaving my heart racing. As I trail my finger down her arm, still keeping her wrists pinned, I watch the goosebumps spread across her body and her nipples pebble through that thin bra and loose blouse she's wearing.

"Did you wear that for me?" I ask her and my voice comes out huskier than I meant. I have no control when it comes to Carla.

She nods and pushes herself against my leg, grinding into me. "All for you," she nearly whimpers as her back bows and she rocks herself harder against me. Releasing her wrists, I cup her pussy through her jeans and my other hand goes to her hip. My lips trail down her neck until I can nip the lobe of her ear and whisper, "I need to be inside you in the next two minutes or I'm going to lose my shit."

Carla's eyes widen, as if registering what we're doing for the first time. Her lips purse as she glances behind us, to Lauren's bedroom. "We can't. Not in Lauren's room and the other is where her sister is staying."

I back up slightly, wishing a third room would appear when I see the wide hall closet. So wide it's two-doored. Not hesitating, I swing the closest door open and pull a string to turn on the old light. There are only a handful of coats on left side and plenty of room on the right to take care of Carla and the hard on that never goes down when she's near.

"I need you to be quiet," I warn her and open the door wider. it's not until she takes one last peek down the stairs before she grins at me. A mischievous and sexy grin that has my cock aching to be inside of her.

"I can be quiet," she whispers and lets out a giddy feminine laugh as I come in behind her. "Liar," I tease her and close the door behind me.

Before her back even hits the wall, her lips are on mine, sucking and nibbling. I don't waste any time either, pushing my hand up her blouse and rolling her hardened nipple between my forefinger and thumb.

She moans, loud, breaking our kiss and I pull back on her nipple in punishment since I know that mix of pain and pleasure is delivered straight to her core.

"I bet you're wet for me," I taunt her in a low breath.

"There's only one way to find out," she teases me back and as my hands find the button of her blue jeans, she does the same to mine.

The button, the zipper, the jeans in a mess around our ankles.

I groan in the crook of her neck as I tear off the thin lace that separates her hot cunt from my fingers and learn that I guessed right. "You're so fucking ready." I leave an openmouthed kiss on her throat and then on the back of her neck as she turns around for me, slowly and with intent. It's more difficult with the jeans still around her ankles, but she does it well like the little minx she is.

"We've got to be quick," she whispers as I wrap my hand around my cock and stroke it.

"I should have stopped by the bakery before coming here." I'm only joking, but the serious side of Carla comes out when she answers me, "Not going to happen in the bakery."

The smirk on my face is uncontrollable. "That's what cars are for, baby." I playfully answer and smack her ass before telling her, "stay quiet," and shove my cock inside of her in one swift stroke.

Fuck, my eyes nearly roll back into my head. Not just because she feels like heaven, but because of the look on her face right now. Eyes closed and her mouth open with a silent scream of ecstasy.

With every buck of my hips, I brace her against me so her body doesn't hit the wall.

I could give two shits if they know we're fucking up here, but I know Carla doesn't want anyone to know.

I'm sure they're thinking we're doing something else right now. That I couldn't wait to ask her. And that's fine by me if that's what they think. They should know better at this point.

"The two of us can't be in the same room together without getting inside each other's pants," I whispers to Carla and as she smiles, I slam inside of her. Again and again.

She's trying to grab on to anything at all, but there's nothing but bare wall in front of her.

It's hard to control myself as I slam inside of her, still bracing her against the wall. Feeling her cum around me, the heat, her arousal, the way her cunt grabs my cock. Fuck. I'm going to cum and I'm not ready. I want to fuck her how she likes, rough and hard. For hours.

"Tell me I can have you again tonight," I barely groan the words out at the shell of her ears and she shivers, shivers from her shoulders and down, all the way down, in a way that leads straight to my cock.

"You can have me," she gives me just what I need and lets her head fall back against my chest. Her cheeks are full of color, her lips still parted and her eyes half lidded.

"One more," I whisper against her heated skin and reach down to rub the rough pad of my thumb against her clit.

Her hands come up to her mouth; she bites on her thumb to keep from screaming as I fuck her recklessly, harder, faster, waiting to feel her cum one more time.

