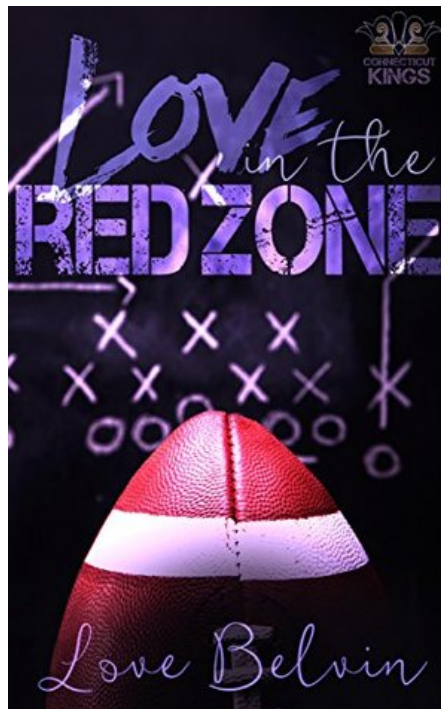




Love In the Red Zone

Love Belvin

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Can you tell the difference between a distraction and a blessing? It should be simple, but sometimes what we think is a distraction can actually be a turning of the tide required to bring life full circle, to a place of blessing.

Meet Trent Bailey, who is fighting for the right to continue his stellar professional football career after enduring striking legal woes in the recent past. Trent cannot and will not blow his second chance for anyone; after all, this is the blessing he's been praying for. After receiving confirmation that staying focused is all he needs, it's what he aims to do. No distractions. That's until he bumps into two unexpected overnight guests.

Jade Matthews is doing everything she can for herself and her young son, Kyree. After journeying through her own bumps in the road, she's finally getting it together. She's doing what she has to do to make sure her family of two stays afloat. Life's setbacks won't stop Jade from providing for her little one, even though she fumbles each pass thrown at her.

What starts out as a temporary favor turns into rapid passion. There's one agenda here, but getting to the same meeting point has never been more difficult. Fighting their way through trust and self-esteem issues, the two must meet in the right zone; the red zone, where you may think you're safe, but life has a way of intercepting blessings and...turning the tide.

Love In the Red Zone Details

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From Reader Review Love In the Red Zone for online ebook

Johnni Sherri says

Good story!

For me this was a pretty good book. It was a little slow in the beginning and a bit wordy in between, making it difficult to follow or be entertained at times. But overall it was well written and I'm still a fan.

Tamara says

Woo-sah! This book was like emo overload in the best way possible. I know I need to add a full review, but before I do so, I'd just like to say that my ABSOLUTELY FAVORITE line of the entire book, came from no other than that jerk in the body of a short man....

"That's right! Magic Mike her lil' ass, TB!" - Alton Alston

So, on to the story! The first thing that comes to mind when I think about Trent and Jade is that we actually got the chance as a reader to get to know them separately before they even met and embarked on a relationship with each other. There were so many layers to each of the characters, that when they made a move or decision, you as the reader understood WHY they did what they did, even if you didn't agree with them.

My other love in this book is the many accurate references of Camden, NJ! The city was a character in its own right. The good, bad and the ugly. With Trent being a product of such a place and to have made it out all without all the necessary tools that an adult should have before braving this world, shows that he had so much growing to do. Sadly, his is a common situation of a "town that time forgot" as it is commonly called.

Jade and Trent's story is everything you hope for when looking for a great book. Happiness, chemistry, and a little bit of drama sprinkled throughout. They both rode for each other in ways that the other wasn't used to. Without giving too much away, I can't even say as a reader that I'd consider this a 'happily ever after'... honestly, it felt more like, 'life happening in the midst of happy moments!' And that's quite OK with me!

I really liked these two and more importantly, it was nice to have cameos by so many other of the LB characters! Teamwork makes the dream work. They really all stick together.

I'm ready for JJ and Cole's story next.

UrbanHooks says

OMG the chemistry between Jade and Trenton is hot, sweaty, vulnerable, affirming, and real!! I related to every aspect of this story; I even stayed up all night trying to finish. I conked out at 94%. Love Belvin knows she can develop some characters and build a solid plot. My heart ached at times, then was filled with love. I always go through an emotional roller coaster while reading Love Belvin's works. The comic relief at the

bowling alley had me laughing out loud! Love's humor is on point too. This is a must read that I highly recommend. Truly an example of contemporary Black women's fiction. BTW, thanks for giving us single mothers hope...

Wilki J says

In book 1 of the Connecticut Kings Series, we meet quarterback Trent Bailey at a standstill in his career..and his life. He's been in the spotlight but had falling from grace. But even in picking up the pieces with his faith in mind, he has no desire for distractions. But sometimes when unexpected, these can become a beautiful blessing in disguise...

