



The Rebel's Return

Victoria James

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Natalia Puccini has spent her entire life playing by her overbearing but well-intentioned Italian family's rules...except the one time she took a chance on a bad boy and fell hard. She's worked to get her life back on track so when Aiden McCann comes sauntering back into town with his heart-stopping smile, Natalia vows not to fall for him again. There's no way she'll let him mess with her perfectly planned life...and there's no way she'll let him near her heart again...

Now reformed and a self-made success, Aiden is tormented by regrets and secrets. He left Red River years ago filled with anger and resentment and a promise to never come back. But when his ill father needs help, Aiden knows it's time to face the mess he left behind, and face the one woman he never got over. It doesn't matter how beautiful or intriguing she is, though, because he'll never be able to give her what she needs. As soon as his father is healthy, Aiden is leaving Red River...for good.

Each book in the Red River series is a standalone, full-length story that can be enjoyed out of order.

Series Order:

Book #1: A Risk Worth Taking
Book #2: The Best Man's Baby
Book #3: The Doctor's Fake Fiancee
Book #4: The Rebel's Return

The Rebel's Return Details

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Author : Victoria James

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From Reader Review The Rebel's Return for online ebook

Mandy says

I enjoyed this book! I'm super picky when it comes to second-chance romance and even though I really can't agree with all of Aiden's actions when he left years ago, I was really rooting for this couple! Aiden has always been in love with Natalia and he only wanted what was best for her, even if that meant it wasn't him. When he comes back to town, the old feelings they had are still there but Nat can't forget or forgive the past. Aiden isn't ready for her to find out the truth of his actions but can't resist the woman he's thought about every day for the last ten years. This is the first book I have read in this series and I enjoyed the story and the characters. I really enjoyed this story and look forward to reading more by this author.

Esther says

Netgalley for an Honest review. 3.5 Rating

A sweet love story on second chance romance.

Aiden was the town bad boy and Natalia was a good girl who did what was expected. Aiden's came from a dysfunctional family and Natalia's was a loving Italian family. These two were high school sweethearts. But Aiden broke Natalia's heart and left town.

Ten years later Aiden is back to take care of his sick Father. When Aiden and Natalia see each other again they each realize that they never stopped caring or loving each other. And so begins the rekindling of feelings, truths are revealed and some not very nice people finely get the comeuppance.

This was a very old fashion and sweet romance. Nice secondary characters and a steady pacing. Loved the theme of family and the old fashion values that ran throughout the story. Written well and not steamy/hot but sweet.

Always enjoy Victoria James books.

Maree Repa says

Second Chance of Love

Five Winning Stars

I was now absolutely thrilled to enjoy the forth book of this amazing series, Red River. Written by my most favourite author, Victoria James. I have so enjoy this emotional, most romantic series so far.

Natalia Angelica Puccini is not so desperate for help in stopping stop her relative, Francesca Puccini from making the biggest mistake in her life. Natalia, was angry, embarrassed about this lie. Thinking how could she does this to me. I thought we were close. I'll never trust her ever again. She and I used to be so close. I

had known here for my whole life. At least my Mom believed me. She never said much, but I also knew that she was on my side. I'm not going to be single forever, whatever those girl say behind my back.

Aidan McCann finally carriers home on his motorbike, back to his home town Red River. He was alway the sexy guy who was always in trouble. But finally home now to help out his unwell Father who was suffering with many health problems.

I thoroughly adored my most wonderful exciting romantic storyline. This most endearing marvellous book bringing this tale to such a beautiful most fabulous ending!!

* I recommend this book to everyone!!

Claire Robinson says

4 - "It meant everything." Stars!

The Rebel's Return, is the fourth book in Victoria James' *Red River* series. Having not read the previous three books, I found it could easily be read as a standalone.

I am not a stranger to this authors books, so I knew that this story would offer up three things, and that is great characters, a really well developed and multi directional plot, and lots of emotions, and she delivered up every point perfectly.

"I never got over you. No woman I've ever met has come close to being anything like you."

There is so much going on in Natalia and Aiden's story, that as a reader you are not just dealing with a second-chance reconnection between them, but also with Aiden and his estranged father as well (and boy did this pull on a few of the heart-strings). I think the part of the book between him and his father is as pivotal to the story-line as a whole as is the rebuilding of his relationship and trust with Nat was, and as everything starts to play out he realizes that staying in town for eight weeks and then leaving again without a by-your-leave may not be as easy as he was hoping it would be.

