



Here to Stay

Kristine Raymond

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*** Mature themes. This story contains sex and violence, including violence against women. May not be suitable for all readers. Not recommended for readers under 18 years of age***

"Love doesn't have to be old-fashioned"

Read the Hidden Springs series - historical romance with a contemporary twist

Sam Mackenzie rode into the town of Hidden Springs looking for a place to belong. He takes a job at Ryan's Ranch and is immediately attracted to the ranch's pretty, female, owner.

Kate Ryan is a woman determined to make it on her own. Chafing at the thought of having to hire help, she nonetheless falls for the handsome stranger who answers her ad.

When they meet, sparks fly and they are drawn to each other. But life in 1867 Arizona Territory isn't easy. When a secret from Kate's past comes to light, they are each faced with the challenge of making a difficult decision.

Will they turn and run or are they here to stay?

Here to Stay Details

Date : Published November 6th 2013 by Kristine Raymond

ISBN :

Author : Kristine Raymond

Format : Kindle Edition 171 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Westerns, Historical, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review Here to Stay for online ebook

Felicia says

I loved the time period and Kristine did a great job in making you believe you were there in the story. The characters were realistic and the love story was heart warming. The sex scenes were very hot! I will be waiting for her next book in the series!!!!!!

Tracy Kincaid says

Great book. Very emotional read. You laugh and cry. Sex scenes you can almost feel. Great first book for the author. Please check it out!

Amanda Keller says

A. *I was given a copy of this book for free from the author in exchange for an honest review.*

This is a well written book. The author flawlessly added descriptions to the scenery, what they wore, and how they felt. It was like I was right there in the book with characters. It was exactly what I like in a book. It's a love story between Kate and Sam with many triumphs and heartache along the way. Kate rides into Hidden Springs and has a dark secret. Sam is determined to get her to love him. Just when she does, something terrible happens and their world is shattered. Will they ever get past it?

B. *This review has been done in conjunction with A Girl Amongst Books Blog. For more information on our reviews, please visit our Facebook site: www.facebook.com/agirlamongstbooks*

Tiffany Readz says

What a great introduction into the world of historical romance and I would like to thank Kristine Raymond for that. I hear the term historical romance and think boring, however this was not the case with Here to Stay. Kristine told me that while it was a historical romance, it was written with a contemporary feel, which is exactly how it felt.

Our setting is the 1800's in the Arizona Territory (as an Arizona native, I also liked that about the book) where Kate is working on building a horse ranch for herself. She is alone in the town of Hidden Springs, she counts Daniel her ranch hand and his wife Carly as family. Kate puts an ad up in town for some extra help building the fencing at her ranch. A few men apply, but one catches Kate's eye, Sam.

Sam lives in Hidden Springs, like Kate the only family he can claim is his buddy Jack. He has seen the mysterious Kate around town, but other than her stunning looks, he doesn't know much about her. Sam

answers Kate's ad for help and decides he wants to get to know her better.

Jack and Sam are vying for the attention of the beautiful Kate, but she isn't having it. Kate has a bit of a past and figures once any man finds out about it they won't want her. In her eyes the men are there to help her out and nothing more, she is fine with Daniel, Carly and her horse ranch. However as time goes on, a persistent Sam emerges and starts to chip away at the walls Kate has put up. She gives in and their romance begins.

I figured out Kate's secret before she told it and then set my mind back to those times and realized just how devastating it was, plus what surrounded it. Of course Sam didn't care about the past, wanting to focus more on a future with Kate. He was such a good guy, giving her time and taking things slow. Sam vowed to protect Kate, but of course that was too good to be true.

Kate's world is up heaved again and this time she needs to deal with it on her own terms. She is a strong girl, so what she did had reason behind it, even if nobody understood it just then. Sam is left devastated, blaming himself that he didn't keep his promise to Kate.

I am going to go ahead and stop there as to not post any spoilers. The book takes a few twists and turns to keep you on your feet and reading to see how it was all going to play out. Kristine Raymond did a great job fleshing out all of the characters to keep things interesting and the series going. It was way steamier than I imagined it to be as well, a nice combination. I was a huge Little House on the Prairie fan as a kid, so I had no problem picturing the small town where everybody knows each other and then the ranch on the outskirts. The book is well written and I will be diving into the second one to see where these characters are headed next.

The Book Worm says

I wanted to like this book, I really did, but I was disappointed from page one. Right from the start I found the writing weak and inconsequential.

The plot is fairly good and follows a logical path (even if not always entirely realistic), but there is almost no character development. I couldn't connect to either Sam or Kate and other than the physical attraction I also couldn't feel the connection between them.

In addition, I never really felt I was reading an historical romance. If I hadn't been situated in the 19th century at the beginning of the book, I might have not realized the difference.

So, all in all, I can't rate Here to Stay with more than two stars. Still, Here to Stay is book one in the Hidden Springs series and maybe in the future I'll give the next books a try to see if I can enjoy them a bit more.

Skye Turner says

I love historical romance books. Love them.

