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Red Castle ... an ancient citadel of wine-red stone in the heart of Utah's primitive High Uinta Mountains. Hidden away near its rocky base, a small plane lies twisted and broken.

The four men ... desperate, ruthless, will stop at nothing to retrieve the plane's valuable cargo, but their only clue to its location are the words ... Red Castle.

Jesse Chisholm ... rugged, lonely, one of the new breed of modern Mountain Men. As a geologist for the Forest Service, he calls the wilderness his home and only the mountains know the secrets of his heart.

Melissa Heydon ... spirited, young, in love with life, the mountains, and Jesse Chisholm.

Return to Red Castle Details

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From Reader Review Return to Red Castle for online ebook

Kathryn says

Never judge a book by its cover. This would be one I wouldn't pick up by sight alone, but then after starting it I couldn't put it down. Jesse Chisholm near trail's head in Utah. At the age of 19 he lost his wife to an accident in the mountains. He lived with guilt and depression until "little Missy" Heydon and her family came a two week visit from Arizona. Missy was only 8 years old at the time, but she was the one who brought Jesse back to life with her spirited, say it like it is, loving life attitude. After that year tradition was to come every summer. The relationship that grew was one of comfortable companionship. Jesse taught her of wildlife and nature and also about life lessons. When she turned 16, the relationship changed because she had changed. After that Jesse tried to forget about "tidbit," by dating, but to no avail. Melissa was informed of this by her mother and after that she just assumed that Jesse was lost to her. When a wedding invitation was forwarded to her, she assumed it was Jesse's and didn't even open it. Later when the Chisholm's announced that they were grandparents, Melissa again assumed it was Jesse's son, but she found out when she did go back after 3 years, things between them had changed, but not like she thought. Jesse was not married or did he have a child, but his sister did. He was just as free as before, but in mountain man form. They both are "lonely" from missing each other, but after the misunderstandings are cleared up and her big brother, Doug has a "talk" with Jesse, they are able to express their true feelings with no objections. This happens on the trail to Red Castle an 18 mile hike. Red Castle is located in the primitive high Uinta mountains. It's an isolated area and perfect for drug trafficking. They find themselves in the middle of a search for a downed plane and its illegal cargo with the 4 searchers intent on finding their plane and leaving no witnesses behind. Love prevails but it does get intense.

Greta says

I first have to say that Red Castle is in fact very beautiful. My husband and I backpacked in to Red Castle a few years ago at the recommendation of my parents who said it was their favorite spot in the Uintah's. I don't know how many times my Dad, alone, and my parents together frequented this spot, but at the age of 67 they took one last backpacking trip there, roughing it in a tiny two person tent on not too thick thermarest pads and 20 degree sleeping bags. Dad took his fly rod and said tiny black gnats was the perfect artificial fly to attract the awaiting cutthroat lurking below the surface of Red Castle's spectacular lakes. All the other neighboring backpackers marveled at this senior couple and praised them for their amazing stamina and ability to make the 15 or so mile hike with loaded packs.

I can honestly say that Red Castle is spectacularly breathtaking. When my husband and I were there, a huge summer storm rolled in, thunder boomed, reverberating around the Castle walls and lightning streaked and flashed as if Zeus were putting on a dazzling firework display for his own entertainment. The storm lasted for hours and all we could do was hunker down and wait it out.

So, in reading Return to Red Castle, wonderful personal memories were revisited, the sights, sounds, and senses were reawakened to this magnificent place.

As far as the storyline goes, it was an enjoyable book with romance, mystery and suspense. If I were only rating the book, I'd probably give it a 3.5. If I were rating Red Castle as a place, I'd for sure give it a 5, so I'll spit the difference and give this overall experience of Returning to Red Castle, a 4.

To anyone with the ability to backpack and rough it in the back country, I'd highly recommend Red Castle as a top ten designation!

C. says

A hero who will make your heart race and your knees weak!,
Return To Red Castle by Dorothy Keddington is a wonderful contemporary western romance with a half Indian hero, that any woman would fall for. Jesse is sweet, strong, manly and has a fun sense of humor that I consider ornery!

The characters and the romance were wonderfully developed. This is one of the best romances that I have read in a while, and it's so nice that it's clean. I LOVED IT, even though I am usually dead set against romances with a hero more than 5 years older than the heroine, ewwwwwww, but Jesse is just too good to resist, so I fell for him!

Heather says

A really good and clean romance. Falling for a Jim Bridger type and trying to escape a creepy drug dealer with a blonde mustache is so 1981, but if you can ignore the obscenescence of certain styles, the characters more than make up for it.

I love the protective big brother and the too-smooth creep that tries to make a move. I love the lively Dad who slaps his wife on the rump when she passes by. And of course, being protected by a rugged mountain man while wandering afraid in the mountains, that works tremendously well for anyone wanting to get immersed in a good romance.

Keddington manages to draw out the sexual tension through the whole book quite nicely, and keeps it on the safe side enough that I'd let my daughter read it when she's old enough to be interested in this sort of thing.