Focus on the end game and then get the hell out of town.

But it doesn't end there, Nat is also having a sort late-twenties life assessment of herself, due to the fact her vapid cousin is getting married, and is not shy in making it known how little she thinks of the fact that Nat is still single and on the shelf, so having the love of her life, who then broke her heart come back to town ten years later to stir up all those old feelings is literally the icing on her cake.

"I thought about you every single day I was gone."

This is one of those books that doesn't hugely stray off the map from A to B, but it is well written, the author

pulls the emotions out of you as a reader for Aiden in particular, because he is a guy that is a whole lot of closed off when he first returns to town, but as things progress with Nat and then the situation with his father starts to develop, you see the vulnerability and feelings of inadequacy that he has tried to keep hidden for such a long time come to the surface. *Bad-boy* in others eyes, but as you go deeper you see he is more of a *lost-boy* than anything.

"You have no idea how far I would go to have a night with you."

I now feel the need to binge read the previous three books in the *Red River Series*. The author has great skills in setting up a town and its people, for her main characters stories to then play out around, and *The Rebel's Return* is no exception. It was also good to see Victoria setting up other secondary characters to have their stories told in the future as well, I would happily return to *Red River* again and again.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, and it was a pleasure to provide the above honest review.

Lu Bielefeld *read.laugh.love* says

second-chance + virgin + ok

Veronika says

I rarely read second chance romances, because I usually don't believe the romance between the characters and the instalove/lust after so many years apart. But I love this author's works, so I thought I'd give it a chance. Sadly, it was a miss for me. I struggled to finish it.

Brenda says

A very sweet and emotional read.

There were some very beautiful moments in the book, my favorite being when Aiden goes on to the stage and in front of all the wedding guests sets the record straight about what he led Natalia to believe ten years ago. I also liked that Natalia gave her snotty cousin a piece of her mind, even though, it was a very embarrassing moment for her. But it got overshadowed by Aiden's speech and subsequent proposal.

I also liked the start of the healing process between father and son relationship and loved the scene where the father unable to express his joy in words at the sight of both his prodigal sons, kept blowing the horn.

I was also very happy to see the Manning brothers making their appearances in the book and still teasing one another. I've been on a Red River series binge. Every book in the series has been a good one. Now, very keen to read about Natalia's brother, Dominic, and her best friend, Sabrina. Dying to know what's going on with those two and also Aiden's brother, Dylan.

Would recommend this series to anyone looking for a clean, heartwarming, small town romance

Nicola says

To say I was a wee bit excited when I discovered Victoria James had a new book coming out AND she was taking us back to Red River is a bit of an understatement. I have so much love for the characters in this series and the beautiful setting and returning was being like wrapped up in your favourite blanket; all warm and snuggly.

Everything about this worked for me and Victoria has taken the second-chance trope, combined it with a little angst and a lot of feeling and brought us another couple to fall in love with. Aiden McCann left Red River years ago under a cloud, but when he returns to support his unwell dad and sees Natalia Puccini again--the girl he loved and left--his feelings and regrets resurface. And so the battle begins because Nat refuses to let him hurt her again and I loved her for her stubbornness, honesty and loyalty despite her own insecurities.

Second-chance and redemption are firm favourites of mine and Victoria does them well. It never fails to surprise me how her stories can have you laughing one moment, sighing the next and then sniffling back the tears; she has a gift when it comes to making content which could easily become heavy, the opposite. You can't hide the fact that Aiden left a trail of destruction in his wake and is hiding vulnerabilities and inner torment, and as his layers are peeled away you see him for the wonderful man he is and is what this brings the emotional aspect: you simply can't not root for him and Nat to find their HEA.

With plenty of build-up and tension between Nat and Aiden as they rediscover and fight their feelings, *The Rebel's Return* a sweet, entertaining, heartfelt addition to the *Red River* series. It was lovely to see the Manning brothers again, bringing humour and those little reminders which if you've read their books you'll remember with a smile and, with something brewing between Natalia's brother and best friend, along with the appearance of Aiden's brother, I'm hoping we'll be treated to another couple of visits to what has become one of my happy places.

Copy received courtesy of Entangled Publishing for an honest and unbiased opinion.

Jonetta says

Natalia Puccini is the successful owner of her family's bakery. If only she wasn't so lousy with her relationships, especially the two that cheated on her. The most recent is now engaged to her traitorous cousin and Natalia has to do the family thing and serve as the brat's maid of honor. As if things couldn't get worse, her first love, Aiden McCann, is back in town after a ten-year absence.