The second she does, all the tension in her body leaves her and I feel my own release with her. Gripping onto her with a bruising force, I let go of everything and cum with her, feeling my balls draw up and the tingling in my spine. My toes curl as the pleasure rocks through me in waves.

I can barely breathe I cum so hard.

I pull out of her, wishing we had more time and use her underwear to clean her up and then shove them quickly in my pocket. She's still panting against the wall and I have to help her pull her jeans up. I have every curve of hers memorized. The way she leans her head against the wall is exactly how she does it on my pillow. And her fingers come up to rest in the little space below her collar bone, that little divot she loves for me to kiss. She does that every time too.

Time ticks too fast. I want to stay in this moment forever. But that's a holiday wish that won't be gifted.

"Is this going to be something we do one last time? I don't know that I can handle..." Carla asks me quietly, one hand on the doorknob and the other on my hip. Her eyes reach mine, and I hate that she has any insecurity. It's always been her. I knew if I didn't push, I'd hold on to her until I could come back and be here for her how she wanted all these years.

"Carla, I have one question to ask first."

My heart hammers in my chest. It's now or never. As my bottom lip drops to ask her the one question I need answered, the door to the coat closet flies open, bringing with it the bright light of the hall way and a not-so-shocked Lauren who somehow manages to bother grin and scream out, "I knew it!" at the same time.

Fuck.

#### CARLA



veryone!" Lauren's screaming through her house with a shit-eating grin that won't budge. The thud, thud, thud of her pattering down the steps as quickly as she can is far faster than mine because of these heels.

"Lauren!" I scream her name and add, "Don't you dare!" as I bend down on the third step to grab my heels so I can catch her barefoot before she can go shouting to everyone what she just saw. I have half a mind to throw them at her as she lands on the bottom step.

"Guys!" Lauren squeals as she rounds the corner, leaving me in a view of only her hand. My chest is heaving in air by the time I catch up to her in the small living room crowded with James and four more friends for years and years. Friends who have been my family and know every detail of my life. Including the bits about Michael. The very large bits that have made up most of my life since the tenth grade.

All of their eyes are on me, I can feel them burning into me as I hold up a heel at Lauren, ready to tell her to shut it just as she announces, "He totally gave it to her already!"

Gave it to her. My mouth drops just like the shoe in my hand. How could she? Betrayal rips through me like I've never experienced in my life and instantly tears prick my eyes. Were they betting on how long it would take before I fell back into bed with him? Fuck. That hurts more than anything ever has. Embarrassment doesn't even register. It just hurts.

"Lauren, I didn't ask yet!" Michael's voice booms down the stair case. I barely notice the thumps pounding down the steps and coming up behind me.

"Fuck," Lauren covers her mouth before closing the distance between us and grabbing my shoulders. "That sounded so wrong. I thought you two were up there because he asked you. I'm so sorry. Don't take those words like the way they sounded.

"You really put your foot in your mouth," James laughs at Lauren, no sense at all

"I thought he asked her!" Lauren raises her voice and directs her guilt on James who shakes his head comically. "You're a mess," he jokes and my friends in the room chuckle. Everyone still jovial as if nothing's wrong in the least.

"Ask me what?" I breathe the words and turn around to face Michael, his soft blue eyes piercing me like they always do.

"Oh my God he's going to do it now," I hear Lauren's words rush out of her mouth as she steps away, giving us room and letting everyone else see the two of us.

My heart beats fast, my body heats and my lungs stay perfectly still, refusing to let me breathe as Michael takes my hand with one of his, running the rough pad of his thumb over my wrist and reaches into his pocket to pull out a small black velvet box.

Oh, my fucking God.

My bottom lip wobbles slightly as my eyes glance at the box, then back to his eyes.

Michael lets out an uneasy breath, "I wanted to ask you in private." He clears the nervousness from her voice with a small cough before continuing. "I wasn't sure what you'd say, but I guess in front of all of our friends is a perfectly fine way to do it."

