



Holding Out For A Hero

Amy Andrews

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When sensible schoolteacher Ella Lucas rides into her home town on a Harley and seduces the resident football hero, Jake Prince, she figures she can be forgiven and move on. After all, she's just buried her mother.

Two years later, back in the city, their paths cross again but this time Jake is in the process of destroying her favourite dive bar. With her home facing a wrecker's ball, her school being closed down and her 15-year-old brother hell bent on self-destruction, it's the last straw. Throw in a dominatrix best friend who is dating a blue ribbon guy so straight he still lives at home with his mother, it's no wonder the sanest person in Ella's life is a dog.

With all this to contend with, the last thing Ella needs is Jake back in her life. But, as fate would have it, Jake is the only chance she has to save her school.

As the school football season heats up, old secrets threaten to surface and Ella takes on greedy developers, school boards and national tabloids. But can she save not just her home, her school and her brother, but also the reputation of the man she's never been able to forget? And, more importantly, does she want to?

Holding Out for a Hero is a quirky, heartwarming tale of unlikely romance, friendship and family.

Holding Out For A Hero Details

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From Reader Review *Holding Out For A Hero* for online ebook

Jane says

Holding Out for a Hero is the best book I have read in two years when it comes to being funny. I loved the description of the Aunts' house in the middle of Brisbane with all the free stuff they had won in contests using Tarot Cards for guidance.

The story line is exceptionally good. The main characters are good people with issues from their childhood in a small town, Huntley, and they do understand each other as love develops between them.

I enjoyed the humor, the plot and the ending in *Holding Out for a Hero*.

Desere says

We all face the actions of our parents possibly destroying our lives, especially if you live in a small town. So running away from it all seems to definitely be the only option one would have to shake of the embarrassment and get on with life.

But can you truly ever get rid of the shadow of the past? Of course not, you still wonder when the day will come that someone will find out what or where you came from and you will need to face the embarrassment all over again.

In this read from author Amy Andrews she tells the story of Ella, sweet always kind and always being harassed by every guy in town all thanks to her mother.

So she takes off to start a new life, she briefly returns to lay her mother to rest but makes one last attempt to shake off the past by setting up a whole new set of rumours afterall, she will be gone by morning and no one in her future would ever know that she gave into the temptation of do-me-now-and-do-me-all-night-long Jake

But two years later she comes face to face with her temptation again and Jake is not alone, with him he brings the past and all the pent up anger and hurt she buried comes bubbling back to the top, she can either run again or face it head-on, the only question she has to ask herself is of course will either decision be worth it?

The character of Ella was very realistic because does run away from the past instead of learning to face it. I agree that when the actions of your parents place you in the line of fire that it is not all that much of a pleasant life, and running from it all is definitely the best solution but when the past pops again I think it is life's way of telling you that it is time to face it and show the world you are made of stronger stuff and not ready to have them or anyone else hide who you truly are by slandering you.

The character of Jake was fabulous! I loved his go get 'em attitude! It showed him as strong and the perfect hero to protect Ella against the past, but his caring and total sweetheart with a bit of funk spunk also showed

him to be the perfect solution for pulling Ella out from her little perfect -the-only-thing-that-can-touch-me-is-the-past bubble. I very much adored that the author also gave Jake a past that travelled with him and that it added to the mystery of him being so calm about it as oppose to Ella freaking out as soon as it all gets revealed, it made him the perfect surface perfect hero.

The backdrop settings were interesting and most of the time had a nice homey feeling to it, I adored the story behind the old house and the mystery of the previous occupants. The dialogue was a slight hit and miss for me as reader, I liked the emotional impact the author's words gave to the characters but I was not overall nuts about the amount of swearing used, yes it made the read all the more real but in the end it felt as if it killed of a little of the romance for me.

There was also a fabulous set of secondary characters and relationships in this read that mirrored real life and that everywhere we go there is always someone to lend spice to life, you are never alone.

I am taking away a message of the past is the past, it needs to be buried but in order to fully bury it you need to deal with it first or it will just keep coming back to destroy you.

I am recommending read read for fans of romance with a real life connections, and a jazzed up series of events that will leave you going " Oh no really, all this on top of that?". A intriguing, passionate, emotional and fun read.

4 star review

" He is the hero she needs to free her from the past, but can she free him"

Kristen says

3.5 Stars

This is the first book I have read by Amy Andrews and it did not disappoint! The cover instantly drew me in! I think most of have had Charlie Hunnam(SOA) on our minds lately. A cover with a hottie on a motorcycle? I'm in!

