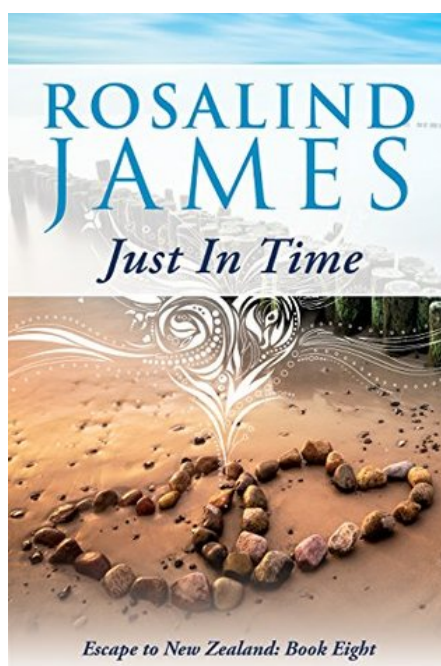




Just in Time

Rosalind James

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Just in Time

Rosalind James

Just in Time Rosalind James

What happens in Vegas...

Will Tawera doesn't do commitment, except on the rugby field. Moving to Las Vegas to become a kicker for the NFL would be a big change from New Zealand rugby, but then, he's ready for a change. And when he's asked to do a little modeling on the side? Thousands of dollars to hold a beautiful blonde while looking dark, dangerous, tattooed, and Maori? He could do that.

Faith Goodwin doesn't do dark, dangerous men. Especially not when they make her laugh, take her miniature golfing with four-year-olds, and are far too sexy and sweet for comfort. But when Will finds himself in hot water back in New Zealand, who's he going to call? And who would be able to resist answering?

Note: This book was previously published in Brenda Novak's SWEET TALK boxed set. This version contains an added chapter and added steam. If you prefer your books without steam...this may not be the book for you!

Just in Time Details

Date : Published June 30th 2015

ISBN :

Author : Rosalind James

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Sports and Games, Sports, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Just in Time for online ebook

Jan130 says

This one was a bit lame. Pretty corny story. I didn't really connect with either the h or H.

KB Wayne says

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

To the best of my knowledge I have read everything this author has published, and while I may respond to some characters / stories more favorably than others, one thing which never wavers is my appreciation for this smart writer who writes smart romances for smart readers. Her female protagonists would be cheered by the panelists of To The Contrary (a political roundtable devoted to women's issues, dissected by uber-smart women), because even if they are in any kind of pickle, they aren't looking for a male to rescue them. They are no damsels in distress, even if they may be in a stressful situation!

In Just in Time, Maori New Zealander and professional rugby player Will Tawera has gone to Las Vegas (Nevada, USA) for a tryout with an NFL expansion team. There, he meets comely American Faith Goodwin, a jill of many trades, and is enchanted by her, in more than a one-night-stand kind of way (which is not on offer from Faith!).

Will ends up taking a short-term modeling job in Las Vegas, so he not only works with Faith (for she is the photographer's assistant), he becomes her neighbor when he moves into the apartment complex she manages. They become friends, friends who are attracted to one another. The dialogue is wonderful and plentiful: we the reader come to know Will and Faith through their honest exchanges with each other, and it is refreshing to read adults interacting (instead of all that silly rules business).

Faith has a rich imagination and, based on the photographs of Will, has developed and written a story (a romance), with Will's doppelganger named Hemi, and the blonde Caucasian female named Hope (as in not-Faith). Hemi and Hope's story is more akin to a "traditional" romance in that Hemi is Strong and Silent, a millionaire CEO, needs no one, etc., and Hope has too many problems to cope with independently.

The extended italicized passages of Hemi and Hope's story (which originally appeared in the boxed set "Sweet Talk" appear to have been greatly truncated. I liked them in the previous version because Hemi and Hope's story served to highlight the difference between (and inanity of) fantasy and what real romance (between Will and Faith) is like. However, I don't think the extensive editing / paring hurts the story.

