



Storming the Castle

Arianna Hart

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Sam Castleton has fame, houses all over the world, and one really big problem—he's got an album due and he can't write. All he wants is a quiet place to get his head straight. Dale, Georgia, seems like the perfect quiet spot to try to hear the music again and get some lyrics down on paper.

With her daughter's paternal grandparents making a sudden appearance and the difficulties of running her own lodge and being a single mom, Faith Adams doesn't have the time to worry about the mysterious stranger staying in one of her cottages, no matter how sexy he is.

Her newest guest may be surly, but his money is good, so she's willing to overlook his surly nature. If only she could ignore the way he awakens a searing hunger in her...

Storming the Castle Details

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From Reader Review Storming the Castle for online ebook

Amy says

This was quite a sweet romance! I liked it quite a bit and plowed through it! It was so readable and fun! I loved the characters and the whole set up. A rockstar and a small town girl ... yes, please! I love that trope! Faith and Sam were a great couple from the start and I loved watching them come together. I especially like that Faith was such a wonderful mother and a strong person in her own right. Sometimes in romance, the female can seem all 'save me' so I enjoyed that Faith was portrayed as a strong single mom who doesn't need to be saved. I liked the side characters a great deal and think they added that something special to the story. I really enjoyed this sweet romance! I definitely recommend it!

NOTE: I received an ARC of this book for free in exchange for a honest review.

Book Gannet says

Take one grumpy, burnt-out rock star, add a hard-working single mother, place in a remote woodland setting and throw in a cute child and an adorable bear-dog. Mix vigorously with a hint of family drama and you get this romantic tale that I enjoyed immensely.

It's more of a small town romance than a rocker story, so adjust your expectations accordingly, because it's all kind of sweet and good, with people who work hard and support each other, rather than taking whatever advantages they can. Sam is very much in need of that kind of easy atmosphere when he arrives, since his life has spiralled out of his control and he's well on his way to becoming an alcoholic.

Luckily for him, Faith is extremely undemanding. She just wants to raise her daughter and get on with her business, she doesn't even want to know who he is. There is an immediate attraction between them, but since they don't act on it, their romance is more of a slow-burn, though it does lead to some heat later on.

I liked that most of the drama in the book actually focused on Faith. I kept expecting more from Sam's side of things, but Faith's own battles provide more than enough to fill the book. I'll admit, some of the revelations were a little unexpected for this type of book, and was constantly waiting for other factors to be brought into play, but it certainly made things interesting. I do, however, think some aspects were resolved a little too easily, not just with Faith, but also Sam (his drinking in particular).

So it's not perfect, mostly because this is a sweet book with nice feelings that doesn't want to make anything too grim or gritty. There are a few darker things hinted at, but the plot mostly skates over them to leave everything comforting and cheerful. The characters are decent overall, the setting is beautiful and the whole thing is pretty cute. It was easy and enjoyable and I liked it enough to want to know more about Faith's friends – so I guess I have some catching up to do in Dale.

(ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley.)

Maddy's Reading says

Such a beautiful story ... I loved all the feels!!

Sam is a rockstar in his prime but he is saturated with the life and needs a break. He comes to rent a cottage in the middle of nowhere and finds a family.

Faith is a single mom who runs the bed and breakfast and Sam's new landlady. Their attraction is instant though both of them are in no place to start a relationship. Both are dealing with stuff in their lives.

They become friends and then more. The slow burn and passion was beautifully written and I was eagerly waiting to see how it would go.

Their friends, the little girl and the dog were a delight. I love Reading about life in small towns and this was just perfect.

This is a love story which wins against all odds and Sam and faith are adorable couple.

~~*ARC generously provided by the author in exchange of an honest review *~*~*

Bookgasms Book Blog says

Storming the Castle is a quick, fun, smart, sexy “rocker in hiding” read!

