



Rescuing Lacey

Rebecca Heflin

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When tough battle-scarred photojournalist-turned-wildlife-photographer Lacey Sommers travels to Costa Rica in a last-ditch effort to save her job, she meets beach-bum-gorgeous Luke Hancock, an outdoor guide, environmentalist and expert on economics and sustainability, who's been hired by her magazine to serve as her pilot and wilderness guide for the duration of her stay.

It's clear from the outset there is a powerful physical attraction between the two, but strong personalities, pre-conceived notions, an unexpected and contentious family connection, and the scars from a tragic death and a terrifying event threaten to keep them apart.

Will Lacey shed the mantle of Kevlar she's worn for so long and allow Luke inside her heart? Or will her ostensible strength be her downfall?

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Rescuing Lacey Details

Date : Published September 26th 2012 by Soul Mate Publishing, LLC

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From Reader Review Rescuing Lacey for online ebook

Kim says

I received this free e-book from Amazon and I am voluntarily writing an honest review. I was captivated from the first sentence to the very last one. I loved the chemistry between Luke and Lacey and the descriptive writing made it easy to visualize the beauty of Costa Rica, Google helped with the pictures also.

Cheryl Yeko says

I enjoyed Rescuing Lacey very much. The characters of the story drew me in, and I was very satisfied with the happily-ever-after.

S.J. says

Rebecca is a new to me author and I'm so happy to have found her. This hard to put down book made me feel like I'd gone on the adventure too. Lacey and Luke were easy for me to love and so is Rebecca's writing style. Her characters and interactions have real, visible layers. There was also a bit of humor and well paced action.

Lacey and Luke are explosive, their anger and passion come right at you speeding you through the pages of this story. There are lots of layers to this story and they don't feel pillared on, they move and shift and get worked through. Rebecca doesn't leave you hanging.

I recommend Rescuing Lacey to all romance readers

Elizabeth Morgan says

I am not really a fan of contemporary romances, but something about the blurb to Rescuing Lacey caught my attention, and I have to say I am glad that I decided to read it.

Lacey is a photojournalist-turned-wildlife-photographer who has been through a pretty rough time. She finds herself sent off to Costa Rica for her next assignment so she is able to prove to her boss that she hasn't lost her backbone. Cue Luke Hancock, her tour guide. He is sexy, funny, smart, and can give as good as he gets. Sparks fly between the two from the get go, but what I liked most about the relationship building between these two characters is that, despite their physical attraction they don't just jump into bed straight away, which is Luke's usual routine.

Throughout the book there is an emotional/mental tug-of-war between the two of them because they are both such strong personalities. Lacey is reluctant to talk about what has happened in her past to make her so closed off, and Luke is not used to opening himself up. It doesn't help that the pair figure out that their families histories have collided either.

I don't want to spoil the book by prattling on about details, so what I will say is we have fabulous description, a set of entertaining secondary characters, all have an interesting history, and there is enough action, laughs, and chemistry swirling within each chapter to make you want to keep reading. You will be rooting for Luke and Lacey and for their happily ever after, and you won't be disappointed. Great read.

(This book was received from author in exchange for an honest review.)

Paul Flagg says

I really enjoyed Rebecca Heflin's first novel, "The Promise of Change," but I wasn't sure how I'd like "Rescuing Lacey." Turns out I love it! The characters are so well-described, and you can't help but fall in love with all of them. Everything that happens throughout "Rescuing Lacey" is fun, exciting and not over-the-top like other romances sometimes tend to be. I was completely thrilled with "Rescuing Lacey" and had trouble putting it down once I started. After reading the last page, I still wanted more Lacey and Luke!

Rachel says

A fast paced and endearing read. Love conquers the day in this tale of two shell shocked people in need of a rescue that they can only find in each other. Beautifully written, and well received.

S.C. Mitchell says

I really enjoyed Rescuing Lacey. Rich back stories bring Lacey and Luke to life, as they attempt to bring down each other's walls while retaining their own. A cast of wonderful supporting characters adds richness, and the beautifully detailed settings put the reader right in the midst of the story. Heflin's writing is top notch, and here she offers adventure and romance in a exotically tropical setting. This was a wonderful vacation.