Real romance we got in spades with Will and Faith. The Las Vegas photographs got Will in a bit of trouble with the NZ rugby association, so at Will's bequest Faith travels down to Auckland to help him out. Will lives with his very (overly by North American standards) involved family (grandmother, mother, high-school age sister), and it is awkward indeed for Faith. Even though Will's mother is at most a tertiary character and she most definitely comes across as rude, she felt like a complete character and made complete sense. Without her explaining herself (or anyone else excusing her), the author had given us enough of the overall story (through Will and Faith's abundant conversations) that she made sense, her angry, hurt, territorial behavior(s) made sense.

I like that kind of subtle story development, because so few of us exist in a bubble. I remember seeing a Sex

in the City episode where one of the characters got married, and none of her (or his) family were in attendance. It seemed so weird to me -- even if people have a bad relationship with their families, their family still exists. I appreciate how in all this author's stories of which I can currently think she doesn't negate the characters' previous lives, including their families. They may not be front-and-center but at least they exist!

Faith and Will's time together in New Zealand does ultimately lead to their coupledom (this is not a spoiler).

Unlike (most of) the rest of her Escape to New Zealand series, this book was very light on the rugby and light on the Kiwi travelogue. I'm not sure how I feel about those because I always so enjoyed the abundant NZ references in her previous stories (the explicit rugby scenes I always skimmed through because it's just not my thing). Happily, to release "Just in Time" as a standalone (not part of the set) the romance between Faith and Will was fleshed out (no pun intended, well, maybe), and I liked that. Previously it had felt rushed, but in "Just in Time" it is great to read their friendship and know how profoundly attracted to each other they are. I liked Faith and Will both individually and as a couple, and still, because I am greedy. I would have enjoyed spending more time with them as a couple, especially how they navigated establishing their space as a couple and dealt with Will's mother.

At the end of the day, I so appreciate this author's niche and how she treats her reader. I'll be back!

B. says

I was lucky enough to get an ARC for Just in Time by Rosalind James exchange for an honest review. I was not compensated for my review, and I was not required to write a positive review. The opinion expressed here is my own.

I've loved every single one of James' New Zealand books. I'm someone who didn't have any great urge to travel across the globe, but her books have intrigued me about New Zealand. I'll probably never get there, but I sure enjoy traveling there in her novels. And I never was interested in rugby and never knew anything about the sport, but now I've found myself searching out videos on youtube to learn more about the sport.

This book concerns Will and Faith and starts out far away from New Zealand. Will, a star NZ rugby player, has traveled to Las Vegas as he ponders if he wants to continue playing at home. He is trying out to be a punt-kicker for a Las Vegas football team. There he meets Faith who is working three jobs. She is launching an erotica fiction website and Will gets hired to be photographed for sexy pictures on the site. Faith is inspired by the pictures she is helping to photograph and upload and she starts writing her own erotic fiction based on those pics. Meanwhile, Faith and Will become good friends. For various reasons, Faith travels to NZ to be with Will. That is when the story really gets going and becomes more of a traditional Rosalind James rugby novel.

Will is one of my very favorite James heroes. He's funny, kind, and honorable. Any woman would be lucky to have him for a "partner," as they say in NZ. Faith is fine. I just wasn't as much of a fan of the whole novel within a novel as we read excerpts from her erotic fiction story. And I find it totally unbelievable that any man would read the novel as depicted and described in the book and be moved to tears by it. Please.

That is why I'm only giving the book 4 stars and it was probably my least favorite of James' rugby series. I also didn't like that, in so much of the book, the actions of the heroine had resulted in damaging the reputation of the hero. And for what? To have an erotic fiction site and write an erotic romance? That just wasn't a motivation I could relate to.