Sam and Faith have such chemistry that it's palpable. From the first day, Sam's seen the beauty and intelligence in Faith's actions and body, and he's fighting his desires to make her his.

Faith has put her daughter first in every aspect of her life—until she finds that she can't hold back her feelings for Sam any longer.

I really loved these two characters individually and as a whole. Loved that they were smart in resolving issues as their fears as the “real world” and all the pressures and problems tried to break through their bubble. I loved Sam's relationship with Piper too! So fun.

Storming the Castle is absolutely a stand-alone book. I haven't read books 1 or 2 and I didn't feel lost at all!
~ Missy, 4 stars

Katie(babs) says

Storming the Castle is an opposites attract Contemporary Romance about a single mother running a type of bed and breakfast in the middle of nowhere, and the rock star borderline alcoholic who need some major R&R to find his muse again. The heroine's 5 year old daughter is the one who brings the couple together, which leads to an interesting courtship for the two. There's also some twist and turns, including a shock regarding the heroine's dead husband, including his parents who come out of nowhere and want visitation rights with their granddaughter they refused to acknowledge because for some odd reason they believed the heroine cheated on their son, and got pregnant by some phantom man. A lot to take in here, but it's worth it!

Sam is living the rock and roll style to the max. He's venturing into being an alcoholic, and spends his time partying and sleeping around. One morning after a very rough night, he decides he needs a break. He wants to go off the grid, choosing a place where he is anonymous and can spend his days writing songs and essentially vegging out. He chooses a B&B in Georgia, paying an obscene amount of money to the owner (she thinks it's a lot of money) for the next 2 months to be left alone.

Faith is a widow of 6 years with a 5 year old daughter, Piper. She runs a B&B/lodge mainly for hunters, fishers, and the like. She's also a goddess in the kitchen. She has no idea who Sam is, and doesn't really care because he paid cash upfront and keeps to himself. Everything should be going well for Faith, but then her

in-laws, her dead husband's parents pop up again wanting rights to Piper, who they refused to acknowledge. When Faith's husband died in a car accident, she was pregnant with Piper, who never knew her father or her grandparents. These people always looked down upon Faith, but she refused to roll over and give them what she wants. She will fight them, especially when she views a video on her husband's old cell phone getting down and dirty (some BDSM also) with a former lawyer co-worker.

Sam can't ignore the outside world for too long. Piper, and her fluffy mountain of a bear dog, Sadie. Also, Faith's amazing cooking makes him come out of isolation. As he bonds with Faith over her cooking they become close, which makes Sam reevaluate his life. Faith enjoys Sam's company, but knows it's temporary because he'll be gone in 2 months. But then when Sam kisses her, she throws caution to the wind, and they begin a hot and heavy sexual relationship that turns their lives upside down, but in a good way.

The big question remains for the two- can the single mother and the rock star god make it work, knowing the world might be against them?

Storming the Castle is an entertaining romance with a couple you'll enjoy reading. The sex between them is hot and heavy. At first Sam comes across as an entitled jerk, but he softens due to the friendliness and home cooking of Faith. She's a good woman with a big heart. The subplot with her in-laws is somewhat out of left field, including her dead husband's shocking sexual escapades that don't really fit the tone here, but it doesn't take away from Sam and Faith's budding relationship. Once Sam "detoxes", which may raise some eyebrows because it's a one and done type of deal, he's a bit softy who longs for normalcy, which Faith and Piper can provide.

The HEA here is a stereotypical fairy tale-esc, but that shouldn't disappoint fans of this type of book. Who doesn't want a romance about a jaded rock star hero finding peace and true love with a heroine with a heart of gold, an adorable little girl, and a loyal dog thrown in the mix?

Mindy Lou's Book Review says

This was not at all what I expected from a rocker book. It was a pleasant surprise. Sam is coming off tour and he fears he is turning into an alcoholic. He has his manager find a remote place for him to stay for a couple months to get himself back into shape and to write the next album he is in contract for.