Lisa says

3 "Querida" Kisses

I was looking for a change of pace when I found Rescuing Lacey, something outside the norm of the usual romance that I've been finding. This book definitely fit that bill, and it definitely surprised me, but sometimes not the way I wished it had.

Lacey Sommers is sent to Costa Rica on a last ditch effort to save her recently floundering career as a photographer. The first person she meets after stepping off the plane is Luke Hancock, pilot/driver/guide...pretty much Lacey's go to guy for the two months (or more) that she's been sent on assignment. The sparks are there, the possibility is there, but will they be able to overcome their pasts and be honest with each other.

“You need to get over your hero complex. Not everyone needs rescuing.”

Lacey is not some 20-something girl who doesn't know what she is doing. She has chosen to live her life the way she has, regardless of her parents feelings about it. She's a beautiful girl, tall, tan, short wavy blonde hair and indigo blue eyes, but that's not what she wants to be known for. If she wanted to rely on her looks, she would have chosen the path of her mother and sister. She's smart, she's strong in so many aspects it almost blew my mind, she's brave, she's kind, but she's stubborn. Almost stubborn to a fault.

‘She wore a smile unlike any he had seen from her. Open, honest, and pure. Beatific even.’

Luke doesn't come without his own baggage or secrets either. He's an American Playboy in Costa Rica, livin' it up like a beach bum...oh such a hard life! Or is that what we're lead to believe... :-) He's made a career out of doing something he's passionate about, and there are certain perks that come with the job. But Lacey is definitely a breath of fresh air for him. She's far from the norm of what he has come to expect and she also brings back some bittersweet memories for him.

‘Luke couldn't help but feel that he had caught a glimpse of a former version of Lacey Sommers, one that'd existed before she'd encountered the evil in the world that had made her so guarded, so tortured. And in that moment he knew he wanted to see more. He resolved to peel away the lawyers of Kevlar she wore and reveal the true heart of her.’

Lacey and Luke were...spunky together. There was a lot of progression and development with their relationship though. None of the 'instant love' stuff...this thing took work, and with that comes angst. I'm a huge fan of angst, and boy did I get it with Luke and Lacey, They spent so much of the book going back and forth and fighting what was clearly there the whole time, by the time 'it' finally happened, I was happy but honestly, it was about time. I liked the fact that they got to know each other and were 'friends-ish' because that made their quick lived relationship seem more real, but it just felt like it took forever to get to that point.

‘He'd saved her. Again. He'd fought for her. Risked his life for her, not once, but twice.’

They both held a few secrets and things from the past...actually a lot, maybe too much? There just seemed to be so many things fighting against them, it was almost a miracle they were able to get past everything and be together. And for me, the ending felt a little rushed. Both of their reactions to things seemed a little unnatural, not as realistic as to who their characters came across to me. That's not to say I didn't like it, cause I'm an HEA girl to the core, but I feel the same end result could have been achieved, just maybe in a different way.

“Yes.” He tilted his head, looking at the painting. “I've thought all along there was something missing.” He glanced back at Lacey and his eyes held hers. “Then I finally figured it out. It was you.”

I loved all the secondary characters to, Luke's best friend Tony and his wife, the owners of the resort where she's staying, Mariposa Lodge. I loved the little details...her butterfly tattoo, his dog Sandy, how he calls her 'Querida', when they would dance, how she kicks his butt in every bet they make....so many things that

made me smile. There are a lot of little things that made my heart go pitter patter, but not really at any point did I swoon for Luke like I normally swoon for book boyfriends.

“I guess love makes people both brave and stupid.” He smiled.’

This was a beautifully told story. I love it when an author can transport you to another place, another time – something that requires so much description that they have to paint a picture for you like you’ve never been there. I’ve never been to Costa Rica, but Rebecca definitely made me feel like I had. Sometimes it can feel like there is too much detail and it’s over the top, I never felt that with *Rescuing Lacey*. The detail that she painted for me just flowed and there were times I felt like I was really there.

So overall this book did give me what I was looking for...a change in scenery, a welcomed change in pace and an angsty love story that kept me hanging on until the very end. Did it knock my socks off? Not exactly...but it was still a well-written enjoyable read about the twists life can take to bring you on an unexpected path to love.

Meda says

This was a fast-moving adventure where two strong personalities clashed, battled, and the heroine kicks booty. The hero can't help but fall for her. The only word of caution is the POV changes are a little difficult to follow at first, but once I got used to it, I got immersed in the scenery and love story.

