



No Kind of Hero

Rosalind James

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Some men are hard to quit.

Beth Schaefer isn't just on the partnership track at her Portland law firm, she's in the lead. Unfortunately, she's about to fall at the finish line. When she makes a list of Breakdown Destinations, she can't even manage to choose between them. Which means she has to come home to Wild Horse, Idaho, for her breakdown. She has exactly eighteen-point-five days of accumulated vacation time to devote to it.

Evan O'Donnell's girlfriend took off when their baby girl was a month old, and that's just fine by him. His daughter Gracie is all the female companionship he needs, thank you very much. Beth Schaefer's not even in the running. Eight years ago, her parents convinced her to give him up, and he's had enough of snobs and women who don't stick. Evan's a blue-collar guy from his too-broad shoulders to his scuffed work boots, and he's nobody's white knight and nobody's hero. Not anymore.

But what if Beth isn't the only one who needs saving?

No Kind of Hero Details

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From Reader Review No Kind of Hero for online ebook

Sandy says

Dull

I am a huge RoSalind James fan but this falls far short of her usual . She's normally has great characters a decent plot and some interesting settings. This has none of that. Beth the heroine is a high powered lawyer that abruptly goes home to mommy then moves out and borrows another girl's wardrobe to start slumming with her old blue collared boyfriend. Not likeable or believable. The hero is all things wonderful and kind and they have sex every 4 minutes. Oh and there is a baby involved. If you cut out the sex scenes (which you could because they are predictable and boring as we))ll the book is almost a short story. There is a little excitement in the end when an ex shows up and the ex is the most interesting character in the whole book. This one can be skipped

Judy.Ca says

This was a 3.5* for me. I found myself kind of bored a bit through the middle, having trouble staying interested, but there were some hot times between the sheets and some intense moments towards the end. I like RJ stories, this one just fell a bit short.

Gabriella says

This was a super easy, no angst, completely safe read. It was cute, with likeable characters, however I found it a bit dull. I liked the previous book better.

Monique says

Review written: July 1, 2017

Star Rating: ★★★★★?

Heat Rating: ?????

No Kind of Hero, like *Silver-Tongued Devil* before it, has James' easy, breezy *Escape to New Zealand* authorial voice, and even when things get difficult, that voice never changes. That authorial voice is the first thing that drew me to her books way back when and reading it here was a treat. It draws me in and just holds me.

I was hoping for Evan's story from the moment he stepped onto the pages of *Silver-Tongued Devil*. He is every woman's dream: strong, steadfast, loving, sweet, tender, and utterly devoted to those he calls his own. Evan is "made to be a woman's rock" in every sense of the word.

Beth starts out as the dithering rich girl who just can't stick and her character arc is a mighty one. As she

grows in confidence and strength and learns who she really is, we see her stick and stick hard. Her love and devotion for Evan and his daughter Gracie is a force of nature even her "socialite" mother must bow to in the end. I loved how Beth grew in this book, how she took charge of her life instead of being passive. I loved how Evan nurtured that budding strength and I loved how Beth loved him back just as fiercely.

You know there will be ups and downs in a James book and there are plenty of down and struggling moments. Some characters are just irredeemable and some are too lost to be saved. Bad things have to happen so we can rise to the challenge they present, and so it is with Evan and Beth. They rise to the occasion and sometimes they struggle and get things twisted, but they always right the ship.

No Kind of Hero is quintessential James in every way and an utter treat no matter which of her series might be your favorite. With a full return of her unique authorial voice and her intensely uplifting messages of love, hope, family, and well, more love, *No Kind of Hero* hits all the right notes.

This review is ©July 2017 by Monique N. and has been crossposted to Amazon.