Faith is a widow and single mom who took a chance and bought a bed and breakfast that also has cabins on the property. This way she can raise her daughter close to her while working. This so happens to be the place Sam's manager chooses to send him for his regrouping.

For a rocker book, this was actually pretty cute. You got a 5 year old little girl, a dog and a down to earth bombshell who doesn't know who Sam is. Their attraction is immediate but not pursued. It was more a slow burn that allowed the reader to see these things develop slowly.

I kept expecting to find a nasty ex or groupie to pop up in the story and was pleasantly surprised to see the author kept it all about Faith, her daughter and Sam. She did provide us with some great side characters that had me immediately researching to see if they have their own books. I'm happy to say they do and pre-ordered them on the spot.

Great story! ARC provided by NetGalley.

Tracey says

I found myself wanting to finish this book but not loving it too.

It's a small town romance which I love as all the characters are very supportive and know one another well, the twist is a rock legend comes to hide away.

Faith is a single mum, she is a widow and runs a b&b in the quiet town of Dale, it's her quiet season so she happily takes a long term booking. Faith is a woman with morals, and a strong mummy that knows how to fight when she has to. She has forgotten to be a woman of late, until her new guest arrives!

Sam Castle is a star, his successful and has a supply of woman wanting him, he also has no focus and is slipping down a dangerous path of alcohol. He wants to hide away from the world and pull himself together and hopefully write an album. He doesn't expect to find a sexy widow as his temporary landlady.

The romance side is very gradual and there is another storyline thrown in to add some angst.

It's an easy read, with some sexy scenes. Sometimes there is a sex scene that doesn't work and this book had one for me- when Faith is pleasuring Sam she cups her breasts around his 'piece' while pulling him in elsewhere?? It's worded differently, that's just my explanation. I found myself lifting my boobs and tilting my head trying to figure this out - hubby did come in and ask what I was up to and offered to test it out lol!!

Im giving this 3 stars.

ARC review

Annika says

Aaawwww. I really liked this. Still swooning.

A yummy Rock Star hero, a bunch of amazing supportive characters, adorable dogs, funny kids and a sizzling low-angst romance make for a beautiful feel-good read full of heart, laughs and Southern charm.

It wasn't until she was halfway up the stairs that she heard him move. He let out a curse as he banged against something and she smiled again because she was the reason he'd lost his usual grace. She might have stretch marks and a twenty-dollar haircut, but she just slayed him, and it felt great.

This is the perfect novel to read on a beach and get yourself out of a lazy summer book slump.

ARC provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Nicole Emerald Book Reviews McCurdy says

Reviewed by Nicole @ emerald book reviews

The rock-star romance sub-genre is generally not my thing. They all seem to follow the same tried and tested template of sex, drugs and rock n roll followed by redemption or insta-love but Storming the Castle is not like the others. Sure it has the burned out rock-star trying to out run fame, alcohol and his inability to conjure up a new album, but it has so much more than the typical rocker book and it is all due to the beautiful characterisation of the female protagonist Faith and the slow burn romance that unfurls between two unlikely, lost souls.

Faith is the epitome of a strong, independent and self-assured heroine. Yes she has her moments of insecurity but she is very real. Her resilience combined with her vulnerability, her sweetness and her fierce protective attitude for her daughter all form together, to create a sterling representative for the female lead.

Sam is searching for peace, solitude and his muse. The life of a rock-star has beaten him down into someone he no longer likes or recognises, but when he meets Faith and her daughter he begins to feel more than hungover and jaded. They stir something deeper and far more meaningful into his heart.

'He imagined lifting her up on the counter and hammering her until she screamed. He stroked the strings like he wanted to stroke her, working from the lower range to the higher. The notes sang as he plucked and strummed, teasing out the music, then demanding more. Finally, he finished with a flourish that was as close to a scream of completion as he could get without coming himself.'

