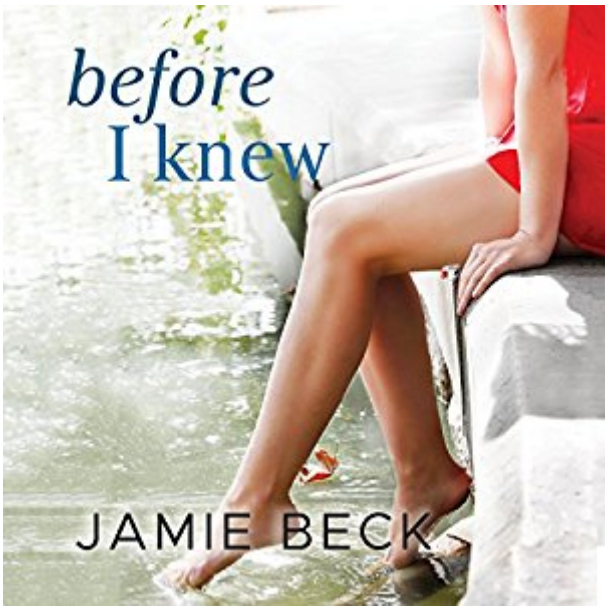
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Before I Knew: The Cabots, Book 1



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Synopsis

Author Jamie Beck returns with an engrossing series about family, friendship, and starting over. In this first Cabot novel, a legacy of secrets tests old friends seeking a second chance at life and love. On the second anniversary of her husband's suicide, Colby Cabot-Baxter is ready to let go of her grief and the mistakes made during her turbulent marriage. Her fresh start comes in the form of A CertainTea, the restaurant she's set to open along Lake Sandy, Oregon, with help from her family. But when her executive chef quits just weeks before the grand opening, Colby is pressured to hire old family friend Alec Morgan. His award-winning reputation could generate buzz, but their friendship has withered since her husband's reckless dare cost Alec's brother his life. Distracted by guilty secrets concerning the tragedy that changed his and Colby's lives, Alec self-destructed and lost his famed restaurant. With his career in tatters, he's determined to use this opportunity to redeem his reputation and to help the woman he's loved from afar find happiness again. But secrets have a way of coming out. When Alec's do, they might destroy the new life he and Colby have rebuilt together.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition
Listening Length: 11 hoursÃ Â andÃ Â 37 minutes
Program Type: Audiobook
Version: Unabridged
Publisher: Brilliance Audio
Audible.com Release Date: August 22, 2017
Whispersync for Voice: Ready
Language: English
ASIN: B073XT4MP8
Best Sellers Rank: #19 inÃ Â Books > Audible Audiobooks > Romance > Contemporary #99 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Women's Fiction > Domestic Life #128 inÃ Â Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Family Life

Customer Reviews

Too much angst and NO joy. I'm exhausted after pushing through till the end of this book. I loved Jamie's first three books, but each of her books since then have been really going downhill. Each character in the book was so miserable. I know it is a heavy subject matter, but what was gained from reading all that misery without the balance of some characters who were at least a step above

misery and despair, guilt , resentment, etc, etc, etc? Geez! I had many other issues with this book. Jamie Beck showed real talent in her earlier novels with her writing style and imagination. Now, her novels are becolming increasingly heavy with no happiness. This book in particular was so wordy. In the beginning. I felt like she was using so many adjectives and descriptions in each paragraph that I began rolling my eyes. The plot was dark but shallow. She also jumped from Colby's point of view to Alec's without any warning or order.Some other issues I have are:Alex never revieals his lifelong unrequited love for her.It is hard to imagine that her family had no real concerns or at least suspicions about her husband's mental illness. Even after he jumped out a building in front of his wife!!Colby had no backbone. Neither did Alex.I'm truy sorry to be so blunt, but I'm hoping Ms. Beck will take notice of some of these complaints. I hope she can get back that spark she brought to her early novels. I really miss that.

How do you recover from a tragedy? Or a second one a few short weeks later? Colby Cabot-Baxter is still trying to find out that answer. Her childhood friend, Joe, had welcomed her husband Mark with open arms. They became close friends & were together a lot. Mark dared Joe to jump off a cliff & Joe died while doing it. Overcome by grief & his illness, Mark took his own life. Now, 2 years later, Colby is ready to start living again. She's talked her father into backing her in a new restaurant & her brother hires Joe's brother Alec as the chef. Alec has come back to town to reconnect with his parents, mainly his mother. What follows is a long & winding journey of self discovery, grief, recovery, pain & happiness. Alec & Colby discover a chemistry that they try to fight, each for their own reasons. They both have to deal with family drama & reveal secrets before they can deal with the guilt. Ms. Beck has managed to give a realistic, painful portrayal of grief, mental illness & grief. I really enjoyed this emotional story.

BEFORE I KNEW is an exceptional first book in Jamie Beck's new series THE CABOT'S. I was heartbroken before the end of chapter one and relished my heart being mended as Ms Beck wove her magic throughout the remainder of the story.Jamie Beck has a knack for being able to pull a reader into her stories with potent plot lines and magnificently strong, yet flawed characters. These characteristics are certainly present in BEFORE I KNEW and each enhances the story and allows for readers to be totally engaged.Colby and Alec, the main characters, as well as a host of secondary characters, are suffering from the loss of a friend and a family member. Colby and Alec are especially affected by the losses and are attempting to forge their way forward even though each is burdened with secrets and lies causing overwhelming grief and guilt. I felt the pain of their

mistakes as they traveled their own paths towards a second chance life with each other. My tears were real and my happiness boundless as Colby and Alec finally learn the importance of honesty and forgiveness with themselves, each other and their families.BEFORE I KNEW is a bases clearing home run! Thank you Jamie Beck for and engaging, outstanding read! I look forward to reading more books in THE CABOT'S series.

Before I Knew, The Cabots Book 1, Jamie BeckReview from Jeannie Zelos book reviewsGenre: General Fiction (adult), RomanceI really liked the sound of this book, and dived in eagerly. I found that though the writing was excellent the story and characters just didn't keep me captivated, that I kept flicking into other stories putting this aside to finish later.I did read it all, did enjoy it but its not a magic five re-reader for me. I liked both Colby and Alec and they worked well together. I felt for both of them for what grief they had suffered, and there's no time line on grieving - its different for everyone. For both of them their grief was compounded by guilt, by the secrets they both held.Those secrets always creep out at the worst time don't they? I did get irritated about Colby when she still won't talk about Mark's issues, still keeps that secret, and yet if she confided in her family, in Alec they would probably understand more her feelings. Instead she kind of martyrs herself over it.Alec too got me cross at his drama over the food awards. I know they mean a lot to chefs, everyone wants something to aim for in their career. Though I understood how that combined with Joe's death led him to lose his restaurant, I felt this time round he was very melodramatic about it, too ready to drop everything and everyone in search of that magic praise.And I guess that bring in my personal bias, critics, whether food, art, theatre or what, who make a career out of judging, often unfairly, and destroying others careers with harsh words just to build their own. Gah! I know they need to be honest, but not deliberately hurtful and negative. The pressure that places on guys like Alec can destroy them and all those around them, and that's -IMO- just wrong. So its a pleasant story, a decent romance with lost going on but it didn't really resonate with me, I didn't really get to feel Alec and Colby and others were genuine, real people not story characters and that's why this is a three star good read, not more. Stars: Three, good simple romance but not a re-reader for me. ARC supplied for review purposes by Netgalley and Publishers

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