Anna's Herding Cats says

4.5 stars :)

It's been a while since a book made me laugh so hard I was crying and man is that a good feeling. *Rescuing Lacey* was an incredibly fun and moving story with strong willed and fiery characters, an exotic locale and a good dose of humor that will easily make my 2013 favorites list. It was one of those books I had a hard time putting down and really didn't want to see end.

Lacey's basically been sent to the jungle, in a last ditch effort to save her career, to photograph...frogs ::shudder:: with Luke playing the part of her guide. It's a seemingly easy gig but both get a lot more than they bargained for from her short assignment in his world.

I absolutely love when there's fire between the main characters. When they completely get under each others skin and give the other a run for their money. And Luke and Lacey so didn't disappoint. They're both strong and willful and it shows so nicely in how they play off of each other. The banter, the times when they're getting along and especially when they're pushing each others buttons. And these two have a way of seeing into the other like no one else can. Seeing what's really beneath the surface that they try to keep hidden from others. And when things get steamy between them they get really steamy in the most delicious way.

"How's it hanging?" Luke greeted Phillippe in Spanish.

"Oh, it's hanging. Caught anything lately?"

"No but I'm working on a tasty little machita," Luke continued in Spanish, pointedly referring to Lacey. He grabbed a bar stool next to Tony, using him as a buffer between himself and Lacey.

"I'm particular about who I let reel me in," Lacey quipped in Spanish without missing a beat.

Luke felt his cheeks grow red, while Tony held back a snicker, almost choking on his beer.

"Four years of Spanish in college," she said with a shrug, taking another pull on her beer.

Luke turned to Tony. "Couldn't tell me she spoke Spanish? What kind of friend are you anyway?"

"It never came up," Tony said with a half shrug and a mischievous grin.

One of the things I liked about the story was that while there was a lot of humor and lightness along the way the two were also dealing with terrible pains from their pasts and the affects they still had on them. You really get a feel for each of them and what makes them the way they are. Why she's so stubborn and determined to do things on her own and what keeps him going and how they start to heal from their past experiences because of the other. There are a couple scenes that'll have you in tears as you watch them fight their demons. It's not always easy to watch but it'll make you love them even more.

With a wonderful support cast, a delightful romance and getting to watch two incredible people grow and find love Rescuing Lacey was a real treat. The ending may have been a touch dramatic but the outcome is sweet, utterly perfect and left the romance lover in me with a smile on her face. I can't wait to see what Heflin comes up with next.

A copy was provided for an honest review
herding cats & burning soup

Esther Jones says

Why are the main leads in a romantic novel always "irresistible" to each other? I understand that there is a formula, and I can live with that, but sometimes it just makes me groan. Too much predictability bores me.

The very first word of this book is "f***ing." The very first word! Nothing in the summary warned me of this, and I don't like foul language, so it really bothered me. I almost put the book down right there. I probably should have. Strangely, f*** is the only swear I noticed, and it was used a few more times, but not as often as I expected after that opening. Did Rebecca Heflin think this was a good way to hook readers? Well, it just made me angry.

When Luke and Lacey meet, they feel an immediate sexual attraction to each other. Now, I guess this happens sometimes in real life, but it just seems unrealistic to me that it would happen so often as it does in fiction. When I met my husband, I didn't feel an instant connection; the attraction slowly developed over time.

Luke is described from Lacey's POV as "über masculine." Lacey is described from Luke's POV as "almost boyish." This is another trope I see a lot in romantic fiction that really bothers me. Why is every female lead slim and small-breasted? Where are the curvy, voluptuous, plus-size women? Why don't we get to be romantic leads? And why is every male lead tall, muscular, and, well, an alpha male? Where are the geeks? Where are the non-athletes?

Speaking of POV, there's a lot of head-jumping in this book. I don't mind changing POVs, but there's no warning here. It often happens in the middle of a paragraph. And then, near the end of the book, after I got used to jumping back and forth between Luke and Lacey, suddenly we're in Luke's friend Tony's head. That really threw me for a loop.

Another thing that threw me for a loop was the overuse of obscure words. Now, I'm the first one to love a cool word. I've been accused of using too many big words myself. But when I have to stop every couple of pages to look up the definition, that's a little much. Thank God Kindle has a built-in dictionary. But then, I came across this little gem: proprioception. Kindle says "No definition found." I had to close the book and look it up on Dictionary.com. Not cool.

