

# Beach Kisses & Sunset Wishes by Nora LeDuc

## Excerpt

“Waste of time looking here,” Frankie mumbled. The popular Which Way, Hemingway, Café was full of the regulars. Here, they could catch the rolling rustle of the waves and inhale the briny sea salt. Colorful hibiscus bloomed around the pink open-air cook building. Their flowers perfumed the air. Who could resist this picture-perfect island with pastel painted buildings, lush green scenery, and friendly inhabitants who greeted everybody?

She could identify the frequent visitors and where they sat. On the end of the dining piazza, the mother’s group tried to keep their toddlers corralled and busy with crayons and small toys. The Save the Turtles folks were holding their monthly meeting by the sidewalk as though they might lure in a volunteer walking past. And the book club was debating the merits of the Oxford comma in another corner. Finally, there were the odds and ends like Frankie, Tikki, and the retired folk who filled the rest of the twelve tables on the sand.

“My. My. Who is that?” Her friend stretched her five-foot frame upright for a better view. “I’ve never seen him before. Hmm. He’s interesting. Obviously a tourist. He’s wearing sandals.”

Frankie’s attention shot up to high while she dug her toes into the cool grains of sand.

She resisted the urge to say, “Forget it.” She’d humor her friend. Swiveling around, she spotted him across the patio.

He sat alone, wearing khaki shorts and a pale blue shirt, open at the collar. Dense black hair spilled over his forehead, and a bearded shadow darkened his strong jaw. He looked to be in his early thirties. Back-framed sunglasses were perched on his straight nose as he read something on his phone resting beside his plate of eggs and hash browns. He took off his shades, rubbed his chin, and raised his gaze. Their glances collided.

His brows shot up with interest. His lips parted slightly. Blue eyes that matched the sea drew Frankie to him and caused a sensation of dizziness to dance in her mind. She was aware she was staring, but she couldn’t stop.