However, the book was still very enjoyable and it's always fun to revisit the fictional All Blacks. The scenes of Will with his mates and the description of a match are loads of fun. Just about any conversation involving Will are winners. What a great guy he comes across as. He's interested in Faith, but willing to back off when she wants and immediately defuse the situation with humor and sweetness. And Will and Faith have some of their own erotic moments that must surely have rivaled anything she wrote about.

James is working on writing up the novel that Faith supposedly wrote in this book. So look soon for Fierce.

Obsidian says

I didn't think it was humanly possible for me to not love a Rosalind James romance novel. I think at one point I checked the book jacket to make sure that I had downloaded the correct book and had not made a massive mistake. This book was just not good at all.

I loved/liked most of the Escape to New Zealand series though I did have issues with two of the books. This one from beginning to end didn't make a lot of sense, there was no chemistry between the hero/heroine and, even after it comes out that what is going on could cause the hero to lose his position, the heroine keeps doing it!

I was over everyone by the time we got to the end of the book.

The hero of the book, Will Tawera, is on vacation in Las Vegas visiting one of his friends. Will's friend has an opportunity to model for the cover of some erotic books and goes to the shoot. Instead of Will's friend getting picked, Will is instead chosen as the hero for the covers and though he knows that if it gets back to New Zealand he could be in very hot water for disgracing this jersey since he is a member of the All Blacks (New Zealand rugby team). It makes absolutely no sense during the story that Will goes along with this except he finds himself attracted to the photographer's assistant Faith Goodwin. We have a really long explanation that the shots are going to be used for a website where people can read erotica and submit their own stories in order to win a huge cash prize. Faith starts to secretly write her own story for the site and that is the catalyst that causes it to come out that Will modeled for the covers. Instead of Will having any sort of sense and explaining what he was doing, he instead decides to lie that he did this for his girlfriend (Faith) and begs Faith to come to New Zealand and lie about their relationship to his family and friends.

I seriously lost several brain cells while reading this book. And yes I did go get some wine. I have no shame that I needed two glasses to get through this book.

Will and Faith have absolutely no chemistry at all. Every scene was supposedly them dealing with sexual tension and I just was not feeling/seeing it at all.

Will and his family had huge problems and I wish that we had time to focus more on them since they were tons more interesting than Faith or Will. Faith irked me from beginning to end in this book. She starts to secretly write a romance novel

We had some reappearance of previous characters in this book and honestly all that did was make me wish that I was re-reading those books and not this one.

The writing was choppy and not very good in this book. I think because we also had Faith's writing (she apparently was writing a romance book and imagining Will as the hero) interspersed in places and it made everything slow down. I really wish that had been taken out of the final book because these little asides to her

daydreaming/writing was just not great. The flow wasn't great and believe me when you get to the end things are kind of hand waved away though through the whole book we are told over and over again how what has happened is a very big deal. Apparently it is not a big deal once you are in love with each other.

Alison says

Three and a half stars.

Faith Goodwin lives the real life in Las Vegas, the low income, three jobs kind of life. As well as acting as the super for her Mom's apartments she is also a photographer's assistant.

Will Tawera is a New Zealand All Blacks rugby player, in Vegas with his friend Solomon Salesa to try out for the Las Vegas Outlaws which would pay him ten times what he makes at home. Solomon is between jobs at the moment and has agreed to go to an audition for a photoshoot which requires a brown-skinned, muscular man with tribal tattoos to pose for some erotic (but tasteful) pictures for a website where subscribers can read/ write erotica based on the photos. The website is the brainchild of Faith - who has a few ideas of her own about the stories behind the photos of Will.

Of course the photographer sees Will and wants him to be the model. Reluctantly, Will agrees - but only to please the cute photographer's assistant. Unfortunately, the photos turn out to be more popular than Will could have imagined and are seen in New Zealand. The All Blacks find that kind of thing bad for the image and Will is in hot water - unless he can say he did it for love ...

Faith finds Will attractive but her mother has taught her that the extremely good looking guys are like cheesecake - delicious but gone too fast. He's obviously a player and she doesn't want her heart broken.

