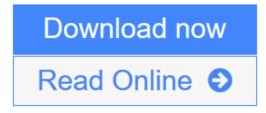


Rachel Laine

Jennifer Peel



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Rachel Laine Jennifer Peel

Rachel Whitney's life changed forever when Drew, the son of her twin sister, Sydney, was placed in her arms—and there he stayed. At twenty-two, she had no idea what she was doing, but in that moment, she knew that raising Drew was what she was meant to do with her life.

?

Fiercely independent, Rachel makes her own way managing her family's insurance agency. Decidedly against introducing any men into her life, or Drew's, she protects her heart against all romantic entanglements. But what she didn't count on was a letter from her sister that leads a famous secret to her door eight years after her sister's death. A secret with the same eyes as her son's.

Desperate not to get the courts involved, Rachel allows Drew's previously unknown father, Andrew Turner, into their lives, and to her surprise, little by little into her heart. But for Rachel, taking that step could open her family to a firestorm of media attention that not even Merryton can protect them from. Is love worth the risk? Or will Andrew's fame and ambition ruin their chances?

Rachel Laine Details

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From Reader Review Rachel Laine for online ebook

Kristen says

3.5 I'm going against the grain with all my other goodreads friends. This wasn't my favorite Peel book.

Mild spoilers: I guess I couldn't get past the fact that he had been involved with her sister, well, a one night stand pretty much, that would be a deal breaker for me I think. Even if Andrew is so charming. After the initial distaste wore off it didn't seem to bother Rachel at all. Andrew was quite the character - barging in where he wasn't wanted. Getting on her nerves and getting into her heart and brain. And I'm not sure if it was just my mood, but it could have been a little shorter. Seemed to drag on a tad at the end. And during the campaign wanted to slap Andrew a few times.

Moral Note: I wouldn't say it was clean, but it wasn't detailed stuff. Some passionate kisses/make-out sessions on couches. Lots of innuendos (cold showers, what are you wearing, stuff like that) And of course the whole premise of the book: Rachel is raising her sister's son who had a one night stand with the other main character Andrew. Her sister wasn't the best at moral behavior, and I guess that was the root of why I didn't like it, my beliefs had me cringing a lot. No language. No violence.

Jessie says

My Favorite Book this Summer

After her sister Sydney dies in childbirth, Rachel adopts and raises her baby boy, Drew. She's never known anything about Drew's father, but several years later, Andrew Turner walks through her door, asking for her sister, and she knows.

I can't say enough good things about this book! First, Jennifer Peel is amazing at writing real characters, who you feel like you know, and are friends with. I loved the town of Merryton. They might be a gossipy bunch, but they also have your back. I loved seeing that in this book. I am very pleased to have read two other books set in this town, and that there will be more. While Rachel Laine is part of a series, each book can be read independently. Rachel was a strong character, and a great mother. It was obvious how much she loved her son, Drew, who was adorable. Andrew Turner was also great! He might have been slow to believe that he had a son, but once they did reunite, he put in the effort. I loved Andrew for his playful side. He was funny, flirty, and charismatic. Rachel was a bit on the serious side, so she and Andrew balanced each other perfectly.

If you like clean romances, Rachel Laine is a must read! You will fall in love with the characters, and the town. Then, like me, you will be anxiously awaiting an opportunity to travel to Merryton again!

Content: clean (some kissing)

Disclosure: I received a free copy of this book, in exchange for an honest review.

Alisa says

I fall more in love with these Merryton women with each book I read in this series! While this book could be a standalone, you will want to read the other books in this series to get the back stories of some of the people in town!

Rachel Laine lives a nice quiet life in Merryton with her adopted son, Drew. But her life is about to get turned upside down by Andrew Turner. THE Andrew Turner -- the retired all-star pitcher who has been named Denver's most eligible bachelor a few times. Their first meeting didn't go well on so many levels - Rachel didn't know until this meeting that Andrew was Drew's biological father, and she would like for him to disappear. Rachel thinks Andrew is terribly arrogant, but she has to play nice so he doesn't sue her for custody.

