

Balmy adventure romance for your summer reading

A book review by Yovanna Rodgers

“Looking for a great summer read full of adventure and romance? Check out “A Balmy Breeze from Two Seas,” a new novel by Michael Wright. Set in Panama amid the backdrop of the U.S. invasion. Lieutenant Mark Warner, a U.S. meteorologist for the U.S. Air Force, finds himself stationed in the Panama Canal two years before the removal of Panamanian Dictator General Manuel Noriega. From the moment he steps off the plane into the sultry tropic air, Lieutenant Warner is mesmerized by Latin culture, the language and people of the Central American country. His eagerness to learn Spanish and get acquainted with the locals leads him to meet Señorita Elena Victoria de la Vega, a Panamanian woman who quickly captures his heart. Warner’s loyalty, integrity and sense of respect for others is a breath of fresh air in an age when protagonists are profane or vulgar to a point where you’re not sure if you can root for them or not. He’s a hero who is also relatable. He’s the guy you want to hang out with because he’s got a knack for talking to people and making friends, even without being able to speak the language.

The love story between him and Elena is tender, at times humorous (ah, young love) and manages to transcend language and cultural barriers, showing that love knows no borders or skin color.

I remember the U.S. invasion of Panama, so it was fascinating to read about the events leading up to it through the eyes of Warner.

The novel is also free of rough language of sex scenes that some readers may be sensitive to.

So pick up a copy and enjoy a summertime romance.