Arianna Hart has written a lovely, romantic story that relies more on her engaging characters than explosive and salacious plot-lines. Don't let that fool you however as there is still a good deal of drama, mishaps, misunderstandings, sex, love and faith to get through before you reach that happy ever after and fantastic epilogue. Storming the Castle is a wonderful love story, it's a more grounded and realistic version of a rock-star romance with style and substance.

Leann says

Sam Castleton is a rock star with a drinking problem. He's looking for an off the grid location to dry out & write his next album.

Faith Adams is a widowed mother who owns a bed & breakfast in the middle of nowhere, small town, Dale, Georgia. She's just trying to support her daughter & run her B & B when an unbeknownst to her famous man asks to be her only guests for a few months. Can she help him get sober? Can he show her how to trust again?

I really enjoyed this book. I picked it up hoping to get a sweet, small town romance with a likable cast of characters. That's exactly what this story gave me.

I'll admit the first chapter had me thinking twice about continuing. Sam seemed like a big headed jerk & I can stand those heroes. However once he arrives in Dale his true self is shown & much more likable.

I appreciated the way the author betrayed Faith as a strong, independent, single mother. A lot of times I read romances with children in them that are conveniently absent through most of the story making it completely unbelievable.

This book is perfect for a light hearted, sweet, quick read.

I've heard that Arianna Hart has other books set in Dale, GA with characters we from Storming the Castle. I'll definitely be checking them out soon.

Mandie Foxylutely says

Sam Castleton (stage name Sam Castle) is feeling the impact of an impending burn out. His over reliance on alcohol leads him to take steps to recuperate and recharge his batteries away from the spotlight. This leads him to the small town of Dale where he seeks out that calm in his head and help him to write a new album, alcohol free. What he wasn't expecting was how life changing this was going to be for him.

Faith is a widow and a single mom of a five year old girl. Surviving the shock of her husband's death and the treatment from her in laws, she moves away and opens a small bed and breakfast and cabin site. Still trying to build her business she is given a helping hand when a stranger requests the whole site for top dollar. How could she refuse? Once she meets the reclusive man though there is little else she finds she can refuse for him.

This was more a small town romance for the most part and it was so engaging and heart warming from the start. To see how little by little Sam's overbearing temperament was smoothed and eased with his increasing attraction to Faith but also letting a little girl and a tearaway dog into his heart too. The romance was a slow build but made all the more believable and excitable for the possible HEA that I was yearning for. I was not disappointed at all and my only criticism was that it had to end. I really enjoyed this book and one I would definitely recommend. Four stars.

**ARC kindly provided by the Publishers, Entangled to Foxylutely Books in exchange for an honest review.*

Paula Phillips says

Sam Castle for the last few years has lived in and out of his suitcase as a rock star. Recently though he has been feeling the effects of being burnt out and wants a break away from the spotlight. One thing leads to another and Sam Castle aka Sam Castleton finds himself in the middle of nowhere in a small town called Dale. Faith owns a small Bed and Breakfast in Dale and lives here with her five-year-old daughter Piper. The small town life is perfect for her as she had a go at being a Stepford wife and that didn't work out. Now it's just the two of them. Wanting privacy, Sam hires out the whole Bed and Breakfast and gets down to business which includes clearing his head and writing some new songs for his overdue album. As the story goes along, we have an idea of how the book will play out as this becomes one of those predictable HEA sweet romance reads. You know the type that you don't have to think much about, but you pick it up as you want one of those happy, feel-good books that cater to all those romantic notions of true love. The other thing that I did like about Storming the Castle was that for Faith, this was a second chance at romance as her first husband is no longer around and of course due to her history Sam has to work harder than his usual rock star charm to woo her. The other good thing about this book is that even though it is part of a series, you can read it as a stand-alone story.

If you are on the lookout for a sweet small town contemporary romance, then check out Arianna Hart's new release "Storming the Castle" - Book #3 in the Dale Series.