"You remember how you asked me what my holiday wish was?" he asks me but my mind still isn't functioning quite right and I can only stare back at him, feeling so much excitement, nervousness, so much hope that this means he wants the same as me. Michael glances at everyone behind me before leaning forward and reminding me, "Last week when I saw you, do you remember when I asked you and then you asked me back?"

Blinking away the buzz of this frenzy I nod vigorously and Michael smiles at me, it's a lop sided grin that makes him that much more charming. "You've got to help me here," he whispers just for me, "I'm nervous."

Rocking onto my tip toes I steal a quick kiss from him, feeling the blush rise into my cheeks, "Sorry, I swear I'm paying attention." He laughs as I rock back down onto my heels and look up at him with a warmth flooding every bit of me.

"You're my holiday wish." He stares into my eyes. "I just want you and this can be whatever you want it to be, if you want me too." His words come out faster as he goes on until he takes a moment to breathe, opening up the small velvet box for me to see. "A promise ring or more, I'm not sure," he lets out a long breath as I peek at the sparkling ring.

Tears cloud my vision of the rose gold diamond ring with floral details surrounding it. *Or more?* I never expected this.

"I'm not sure what you want, proposal or a promise, or to get married tonight. I just want you and this is for you."

"Tonight!" the word shrieks with glee from behind me and I look over my shoulder to see Lauren barely being held back by James. She covers her mouth with both hands and I have to laugh at her antics. She's always said we were meant to be together, that even a thousand miles wouldn't keep us apart.

"Not tonight," I say mostly to get that thought out of Lauren's head before looking back at Michael. "Not tonight," I repeat and hold his hand tighter. "And if it means I get another, this is just a promise ring," I bite down on my lower lip to keep my grin at bay, but it doesn't work.

Michael's shoulders shake as the tension around us eases and our friends laugh from my answer.

"Told you!" this time it's James who pipes up.

"I'll get you another then." Michael's voice is soothing, and the look in his eyes is everything right now. Devotion, love, the way he looked at me when we shared our first kiss, our first time, all of our firsts. And the way he looked at me when I left him, thinking I couldn't be the only one who felt this between us, but too scared to ask. "When you're ready."

"Let's just be us, for now."

"That's all I want." He lowers his nose to mine, and gives me another kiss as the chatter and cheers pick up behind us. It turns to white noise when he whispers though, "I love you Carla. I always have and I always will."

My lips press against his for a short kiss and then I whisper in the warm air between us, "I love you too."

Click <u>here to sign up to my mailing list</u>, where you'll get *exclusive* giveaways, free books and new release alerts!

Follow me on **BOOKBUB** to be the first to know about my sales!

Sign up for Text Alerts:

US residents: Text WILLOW to 797979

UK residents: Text WWINTERS to 82228

And if you're on Facebook, join my reader group, <u>Willow Winters' Wildflowers</u> for special updates and lots of fun!

#### ALSO BY WILLOW WINTERS

Read Willow's sexiest and most talked about romances in the Merciless World

#### **This Love Hurts Trilogy**

**This Love Hurts** 

But I Need You

#### And I Love You the Most

An epic tale of both betrayal and all-consuming love...

Marcus, the villain.

Cody Walsh, the FBI agent who knows too much.

And Delilah, the lawyer caught in between.

What I Would do for You (This Love Hurts Trilogy Collection)

#### A Kiss to Tell (a standalone novel)

They lived on the same street and went to the same school, although he was a year ahead. Even so close, he was untouchable.

**Sebastian** was bad news and Chloe was the sad girl who didn't belong.

Then one night changed everything.

#### **Possessive** (a standalone novel)

It was never love with **Daniel Cross** and she never thought it would be. It was only lust from a distance. Unrequited love

#### maybe.

He's a man Addison could never have, for so many reasons.

#### **Merciless Saga**

**Merciless** 

**Heartless** 

**Breathless** 

**Endless** 

Ruthless, crime family leader **Carter Cross** should've known Aria would ruin him the moment he saw her. Given to Carter to start a war; he was too eager to accept. But what he didn't know was what Aria would do to him. He didn't know that she would change everything.