Jade Matthews is down on her luck and just can't seem to catch a break to keep her head above water or money in her pockets. She wants what every good mother wants: the best for her son. But with pride in the way and no solutions in sight, things look bleak.

A chance encounter lands her in the good graces of Trent and in his home. When a simple kind gesture ignites into a fiery passion, will these two flawed roommates make it in the Red Zone?

Like always, I took my slow time sipping and savoring this LB masterpiece. First, I have to mention that this is NOT what I'm use to from Love Belvin...and NO that's not a bad thing. Love has this innate ability to go to very dark places with her flawed characters and follow with them through their journey back to redemption. You DEF get that here, but in a more airy, fun way. This project showed me diversity with this author and I appreciated it immensely. After reading the Love Unaccounted Series (OMG read that series; no, look into my eyes: "go.read.that.series"), I didn't know what to expect esp. after my emotionally euphoric journey with Ezra and Lex. I was initially introduced to Trent in their series so I had him in mind, but "Love in the Red Zone" gave me a real 'feel' for him.

Additionally I got to say, I'm not a big football fan (yea, yea), but this book had me ready to pay more attention at Super Bowl time (lol). One thing I can say about Love is that she is always on her p's and q's with accuracy. Though this storyline focused on the unfolding of a passionate love, it had all the sports det's that made you feel as if you were in the midst of a football season with locker room excess and VIP box passes. I loved that the theme was present but not overbearing. There was enough sports content to give me a visual while not taking away from Trent and Jade's budding relationship.

As for those two!?! Lawd! Trent and Jade took me on a mental trip with their recklessness: their coming together was like two broken trains in a head on collusion. Their burning passion for each other was quite palpable: you know it's good when you find your throat parched while reading!

Trent is a big, tall, drink of water that had my mouf..yes mouf' open wide ready to gulp. Lort, that man could do some thangssss. And I'm not just talking in the bedroom (slaps thigh)..I'm talking capturing hearts and just winning you over with his giant spirit. You can't help but want to be wrapped in his big arms to get a feel. And Jade was just the mini diva to fall all in with a fiery persona that you couldn't help but admire and get a good laugh here and there based on her antics'. I always find a piece of myself in a Love Belvin character and I definitely could relate to some of Jade's characteristics. That just goes to show just how real and relatable theses characters are.

Oh, and the cameos!??? Lort, I had church..you hear me, CHURCH reading about A.D.and Stenton's antics '! Mmp. Actually, all of Belvin's other characters made an appearance that aided in the progression of the storyline through conflict resolution.

Another facet that I always, always look forward to is the message that I can take away from an LB project. Never preachy, Love naturally infuses the Word and faith into her work and I can't explain how no matter what, it's always timely for me. Always a story that provides a mental escape but also a salve to the soul as well.

The epilogue gave me enough to satisfy my mental palate..for now. Though not a cliffhanger, there was mention of past issues that made me feel there is more in the works for Trent and Jade! Love isn't cookie-cutter and you will never get a predictable 'fit in a square box' kind of ending with her. It's components such as this that makes her standout among the rest.

Up next: Christina C. Jones' "Love on the Highlight Reel"!

Byron Washington says

The religious aspect was an interesting aspect of the story, but I think I would've enjoyed more football related material. Still, all in all, it was an enjoyable tale.

Kristy Daniels says

Love in the Red Zone

"Trent, I vow to be in your corner and stay there. There is no mistake that will cause me to shun you. You're my treasure, Trent; something I will protect until my death and nurture until you blossom. You're mine and I will be yours forever . "

Trent helped Jade at a vulnerable time in her life. An electrically charged relationship stemmed out of a temporary arrangement. This book gave all readers a piece of the type of life living with and loving a celebrity brings. Along with the challenges yet the rewards that comes along with it.

This particular book was different from the other books I've read by this author because I kept waiting for several dramatic events to unfold. Her books usually put you on a roller coaster ride of emotions caused by the male lead.

However, this book was a true love story with minimal heart wrenching pivotal moments.

It was slow at times but yet I wanted to keep reading it. The only other issue I had was I felt Love Belvin had a difficult time capturing Trent's voice at times. Trent would use words like bootylicious, slay, etc to name a few and that just didn't match the description/character that the author set up. I did however love that fact that both characters were up front with their feelings and didn't let assumptions get in the way.

Alexis *Reality Bites* says

♥?Love In The Red Zone♥?

Spoiler Free Review

Love In The Red Zone is indeed a 5 STAR READ!

>

I know this review looks long but trust me I barely scratch the surface. I LOVE LOVE LOVED THIS BOOK! Believe me when I say that a 5 star book is dangerous, well at least for me they are. 5 star reads will have you emotionally spent, that's exactly what this book did to me. I don't give up that 5th star easily, however Love In The Red Zone straight up stole the 5 stars right out of my hand! These characters, their stories and their relationship totally got the best of me. And I... I NEED MORE JADE & TRENT!