This is Kristine Raymond's debut, but I completely loved it.

I found the characters, Kate and Sam, endearing, the plot interesting, the characters well developed, and my emotions were engaged.

Everything I look for in a good book!

I will certainly read more from this author and if you are a fan of historical, sexy romance you don't want to pass this read up!

4.5 stars and I of course rounded up!

Rachel says

A Western historical romance novel that I got for free as an ebook. Am I catching on that part of the style of western historical romances is overly simple speech? It seems to be with the few I've read. That said, the characters were somewhat interesting and there was a decent plot, I just wasn't super enthused. I would consider reading more in the series because of the characters, but won't be chomping at the bit. 3/5

Sandra Love says

What a great debut novel. This book didn't disappoint me at all. This book was so good, and it drew me right in. The characters and story felt so real. Kate is a strong women who came into hidden springs. She wanted to open up a ranch, so she hired some people. That's when she met Sam. Without giving alot away, Kate went thru something horrible and it was hard for her to get close to sam. Will she be able to get close to him...??? I suggest you read this amazing book. You will not be disappointed. Great job!!

Marilynn Layden says

A very good story

A very good story with lots of twists and turns to keep you interested. The background stories of the main characters just add to the book's interest. The editing is very good which adds to making this book above average for me. Looking forward to reading book 2.

Darkwinde says

I got about halfway through this one and thought, "okay, cute but nothing really special." But then Ms. Raymond went and got deep on me.

Kate is convinced that no man will want her because she was raped about a year before the book starts. Oh, come on, that's not a spoiler. It's obvious from the very first time she thinks something like, "He can't possibly want me because of what happened." Sam is, of course, an awesome guy and loves Kate exactly as she is. But you know from the prologue that something happens to make them separate.

Major spoilers hereafter: (view spoiler)

It was all really nicely done and the journey was definitely worth the time. I will seek out more from Ms Raymond.

Leanne says

This is a perfect historical romance debut novel from Kristine Raymond.

Set in the village of Hidden Springs Kate Ryan rides into town and catches the eye of Sam MacKenzie. When Sam finds out that she is looking to hire ranch hands Sam is one of the men who fill the position. Kate has a tragic past and any relationship is out of the question. Sam slowly breaks down the walls Kate has put up and a romance begins.

When Kate experiences yet another horrific event in her life, she views herself as unrepairable and makes a decision that alters her life and the lives of those around her and that love her.

The Author does a fantastic job of taking the reader back to the 1800's where life is a little more rugged and in some cases harsh. Excellent descriptions of scenery, clothing, and characters. You can get a visual image of the scenery and life back in that era in your head as you read along. Characters are likeable with the exception of one. Kristine did an excellent job in taking you there.

Looking forward to book two in this series!

Linda Rimer-Como says

This is a great story about a young woman's struggle to find love after horrific events occur in her life. I was brought to tears at times as you take the journey with Kate, no one should have to endure so much at such a young age. I am definitely looking for more great books from this author.

Marie Obradovic says

This amazing story was part one of several to come.

As this is Kristine's first novel, I couldn't wait to get on board to support a fellow Author, to my delight this story was beautiful in every aspect of the word. The story line, different to all of those going around, was magnificent. Her characters were beautiful and beautifully written into the story. This book is amazing, her story flows without falter and it is written as such that you can visualise many of the scenes depicting countryside, rivers, streams and towns.

I seriously cannot wait for the next instalment.

Im telling you, Indie Authors are killing it at the minute. So many wonderful stories. Kristine, congratulations and well done... please keep going :-)

Brenda H says

Kate Ryan is a woman on her own in the Arizona territory with dreams of a horse ranch. Sam MacKenzie is a drifter looking for a place to belong. He takes a job at Kate's ranch and falls for the smart, determined, pretty young woman that is his boss.

Kate has a tragic past and hopes her future in Hidden Springs will be better. And it is – for a time. She and Sam have an immediate connection and the sparks fly. However, a secret from Kate's past is about to rip them apart.

This was a good read. It's the first in the Hidden Springs series and I plan to read the next one.

Rating: 3.5 Stars (Rounded to 4 for GR)

Denise Van plew says

For a debut novel this author has done a bang up job. Enjoy reading romance novels with romance in another time period as a change of pace. This is when things were still new and exciting but many challenges coupled with adventure around the corner. In this small but growing quaint new town called Hidden Springs- she has filled the place with a lot of colorful characters. The two main ones-Sam and Kate are loveable, intense and you have a thrilling time seeing them meet each other and watch their relationship grow. Good flowing storyline and great supporting characters. No holes to fall into so not left wondering "huh" which is does not happen here oh joy or would have stopped reading. The romance is to die for and hot enough to burn with class. A little mystery thrown into this story too adds drama. Someone from her past reappears and a heart wrenching scene that brings a tear or two. No happy days after that, gotta love the drama. Soul searching happens for both these characters and when they come together at the end and a smile gets smacked on your face excellent epilogue included. Most definately hope to see more from this author. received a arc for a honest review.