Heidi A. Quinn says

Rosalind James is my kind of romance writer. Take it from someone who never could stomach "romance" because it was saccharin, flat and fake. I've been converted, and some other lucky authors are now benefiting because James has shown me that there actually authors out there who understand "real romance". Evan is a single dad of a sweet little girl. One of the ancillary characters in the first book in the Portland Devils series, *Silver Tongued Devil*, Evan and his daughter Gracie were abandoned by Gracie's mom when she was a tiny baby. Luckily, Evan has a very supportive mom of his own, and a good friend in his business partner, Dakota, one of the main characters in *Silver Tongued Devil*, and one I was thrilled to see featured fairly prominently here. Evan has no time for a social life due to working hard to support his little girl and taking care of her. He reconnects with Beth, his high school love, when she returns home to Wild Horse from Portland when she is close to a meltdown living the life of a high-powered attorney, striving to make partner. Not surprisingly, Beth finds that the slower paced life in Wild Horse is what she really wants. Unlike Evan's supportive mom, however, Beth's mom seems hung up on the power, money and status her daughter has as an attorney. Beth's transformation throughout the book is beautifully done, not an overnight thing, but a gradual shift to who she feels she truly is.

Just like the first in the series, *No Kind of Hero* moves at a slower pace than many romances, and even slower than some of James' series themselves. But that's what I enjoy about her writing; if an author becomes too formulaic, there really isn't a need to read so closely because you can easily tell the story yourself. *NKoH* contains a lot of dialogue between Evan and Beth, and the often awkward steps toward rekindling their relationship seem closer to real life than most books do. Nothing in books irritates me more than completely unrealistic dialogue and terms in "romantic situations". Or during sex scenes basically. If I have to laugh at one one partner says to the other when it wasn't supposed to be funny, I'm done. James simply continues to improve upon her already excellent dialogue skills, never providing the reader with the cringe-worthy moments I had previously attributed to the whole of the romance genre. Despite the excellent dialogue and slower pace, I came away with a feeling of a bit too much dialogue, which I can't pin down to describe more clearly. It may simply be a hallmark of this particular relationship. However, the well done settings and character descriptions are, as always, spot-on. The book's scenes are described very well, so you can picture how and what the characters are doing, with a clear sense of place and mood, but without elaborate,

overblown details.

Finally, I loved the ending of the book. Yes, it worked out as I expected it likely would, but not in the way I expected. It was a plausible ending, and well executed. Once again, Rosalind James hasn't failed us. My favorite in this series was Silver Tongued Devil due to the character of Dakota Savage (that name!!), whom I adored, but this was a more-than-pleasing second installment. I'm curious to see what book 3 brings us!

Disclaimer: If you are looking for soft straight-up romance, with no physical relationship, look elsewhere. While the sex in the book is normal and consensual, there are definitely plenty of sex scenes that may not be your cup of tea.

Natalie says

4.5 stars. I loved this story, but I especially loved Beth. I loved how open she was, and that with Evan, she was willing to take risks despite the fact that she'd be vulnerable and open to rejection. I also loved how Evan just couldn't resist the pull to be good to her despite wanting to stay angry and mean. They were such a great couple.

Laura says

I wasn't sure what to expect of Evan's story having met him in Silver Tongued Devil. He was portrayed to be a protective and tough guy. Although we learn in No Kind of Hero that he certainly is protective and tough, he also has a warm and tender side as well. The way that he takes care of Gracie as if she is the only other human in the world is just so heartwarming that it often can bring you to tears.

However, this book is more about a second chance at love for Evan and Beth. They were young when their love first developed. What started out as an infatuation with Evan as he was at Beth's house painting all of the time, then turned into a romance that was secretive....until they got caught. Fast forward and Beth goes to law school and Evan continues on with his life as a painter and ultimately has a relationship that makes him a dad - a single dad.

Beth returns home after having been burned out at work on her way to making partner. She is using this time at home to re-evaluate her life and slow down from her fast paced job. She did not expect to have sparks fly again between her and Evan. Although, it was inevitable as she has truly never gotten over him.

Beth and Evan slowly move into their relationship by rehashing their past mistakes. They realize that maybe if they "talked" more about their feelings, hopes and dreams, things might have taken a different path for them. Beth begins to find her voice and speaking honestly, not only to her parents, but to Evan as well. She no longer wants to feel like the princess that others thought she was when she was younger. She wants everyone to know that she's grown and become a stronger woman. One that will not let others walk all over. As with all of Rosalind's books, the reader goes through a whole host of emotions in learning about Evan and Beth's past and future relationship. I started this book not knowing if Evan would be a favorite character for me, but he certainly ended up being one. His passion for his daughter, job and, for Beth, was beautifully written. I loved the book and the characters, just as I do in all of Rosalind's books.