I freely admit that I have binge-read six of these books (plus a novella) in the last two weeks but I did feel that some of the sex in particular felt repetitive - thinking of Kate and Koti in Just Once More - now I know that after a while it is all vaguely repetitive and maybe because that's not my cup of tea but I felt I had read this before.

I liked Will's family interactions and the way that Faith's mother gave some good advice on dealing with Will's youngest sister. I also liked the detours into Faith's erotic writing for the website and her multi-millionaire CEO of a lingerie empire hero - that was different.

Monique says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I was not compensated for my review, and I was not required to write a positive review. The opinion expressed here is my own.

This book was published previously in the Sweet Talk boxed set and now is out in an expanded edition. I've been a fan of James' Escape to New Zealand series since book one. Just in Time is fun, flirty, and sexy. This edition packs a bit more of a sexy erotic punch than the version in Sweet Talk. Those added pieces really make this a more complete work. At least one added scene closes an emotional loop that really needed it.

Will and Faith are both chasing the wrong things in life, both feeling unmoored from life and end up realizing that the gift of themselves is more important than all the money in the world. It's a powerful

message started by Koro, Will's grandfather, and echoed in Talia's pain and Malachai's partying. It's also in Faith's life with Calvin, the website, and highlighted in her serial book.

Will and Faith begin their adventure together in a precarious position but both grow into the relationship day by day. It's the little things: caring about Talia enough to get advice on how to help, cleaning the house to please his mother for Faith and wanting to show Faith the beauty of New Zealand and the stars for Will. Yes, they grow into the relationship but not through sex; it's about family and learning to love. And to trust. Because that's how it all goes wrong.

It's the little things, too, that have been added that really set this expanded edition apart from the Sweet Talk edition. Watching Will and Faith grow as people was a wonderful and satisfying read and it was enhanced by a couple of emotional bonding scenes that really take the story up a notch. I was disappointed that rugby was a very distant "also ran" in the original edition but other players make extra appearances here that bring that back. The book within a book is toned down a bit but that is understandable as it's actually coming out as its own book - Fierce.

Overall, I think this edition is better than the one originally published in Sweet Talk. I very much enjoyed reading Will and Faith's book and can't wait Fierce.

Jacky says

I really love Rosalind James books, and have read all of the NZ series. I first read this book as part of the boxed set Sweet Talk. It was a little different from her other NZ books, as some of it was based in Las Vegas. It was still a 4 star book. This is the updated version of Just In Time, and it is definitely 5 stars. You really got more of the NZ series feel to the updated version.

Will is in the US for a football tryout. He ends up doing a modeling job and meeting Faith. They are attracted to each other, and develop a friendship as they work together during the modeling sessions, and Will moves into Faith's building. Will is struggling with the loss of his grandfather but still planning on returning to NZ. Faith is hold back because she knows will is leaving.

Will finds himself in a bind after returning home; which requires him to reach out to Faith, bring her to NZ and have her pretend to be his girlfriend. Faith is more than willing to come, for the change of scenery and her attraction to Will, that she really does not want to give in to.

In the first version, I liked Will and Faith as a couple, it didn't feel like they had the same level of intensity that I've become accustomed to in the NZ romances. It could have been that the romance felt like it developed much slower than in previous books. The updated version finds that level of intensity that I have come to love in Rosalind James books.

I admit, my preference was for the part of the book based in NZ, but the Las Vegas portion did seem to be more interesting because I believe Will and Faith's chemistry was a bit stronger in this version. This updated version was also steamier than the one in the boxed set. I believe the chapter called Red Ribbon, was not in the original. I love that Rosalind's sex scenes are not just about sex, and usually don't occur until almost half way through the book. They are laced with humor, romance, steaminess, and sweetness. I don't know how she does it, but I admire her talent for it.

I received a free copy of this book (Just in Time) in exchange for an honest review. I was not compensated for my review, and I was not required to write a positive review. The opinion expressed here is my own.