Trent Bailey was a superstar quarterback for the Connecticut Kings. A conviction takes that status away when he is sentenced and spends 18months in jail. Two years later and the only field time Trent gets is when assisting a friend that coaches a pee wee football team. It's while assisting the pee wee league Trent meets Jade Matthews...

Jade is a young mom struggling to make ends meet. Pretty much struggling just to keep a roof over her and her son Kyree's head. Right when everything starts to close in around her she receives a helping hand from an unlikely source.

This unlikely source aka Trent lives a VERY private life. He basically goes against all of that to help a young mom and her son. Both are uneasy and unsure about their arrangement. Regardless of their uneasiness they push forward and make it work.

Not much time passes when Jade starts to see Trent in a different light. She's attracted to him, decides that she wants him and goes above and beyond to win his affection towards her.

Meanwhile, things begin to fall in to place for Trent. His desire is to get back on the field and the path to do so is placed right before his feet. He has the discipline, the physique and the determination to do it. Almost simultaneously the new woman in his life positions herself as well. Only Trent is not exactly ready to fully accept her.

'Yeah, she was on hard times now, but that didn't mean she couldn't sniff out a baller for milking.' Trent's Inner monologue

Jade and Trent come together in a wild fiery raging passion. The problem is, while Jade puts herself out there with her heart on the line, Trent continues to hold back. His past has him in a place where he finds it hard to trust people. I should note here that he is upfront about his trust issues.

But Jade, homegirl is a fighter and she claws... I mean, she seriously fights for Trent, claiming her position at his side. His reaction to her tactics...LOL! And yes, this chick is tactical with it. His reactions make me smile and love him even more.

My Thoughts

Jade- I think readers will fall hard for this couple! I loved Jade she was smart, fierce and skillful at getting what she wanted. Which was Trent and you know what I can't blame her cause I'm digging him myself. She was jealous, possessive, protective and I loved every second! I wouldn't really consider her a manipulator because once it was made known to Trent that she wanted him she went on in such a manner with not just getting him but keeping him. More importantly she was real about it. And I think this made her twice as endearing to me.

Trent- I like that Trent was smart. He was not one who's quick to fall for the okey doke. He did however fall for Jade quicker than I thought but was a bit slower to reveal his heart to her. He had moments or confession moments I should say where he kept it real with her. But he was never one to put it all out there on the line. He held back some, not naturally though, it was more out of his inability to trust anyone. Because believe me Trent came through when necessary for Jade, no doubt.

The writing

I think Belvin did an excellent job with layering her characters. It's part of her style. Not only to layer them but to show their growth as well. It's truly a strength in her writing that honestly not many can pull off or balance very well. The story carried weight. The characters, even some secondary characters had meat to their bones as well as some skeletons in the closet. The sex scenes were pure F I R E.

Sidebar: If you're a true fan I'm sure you enjoyed the great appearances made by Love's leading characters from previous books.

To buy OR Not to buy? BUY! Go 1click!

Series: Yes, this is book 1 in The Connecticut Kings Series.

Story/plot line: Well written. Well defined story and characters. Pulls you in from the very beginning. And when it ends you still want more.

Recommendation: MUST READ!

Steam Factor: On a scale of 1-10 I say hands down 10 it was on point!

Now go forth and read, then come tell us what you thought about it! If only just a few words, reviews are important to authors.

Bunny Robinsonfuller says

It is no surprise that I am giving this book 5 stars... why would I not. These are the things I look for in a Romance book. Character development, chemistry, plausibility or the likelihood that this can happen, can the author draw emotion out of me (tear, a OMG moment a love hate relationship for a character) and is it a story that I want to read over and over again. Every book that Love Belvin has every written has given me all these things and more and this story is no different. Beside all those qualities that I look for Ms. Belvin does not disappoint in "bringing me to church". Trent has been giving a second chance to resume a career he once thought was lost. His faith in God and the belief that God will deliver is what he eats and breathes. Jade is a single mother who has made some mistakes in life but wears that "S" on her chest everyday to provide for her son and survive. Life those her a heavy blow and God's grace and mercy is there to catch her. Trent enters her life and while he is helping her she is saving him. I feel this story is far from finish and please believe that is not a bad thing because I know that Love Belvin can give you more if she wanted to. I appreciate and applaud her writing ability and I love that she makes me want to read and enjoy books from her and authors like her who gives a reader everything they have. This book is part of a series, in collaboration with Christina Jones and I can't wait to read her story (Love on the Highlight Reel) because I am SURE she is going to bring it. Bravo Love Belvin bravo. Thanks for blessing us again.

