

Courting the Professor by Jodie Kerrigan

Cove Creek is supposed to be Gemma Ford's second chance. When handsome professor Caleb Brand hires her as his grandmother's live-in nurse, Gemma thinks it is. Then Mrs. Brand announces a no-holds-barred treasure hunt to determine her heir, and suddenly the family's digging up dirt on more than the farm. And burying Gemma's chances for a new life and a new love.

Caleb may know history, but Cove Creek's most eligible bachelor doesn't know women. Not his eccentric grandmother with her wild heir idea and definitely not the elusive waif who's suddenly got the history professor thinking about the future.

Editor's Critique:

Thank you for submitting your 100-word pitch to So You Think You Can Write! Your pitch definitely had me intrigued and curious to know what happens. I enjoy eccentric older characters like Mrs. Brand, and she sounds like a hoot. You've worked in a classic romance trope of having your main characters live in close proximity together, but with a fun and original twist. The pitch has made me curious about why Gemma needs a second chance; what are the circumstances of her past that she needs a new life? But also why does the treasure hunt jeopardize her chances at this new life?

What I would suggest is to explain the conflict between Gemma and Caleb. What is keeping them from being together? Conflict is the key to a satisfying romance, so make yours strong! Good luck!