The more time Andrew spends with Drew, the more he loves being a father... and the more he is falling in love with Rachel. While he isn't afraid to show his feelings for Rachel in private, he needs to keep their relationship and his relationship to Drew a secret while he is running for State Representative. Andrew was easy to like - he exudes confidence and he makes big mistakes, but he owns up to his mistakes and works hard to make it right. By trying to have it all, Andrew almost risks losing it all and when it comes down to it, it isn't really hard for him to choose what's most important to him.

It was fun seeing Easton, Taylor, and Jessie and their growing families back in this book. I always feel like I'm visiting old friends when I read a Merryton book -- and I'm so excited that Cheyenne is going to get her own story! It was fun to get a sneak peek into what comes next for her...

Rating: 5 stars Content: Clean Source: Advanced Reader Copy (Opinion is 100% my own)

Kathy Jo says

May 2017:

dreamy sigh I absolutely LOVE Rachel Laine! It's still absolutely amazing! As of right now it's my favorite book in the Merryton series! But we still have Cheyenne's book so it may or may not change...;) Hehe.

July 2016:

5+ Stars!

Rachel Laine became a mom at the age of 22 when her identical twin sister passed away during childbirth. From the moment little Drew was placed in her arms, she knew that being his mom was what she was meant to do with her life. She knew that she would do anything and everything for that little guy. Being fiercely independent, she was determined to provide the best life she could for him on her own. But all her efforts to stay independent and single until Drew is grown goes right out the window the moment Andrew steps into her office looking for her sister Sydney.

Andrew is a retired baseball player who wants to follow in his father's political footsteps and run for his old seat as a District Representative in CO. But before he can announce his candidacy, he needs to know if something that happened in the past is true. He needs to know if he had fathered a child a little over eight years ago. Determined to do the right thing, he heads to Merryton, CO in search of answers. Andrew never expected that his life would be turned upside down the moment his steps into Rachel Laine's office and discovers that he is indeed a father.

Decisions are made, and against Rachel's better judgement, she allows Andrew to be part of Drew's life as a "friend". There is just too much at stake for all involved if word gets out about Drew's paternity. Rachel hates lying to anyone, especially Drew, but she will play nice for her son's sake. Even though Andrew has sworn he never would, Rachel doesn't want to give him any reason to think about taking Drew away from her. But the more time they spend together, the more drawn to each other they become and the more they are in need of not only protecting Drew, but protecting themselves and their hearts as well.

Tragedy strikes and when Rachel needs him the most, Andrew makes a wrong decision. Feeling brokenhearted and rejected, Rachel builds up the walls around her heart. She will allow Andrew to be apart of Drew's life but she will not let him into her heart again. Andrew regrets making the choice that he did and will do anything to make it up to Rachel. Can he gain her forgiveness so they can finally move forward to become a family? Or will it be too little, too late?

I just have to tell you the feels are real people! I laughed, I cried, I growled in frustration, I wanted to throw my kindle across the room, I let out little dreamy sighs, I fell in love with Merryton all over again! And little Drew was absolutely adorable! Such a well behaved, fun, loving kid! I loved watching his and Andrew's relationship develop. You can see how much they both loved each other and needed each other in their lives.

Rachel Laine is my new favorite book in this series! I absolutely LOVED it! Jennifer really does have a way of sucking me in and not letting me go until the journey is over. I didn't even want to sleep until I finished reading this book. But alas, after my kindle hit me in the face for the third time, I decided it was time for bed. BUT I woke up extra early the next day so I could finish! Hehe. I am loving this series! I can't wait for Cheyenne's book! :)

And check out this casting! I am seriously in love with these two! <3

I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review

Joleen says

[Rachel Laine is the adoptive mother of a little boy who was born to her twin sister. Sydney died in childbirth, but before she went into labor Sydney told Rachel she wanted her to adopt the baby if something happened to her. So at 22 years old Rachel becomes a mom, and has never regretted it, knowing it's the best thing that ever happened to her. Always wanting the best for little Drew, she decided never to be in a relationship with a ma

Valerie Waters says

What a good cute clean amazing book!!!! I haven't neglected everything for an amazing book in a long time!!! This one totally did it for me!! Andrew was awesome!!! Such a cute book!!! I loved that she didn't just throw herself at him in the beginning. I like that it was a process to get to w relationship. Cute book.