Sarah says

This the 8th book in the Escape to New Zealand Series by Rosalind James, was Just In Time to save me from a major reading slump! The thing I love the most about this authors writing is that you can always depend on her to present well developed characters with a story line that is robust and well thought out.

I have loved all the books in this series and this one is no exception. Will and Faith's story is captivating and I love that it begins in Las Vegas. Will is trying out for a US football team and Faith is a assistant to a local photographer. This is a witty and funny story. At first I feared this would be just another girlfriend for hire story, but it is so much more than that. I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Erin Lewis says

4 Star Review of Just In Time (Escape to New Zealand #8)

I read this book when I purchased the Sweet Talk box set earlier this year as a fundraiser for Diabetes. This is book 8 and although not set completely in New Zealand, it was in another exciting setting Las Vegas. We all know the saying what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas. Well, not always.

This was an author and series recommended to me by a good friend who shares some similar tastes in books with me. I am so pleased I took her recommendation and found Rosalind James. Being an Australian, I love when I read a story that takes place in Australia or New Zealand. This is rugby romance New Zealand style.

Will falls into a photographic assignment when he accompanies a fellow player to a shoot. When his friend suddenly withdraws from the shoot, Will steps in and racy pictures are taken with a smoking hot model. This is where he meets the photographers' assistant Faith.

Will is totally confident in his body and his skills as a rugby player (supporting his family after his father left them), whilst Faith is a typical girl next door. Pretty but not stunning and working multiple jobs to get through life.

Will doesn't do commitment, he doesn't trust that the women he dates want him and not just his money and the fame that comes with dating an All Black rugby player. However when he moves into an apartment complex where Faith also lives, the two become friends.

Although opposites in every way; there is a mutual attraction between them and it was great to see the friendship develop and from there the attraction build. Will and Faith talked to each other, something that doesn't always happen in books.

When Will returns to New Zealand and gets into hot water for the racy pictures he starred in, he calls on Faith to come down and help him out. I liked that these two finally became a couple, although the road to love was very rocky at times, they finally got there. I disliked Will's mother but loved his grandmother and his sister. His grandmother made me smile.

This story was well written and I look forward to reading other stories in this series by Rosalind James.

namericanwordcat says

This is just a wonderful series and this book is a great!

At first, I didn't really care for either the heroine or the hero. They seemed fairly shallow and self serving but as the story evolves they grow. The change over time in each of them is as wonderful as their romance.

The first part of the romance is set in Las Vegas and we get a slow burn of a romance as they make the adult choice not to fall into bed in what could only be short term thing.

We get a fun book within a book as the heroine is a erotic romance writer just starting out.

Once the action shifts to New Zealand, we gain a cast of wonderful secondary characters. I really love the hero's grandmother and his mother is imperfect but also grows during the course of the book. My bestie and I really want these two to get their own romances!

There is some great sub narratives in this book that make it special. The exploration of being an erotic romance writer is well done as is the question of masculine identity that emerge when a man his abandoned by his father.

It is wonderful to be submerged in Moari culture and the interracial as well as interculture nation of the romance is handled well.

The annoyance of this book are secret keeping on the part of the heroine that is just dumb and the way it blows up though good for the topic of being and erotic romance writer are really unnecessary drama in a plot that was rich enough.

I really enjoyed this book overall. The rugby scenes are great!