All He'll Ever Be (Merciless Series Collection of all 4 novels)

#### **Irresistible Attraction Trilogy**

A Single Glance

A Single Kiss

A Single Touch

Bethany is looking for answers and to find them she needs one of the brothers of an infamous crime family, **Jase Cross**.

Even a sizzling love affair won't stop her from getting what she needs.

But Bethany soon comes to realise Jase will be her downfall, and she's determined to be his just the same.

<u>Irresistible Attraction</u> (A Single Glance Trilogy Collection)

Hard to Love Series

Hard to Love

Desperate to Touch

Tempted to Kiss

Easy to Fall

Eight years ago she ran from him.

Laura should have known he'd come for her. Men like **Seth King** always get what they want.

Laura knows what Seth wants from her, and she knows it comes with a steep price.

However it's a risk both of them will take.

Not My Heart to Break (Hard to Love Series Collection)

#### Shame On You Series

Tease Me Once

I'll Kiss You Twice

Then You're Mine

Tease me once... I'll kiss you twice.

Declan Cross' story from the Merciless World.

Spin off of the Merciless World

**Love the Way Series** 

Kiss Me

Hold Me

Love Me

With everything I've been through, and the unfortunate way we met, the last thing I thought I'd be focused on is the fact that I love the way you kiss me.

Secrets & Submission (Love The Way Series collection)

#### **Extended epilogues to the Merciless World Novels**

A Kiss To Keep (more of Sebastian and Chloe)

Seductive (more of Daniel and Addison)

Effortless (more of Carter and Aria)

Never to End (more of Seth and Laura)

# Sexy, thrilling with a touch of dark Standalone Novels <u>Broken</u> (Standalone)

**Kade** is ruthless and cold hearted in the criminal world.

They gave Olivia to him. To break. To do as he'd like.

All because she was in the wrong place at the wrong time. But there are secrets that change everything. And once he has her, he's never letting her go.

#### **Forget Me Not** (Standalone novel)

She loved a boy a long time ago. He helped her escape and she left him behind. Regret followed her every day after.

**Jay**, the boy she used to know, came back, a man. With a grip strong enough to keep her close and a look in his eyes that warned her to never dare leave him again.

It's dark and twisted.

But that doesn't make it any less of what it is.

A love story. Our love story.

#### **It's Our Secret** (Standalone novel)

It was only a little lie. That's how stories like these get started.

But with every lie Allison tells, Dean sees through it.

She didn't know what would happen. But with all the secrets and lies, she never thought she'd fall for him.

#### **You Are Mine Series of Duets**

You Are My Reason (You Are Mine Duet book 1)

You Are My Hope (You Are Mine Duet book 2)

**Mason** and Jules emotionally gripping romantic suspense duet

One look and Jules was tempted; one taste, addicted.

No one is perfect, but that's how it felt to be in Mason's arms.

But will the sins of his past tear them apart?

You Know I Love You

You Know I Need You

Kat says goodbye to the one man she ever loved even though **Evan** begs her to trust him.

With secrets she couldn't have possibly imagined, Kat is torn between what's right and what was right for them.

#### Tell Me You Want Me

A sexy office romance with a brooding hero, **Adrian Bradford**, who you can't help but fall head over heels for... in and out of the boardroom.

# Small Town Romance Tequila Rose World

<u>Tequila Rose Book 1</u>

#### Autumn Night Whiskey Book 2

He tasted like tequila and the fake name I gave him was Rose.

Four years ago, I decided to get over one man, by getting under another. A single night and nothing more.

Now, with a three-year-old in tow, the man I still dream about is staring at me from across the street in the town I grew up in. I don't miss the flash of recognition, or the heat in his gaze.

The chemistry is still there, even after all these years.

I just hope the secrets and regrets don't destroy our second chance before it's even begun.

#### A Little Bit Dirty

#### Kiss Me In This Small Town

#### **Contemporary Romance Standalones**

**Knocking Boots** (A Novel)

They were never meant to be together.

Charlie is a bartender with noncommittal tendencies.

Grace is looking for the opposite. Commitment. Marriage. A baby.