Holding Out For a Hero is about so much more than just a Romance. This story follows Ella a High School Principal fighting to save her school from closure and Jake a retired football star(I think it's rugby? Australian based book) . These two grew up in the same small town and faced similar hardships growing up. Although they were not much more than acquaintances during that time period they find themselves in each others lives much later in life. These two characters were hot together! I am so glad this story didn't take the typical story line of throwing in other women fighting for the hero's attention. I found myself waiting for the bimbos to show up especially since he was a retired Football Star. SO glad there wasn't much of that!

This book has so many different elements! I do feel like a few of the characters should probably of had their own book. (Rosie and her man) I want more of Rosie's Tarot card reading Aunts! That being said I did love all the characters and different parts to this story and how everything came together in the end. Truly this book was not at all what I expected from the cover (did Jake have a bike?) and so much more than the blurb. At times this story was very emotional, heart warming, sad, inspirational and quite humorous (gotta love those Aunts)! And like the blurb says, "Holding Out for a Hero is a quirky, heartwarming tale of unlikely

romance, friendship and family."

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

My review can also be found at www.herjuicyreads.com

Tracey says

After not having read an Amy Andrews book for a little while, reading *Holding Out for a Hero* was like a giant smoochy word hug.

Jake and Ella's relationship development sweeps you off your feet and the secondary characters truly hold their own in this captivating story. Ella seems to carry the stigma of her past like a lead weight and Jake has a past he wants to keep hidden too. Frustration and grief get the better of Ella and she calls on Jake to not only prove a point, but to help her feel something that isn't pain. Years later, when they meet again the threatened closure of Ella's school brings them both together again and impacts on their desire to hide their secrets. To embrace each other they will have to embrace the past.

I'm not much of a sport fan but I was close to cheering at the end. Jake and Ella are wonderful. Prepare to fall in love with Jake! But also prepare to fall in love with their diverse family that consists of friends, pets and even an old house. Oh and of course Amy Andrews words!

Bookswithbenefits says

It's a classic Amy Andrews story of opposites attract. Ella and Jake are probably as opposite as you can get on the outside. There's the inside, too, but I'll get to that. What I love about the connection between these characters is that it is built on a kind of polar opposition which makes them perfect for each other. I'm finding that's kind of my new favorite watermark of Amy Andrews' love stories. On top of that, the book is just full of this kind of attraction and the problems that come with it. Take Rosie and Simon, Ella's best friend and the guy who falls for her. Fantastically opposite. Spectacularly opposite. They're the kind of opposite Shakespeare would write about. And it works. I'm rooting for Ella and Jake from the moment she walks into the bar where Jake is working. I'm anticipating the agony of watching Rosie and Simon try to navigate their differences (plus, hello, I love that she's a cougar...sort of). The pairings are just plain well-done.

The characters, all of them, have real depth and complexity. What you often find with "opposites attract" novels is a kind of complete and total difference inside and out. Not so with these characters. I think one of my favorite things about this novel is how intrinsically Ella and Jake match on the inside. Their desires, their drive, and their dreams are relatively the same if not completely the same. Life hasn't been easy for either of these characters. All the characters are at a mature enough age and emotional seasoning that it's not just about physicality (though, hoorah, there's plenty of that) or the novelty of real love. The subtlety that Andrews uses to paint these characters is the perfect touch to draw the reader in. I am completely 100% in support of Ella and understand her hesitation, fear, and attraction. But I also recognize that she's being a

complete dunce when it comes to Jake. And I don't hate her for it either. These characters are real enough to compel understanding. There's no too-dumb-to-live heroine here. Just a woman who struggles with her own identity and the emotional undercurrents that her identity rests on.

The issues are equally serious and whimsical at the same time. I love a good laugh. I love a good cry. Rarely do I find those two things wound together in one book (or done well for that matter). *Holding Out For A Hero* is now going to be one of my favorite books because it does exactly that. There are these fabulous characters that are richly drawn who dabble, like real people, in the deeply rooted issues of life (read: family relationships, financial problems, self-respect, sexuality, etc) and, often at the same time, reason through them with everything from coping mechanisms (read: budding alcoholism for better or worse, curry dinners, and feeding notices happily to dogs) to whimsical fancy. I'm pretty sure if Iris and Daisy, Rosie's aging Aunts and ex-Carnies, weren't padding through this book with their Tarot cards and sweepstakes chandeliers hanging over toliets, I wouldn't be half as in love with this story. To top it off? I laughed out loud several times and, in turn, my muscles tensed up while I fretted with the ends of a throw. Anytime a book creates a physical response in me, I'm absolutely delighted.