This was a sweet story but tackled some pretty heavy themes...alcoholism, cancer, infidelity, trust, redemption...just to name a few. Aiden's absence had much more to do with his awful relationship with his

father but the impact was the same. I enjoyed how their struggle to come to terms with the old relationship was woven into Aiden's issues involving his own family.

I was thrilled to learn Red River wasn't over and based on the ending, looks like we should be back here again. Aiden and Natalia are nice people who deserved a second chance. The scenes involving her cousin provided comic relief to the heavier issues but I was pretty satisfied with how all that turned out. I enjoyed this story and hope my instincts are correct about another book in the works.

(I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review)

3.5 stars

BookLover says

ARC requested through Netgalley, and kindly provided by Entangled Publishing in exchange for an honest review.

“When you think about me, you’re thinking about vomit?”
She nodded. “Pretty much. Welcome back to Red River, Aiden.”

When Aiden returned to Red River to look after his sick father, he didn't get a great reception from his former love, Natalia. Both fell hard when they were young and Aiden skipped town, leaving Natalia broken hearted.

Fast forward ten years and both Aiden and Natalia still felt a pull towards one another. Unfortunately, Aiden had not overcome his belief that he was not good enough for Natalia and after being hurt and humiliated one too many times, Natalia was not willing to let anyone near her heart again.

This story was told in the third person and gave us a view into both Aiden and Natalia's lives in Red River, however, I was happy we got to focus a lot on Aiden and his relationship with his father. Setting the romance aside for a moment, I really enjoyed this part of the story. Aiden's father was the opposite of a good father, but both were able to repair some of that damage and mend their relationship. Despite his father's terrible treatment of Aiden as a child, my heart still broke for him.

“Their father just kept staring at them. Then their dad grinned and honked the horn. And then honked it again. And again. People stared. The nurse looked worried, like maybe he was going nuts.”

In many ways Natalia's development seemed stunted as a result of her heartbreak as a teenager. I saw it in her relationship with her best friend Sabrina, in her always doing what was expected of her by her family and in her interactions with Aiden while he was trying to make things right with her. It was great watching things transform for her as Aiden broke down her walls and got back inside her heart. I especially loved the

way Aiden stuck up for Natalia and showed her how distorted her perception of her self-worth was.

“He tilted his chin, smirk in place. “So what do Italians do better, Nat?”
She leaned forward. “Lots of things. Things you’ll never know about.”

Loved this second chance romance!

I am super hopeful we will get to see a story about Sabrina and Dominic after all of the subtle hints dropped in this story. It would be even better if we also got to see Dylan come back to town in another book.

Vashti says

I read the first two books in this series and liked them ,skipped #3, and enjoyed this latest entry into this series. This was a good old fashioned romance with a few kisses and absolutely no sex between the two MC's.

Our hero, the town rebel and bad boy returns to Red River 10 years after his painful break up with the heroine, the present owner of the town bakery. She has heaps of hurt still lingering and festering for his supposed cheating on her while they were a couple when she was 18 and he 22. Our rebel returns to town cause he lost the coin toss with his older brother to see who would come back to take care of their father while he gets his treatment for prostate cancer. There is no love lost with the father. And who does he meet upon return to town and his old childhood home but the heroine delivering a healthy meal to his father. And so begins this slow burn second chance at love romance. There were some very sweet moments particularly when the hero goes on bended knee to propose to the heroine in front of 400 wedding guests at her despised cousin's wedding to the heroine's former boyfriend. The former boyfriend cheated on the heroine too with the cousin. I can also see a potential book with the heroine's bff and brother, their is a story there to be sure. As I mentioned before ,this was a slow burn romance which I found refreshing and enjoyable,a nice change of pace for me.

KAS says

4.5 Stars! This was my first Victoria James book, and boy, did I enjoy! It was juicy, angst, hostile, sweet well, it was just darn good! The pages are filled with sassy, delectable characters, entertaining conversation, and a storyline which made me smile when reading it.

After leaving Red River a decade earlier, Aiden McCann rides back into town on his Harley, clad in his leather jacket, not looking forward to spending the next two months living under his father's roof. Aiden and his brother, Dylan, who also left Red River years ago, both had a rough childhood growing up with their father. When they get the news he was diagnosed with prostate cancer and needs help getting to his daily radiation treatments, they flip a coin and the loser has to go home to drive him to his appointments. Aiden lost the coin toss but his father doesn't want his help.