Jacob Proffitt says

While an adequate romance with an interesting premise, there's nothing really to set this apart. The worst aspect is that it's the third in a series and that shows with characters showing up as idealized couples and obviously happy relationships I'm obviously supposed to care about. I never came across the first book, but I dnf'd the second when I just couldn't take the setup (I may get around to ranting on that one later, but no promises). So I can't really recommend starting here and I'd suggest not bothering with at least one of the two predecessors.

This story on its own merits has two problems. Unfortunately, they're the main characters. Rachel is way over-idealized as a single mom. She has everything handled and all without leaning on anybody else. She has a nepotistic job so she can work school hours and still have a house and all the trappings and still supervise homework and sports and play activities and touching little mother-son rituals. Unfortunately, it's like Peel consulted a childcare specialist before writing any reaction or interaction for Rachel and Drew. What should you do if a trusted adult (obviously male) gives your son a pocketknife? You can't just take it away, right? Well, first, make sure they agree to only use it in the active supervision of an adult. And get the supervising adult to buy into that contract and encourage compliance. Oh, and don't forget to lock it up when he isn't using it...

It doesn't help, of course, that I couldn't see what would draw the two together. Andrew is kind of immature and while we're told he's charming, we never see that at work on the page. Most of what he does with Rachel made me want to smack him. Yeah, he's kind of an ideal dad (the same way Rachel is an ideal mom, really), but as a potential partner, I don't see the draw. I particularly don't see what he does for Rachel. What does he have that she needs? How does he make her a better person?

In the end, I was in this for the situation more than the characters as they actually played out. Peel is good enough that the pace and setting were evocative. And for all I found the main characters bland, it wasn't so bad that I was disengaged. Peel has a unique story and I enjoyed considering the ramifications of raising the son of your twin and the famous man she'd been with. Peel hit those notes very well, and maybe that was enabled by having the bland characters around it...

Christina says

Dreamy sigh...followed by another.

Loved this book in The Women of Merryton series! Rachel Laine is such a great heroine, and don't get me started on Andrew. I absolutely loved seeing him learn to be a father and the way he took care of both Rachel and Drew.

I loved how real this book felt. There was a great love story to be sure, but it came with highs and lows; mistakes and forgiveness. Happily ever after can happen, but it doesn't come easy and it's something that requires work and sacrifice. Rachel is no stranger to either as she has given up everything to parent and raise her sister's son. I can't imagine what it would be like to go from that to suddenly worrying about another parent entering the scene. Andrew is a good father though, and willing to work to build a relationship with his son...and the mother of his son. Their romance was dreamy and yet grounded with difficulties and obstacles overcome.

I love reading this series and hearing about past characters from other books and new ones as well. Merryton is fast becoming my favorite place! Now I'm off to lose more sleep and delve into Cheyenne's story!!

Tara says

4.5...I think this one might be my favorite in the series so far!

Rachel lost her twin sister to childbirth, so Rachel became the mother of her sister's son, Drew. Our story begins with Rachel getting an unexpected visitor in the form of her son's father--who did not know for sure that he was a father. As the story unfolds, protection of Drew immediately sets in for Rachel, but as time passes, sparks start to fly, trust is formed and love begins to bloom. Rachel and Andrew's story was a sweet, enjoyable one to read!

