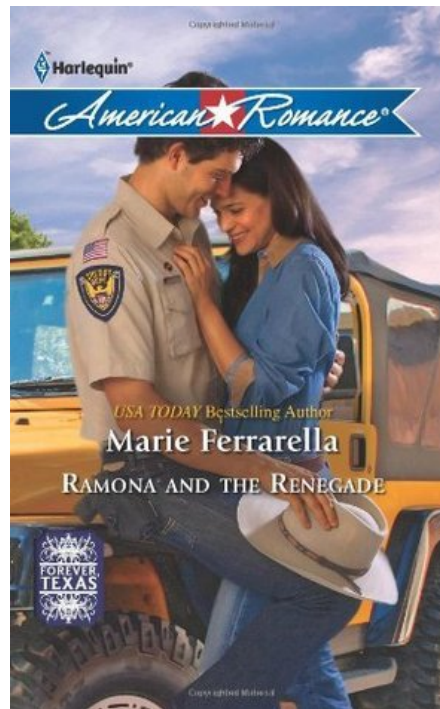




Ramona and the Renegade

Marie Ferrarella

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Deputy Joe Lone Wolf never would've guessed that helping someone at the side of the road in a thunderstorm would throw his carefully controlled world into a tailspin. But that's exactly what happens when he realizes the sexy "stranger" is his childhood best friend, Ramona. He's spent years convincing himself that she deserves more than a former rebel with a scarred past. But all it takes is one stormy night in a deserted cabin with Ramona to make the fierce lawman change his mind.

Falling for Joe is a risk veterinarian Ramona Santiago knows she shouldn't take. Everyone she's trusted has let her down and left her alone...*except* him. Can she possibly hope that she and Joe were always meant to be more than friends?

Ramona and the Renegade Details

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Author : Marie Ferrarella

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From Reader Review Ramona and the Renegade for online ebook

Akansha says

I would normally give it 3.5/4 rating but 5 for this dialogue in the end.

“Was there an instruction manual that came the day you were born?”

that is so cute.

Harlequin Books says

Miniseries: Forever, Texas

charmaine White says

Nice Read

A fun loving,make you laugh love story.With lots of confusion and nail biting moments.Kept me guessing from the beginning to the end.

Carmen says

This was cute and sweet. Harlequin's American Romance line specializes in cute and sweet.

Deputy Joe Lone Wolf finds Ramona "Mona" Santiago stranded on the side of the road in a huge thunderstorm. (She is Enrique Santiago's little sister, he was the hero of The Sheriff's Christmas Surprise). Since they first met in 10th grade, each has had a secret crush on the other, but never acted on it.

Now, forced to take shelter together in an abandoned cabin with only a half bottle of whiskey to drink, their feelings come to the surface in an unexpected way...

...

THE GOOD:

- The cover. Look how cute it is!

- Ferrarella isn't a bad writer - reading this isn't a chore, as it is with some romance novels. She crafts a cute, sweet, occasionally touching story here.

The arc with Mona's mom reappearing after abandoning Mona and Enrique decades ago was touching.

- I like Joe, for the most part. Very taciturn and patient.

- Joe fends off Mona's drunken advances, cutting it off at only kissing.

What he did know was that if he made love with a woman, she would damn well be conscious of her decision to meet him halfway, not slide to meet him on a slick path of mind-numbing alcohol.

<3 I hate congratulating men on doing the right thing (which should be something that is automatic and assumed) but with all the asshole dub-con non-con borderline-if-not-straight-out-rapist heroes in romance novels today, I'll take what I can get.

...

THE BAD:

- The story isn't very strong, exciting or memorable. American Romance is known for being mild, and mild it is. The book is slightly boring and completely forgettable. Ferrarella's writing saved me from putting it down - saved it from being too boring to tolerate - but it was bland, nonetheless.

- Mona, the heroine, is not very likeable. I didn't HATE her, but she's prickly, stubborn, contrary, and lashes out at people. I couldn't much see why Joe loved her.

- Twice Joe says to Mona, "You know better than that." and "Don't play dumb, you're smarter than that." I think saying stuff like this to people means you're an asshole. So far Ferrarella has NOT been able to deliver on a hero I can back 100%. Instead, she always gives them one asshole quality that I despise.

- Joe has a huge inferiority complex about being Apache. He has it in his mind that he and Mona can't be together because "she's out of his league" and somehow his past of living on the rez and in poverty somehow taints him.

No one comments on him being Apache, there's no mention of a woman in the past holding it over his head, there are no racists in the book - it's very unclear as to why Joe is so convinced that his heritage is a huge problem. Mona is part (one-third or one-quarter, it's never specified) Apache herself.

