



Going Home

Stacy Finz

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The small mountain town of Nugget, California, has a strange way of giving people unexpected reasons to start over—and find the most irresistible chances to fall in love...

Maddy Breyer needs to prove she can make her own life after betrayal blew up her previous happily-ever-after. Staying totally focused on renovating a decrepit mansion into a bed-and-breakfast might help her—and this recession-hit town—finally turn things around. But the mysterious new sheriff is the kind of lawbreaking temptation that's an even bigger challenge to resist...

Detective Rhys Shepard is only back in Nugget long enough to care for his ailing father. He's got a big-city promotion far away from this place that never accepted him. He does not need a sudden crime wave to solve. Or one leggy case of heartbreak stirring up all kinds of trouble and challenging his rules. Which might explain why he's suddenly finding it hard to leave...

Going Home Details

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From Reader Review Going Home for online ebook

Mandy says

Maddy is renovating an old mansion and turning it into a bed and breakfast. She's just ending her marriage after her husband has been cheating on her and she's focusing all her energy into opening her bed and breakfast. Rys is the interim police chief when he moves home to take care of his father. I enjoyed these characters and really was hoping for a HEA for Maddy and Rys. I enjoyed this book but thought it was a little slow and had so much going on it was hard to follow at times. I would've liked more Maddy and Rys. I still really enjoyed this book and look forward to reading the next book in this series.

** ARC provided in exchange for an honest review **

Kelli says

A sweet little story....the cotton candy equivalent of literature...and who doesn't love cotton candy? I so enjoy a book series set in a small town with quirky characters. I look forward to reading the other books in this series.

Danielle says

It started out okay but then it involved way to many people and what was going on with them. I think the couple was lost in all this and the other stories took away from them in general.

For the two main characters I enjoyed them but the side stepping of one another got a little old. I hope the next book in the series is better and doesn't involve so many of the townspeople.

Hannah says

ARC REVIEW

I really enjoy this series, I love small town romance and for the most part these are second chance at love stories. Each character has a past that has jaded them and it creates a very believable and likeable characters (for the exception of Clay from Finding Hope I still don't like him).

Maddy needed a place to start over after her disastrous marriage and divorce and Nugget California was the perfect place. She convinced her brother into buying the old dilapidated Lumber Baron and turn it into a Bed and Breakfast. Although she isn't exactly welcomed with open arms she is slowly working over the locals. The owners of the local motel are self important and keep finding ways to try and keep Maddy from opening the Inn.

They say you can't go home but going home was the only option for Detective Rhys Shepard. It was only suppose to be temporary, take care of his father until he recuperates. But the longer Rhys is there the more he

realizes his ailing father is worse off than he thought. The town is dangling the Sheriff position to keep him there he is torn between a father he never got along with and a town that wasn't very welcoming when he was younger or the promotion to Sergeant and a six figure raise back in Texas. The choice was easy until he found out about the two siblings he never knew about and is now he is responsible for them and the closeness he has started to feel toward his father after realizing all the sacrifices that were made for Rhys. The sexy new owner of the Lumber Baron Inn isn't helping matters.

It was all just suppose to be temporary, the position as Sheriff, staying with his father, and his affair with Maddy. Rhys realizes lots of things during his stay in Nugget but it takes but it takes Maddy almost killed by a meth head looking for his stash for him to realize where he belongs.

Cathie Schumaker says

I haven't enjoyed a romance novel this much in a very long time. Liked the characters, the town and the story.

Nate Brightman says

As with most books that are the first in a series there's a lot more than just a romance going on in Going Home, the first book in the Nugget series. We're introduced to the main characters, Maddy a soon to be divorcee starting her life over and Rhys who grew up in Nugget Ca. on the wrong side of the tracks and couldn't wait to leave when he finished high school 18 years prior. But Rhys's estranged father whom only gave him the minimum attention and support he needed growing up has Alzheimers so Rhys is forced to return to Nugget to take care of him. Of course Rhys and Maddy (who rents the other side of his father's duplex have immediate chemistry and their relationship is the main focal point of the book. But along with them we meet several other secondary characters some of whom will be featured in future books in the series and these characters also have their own stories going on. Like the lesbian couple who were friends of Maddy and her brother Nate in San Francisco who came to Nugget a year earlier to re-open a restaurant/bowling alley and start a family but can't agree on a sperm donor daddy. There's Collin the socially awkward and extremely introverted as well as extremely talented carpenter who is helping Maddy and Nate restore the Lumber Baron into a B&B. There's Cal McCreedy, Rhys's childhood best friend who is a recent widower and single dad to two young sons. And if Rhy's and Maddy's relationship isn't enough going on along with Rhys dealing with his father and Maddy her estranged husband and a bunch of townies who don't want her to open her B&B, Rhys discovers he has a much younger half-sister and half-brother whose mother was recently killed in a hit and run and are now dumped on his doorstep. Oh and Rhys who is on leave from the Houston P.D. accepts the temporary job as Chief of Police in Nugget where a crime spree that directly threatens Maddy breaks out. Whew! That's a lot going on!