Fredrika says

This book was not what I was expecting. And I'm not sure if I liked the book, either. I didn't hate it, but I definitely didn't love it either. And I'm not entirely sure why.

I wasn't able to really connect with the characters as much as I wanted to. I may not have been reading closely enough, but I couldn't figure out if the two main characters had been in a relationship previously or if it was just a mutual crush when they were younger. That confusion bothered me. It was eventually cleared up, but at that point I didn't really care any more.

I don't know. Maybe I need to switch up my genres, but this book wasn't all that much to remember.

Susan Page says

I have been waiting, almost patiently, for Evan and Beth's story, and it was well worth the wait. We met both of them in *Silver-Tongued Devil*, and found out they had a history. When Beth was 21 they had a relationship, but her parents disapproved because Evan was a blue-collar worker, painting their house for goodness sake, from the wrong side of the tracks; and they were rich, leaders of local society. Evan had expected Beth to stand up to them at the confrontation but she couldn't, and broke both their hearts when she left for Law School. Evan had already suffered disappointment when his planned life as a football player ended through injury.

Life had not been kind to Evan in the intervening years, and he is even more closed down than he was when they were younger. When their story begins he is a single parent, caring for his nine-month old daughter Gracie, with the help of his mother who looks after her granddaughter during the day to allow Evan to work. His girlfriend April had left them when Gracie was three weeks' old. He is an amazing father to Gracie, she is his whole life and he isn't prepared to let anyone in, ever again.

Beth meanwhile has been working eighty hour weeks as an estate planning lawyer, hoping to be made a partner in the law firm, which should happen in a year's' time. But she is suffering badly, almost to the point of a breakdown. In desperation she takes all of her accrued holiday, 18.5 days, to relax and recover. She is so stressed she cannot even decide where to go to relax, so ends up going back to Wild Horse, and staying in her parents guest cottage. Her mother immediately starts trying to find a husband for her, as she always does when Beth comes home.

Evan and Beth meet by chance when Evan takes Gracie to the beach. He is quite hostile towards her because of their past, but when they meet again by chance they sit and talk and iron out some of their differences. The next morning she turns up at the theatre, which he and his men are painting. She offers to help, like she did when he was decorating her parents house nine years before. They talk more while they are working, and agree to meet again. They settle into a relationship, of sorts, each of them aware it is only temporary because Beth only has about a week of her vacation left, and she is determined to go back to her job in Portland and become a partner. Their relationship is sweet and honest, and sometimes funny so you laugh out loud, sometimes heartbreakingly sad, and you might need to reach for a tissue to dry your eyes. Rosalind is so good at creating emotions. She is also amazing at writing children that are so real, you just want to cuddle beautiful Gracie.

The climax of the story is totally unexpected, and brings everyone together in unexpected ways, Beth's mother comes to the fore and shows her incredible strengths, and in the process her reservations about Evan are torn away. But there are still problems between the couple; Beth goes back to her job because she said she would and she doesn't break her word, not any more. Of course, that doesn't work for Beth or Evan, but you will have to read the book to know how delightfully that is resolved, in order for there to be a really Happy Ever After.

This is the second book in a series, but can be read as a stand-alone. However, reading the first book in this series, Silver-Tongued Devil, allows you to meet all the characters and learn a bit about their history, which makes this book more satisfying as well. Besides which, that is a lovely story in its own right, and is very different from this one, so why would you want to miss out?

Amy says

This hit all my spots. I love a wounded/jaded man who's still just a big softie, and one who has a love and overprotectiveness for the women in his life? Swoon. Especially for his daughter. I like single fathers but especially ones with daughters. And my goodness, Gracie was so precious. Every time she rubbed her own hair while eating, I absolutely melted.