My only beef (which is why it's a 4.5), is that when Andrew acted like Drew's surgery was not a big deal, it totally rubbed me the wrong way, and didn't seem consistent with his character. I know he was running for office and that was super important, but I couldn't see him not saying "I'll be right there, screw the election." Or something along those lines. ;)

But the ending was romantic, sweet, and worth the wait. :) And that epilogue...happy sigh. :)

This is another Peel hit for sure!! Love her books and I hope they keep coming!

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

Yay!

This was a fun read. I really enjoyed it, kept me up way too late reading. Which is always a good thing.

This definitely has a complicated plot. Rachel Laine adopted her twin sisters son after she died in childbirth, raising him as her own. For the past eight years Rachel Laine has done everything for her son, they are extremely close. Her world is turned upside down when Drew's father, the famous baseball star Andrew Turner, suddenly shows up. Andrew is wanting to kick off his political career and plans on running for office, before he does he is looking to tie-up any loose ends and wants to find out if Drew is really his son. His main goal is to get elected and didn't plan on falling so hard or so fast for the beautiful Rachel Laine and his adorable son Drew.

I love how Ms. Peel always has unique plots and interesting problems her characters have to work through.

Definitely keeps you invested and wanting to know how things are going to turn out. This is probably one of my favorites of her books. I really enjoyed Rachel Laine, Andrew and Drew. I enjoyed their story and thought their relationship was believable and their problems very realistic. Rachel isn't awed by Andrew's celebrity and isn't afraid to put him in his place. I wanted to shake some sense into Andrew quite a few times, but his mistakes seemed realistic and true to character. I thought it was well written and the characters were well developed.

This is part of a series, but stands well on its own. You don't have to read them in order, which is always nice (my favorite kind of series are like this, where they're set in the same town with overlapping characters, but stand on their own.) Overall, this was a fun read. Lots of chemistry and romance, I loved the small-town charm and supporting characters. This is one I would read again!

Content:

Romance: Clean, some kissing. Some talk of Sydney (Drew's birth mom) sleeping around, etc Language: None (might have been one curse word??) Violence: None Religious: None

Source: Kindle Unlimited

Katie W says

I think I keep saying this, but this one has got to be my favorite book of Ms. Peel's so far! Rachel's twin sister died in childbirth, leaving her to raise her son, Drew. Her plan to raise him without a man in her life is derailed when the birth father shows up--Andrew, a former MLB player.

Rachel is independent, snarky, and blunt. She says it like it is and almost seems to thrive on putting Andrew in his place. This amusing banter kept a smile on my face and Andrew's reactions to Rachel completely warmed my heart. At first, he's very cocky, but he totally grew on me. His outlook on life is amazing, although he does confuse his priorities a little. Drew is the sweetest, most charming little guy ever!

A book that pulls me in from the start and won't let me up for air until it's finished is a winner in my eyes, I couldn't get enough of these characters and their lives. I want to pick up and move to Merryton right away. Small towns can be tough to escape the fishbowl feeling, but when it really counts, these people are like family and will go to great lengths to protect one of their own.

This book is part of a series, but can stand alone. I love getting to know each of these women and their stories better. Everyone has a story, right? I can't wait for more!

Content: mild romance (a few steamy clean kisses, talk of a past intimate relationship, with vague details, some innuendo); mild language. Clean for an older reader.

I received a copy in exchange for an honest review

Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

Kindle freebie romance time again! (sorry, that sale has now sailed) Jennifer Peel's clean contemporary romances have been popping up as freebies lately,* and I've been popping them down like so much Christmas chocolate. Of which, BTW, there is still way too much around our house. Anyway. This is probably my favorite of the Jennifer Peel romances I've read.

Rachel Laine Whitney is the adoptive mother of 8 year old Drew, the son of her twin sister, Sydney, who died in childbirth. He's a great kid and she loves him to pieces. One day her life is turned upside down when a retired pro baseball pitcher, Andrew Turner, suddenly shows up in her office. It turns out that Sydney had left him a letter when she was pregnant, telling him to contact Rachel if he ever wanted to find her again. Andrew ignored it because he thought she was a lying sports groupie, but he hung onto the letter. Now he's retired from baseball and thinking about running for a political office, and he figures he'd better look into this potential firebomb.