If you like the small town vibe with lots of different characters and personalities (which I do) you'll probably enjoy this book. My only real issue with this book was Rhy's character who remained adamant to the end of the story despite his dad's issues, Maddy's profession of love and his younger siblings that he was going to return to Houston to take a promotion in the P.D. there and then his whiplash without warning 180 degree turn around. Okay we all knew it would happen but it just seemed to come out of nowhere since the author never gave us any indication leading up to the big moment that he was having a change of heart despite his feeling for Maddy, responsibilities for his father and siblings or even the town's expressed respect and appreciation for him, making it all feel rushed at the end of the story. Still a good enough book to give it 4 stars and a hope that the rest of the series can live up to the opening act.

Katherine P says

I love a good small town romance and Stacy Finz's newest did not disappoint. I liked that this isn't one of those small town impossibly full of boutiques and fancy stores. Nugget is struggling to survive and beginning to figure out that they need to do something different to keep going. While both Maddy and Rhys are both interesting characters who make rational decisions but for the most part this reads more like a fiction. To me this wasn't a problem as I really enjoyed getting to know the characters and the town. I also liked the history aspect as Maddy tries to pull the history of the area including the Donnor Party into her Inn. I'm really looking forward to Clay's book!

Full Review: <http://iwishilivedinalibrary.blogspot...>

Amanda Sheila says

****An ARC of **Going Home** by Stacy Finz was generously provided to me via NetGalley in exchange of honest review.*

I enjoyed this book!

It's light, it's fluffy and if you like light romance, you certainly love this book. To be honest I'm not exactly in the mood for light romance, lately I'm craving for dark ones and that's why I didn't really connect with the characters. It's solely my fault, not the book.

I love Maddy's attitude. She's focused and she's determined. I find myself wanting to be like her. So yeah, overall great book but I'm not sure I'll continue with the series. But hey, this author definitely got talent! Her writing is simple yet deep and I understand it even though English is not my first language.

Sarah says

What a great first book in a series. I enjoyed this story so much. Maddy moves to the town of Nugget after discovering her husband has been unfaithful. While renovating an old mansion into an inn, she meets Rhys, the police chief. He is only in town temporarily while he makes arrangements for his ailing father. There is so much going on in this story, there are criminals and busy bodies and a strong theme of family loyalty. I think this is a great start for the series, I am excited to read the next! Book Four, Starting Over, doesn't release until August so I have plenty of time to get caught up!

I received a free copy of this book from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Ronna says

I got this book free from Firstreads. This is my honest review.

This was such a fun and diverse read. It was part romance, part mystery and part history. It took place in the fictional town of Nugget, California, which is based on the present day place where the Donner Party got stranded in huge snow blizzards on their trek west in 1846. Fortunately, nobody eats anybody else in this story, but there is someone who is attacking people connected with an old Victorian mansion that is being refurbished into a B&B.

Mandy Breyer has left her wealthy, philandering husband to start up the B&B but not everyone in town is happy about this and she has to diplomatically deal with these folks while avoiding someone who is attacking her. Actually, she is hoping to help renew the town after the recession that has closed down many businesses.

Detective Rhys Shepard is a local who left this town as a young man and has found much success in the Houston Police Department. Unfortunately, his crotchety father is suffering from Alzheimer's and needs Rhys to help him, but only till Rhys can figure a better plan for his father's care--or so he thinks.

I really enjoyed all the characters in this story and also all of the difficulties and problems that everyone faces. The historical connection to Donner's Crossing added depth, along with the issues that faced everyone in this small, close knit town. The different kinds of love that blossomed spoke of hope and healing, along with some strong passions. Sure looking forward to reading about more people and situations in Nugget, California!!

WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says

1.5 stars

****Full Review****

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review

The town of Nugget is fairly remote, small, and surprisingly full of possibilities, Maddy hopes for just a little of those possibilities to come her way. After discovering that her husband has been sleeping with his cousin's widow and the added bonus of he was in love with the widow before even marrying Maddy, she hightails it out of dodge. Nugget just so happens to have an abandoned hotel, Maddy and her family is hotel mavens, so her and her brother moves there to not only return it to its former glory but hopefully Maddy too. Rhys on the other hand sees Nugget only as the rinky dinky town he escaped as soon as he turned eighteen. Now the father that was never much of one is showing signs of Alzheimer's disease and Rhys must find a way to deal with that, half-siblings coming out of the woodwork, being interim sheriff, and an attraction to his new neighbor Maddy.