My final beef with this book includes spoilers:
([view spoiler](#))

To be fair, it isn't all bad. The sentences were mostly well-crafted, with few grammar and spelling errors. Ms. Heflin is a competent writer. I just wanted something more than competence.

InD'tale Magazine says

4.5/5.0

Rebecca Heflin not only writes wonderful characters, her descriptions of Costa Rica are rich and vibrant, making one feel as they were there too.

Full review in February 2013 issue of InD'tale Magazine.

Janna Shay says

Rescuing Lacey is a sexy, romantic story that will grab your attention from the first sentence. Rebecca Heflin demonstrates her talent for writing as she crafts her enthralling tale of a photojournalist, who is trying to redeem herself in the verdant jungles of Costa Rica and an environmentalist/economics expert who gets hired as her outdoor guide. She adds in strong physical attraction and tantalizing sexual tension to make this a novel that you can't put down.

The protagonists are real and the chemistry between them is electric. The sexual tension between Luke and Lacey is palpable, the setting vividly described, and the story thoroughly entertaining. A totally enjoyable read that will hold your attention to the very last word. I highly recommend this book.

Janna Shay
Author of Fair Play

Stephanie says

Causes in your Romance Novel? Rescuing Lacey is Issue-Driven Romance

RESCUING LACEY

<http://fangswandsandfairydust.blogspot...>

Rebecca Heflin
Soul Mate Publishing
e-book and Paperback
260 pages
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Provided by NECRWA for Contest Judging.

No Remuneration exchanged and all opinions [resented herein are my own.

When tough battle-scarred photojournalist-turned-wildlife-photographer Lacey Sommers travels to Costa Rica in a last-ditch effort to save her job, she meets beach-bum-gorgeous Luke Hancock, an outdoor guide, environmentalist and expert on economics and sustainability, who's been hired by her magazine to serve as her pilot and wilderness guide for the duration of her stay.

It's clear from the outset there is a powerful physical attraction between the two, but strong personalities, pre-conceived notions, an unexpected and contentious family connection, and the scars from a tragic death and a terrifying event threaten to keep them apart.

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<http://www.soulmatepublishing.com/res...>

I found this book offered complex themes about love, fear, trust, and healing. The characters were a bit "to type:" committed bachelor beach bum whose really a successful scholar and war/photographer who is afraid of commitment for professional reasons. These contrasts in character are a convention in the romance genre. What isn't pat is the problems she faces getting over PTSD and how she has cocooned herself to avoid processing the cause. But is falling in love going to save her from herself?

Heflin brings lots of travel and nature interest into the story, with good research. It made me view Costa Rica as a lovely vacation possibility. But, both that and Lacey's war experiences lead to some eco-fair-trade-war - is-bad preachiness. A "cause" is okay in a book when the preaching isn't obvious. Here it is a bit on the obvious side. Maybe a rule of thumb could be that if you have to write a paragraph on the cause rather than have the feeling of caring about a cause arise naturally through the feelings, experiences and observations of the characters then you are preaching. Personally, I don't want this presented to me in my romance novels. Romance is what I read to escape from the horror of humanity's crimes against itself and the planet. What about you? Maybe there's a place for issue driven romance but it's not often going to find its spot on my bookshelf.

There is enough in the personal problems each character faces to prevent the book from just being a boy meets girl, boy loses girl romance.

I did find myself wishing I were as adventurous and daring as the heroine though. It would be fun to hike through rainforests and such. But, I am a big wuss on that front. I will hike a concrete jungle, but the lack of a little girls room will send me the other way!

The romance in the story is nice although the set-up is obvious. The degree to which the couple comes together and falls apart is a little too much: not for what the actual situation would require, but for this book's story line. Each person in the couple have hair triggers too. It's the kind of volatility that dooms a relationship to failure. It works out too easily at the end with a rather soap-operatic scene.

I would class this as moderately steamy romance. It was a pleasant read with good location atmosphere and decent research. It lacked a bit of magic or, maybe the magic was lost in the ecological and anti-war sentiment. If you ae looking for something quick to read it was enjoyable but not the best thing I have read this year. I would have added more sheet time and less call to activism.
