



The Sweet Life: Cape Cod Creamery

Suzanne Woods Fisher

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Restoration and reawakened dreams gather in Suzanne Woods Fisher's Christian romance novel *The Sweet Life*, as a once engaged couple works through their differences, and a mother-daughter team inspires change.

When Kevin calls off his wedding to Dawn, she's devastated. She goes on what would have been their honeymoon to Cape Cod without him. She winds up in a small town that is enlivened by its nosy business owners and picturesque coastline. There, her free-spirited mother, Marnie, encounters Main Street Creamery, an ice cream shop that reminds her of a family passion. Convinced that it's just the change she needs, Marnie buys the creamery. Dawn, against her practical instincts, is pulled into Marnie's fixer-upper project. With a self-imposed deadline to launch by Memorial Day, the women make new friends and heal from their grief.

Dawn's meticulous, even scientific approach to making ice cream feeds into lessons about patience, processes, and compromise, while Marnie's creative flourishes feed her encouragement to Dawn to push beyond her vanilla predictability. Their dynamic is warm, and their differences become a source for growth. When a historical commission comes to them with a list of rules, Marnie seeks out Kevin for help, causing Dawn to rethink her feelings.

Themes of faith run beneath this story about second chances, which lauds the freedom that comes from embracing divine sovereignty, instead of holding fast to one's personal plans. Just when everything seems broken, people are led to changes of heart. As Dawn's renewals parallel the creamery's strenuous repairs, the novel also celebrates taking risks.

In the gentle romance novel *The Sweet Life*, a painful separation leads to a spiritual revival that's fed by the flavors of a small-town ice cream parlor.

KAREN RIGBY (May / June 2022)

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