The writing is delightfully sexy and entertaining without going overboard. I was frequently drawn in by Andrews' ability to engage an intense sexuality without going overboard. I often read scenes in novels that paint their heroines as just this edge of slutty and oversexed. Not so much with Ella (or even Rosie who is arguably kinky). If anything, Ella's sexuality is comfortable and engaging to read about. A difficult feat for any author. Trust me, the book is sexy. I'm pretty sure I could pick Jake's butt out of a line-up and I don't feel the least bit perverted for it, either. I was pulled through each chapter easily, telling myself 'just one more' until I was up far later than I had intended.

What can I say? Not only is this book worth a read, but I simply must own a print copy now. Buy it like it's going out of style people!

Disclaimer: An ARC copy of this book was provided, but no other compensation was asked for or given.

Nas Dean says

HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO by author Amy Andrews is a Momentum release for October 2013.

Ella Lucas has never been able to forget her last passionate encounter with Jake Prince. Then she met him again. But now she need him to help save her school and her disastrous live.

Would Jake help her? And would Ella manage to save all including her family and Jake's reputation?

HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO is a fun, quirky saga. It is a tale of passionate encounters and red-hot passion as well as heartwarming story of family dynamics.

Very highly recommended for all lovers of romance.

Susan Parkes says

Just finished Holding Out For A Hero. This is about Ella, Cameron, Jake, Rosie, Iris, Daisy, Simon, Pete and a pack of strays. The story tells you about how Ella, Jake and Cameron are blamed all through their lives for the sins of the parents, a whore and a drunk and how they overcame this. It is about 2 aunts taking in 2 teenage girls when they needed stability and love, it is about football, team spirit and believing in ones self, inorder to save a school and a home. The characters are an entertaining bunch who help each other thru thick and thin. The story flows from one part to the next, its descriptive so that you can imagine you are there in the story. Well done Ms Andrews, I will be putting you on my authors to read page, keep them coming.

Andrea Hanzel says

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

I really enjoyed this book. It made me smile and tear up too! It takes place in Australia. So some terminology was a little confusing for me.

A school principal, small town drama and a rugby player. It was a great combination. The secondary players are great additions to the story. Especially the dogs!!!! I love any book with dogs in it. This isn't an overly steamy book. But it has just the right amount of everything! Kudos Ms. Andrews!!

Helen says

WOW this book is awesome I love Jake and Ella what a hero I love Jake :) the characters in this story will have you cheering away for them all they really enrich Jake and Ella's romance it is sensual emotional and such a moving story you will laugh cry and smile all the way through this book and I so love the game of rugby league. Thank you Amy Andrews for hours of reading pleasure.

Kaetrin says

Why I read it: I received a review copy from the publisher.

What worked for me (and what didn't): This book is set in Queensland, so it probably shouldn't have taken me as long as it did to realise that "football" in this story means "rugby league" and not Aussie Rules (which everyone knows is the only true football :P). It is a sport book but actual game play doesn't feature strongly in the story. That is, I don't think one needs to understand the game to enjoy Holding Out For A Hero. Similarly, I don't think one will understand the game all that much better by reading it. It does make an interesting backdrop and bookend to a tale about identity, forgiveness, and fighting the good fight as the underdog.

Read the rest of the review here: <http://www.kaetrinmusings.com/2013/1...>

Beanbag Love says

The story arc is like a Movie of the Week (if they have those anymore, I used to watch them when I was a kid). It's about a couple who have had their share of knocks who band together to save a school by creating a champion football team. "Football" meaning rugby to us Americans, it seems.

When I first requested this book from Netgalley I didn't realize it was set in Australia. That doesn't end up being much of a problem as the slang is pretty easily deciphered. I'm not sure if much else is plausible because I've never been to Australia and I have no idea of their education laws, their private property laws, or their prostitution laws. So I may have been excusing more than I thought I was. Doesn't matter, ultimately, it's about the championship match. And I do love a high school sports, underdog story.

The biggest problem with this story is the very annoying heroine. She's judgmental and narrow minded. There are so many groups she's got issues with, but seems to think herself very tolerant. One group fares well by the end: athletes and the fans that love them. Why? Hot hunk is a former pro-athlete and athletics are saving her school. It's always nice to give a fair shake to a group that directly benefits us, isn't it? But it's nice to see her change her narrow little mind about something, though.

