

***The Break-Up Pact* by Emma Lord**

Here is a great rom-com beach read – and not just because it takes place on a beach!

Author Emma Lord, who has a number of young adult romances to her credit, is moving into adult romances. In this book, the main character is June. She is in her late 20s and struggling to keep her sister's bakery business afloat in the two years since her sister passed. She also has just went through a very public break up with her reality star boyfriend. Now known as the "Crying Girl" – she is mortified, on the verge of losing the business, and at the end of her rope. In comes former childhood friend Levi who has also been through a very public break up. He returns to his hometown to figure things out, make peace with June, and try for his dream of being an author. June and Levi decide to bank on their public notoriety with a fake dating plan. Their hope is to save her business and for Levi to win back his fiancé. Of course, nothing goes quite as planned.

I enjoyed this book. Unusually, the author spent more time than you would expect on the feelings of grief and guilt associated with the loss of a loved one. It was heartfelt – I teared up - even though sometimes those parts felt repetitious. I would definitely read another of Emma Lord's books.