The beginning of the book deals a lot with Rhys and his issues with his father; Rhys resents having to take care of his father when he feels this wasn't reciprocated when he was younger. I get what the author was trying to portray, anger issues, but the way it is written has Rhys coming off extremely callous because of the brusque writing. A couple times Rhys's father wanders off lost and confused, Rhys reacts with severe annoyance instead of understanding it's the disease and his father isn't doing this on purpose to ruin Rhys day. Are Rhys's actions and feelings commonly found in the real world? Yes, but it doesn't mean I want to read about them in this type of genre book; it doesn't make you feel bad for Rhys, it's all just very draining. Maddy wasn't that fun of a character to read about either, she doesn't send divorce papers until the second

half of the book to her cheating husband. This makes it hard to invest in a relationship between her and Rhys. Maddy and Rhys also spend less time together than what I personally like to see in stories with this theme. They're neighbors, they find each other aesthetically attractive, and then they kiss with fireworks exploding over their heads.

The story overall was slow moving with a lot of subplots and povs for what I'm guessing will be following books. As a consequence this book falls to first in a series syndrome and it loses its focus on the main couple and what the reader originally wanted to enjoy. I've seen mentions that this is for people who like the Lucky Harbor series by Jill Shalvis. The components are comparable, small town and wide cast of townie characters but quality and delight is missing in this one. I also have to question where a book is inspired by and plain written to be Lucky Harbor; Nugget has a "Lucille" down to her colorful clothing matchmaking ways.

This is a debut book and perhaps the author's style isn't for me. There is a story here but I'm not sure there is any entertainment factor.

Linda says

" Going Home" , the first book in the Nugget. Series was a charming story about what else coming home .

In the case of this story it is a coming home for Rhys Shepard; Rhys tries not to come home to Nugget often he has no real reason to, other than his best freind Clay , Nugget does not hold much of a draw for him even though his father still lives there Rhys has never had That type of relationship with Shep. A phone call from the Sherrifs office changes that, his father has been arrested for theft which is totally out of character for his father.

When Shep arrives back in Nugget from Houston , he comes back to learn that his father is suffering from dementia ; and in Shep's mind he truly believed what he took was his ; Shep's health forces Rhys to take leave if absence from the Houston PD until he can find a care center for Shep. Thanks to his freind Clay , Rhys is offered. A position as interim Sherrifs in Nugget while he is in town which he embraces and starts to put his mark on.

The story is not only a coming home for Rhys but also a coming home in a sense for new comer Maddy Wellmont ; Maddy with encouragement from her brother Nate., has come to Nugget to start over after discovering her husband has cheated on her and has been doing so for quite some time. Nugget offers her that chance to rebuild her life and be her own person . Nate discovered an abandoned Mansion , the Lumber Baron which he encourages Maddy to help him renovate into a bed and breakfast giving her a reason to get up in the morning .

Unable, to live and the Lumber Baron Maddy winds up renting an apartment from Rhys Shepard and finds herself undeniably attracted to him.

As time moves in these two people are drawn to each other and the Sparks start to fly, however the road is never easy in Nugget, the townspeople are not the most open and accepting and then add Rhys determination to head back to Houston to spite how well accepted and loved he seems to be now in Nugget; when his six month leave is over he is determined to head back to Houston and accept his promotion to Luitenenat .

Maddy may have him second guessing his de ion though, then just through in the unexpected half brother. And sister he never new about, Lina and Sam, the lone Rhys has drawn in the for verbal sand starts to blur. This man however has a hard time loving and accepting love, but the more time Maddy and he spend together the more he questions if he can leave town , but the fear she will return to her wealthy cheating. Ex is.a huge fear.

Maddy , in the meantime Finds herself fighting the very town that she is looking to help revitalize with her

bed and breakfast and desire to put Nugget on the map and promote the town's link to the infamous Donned party. The very town council that issued her permits are trying to revoke them. Then through in a hidden Meth lab discovered in the basement of the Limber Baron, and then a Robbery at gunpoint if the local feed store has the town in a tizzy.

Rhys finds himself juggling a lot, but Maddy is always on his mind, can these two somewhat damaged people come to a happy ending? Maybe. Will the town of Nugget accept Maddy and the updated Lumber Baron? Will they try to keep Rhys permanently? Or will these two give up on their second chances. Stacy Finz has created some wonderfully deep layered characters that draw you in to the story and sets you up for future stories well in Going Home.

Recommend for anyone who enjoys a sweet contemporary second chance romance with some twists and turns.