These kind of invented, self-imposed problems annoy me.

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How's the sex, Carmen?

Like I said in my review of The Sheriff's Christmas Surprise, this Harlequin line contains "vague sex" - sex that falls between "described" and "nonexistent." But reading vague sex means that although you know the characters are having sex, you have no idea what the bleep is going on, and who's doing what to whom.

This isn't appealing to me. I like my sex spelled out and to be as detailed and explicit as possible. How am I supposed to get an idea of what the characters are doing together when the author says shit like:

With each pass of his lips, the intensity within her gathered, making her ache for release even as she struggled to perpetuate the moment. She had never known she could feel this way, ecstatic and yet, in part, afraid.

Passing his lips over what? He could be kissing her mouth, her breasts, her vulva, her ankle, her neck, I really have no flippin' idea and Ferrarella never clues us in. All the sex is like this. All one and a half pages of it. LOL Don't read this series for the sex, is what I'm saying. Unless you enjoy, as Donna puts it, "Choose Your Own Adventure Sex" where you can just kind of choose to imagine the two MCs engaging in whatever

activities you want them to engage in.

Some readers LOVE this middle ground between "completely chaste romance" and "described sex." It could be just your cup of tea - you have to decide.

...

Tl;dr - There's not much to recommend this novel. While sweet and cute, it's also bland and uninteresting. The sex is not even able to be inspiring, since you can't figure out what the heck is going on in the bedroom. This book isn't terrible, but I'd never describe it as "good."

TWO REAL STARS, TWO ROMANCE STARS

Harlequin American Romance January 2011.

Lisa says

I didn't even want to finish this book. One star feels like too much. Ugh!

Alicia (is beyond tired of your *ish) says

Ugh, everyone in this book needed a giant cup of shut the fuck up. Except when it came to how the Hero and Heroine felt about each other, because then, of course, they refused to say anything, made assumptions and even both decided to leave town forever thinking the other didn't want them. Because it's just soooo hard to use your words like a damn adult. So freaking stupid.

Joe was a pain in the ass and I'm not sure he's not an idiot. Mona went beyond prickly to just plain unpleasant. She's the kind of asshole who would shoot herself in the head simply because you told her not to. They spent very little time together. Most of their scenes together were silly and inconsequential, and the one potentially good scene with them — where he apparently took her out to the reservation — was skimmed over in a quick aside that came out of nowhere in the middle of the sex scene. The time they did spend together they didn't really say anything. And anything he did say, she'd bite his head off for it. They never even had a discussion about their relationship, but suddenly they're getting married. It was a terrible romance.

Then there was the returned mother storyline. The bulk of my rage about that is in my status updates comments. Just awful. The narrative painted the absentee mother as a victim and Mona as an awful shrew for not forgiving her immediately. She was in the wrong and unfair, and her mother deserved to be heard and have a second chance. It's all about family. Family is sooo important! Not enough for this woman to be there for her children for 26 years of their lives, but that's just water under the bridge! The whole thing was ludicrous and rage inducing. I hate this plot point so much. Damn near every time.

It's even more irritating this was so bad because I would have loved to have had a book with a Native American hero and part Native American Heroine to recommend. 1.5 stars, rounded down because screw this book. I skimmed heavily just to get through the end.

Tami says

love anything and everything that Marie Ferrarella writes

Paige says

I feel like 2 stars is a little harsh, but a 3 is giving just too much credit. I would give this a 2.5

I've read other stories with similar plots, but this one just failed to come across with sincerity.

Ramona's Santiago's life has been full of people leaving her. The father she never knew, the mother that left and never returned, the grandmother who died. And now she feels like she's losing her brother to his new wife and soon-to-be-born baby. Although I've never went through any of that, I could see where she was coming from feeling sad about her brother's wedding, but she kinda over did it.

Deputy Joe Lone Wolf works with Mona's brother and is put in charge while Rick is on his honeymoon. Although Joe is a simple man, he's hard to like. He's always been 'just' a friend to Mona. Always wanting to be more to her, but never taking the chance.

With Mona moving back to town, their paths cross and neither one is admitting how they feel. It's really frustrating when throughout the middle of the book both characters won't even admit their feelings. To me books have 3 parts: 1 setting the story up. 2 the characters interacting. 3 when they get together and live happily ever after. This book stayed on 1 & 2 way too long.

Which brings me to my next point. 3 'when they get together'. It happened so suddenly I was like 'whoa' what the crap changed. I flipped to the next chapter and suddenly Joe is asking Mona out on a date. From there I would say it was pretty smooth sailing. Of course, like most books, a small bump tries to force them apart, but other than that they live happily ever after.