Jessie Rae (little miss book obsessed) says

I received an ARC in exchange for a honest review

i couldn't finish this book i stopped at about 44%

i just couldn't finish this book, Faith's inner thoughts where just plain annoying and i just couldn't seem to connect with the Faith or Sam

Elizabeth Neal says

Sam, a famous singer, has everything he could've ever dreamed of, except his new album completed. The deadline is fast approaching, he's burnt out, and the words just aren't there. Hoping a change is just what he needs, he temporarily relocates to a little town in Georgia. Okay, peace and quiet, do your thing.

Faith, a widow, is feeling a little overwhelmed with all that's going on in her life right now. Not that it isn't usually hectic anyway being a single mom and running a lodge, it's just even more so when her late husband's parents arrive.

Yes, they've noticed each other, and yes, mutual interest abounds, but Sam is there for one reason only, and Faith has too much to do to get involved with a man right now. But fate has a way of nudging us in the direction we truly want to go, even when we don't know it's what we want.

As Sam has rented out the whole bed and breakfast, Faith has a little less work to do, without losing the much needed money. During his stay, the two get to know each other, as well as Sam meeting Piper, Faith's adorable five-year-old daughter.

However, as they slowly start falling, reality intrudes. Faith's former in-laws now want visitation rights for the granddaughter they had previously refused to acknowledge, believing Faith cheated on their son (not true, of course), Sam still has a deadline, not to mention a very public life to eventually return to, Faith also learns some of the secrets her late husband was keeping from her, and they both have to overcome their pasts to see if they can have a future.

Will Sam's lifestyle drive Faith away? Can Sam be happy without all the usual "trappings" his fame comes with? What happens when truths are revealed regarding Faith's marriage? Will Faith risk her heart again? Will Faith come out the victor over her former in-laws? Is there a HEA for Sam, Faith, and Piper?

One-click now and follow along as two people, both with their own issues to work through, decide whether a future together is worth fighting for.

****I voluntarily read and reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.****

Ayekah says

I really liked this book. A rockstar on his way down the tube with his drinking and he recognizes he's going to hit bottom soon enough, so he decided to pull out, clean himself up and find his muse again.

And it isn't going to happen in rehab. He has his manager find him a secluded place in the middle of nowhere which happens to be in Georgia, his manager books him there for 2 months, pays ahead, sends along a list of what are needs right down to the fancy coffee beans he uses and strict orders he is not to be disturbed. Sam doesn't want to be recognized either, so he cuts his long hair and off he goes to a small B&B in a tiny town. The B&B has 3 cottages and a few rooms in the main house. Faith owns the place, lives there with her 5 year old daughter Piper and is a widow. There's a tricky underlying story there with her dead husband, one that

will pique your interest. They also live with their dog, who could pass for part Bear. I loved the dog. Faith has some really great and supportive girlfriends who are married and either have kids or kids on the way. Sam starts to come out of his hibernation when he starts getting his mojo back which in part he attributes to watching Faith and Piper. No story is quite that simple and there's a twist that comes at you out of the blue, her dead husbands parents now want partial custody of Piper. Faith is beside herself, calls her friend who is an attorney and gets one. Meanwhile earlier in the story Sam gave her 15k to ensure his complete solitude. The other part that brings Sam out of his shell is he runs out of coffee. These two become fast and easy friends and when Piper goes to spend two weeks at Grandma and Grandpap's things take a more intimate turn and spark they did. Yowza!

Faith is a selfless and giving person, and so is Sam when it comes down to it. There are things that play out at the end that you don't really know which way they'll go. The end moves rather quickly so you have to pay attention, but not too fast where you're lost.

This was a great little read. I loved the way Sam sobered up on his own, put Faith and Piper before all else and how dedicated Faith was.

I really enjoyed reading this one.

****arc from NetGalley and Entangled in exchange for a fair review****