There are other problems, like inexplicable behavior stemming from unreasonable emotional reactions that are somehow completely reasonable to others and aren't dealt with in any satisfying way for a reader who has no patience for such nonsense.

Ultimately I was interested in how the championship story would play out. Not knowing anything about the sport, I have no idea whether or not it was written with any understanding of play or rules, but the matches were exciting enough. That part of the story is why it receives three stars instead of two and a half.

Thanks to our narrow heroine, I felt no chemistry between her and the hero. I had no clue why he would be interested in her. So that part of the story brought the rating way down.

I received this book free from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Lenore says

I really enjoyed this story with its band of zany extras, shameful pasts and family dinners! Ella left her home town in shame and never looked back. She never was anything like what the gossip mongers and rumour mill believed her to be, but then again, she never had a chance. While she loved her mother dearly, she loathed her mother's choices in life. Sadly, soon after she left home for good, her mother had a son that Ella knew nothing about until her mother's death. Her brother Cam is big, bitter and bullish. At the age of 13, he met his long lost sister and nothing is as he planned it to be. I enjoyed the angst and the tension between Ella and her brother. Their relationship was real and the time to build a solid foundation just had not been established, even during the past two years.

Two years ago, Ella walked into Jake's family bar and set out to prove she was the kind of woman the whole town believed her to be-but instead she proved to be the one woman that Jake Prince cannot forget! I loved

that bit. Then, as these two meet up again, work together through the footy training and then hook up, sweet! They really connect on so many levels. That was why, for me, it hurt so badly when Ella kept saying that Jake was going backwards/going back to Huntley/going back to the past. I loved when she finally forgave her mother, herself and came to terms with her past and her role in making the future all that it could be truly.

Of course, the footy action is good, the friends are very funny and the smexyng is hot and fun. A great read, enjoy!

Vicki says

A big congratulations to Amy Andrews on winning the 2013 Australian Romance Readers Award in the Favourite Contemporary Romance category for this book. A great fun read with plenty of angst, interesting characters and some hot romance.

Alison says

Four outstanding stars - heck give her an extra half for the Jack Russell - four and a half stars!

There are two covers for this book the one with the cute dog is much more indicative of the kind of book this is, pretty sure the only person who rides a motorbike in this book is the heroine in the prologue.

Ella Lucas is running away from her past, specifically her mother, as fast as she can. After growing up in a small town where everyone knew her as the daughter of Rachel, the town tramp, Ella feels nothing she does can help her escape that legacy; not being school valedictorian, not tutoring other children for free, not volunteering at old people's homes, not being a girl guide etc, etc. So, after her mother's funeral she decides to show the people of Huntley, Australia that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree and decides to seduce Jake Prince, local bad boy, former football star and general sex on a stick.

Two years later Ella is the acting principal of Hanniford High, a failing high school in Brisbane, living with her best friend Rosie and her aged aunts and Ella's 15 year old half brother Cameron in a ramshackle dilapidated old house. After Jake buys and refurbishes Ella and Rosie's favourite bar they run into each other a few times and when Jake finds a stray dog Ella agrees to adopt him (to add to the menagerie of dogs they already have) after they take him home a desperate plan is hatched to save Hanniford High by getting Jake to coach their football team to win the Brisbane Schools Football Competition - no pressure!

OMG this book has just about everything. Opposites attract with Jocks and Nerds but also Goths and Suits. A band of misfits joining together to win a competition, cute dogs, crazy aunts, sticking it to the man, secret disgrace etc, etc. It's funny, kooky, heart-warming, sexy and fun. I loved every minute of it.

Fiona Marsden says

This is such a fantastic read. I loved Jake Prince the football jock and Ella Lucas the school principal and their romance was so real, so hot, so full of misunderstandings but so satisfying in the end.

I loved the secondary romances, the sweet little background romance with Cam and Miranda and the hilariously unlikely connection between Rosie the goth who has handcuffs on her bed head and the adorably straight-laced Simon.

Rosie's aunts, the dogs, especially Cerberus and Pete who is Jake's protégé and go-to guy, all create a wonderful backdrop to the romance.

It is a story about community, family, loving the people you sort of hate because they are flawed and stuff up. It's about letting go of the past and being pro-active about the future. It's about finding who you are and who you are meant to be within the context of the community and family and the ones, especially the special one, you love.

Considering how much I hate football, much more than Ella, I found this book enthralling. The characters are lovable, charming, at times enchanting. I'm so pleased I read this book.