Heidi A. Quinn says

I've fallen in love with New Zealand through Rosalind James' Escape to New Zealand series. I also rekindled a love for those darned Maori tattoos, first spotted during a stay at Walt Disney World when I was 12. Colors: the verdant greens of En Zed's hills, the blue waters and the glorious bright flowers growing there, along with the rich dark tattoos are mainstays of these modern romance novels. But romance novel doesn't seem to really cover all these books are; it's too flat and salacious (too often today) a description. These books are so much more. They're rugby romance :)

When Just In Time opened, there was something missing. The story line was kind of in the toilet. Literally, LOL. Somehow the Las Vegas desert and gaudy lights cannot compete with En Zed for a setting, and it was just the full color characters of Faith and Will that kept me reading. Next, a bit of a curve along the tones of Shades of Gray had me wondering where Rosalind was going with this book. I'm no prude, and if you are you REALLY might want to stop reading this review and find another series to enjoy. But still, I hadn't enjoyed starting Shades of Gray so I began to feel a bit sad, thinking maybe this latest book in James' Escape to New Zealand series wasn't going to be for me.

Before I knew it, James had dragged us back across the Pacific. Do you recall that moment in The Wizard of Oz when it goes from B & W to Technicolor? Do you remember how that made you feel? That's what James' did in Just In Time. All of a sudden, the colors, sights and sounds of New Zealand flooded my brain. That familiar feeling of home swept over me and it was on. Gratuitous sex? No. Wild sex. Ummm... Yup, some. A wonderful, developing relationship with ups and downs along the way? Yup. It's a trademark of James' that I have grown to love. How will this new pair grow and bond, while becoming another couple on their way to joining the families in the All Blacks.

The most rewarding part of the Escape to New Zealand series, and actually The Kincaids series by James' as well, is that family plays such a strong role in the lives of the characters. No matter the problems, issues or concerns that may be going on in the lives of the Main Characters, the strong bond with their families and friends make these books so comforting and strong. Healthy relationships between the other rugby players and their wives also bring a wonderful balance to the hot romance in each of the books. None of the relationships claims to be perfect, and that to me is the beauty of the series. They are real people, if very talented and pretty darned good looking (if my fantasies have anything to say about it). But honestly, these books simply suck me right in, time and time again.

** This review was originally written for the copy of Just In Time included in the Sweet Talk anthology, but this review still stands. Rosalind's stand alone release of Just In Time has been tweaked just a bit, and it now includes a bit racier content. If you enjoy the story-within-a-story found in Just In Time, be sure to check out Rosalind James' newest release, Fierce (Not Quite a Billionaire). Fierce is that story that Faith is writing in Just In Time, and is ONLY for those who are looking for erotic romance.

Final words: If sex bothers you in a book, please choose another series; you won't enjoy these. If you can handle some steam with your cup of tea, by all means read and enjoy these books about strong women, strong men and strong family ties. They truly are an Escape to New Zealand!

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I was not compensated for my review, and I was not required to write a positive review. The opinion expressed here is my own.

D'Lana Parker says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I was not compensated for my review, and I was not required to write a positive review. The opinion expressed here is my own.

I've read and thoroughly enjoyed everything Rosalind James has written, but I have to say the Escape to New Zealand series is my favorite. There is just something special about those rugby players! Just In Time is the latest addition to the series. This standalone book is the updated version of the story originally released in the Sweet Talk boxed set.

The main characters, Will and Faith, meet in the states. In Las Vegas to be exact. Faith lives in Vegas, Will is there on vacation or as he says "on holiday". One of Faith's jobs is as a photographers assistant and she meets Will when he agrees to pose for some suggestive photos for an online erotic romance writing contest. He thinks it is just something for fun, no-one he actually knows will find out. After all what happen in Vegas stays in Vegas, right? Uh...wrong! They are attracted to each other, but decide to be "just friends". Will is only in the States for three weeks and Faith wants to guard her heart. Will goes back to NZ and Faith starts to secretly write a story based on the pictures of Will. A few months go by and the New Zealand press find out about the pictures. Will's reputation is in trouble and he needs Faith to come to New Zealand to help him. When they meet again the attraction is still there as well as the friendship, but this time it becomes much more. Ms James definitely turned up the heat for the updated version of this story. In fact a whole new, fan

your face, steamy chapter has been added.