I received a copy of this Arc from Lyrical Press, Kensington publishing via Netgalley for an honest review.

Carolyn says

Not my kind of book but finished it as I was curious as to what would happen with some of the characters. I suspect the author recently learned how to spell ass and tried to use it as often as possible. Sometimes twice on one page. An easy summer read.

Kim says

What a wonderful book! This one is set in a lovely little mountain town called Nugget IN California.

After splitting from a cheating husband Maddy sets about turning an old mansion into a Bed and Breakfast. Can she overcome her neighbours' reservations and befriend them. At the same time Detective Rhys Shepard has taken leave from his job to work back home whilst he cares for his father.

I really loved Maddy's character- really warm and well rounded. I was willing her to make a success of the project and hoping she'd find happiness with Rhys.

With thanks to the publisher Kensington and Net Galley for the chance to read this book.

FicCentral says

After discovering her husband's infidelity, Maddy leaves the world of high society behind and sets her sights on life in the sleepy little town of Nugget, where she and her brother plan on turning a historic downtown building into a beautiful hotel, and she plans on proving to herself and the rest of the world that she really can make it on her own. But small towns aren't always so welcoming of newcomers, and her sexy new neighbor is an unexpected distraction.

When Rhys left Nugget, he never planned on coming back. With few good memories of the town that barely raised him and the single father who spent more time away than he did at home, Rhys has made a good career for himself in Texas. But when his dad starts showing signs of Alzheimer's and can't be depended on to take care of himself anymore, Rhys has little choice but to return to the home he'd rather forget. He plans on doing what's necessary and then going back to his life far away... even if he can't seem to stay away from the lovely new tenant next door.

Judging Covers: I think I passed up the chance to read this book about a dozen times before I finally took a second to read the synopsis. It's not a bad cover at all, but there was nothing at that split-second first glance when I was browsing to tell me it would be a pretty great romance. Okay, so it says romance right there on the cover, but that would have required my taking an extra second to read it instead of going off the picture. I guess that just goes to show how quickly we readers make a decision on books. At first glance, I assumed it was a memoir or some other genre of fiction — not romance. And while I completely understand the cover now that I've read it, I can't say I would have ever grabbed this one had it not come up for review on a tour site. Sad, 'cause I certainly would have missed a good read.

The Verdict: Maddy was incredibly easy to relate to — I mean, who among us hasn't been left to start over on our own? Her confidence had taken a beating when she found her husband had not only been cheating but had actually been in love with someone else throughout their marriage. Of course, he realized the error of his ways far too late, and he did that very realistic cheating man thing, where the guy wants to have his cake and eat it, too. Fortunately, business kept him away, but he kept trying to play contrite and win her back.

Rhys was a lot harder for me to understand, and while he did eventually win me over, I'm not sure I ever really fell for him the way I normally do when reading romances. He'd had a pretty tough childhood, and his relationship with his father was beyond strained. It made sense that while he was doing the right thing by coming home to take care of his dad, he'd want to go back to his own life in Houston as soon as he could. However, his reaction to and emotional inaction when it came to his unexpected half-siblings was something I had trouble with. He took them in, but he made little effort to get to know them, and that really bothered me. Sure, I knew he'd have some mixed feelings, and it certainly wasn't going to improve his feelings for his dad, but what kind of man leaves two essentially parentless kids without a real support system? Feeding and clothing and housing them is nothing compared to what they really needed, and he came across as incapable of showing them any sympathy, much less love.

I think my dislike for that part of Rhys's character played into my not feeling the connection between him and Maddy. They had chemistry, certainly, but they went from fighting it to giving in before I expected it, and it seemed to lack an emotional connection for far too long. But, like I said, that might just be my own disconnection from Rhys coming through.

I did, however, like the whole small town aspect of things. I'm not sure I've ever met anyone as overtly malicious as the woman Maddy was facing, but her type can always be found in insular communities like Nugget. The townspeople being polite and even friendly to her face while working to block her business from opening rang very true, and as much as I hate small town politics, it was nice to see that kind of realism in fiction.

In the end, while I never really completely warmed to Rhys, I did enjoy the book. It's not your standard romance novel, and in many ways, the characters felt less idealized and more a reflection of real life. Sweet, fluffy romances can be great, but it's not often that I find one in which the character deal with real world problems that don't feel like they're thrown in as shallow plot devices. I may not have entirely loved Rhys, but the storytelling was great, and I'm looking forward to finding more of Stacy Finz's work.

***FicCentral received this book from Kensington Books (via NetGalley) for free in exchange for an honest

review. Even so, we're far too opinionated to let a freebie influence our thoughts or the contents of the reviews we post here.