Michelle says

Sometimes it's nice to spend time with an old friend. I read this book first when I was in high school when it became one of my favorites. And it still is! Great, clean romantic suspense.

Katie says

Melissa is eight years old when she first meets Jesse the summer after his wife was killed in Red Castle. Jesse is 11 years her senior, but that doesn't stop them from becoming fast friends and spending two weeks of every summer connected by some unseen force. As they each grow older, their relationship takes several twists and turns until they can finally decide what they each want from each other. As they take a several day hike into Red Castle territory again, there are ghosts from the past waiting around every stone, and some new haunting things happening in the mountainous terrain. Several men are chasing after the group, determined to hunt them down, kill them, and preserve their precious secret. They battle many obstacles until they can finally find the peace they have been seeking.

The story is captivating and the dialogue gave me "butterflies" during all the good, romantic parts of the story.

Mindy says

This is my wonderful aunt Rae. I love her books, and I feel silly that I forgot to add them to my books. My other wonderful aunt Sue, recently rated them on her goodreads. And it reminded me!!! :) It's been awhile since I have read them, so I am going to reread them soon.

Katie W says

Melissa and Jesse met many years before--when he was still grieving for his young deceased wife and she was just a kid. Despite the big age difference, they eventually meet up again with some new feelings developing. They go hiking with her brother and his friend in the Uintahs and run into some suspicious characters and a mystery.

I loved the misunderstandings. I was almost blushing for her!!

Full of adventure and romance, Return to Red Castle is very delightful.

content some swearing and some violence.

Julie says

This one you can pretty much judge by its cover. Ha! But it was a fun, popcorn read.

Angel says

My mom had this book from the library. Normally I would never read the same books as her because we had very different tastes but I read this one just because the author and I had the same last name. (I was in Jr High give me a break seemed a good enough reason Ha Ha) I surprised myself by liking it a lot. I read it in record time and went back to find more of her books.

I've just reread it now over 15 years later and I still love it just as much now as I did back then. It's a sweet yet very exciting story. I don't want to spoil it so I won't go into detail but the characters and places seem very real. It's very easy to just fall into this story.

Heather says

Again with the guilty pleasures-I first read this as a teenager and still enjoy revisiting this book. You can see

from the summary all of the 'suspense' and 'romance' found in this book :)

Summary: Red Castle ... an ancient citadel of wine-red stone in the heart of Utah's primitive High Uinta Mountains. Hidden away near its rocky base, a small plane lies twisted and broken. The four men ... desperate, ruthless, will stop at nothing to retrieve the plane's valuable cargo, but their only clue to its location are the words ... Red Castle. Jesse Chisholm ... rugged, lonely, one of the new breed of modern Mountain Men. As a geologist for the Forest Service, he calls the wilderness his home and only the mountains know the secrets of his heart.
Melissa Heydon ... spirited, young, in love with life, the mountains, and Jesse Chisholm.

Brenda says

High mountain adventure with a twist. A big burly brokenhearted mountain man and the girl who can help him heal. What's not to love? Great descriptive book mad me feel like I was there. Realistic dangerous situation. Well written characters and great dialog. Nice clean romance :)

Alysa says

My first experience with this book was when I was young and my mother read it out loud in the car to my father as he drove. My father grew up going to Red Castle every summer. I read it myself when I was sixteen, right before I took my own week long trip to Red Castle with my father and brothers. I loved it then and loved it reading it again now. So yes, this book has a lot of sentimental value to me. But this why I like reading it:

I like the romance. There's some great romantic tension. Who can resist a good looking mountain man?

I like the adventure. I couldn't put it down.

I like reading about the main character's love of the area and feeling that myself. Reading it makes me want to return to Red Castle.

Lisa Brown says

Melissa is headed back to Red Castle, a place that is filled with pain and happiness for her. Having her heart broken, she hasn't been back to the cabin for years - ever since she heard that Jesse was getting married, but this year she is coming back and must face her disappointment.

However, when Melissa arrives, things are not as she thought they were, and before you know it, she is confused more than ever. And to add to everything, things turn extremely dangerous, when they stumble upon a plane crash with a plane full of drugs.

A fun and predictable story, but I really enjoyed it. I especially love how well the author wrote the romance parts - it reminded me of the transition I had with my husband, from friend to being in love. A clean and fun book.

Sara says

This was a great love story with some suspense thrown in that I really enjoyed. There are also so beautiful descriptions of the Uinta mountains that just made me want to go stay in a cabin in the woods for a while. Another thing that I enjoyed about this book is that it was published in 1981 so there are a lot of fun early 80's references including describing a man as looking particularly masculine and macho because he was wearing a flannel shirt and "tight" Levis jeans. This made me laugh as that would not be how a guy would be described as masculine now days! I read this book in 24 hours because I couldn't put it down. I recommend it to anyone looking for a fun, clean, romance with some adventure mixed in.