Rosalind James's characters are so human a person can't help but be touched by them and root for them. One minute they say or do something that makes you cringe at the sheer stupidity then a couple pages later you get something so sweet it brings tears to your eyes. There are scenes with Will and his sister and at the airport near the end of the book that that actually made me cry.

There is a book within a book here as well, but this updated version only gives us sneak peaks of the story Faith writes. We get to see just enough to wet our appetites for the full length version of Fierce that will be coming our way soon. Thank you Rosalind!

This book is about becoming who you are meant to be and about love in all its aspects. Love for family, love for friends and love for each other. There are also some really good steamy parts!

Rosalind James doesn't write romance. She writes real and she writes heart! Thank you Rosalind for another great Escape!

Esther says

If you are reading this, you have discovered one of my favorite authors of rugby romance. Ms. James is a master story-teller and weaves wonderful imagery and the flavor of the local environment into her tales. She had me hooked from the very first Escape to New Zealand story I read. I am so impressed with the details she writes into the background, scenery, the characters, everything really.

- Setting / foreground/background

? The descriptions of the geography and the New Zealand, in general are meticulous and compelling. All the imagery of such a beautiful country, and the mannerisms and local cultural references of the locals were fascinating. The author includes a helpful glossary of New Zealand local lingo and unique cultural references to help the reader connect to the story and the characters more deeply.

- What this book meant to me-how I felt about it

This book introduces Will and Faith, who meet in Las Vegas, when Will unwittingly auditions as male model for a sexy photo shoot for erotic novels. Faith runs the back office and assists the photographer, and became good friends with Will, while trying not to fall for him at the same time. He goes back to New Zealand where his usual job is one of the famous All Blacks rugby team members, and he thinks all is forgotten of his little stunt in Las Vegas. Only, that is not the case, and we find out how our hero and heroine try to work together to overcome Will's media fiasco in New Zealand. This book has a lot of laughs and fun parts. I love the humorous things that happen to the characters.

A special part of the story for me is how Will rebuilds his relationship with his sister after some pretty intense family arguments. It really brings home how important family is and how we need to grab onto life while we have it. Life can end so quickly and unexpected and we don't know how much time we have left, so we should use it wisely. Oh, and by the way, this book is VERY steamy and sexy. Not for the faint-of-heart or those embarrassed easily. It doesn't go overboard with graphic sex scenes either. A good balance of buildup and tension -and the more sensual feelings developed - evolving to love.

- The character development.

? I fell in love with the characters and the setting of the book immediately. The characters were absolutely genuinely heartwarming and lovely to read about, very realistically drawn and compelling the reader to cheer them on.

? The hero, Will, is everything us women love in a good hero: athletic and physically gorgeous, he's mysterious and smart, sexy, vulnerable, and emotionally sensitive. He has a very deep connection with his

Maori heritage, and his family. He's well-respected by his teammates and family. He also gets a lot of attention from the press and women who are clamoring for his fame and fortune and attention.

? The heroine, Faith Goodwin: sweet and strong-willed, a great friend. She handles two jobs a photographer's assistant and office manager, but manages her mom's apartment building on the side, and is a struggling romance writer by night. The secondary characters were so funny and well-drawn, I felt like I almost knew them, and could picture myself having conversations with them.

- Conclusion: The story concludes with some pretty tear-jerking moments and I'm so happy these two worked things out in the end. The struggles they dealt with were very realistic and I hope you will discover and love these characters, and the scenery as much as I did. Now go find a new escape - Escape to New Zealand and meet many wonderful characters with fascinating stories.

- Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I was not compensated for my review, and I was not required to write a positive review. The opinion expressed here is my own

maggieandteddy says

3.5 STARS. I've read all of the books in this series (except #7, the novella-I'll be reading that one, I'm sure). I jumped right in and was very surprised to find out this book starts off in Las Vegas! I don't read book blurbs very thoroughly- I guess. I was all set for a New Zealand adventure.