Rachel (an independent type of gal; I liked her) tells Andrew yes, he's almost certainly the father: the resemblance to his son is noteworthy. But she's got no need for his money, no interest in making waves for his career, and would much prefer that Andrew just get lost again. Andrew, despite being a very self-assured and good-looking person, is a pretty good guy at heart. Despite the danger to his wished-for political career, he wants to meet Drew and get to know him, before breaking the news that he's Drew's father. But Andrew thinks he can have his cake (get to know his son) and eat it too (keep the news from becoming public until he's elected to office). Rachel is resistant to that approach, but it's tough when she's starting to become attracted to Andrew.

?

This one has solid, flawed but likeable characters, and a storyline that grabbed me. Recommended for clean romance lovers!

*The nice ladies in the "Happily Ever After" GR group have a very useful thread right here where people post Kindle freebie and cheapie clean romances. If you're interested in these kinds of reads, it's definitely worth tracking this thread.

Kathy says

Thoroughly enjoyed!! I love this series. Seriously one of my favorites!

Content: Clean (mild innuendo) Source: ARC ebook

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

I'm pretty sure that the word love is going to be severely overused in this review. I sincerely apologize ahead of time.

Happy Release Day to Rachel Laine!!!

LOVE! :)

Here's my LOVE list.

1. Jennifer Peel- seriously one of my favorite authors. I met Jennifer a couple months ago where I scored a stack of her books, all autographed because she is generously awesome that way. I haven't met a Jennifer Peel book I haven't loved. Now they are gracing my bookshelf in full glory. I LOVE that. If you haven't read any books by Jennifer Peel, well, what are you waiting for?! It's time!

2. This Series- one of my favorites. You don't have to read these book in any order, but it will just give you more perspective into the secondary characters if you do. You can easily start with this book and be perfectly happy.

3. This Book- LOVE! The thing about Jennifer Peel is that she knows how to write characters that you feel like you know. By the end of the book I feel like those characters are mine. I know them, I love them. I have been there every step of their journey and it feels like it's been my journey too.

4. These Characters!- Rachel is so fierce when it comes to loving and protecting Drew but she is also generous and kind. She wants what is best for her son and she puts aside her feelings to give him that. Rachel gives more to Andrew than I probably would have. Drew is energetic and cute. He is a great addition to this book and really makes the scenes come alive. I didn't love Andrew right away but he grew on me right along with Rachel and Drew.

5. The Ending- I love when I come to the end of a great, romantic book and my heart gives a contented sigh. It just feels good.

Content: Clean

I received a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

This story had all the things I love about a Jennifer Peel novel- great characters, plenty of emotion and angst, and a strong sense of community and friendship. The story starts with Andrew's arrival into Rachel and Drew's life, and while the situation of a dad suddenly invading a single mom's realm is one I've read in several books, the twist of Rachel being the twin sister and aunt-turned-mom increased the tension and complications. The author really delves into the myriad of emotions that Rachel experiences, and I think the first person POV helps the reader connect to what she's feeling. I had a hard time enjoying Andrew's character; I think I connected a little too well with Rachel's initial feelings of mistrust and anger, and when she warmed up to him, I was still giving him a hard time in my mind, especially with the decisions he was making in regards to their converging lives. He's charming and funny, and their romantic moments are swoony, but it's the way that Rachel continues to keep him on his toes that makes their relationship lively. She is 100% the advocate for Drew's happiness and well-being, and doesn't hesitate to remind Andrew of it. The pacing slowed a little for me partway through when Rachel's' thoughts got a little repetitive, but I didn't have to wait too long for another twist to make the plot surge forward. I'd recommend this book to all fans of clean contemporary romance!