Lea says

Another wonderful story of real life love from Rosalind James! There's no billionaire, no massive sports contract, no huge inheritance on the line just two people from different circumstances who fall in love with each other, twice. I loved Evan and Beth, they have amazing chemistry but plenty of hurt and baggage. In spite of their collective baggage this isn't an angsty romance, just a beautifully told second chance romance about two people who fall in love young and immature but find their way back to each other older and wiser. Can I just say I loved little Gracie so much, for a character who doesn't speak beyond "dadada" she just made my heart constrict in every scene she was in and did so much to soften the stoic Evan. Beth was something of a tough nut to crack, born wealthy in a small town, a sweet girl but a bit of a princess, trying so hard to do things the "right" way and do what her parents want and be who they want her to be but finding that life is slowly killing her. I loved watching her spread her wings and find herself. I love that Evan made her feel safe enough to do it. This is an excellently crafted second chance at love story and I highly recommend it. If you have read and enjoyed any of Ms. James' other work I'm quite sure you'll enjoy this one as well, if you are new to her work feel free to start here, you won't be disappointed but you may need to go purchase all the rest (sorry, not sorry).

Judes says

How do I start..

I have been a fan of Ms. James from the first book I read of hers and enjoy her variations and directions while maintaining a unique style that's all her own. Each book is a journey and while we may know where we are going the fun is how we get there and I enjoy my tour guide, Ms. James... in case you were wondering.

Our journey this time begins on a whole new note as I found the first leg, until almost half way in, to be a meandering and retrospective journey as we meet Beth with all her internal conflict and... tiredness, that's the best way to describe it, causing her to go home to heal.

Home, where she left years before on her journey to what she thought she wanted and worked towards, leaving behind a broken heart and broken man, Evan. It's the story of rich girl and poor guy, too young and privileged, following her parents guidance and not her own heart while our H feels its not his place to claim. But here we are now, Beth... not only burnt out but trying to heal her mistakes and Evan being faced with his first love again, a love he realizes he never got over.

Evan has also done some growing up and being a single father has been one of his main reasons. We met this surly bear of a man in the previous book, Dakota and Blake's story, as he championed Dakota in a brotherly mode, and now we see the reasons behind his grumpy bear and get to meet the true, sweet and really lovable man. I couldn't get enough of his gentle quietly supportive character as he lent such a calming spirit to the story. We saw the way Beth just gravitated towards him and he soothed her as he did us readers.... Another book boyfriend cause they sure don't have many out there like this at all!

It was during the second half of the book that I totally got the first half... it was the contrast to the healing of Beth, the re-bonding and rekindling of these two lost souls who deserved their HEA, and in true Ms. James style it was all about how we get there. We have to pass through some twists and turns, snobbery and even a car chase all the while riding a roller coaster of emotions... yup I haven't been able to get through one book yet without tearing up or losing sleep as you just have to see around the next corner before you can rest comfortably.

I enjoyed this book and while the beginning seems slow and plods a bit, you get it as you read on and the whole journey makes sense. I appreciate the style as I can fully relate to the burnt out feeling Beth was going through, the transformation was made more obvious as you were brought through it with the words and storyline picking up in energy and spice and all that's nice!

Evan you're my kind of hero!!

"I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book. Opinions and comments are solely my own."

Maria says

Once again, Idaho isn't as romantic as New Zealand... and not my favorite trope.

Jessa says

4.5! This was a second chance romance that had shades of Persuasion (except Captain Wentworth has a baby in this one). Evan is an absolute DOLL and is everything I could want in a blue-collar dreamboat. He's steady, loyal and good with his hands (yes, the smut is excellent). Beth is successful and miserable but really likable and isn't at all the villain even though she "left" Evan all those years ago. You can't blame her for wanting to go to college and fulfill her lawyer dreams. I truly enjoyed seeing them come back together and make a little family. Good stuff.

Nancy McGee says

Sometimes you just need a change... Beth was tired, tired of her job, tired of being the good girl, tired of doing exactly what her parents wanted her to do. So she ran away to find herself and ran into the one person who had made her happy so many years ago... Evan. Can Evan ever forget that Beth chose her parents and her career over him? Evan's a hard working single dad with a beautiful baby girl. Can he risk letting Beth into his life again? No Kind Of Hero is a story of letting go of demons, forgiving the past, making changes in your life, and finding out what makes you happy.