This is Faith and Will's story. Faith lives in Las Vegas and meets Will in a photography studio. Will's friend and NZ Rugby colleague, Solomon brought Will along on a photography modeling interview. Solomon VERY smartly thinks twice about posing for photos. He realizes that his wife wouldn't like him posing with a very attractive model. Unfortunately the photographer picks Will for the job. Will is very easy going and thinks, why not?

This is the case when the H has a TSTL moment- in fact there are several of them- especially in the first half of this book. The saying, once a photo is on the internet, THAT's IT. This is the case here. I was so frustrated with Will's lack of common sense.

Faith is the photographer's assistant. Will is immediately attracted to her. The chemistry was a little odd to me. He gently pursued her, she would gently put him off, although she was friendly to him.

Eventually Will goes back to New Zealand and the S..t (photos) hit the fan. Of course this jeopardizes Will's integrity. He plays for the Blues (regional rugby team) and the Blacks (the national team). His team, his sports agent and his family is really mad at him.

I really liked Will's grandma, Miriama. Ms James really know how to write about parents & grandparents. Will's the man of the family since his Koro (grandpa) died a few months before.

The scenery of NZ is awesome as always. There's some tender moments with Will's teenage sister Talia.

I had a hard time with the middle of the book dragging. I couldn't wait for Will to get back to New Zealand and into his element. I didn't know where I was in the story (percentage wise) since I read this book from the anthology, Sweet Talk Boxed Set -I'll be reading more out of this set, I'm sure.

I liked Will more than Faith, although Faith did improve a little throughout the story.

This book was the most different of all of the Escape to New Zealand. I still LOVE the writing. I love the NZ expressions and the way they speak. :)

My favorites: Just Not Mine and the prequel novella: Just Not Mine

Judes says

"I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I was not compensated for my review,

and I was not required to write a positive review. The opinion expressed here is solely my own."

This is the second version of this story, Will and Faith's, as the first version was part of a BOXSET and Ms James had to hold back a bit on her spice, so readers who follow along her Escape to NZed series were finally treated to this fuller spicier version.

The second read was just as fulfilling and some as the first and I must reiterate that Will and Faith's story is one of the fullest I've read and some 'muy caliente' spice added.... Ooooooh... Ms James pushes up a notch in this one but still not overly and while I like spice I am not into the erotica so this was just right and a cherry on top.

I will repeat a bit of my past comments as there is no other way to express the fun and emotional ride you experience in this series, and this book totally delivers, as they each hit such a part in the reader who enjoy a good story that takes you to a destination, meet some really great people and they carry you around the place, even a high intensity rugby match, and then too soon, you unfortunately have to return home but, that much richer for the experience.

Here goes: It is a wonderful funny romance then..., my favourite part... the journey to New Zealand, we are taken into the beauty of This place, and Rosalind James is so descriptive that we can smell the sulphur pools and imagine the varying shades of green. All the while the story twines you into the love that blossoms between the characters, satisfying and spicy... we all love the spice so don't deny...

As all the other books there is the magic, the tradition of the native New Zealanders, the Maori People adding so much to the depth and interest of this journey.

It's also about a family's journey of loss and recovery and a wise Grandmother who is so endearing and wise as her strength shines from the pages.

So yeah, it's my absolute fav to date and it concretes why I will look for and follow Ms James as my fav author. She has an honest way to write that one can believe and visualize so easily and also I have gone through all the emotions a reader can feel, from falling a bit in love with the characters to joy, irritation and also crying at the parts near the latter chapters as one is entwined in the characters emotional journey.

I will end on this quote I recently came across and take a bit of liberal license as I add to it.

"A reader lives a thousand lives...", and I must add, "...and travels many miles in shoes that never wear and meets many people whom they hold dear."

So thank you to the authors who allow us to live through the eyes of others and experience the things we may never get the chance to do.

This is so apt for Ms James who carries us on such incredible journeys and I enjoy all of them. I have been to New Zealand and the USA and met so many people all from the comfort of my cozy corner in my favourite chair.