When Aiden lays eyes on his former girlfriend, Natalia Puccini, for the first time in ten years, his heart is ready to beat right out of his chest. She is that stunningly beautiful, and he finally feels alive seeing her

again. While his heart is doing the happy dance, Natalia's nearly stops beating with rage because she is looking at her former cheating, bastard of a boyfriend who ripped her heart to shreds, then left town without a word.

Aiden and Natalia's journey back to each other was full of jealousy, lust, regret, anger, repentance and forgiveness. This combination of emotions had me burning through the pages!

I received a copy of this book, via Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review

Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says

Victoria James takes readers back to Red River with *The Rebel's Return*. This is the fourth book in the series and is definitely a standalone read.

Natalia Puccini and Aiden McCann have a history together filled with young love and broken hearts. Aiden grew up with a less than ideal upbringing. His mother died when he was extremely young and his father lost himself to the bottle. With little to no guidance, young Aiden became a bad boy. The only one who believed in Aiden was a young Natalia. Natalia had the perfect, ideal family with loving and supportive parents. She thought her future was bright with Aiden's love and working in her parent's bakery. But the future she envisioned wasn't meant to be.

Aiden left Red River, breaking Natalia's heart, swearing he would never return. Ten years later, his father's illness brings him back to face the bad memories of the past and the one woman he could never forget. Now, he has eight weeks to capture the heart of the only woman he's ever loved.

The Rebel's Return is classic Victoria James. This is a sweet romance that pulls at your heartstrings and if you didn't believe in love, turns you into a believer. Aiden and Natalia have to overcome trust issues and feelings of unworthiness to claim the love they deserve and have been searching for. The characters in this book are incredible. I love the way the townspeople rally around each of them, never truly pushing, but dropping little subtle hints.

Received a copy of the book courtesy of Entangled Publishing for an honest and unbiased opinion.

Rating: 4.5

Marsha Spohn says

Reviewed at Keeper Bookshelf

I admit, I have not (yet) read the earlier books in the Red River series. Yet that is an oversight that can easily be rectified – I just have to find the time to get to those earlier stories in a small town that I'd love to revisit from the beginning. Even though this was my first trip to Red River I wasn't the least bit lost or confused. One of many things that I've always enjoyed about Victoria James' stories is that I can fall right into the story of the current couple – going back to the earlier stories is always recommended, but it never takes away

from what I'm reading right now. I won't call this a standalone, but as a romance it certainly can stand on its own quite easily.

There's something about second chance romance that touches us all. To be able to fix what went wrong with that one person who was the love of your life is a dream many people have had. For Aiden and Natalia, that dream is about to come true... eventually.

Aiden lost the coin toss with his brother on who was returning home to care for their ill father. The last place Aiden wanted to spend time was here. So, he'd do his time, help out his father (whether he wanted the help or not) and then get outta town as quickly as humanly possible. Or at least that was the plan right up until he ran into the one woman he'd thought about daily for the last decade was right there upon his arrival home. Natalia. Fate sure was messing with him today.

Ten years should have been long enough to get over him. Then why was her heart filled with equal parts of rage and hope when she set eyes on him again. Natalia wasn't about to forgive and forget the pain Aiden had brought to her life, even to this very day. She would not fall for him or his lies again. She would deal with him as she needed to, but her heart was locked up tight. Now who was telling lies?

The Rebel's Return is an endearing and realistic second chance at love romance. No one really knows the entire story of a loved one's actions, and there are plenty of secrets and things left unsaid for Aiden and Natalia. I enjoyed watching this couple unravel the past and settle into a future that they always should have had. I'd definitely recommend this one and look forward to catching up on the rest of the town's romances for myself.

I received an e-ARC of this novel from the publisher via NetGalley. That does not change what I think of this novel. It is my choice to leave a review giving my personal opinion about this story.

Irene says

4.5 heartwarming stars

The Rebel's Return was a well written and heartfelt read.

I'm a huge fan of Victoria James writing and once again she has given us an emotional and heartfelt story with characters that will touch your heart.

I loved The Rebel's Return, both Natalia and Aiden were likable, endearing and passionate characters. It touched my heart watching them reconnect and learn to put past hurts behind them to open their hearts to each other. I truly loved them together, and had no doubt these two would have a happy and fulfilling life ahead.

If you're looking for a heartwarming read with characters that will entertain you and take on a emotional journey with their stories you will love The Red River series.

Each book can be read as a standalone and I highly recommend them all.

Thank you to Entangled Bliss via Netgalley for the advance copy.