Kim says

Just wow!!! Start this one when you have plenty of time because you will not want to put it down.

Michelle [Helen Geek] says

07/25/2016 -- 3 Stars

This one was a conundrum for me. I enjoyed it, then I didn't and then I did again. The second book actually has another author. I liked it better than this first one.

Happy Reading!

Roslyn Jones says

Jade and Trent... two people "led by passion and not always good sense." This quote describes these two perfectly!!! Love Belvin has a gift that can't be explained or duplicated. She brings her "A" game to each story. Each of her characters are so flawed that you begin to question how she will lead them to redemption, enlightenment, peace, or whatever they need to experience to become whole. But while you're questioning, she deals with them effortlessly and she takes you on a journey that will have you examining yourself. Jade and Trent are no different. They are young. They are bruised. They are scared. But, they are willing. Another job well done, Love!

Lisa says

Love in the Red whew!!!!

This book was off the chain! Trenton Bailey knew hard times, rejection and times of celebration but he lacked true love. When Kyree a football kid comes into his life with problems and he meets his mom Jade, life as they know it on the field and off, will never be the same! I loved all the other characters stories that are within theirs, just a wonderful story that I couldn't stop reading and looking forward to reading the others in this series! Great job Love Belvin!

Daisa says

Rating: 2.75

deep sigh

I don't even know anymore. Its like...you pick up a book on a whim because not only is it romance with football in the backdrop and those stories are more times than not, great...but the author is Black and the characters in the book are Black as well which, helloooo, exactly the kind of story I've been looking for. *Love in the Red Zone* started off so promising and then just went completely left.

I can't even pin down exactly one or two things that made this a miss for me. It was just a culmination of little and big things that came together to make this book a thorn in my side that I knew was there, knew I needed to get rid of but just wanted so badly for that thorn to smooth out and not be so damn irritating.

The main characters in this book were *Trent Bailey*, a former franchise quarterback for the **Connecticut Kings** who lost his claim to fame and notoriety after a stupid call in his personal life led to him having to serve two years behind bars. Then there is *Jade*, a young single mother who was brought up with the

proverbial silver spoon but allowed the allure of the forbidden and dangerous put her in a situation where she could barely get by in life. Of course circumstances bring these two together and the rest is history.

Only that history was the most long winded and at times obnoxiously dramatic history of all time. *Love in the Red Zone* is 404 pages. It could have honestly been a smooth 250 pages and called it a day. I feel like more time was spent on expressing how much Trent couldn't get himself to trust Jade and Jade trying her very best to do whatever it took to get him to open up to her than Trent actually taking steps to trust her and Jade making progress with getting him to open up. I swear at one point while reading this book, I felt the same way I felt at the movie theater in hour three of *Transformers: Age of Extinction*. **WHEN WILL IT END!**

I'm disappointed, that's all I have to say about this book really. There were some great aspects, don't get me wrong. I loved how Trent had his head on straight. Even though he made some bad decisions, he still had his head on straight and wanted to lead a righteous path. Even though he made millions of dollars playing for the NFL, he wasn't stupid with his money. He was a man of faith that prayed on a regular basis and attended church every Sunday. By no means was he a saint, but he tried his very best to mold himself in His image and while I'm not a religious person myself, I admire people who use faith for what it's actually meant for. To better **THEMSELVES** which is what Trent strived for. Jade was a great mother. Even though she fell on hard times, her son was always a priority and she did whatever she needed to do to make sure he was safe, fed and protected. My issue was that things didn't come together and mesh well and I need for all aspects of a story to come together.

There is a sequel to this book and it's actually written by another author so I may be giving it another try. But in the meantime...My search for a Black romance author who writes about black characters without making them drug dealers or king pins, continues.

Christina Jones says

Love in the Red Zone is the perfect "tone setter" for the Connecticut Kings series. A little football, hot sex scenes, and a beautifully compelling love story between two people that on the surface, may seem like an unlikely connection. I'm super paranoid about spoilers in reviews, so I'll keep this short, but this project is a great addition to the (impressive) stories in Love's repertoire, even while being unlike the others. A lighter tone, while still tackling serious subjects. A little bit younger hero, who is still sexy, and undeniably appealing in his own right. Slightly shorter, but no less of a robust journey.

I am consistently impressed with Love's work. Each project has a different feel from the next, while still being distinctively her voice. I've read everything she's written, and can see the growth, the development of her craft, the continued confidence in her pen, and it's – quite frankly – inspiring. *Love in the Red Zone* is a continuation in a pattern of excellence. If you pick it up, you will *not* be disappointed.

Gina says

TOUCHDOWN!!!

Love Belvin knocked it out of the ballpark again with this one or better yet should I just say

TOUCHDOWN!!