#### **Promise Me** (A Novel)

She gave him her heart. Back when she thought they'd always be together.

Now **Hunter** is home and he wants Violet back.

#### **Tell Me To Stay** (A Novella)

He devoured her, and she did the same to him.

Until it all fell apart and Sophie ran as far away from **Madox** as she could.

After all, the two of them were never meant to be together?

#### **Second Chance** (A Novella)

No one knows what happened the night that forced them apart. No one can ever know.

But the moment **Nathan** locks his light blue eyes on Harlow again, she is ruined.

She never stood a chance.

#### **Burned Promises** (A Novella)

**Derek** made her a promise. And then he broke it. That's what happens with your first love.

But Emma didn't expect for Derek to fall back into her life and for her to fall back into his bed.

#### **Valetti Crime Family Series:**

A HOT mafia series to sink your teeth into.

#### **Dirty Dom**

Becca came to pay off a debt, but **Dominic Valetti** wanted more.

So he did what he's always done, and took what he wanted.

#### His Hostage

Elle finds herself in the wrong place at the wrong time. The mafia doesn't let witnesses simply walk away.

Regret has a name, and it's Vincent Valetti.

#### Rough Touch

Ava is looking for revenge at any cost so long as she can remember the girl she used to be.

But she doesn't expect **Kane** to show up and show her kindness that will break her.

#### **Cuffed Kiss**

**Tommy Valetti** is a thug, a mistake, and everything Tonya needs; the answers to numb the pain of her past.

#### Bad Boy

**Anthony** is the hitman for the Valetti familia, and damn good at what he does. They want men to talk, he makes them talk. They want men gone, bang - it's done. It's as simple as that.

Until Catherine.

<u>Those Boys Are Trouble</u> (Valetti Crime Family Collection)

#### To Be Claimed Saga

A hot tempting series of fated love, lust-filled secrets and the beginnings of an epic war.

**Wounded Kiss** 

Gentle Scars

**Primal Lust** 

**Broken Fate** 

#### Collections of shorts and novellas

#### Don't Let Go

A collection of stories including:

Infatuation

Desires in the Night and Keeping Secrets

Bad Boy Next Door

**Kisses and Wishes** 

A collection of holiday stories including:

One Holiday Wish

Collared for Christmas

Stolen Mistletoe Kisses

All I Want is a Kiss (A Holiday short)

Olivia thought fleeting weekends would be enough and it always was, until the distance threatened to tear her and

Nicholas apart for good.

#### **Highest Bidder Series:**

**Bought** 

Sold

**Owned** 

Given

From USA Today best selling authors, Willow Winters and Lauren Landish, comes a sexy and forbidden series of standalone romances.

Highest Bidder Collection (All four Highest Bidder Novels)

Bad Boy Standalones, cowritten with Lauren Landish:

Inked

**Tempted** 

Mr. CEO

Three novels featuring sexy powerful heroes.

Three romances that are just as swoon-worthy as they are tempting.

Simply Irresistible (A Bad Boy Collection)

Forsaken, (A Dark Romance cowritten with B. B. Hamel)

Grace is stolen and gifted to him; Geo a dominating, brutal and a cold hearted killer.

However, with each gentle touch and act of kindness that lures her closer to him, Grace is finding it impossible to remember why she should fight him.

View Willow's entire collection and full reading order at willowwinterswrites.com/reading-order

Happy reading and best wishes,

Willow xx

### ABOUT WILLOW WINTERS

Thank you so much for reading my romances. I'm just a stay at home mom and avid reader turned author and I couldn't be happier.

I hope you love my books as much as I do!

More books by Willow Winters

<u>View the full library here!</u>



Sign up for my <u>Newsletter</u> to get all my romance releases, sales, sneak peeks and a **FREE** Romance, <u>Burned Promises</u>

If you prefer text alerts so you don't miss any of my new releases, text

US residents: Text WILLOW to 797979

UK residents: Text WWINTERS to 82228

CONTACT W WINTERS

BOOKBUB | TWITTER | GOODREADS | TIKTOK

Instagram | Facebook Page | Website

Check out Willow Winters Wildflowers on Facebook.

