



Long Time Gone

Lorelei James

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The right love is worth the wait...

Calvin McKay can't understand his twin brother's rush toward the altar—until he lays eyes on the bride's younger sister. But she's far too innocent for him to pursue...and yet something about that little blonde tornado gets his blood pumping and his heart all twisted up.

Kimi West is used to boys chasing after her, but Cal McKay is a man—all man—and his hot kisses are like nothing she's ever experienced. But he's a rancher, tied to the land, and she can't wait for the day she can escape from Wyoming and see the world.

After a tragedy sends Kimi running from her family, Cal gives Kimi a place to stay—and oh so many tantalizing reasons to stay—while she sorts out her plans. Now she'll have to decide whether the adventure she wants is in a new frontier or right there by Cal's side.

Long Time Gone Details

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From Reader Review Long Time Gone for online ebook

Kahea says

I'm pretty much a fan girl of the Rough Riders series and even after sixteen books Kimi and Carson have always been the couple that I wanted to know more about. Part of it is due to the fact that the Wonder Twins aka Kade and Kane are my favorite McKay's and wanting to know more about their parents goes hand in hand. The other is that whenever Kimi was apart of a scene she always captured my attention and after Cowboy Take Me Away, I really, really wanted to know more about Kimi and Cal, so you can just imagine how excited I was when it was announced that they would be getting their own book. It didn't matter that it was a novella, I just wanted something and I was in no way disappointed!

I thought I loved Kimi and Calvin before, but now I absolutely adore them and they may just be my favorite couple of the series or at least top three. (It tends to change when I start a re read). But regardless, I loved that while Kimi is definitely a Blonde Tornado in every way ~ firey, speaks her mind, knows who she is and what she wants ~ she is also a deeply caring and observant woman, even when we meet her at the tender age of sixteen.

Calvin is all sexy charm and charisma, something that we've come to expect and love about all the men in the Rough Rider world, but his runs on the calmer, more relaxed side of the coin though he's just as sly, intense and determined as the rest of them.

I loved how their relationship progressed. Having known already that they'd had that instant connection from reading Cowboy Take Me Away, it was fun to watch how they handled it. The open and honest nature of their relationship was refreshing, as was the lack of unnecessary drama, and the chemistry between them as hot as Kimi's fiery personality.

As for that excerpt about Sierra and Boone? What a perfect start (continuation?) of their story and it looks like it's going to be a wild ride.

The Bottom Line: I loved this glimpse into the beginning of Kimi and Calvin's relationship and though I do want more, I'm satisfied...for now.

Talltree says

3.5 stars.

A bit confusing for me.

H/h meet when h is very young(h 16, H 24). h has a yen to roam so H lets her go though they write to each other and they get back together after 5 yrs.

Its confusing bcos IRL, I might want the kind of guy like the H who loves me enough to let me go do my own thing and wait for me to come back.

But in romancelandia, I want a guy who wouldn't want to spend a minute apart from the h, who would pack his bags and go along with her wherever she went! In this case I felt let down that the H didn't even think of doing that - he could have found a way if he wanted it badly enough.

Also it didn't help that it was implied that the lonely H hooked up casually with women in the separation period (even though he loved the h) and the h sounded as if she was too busy working, saving money and taking in the sights of the world every spare bit of time she had to ever think of dating:(

Whatever.
Not exactly my idea of romance...

Lisa - (Aussie Girl) says

3.5 stars.

Jaime says

3 stars

It could have done with being a little bit longer it felt rushed at times.

MaggieReadsRom says

3,5 stars

I liked Cal and Kimi's story. Not as much as Carson and Caro's but it was great fun reading about the OG McKay men and how they got their women. I had some trouble with especially Kimi's age (she was 16 at the beginning of the story and 23 by the end) as I prefer to read about heroines closer to my own age and at least in their 20s.

Also somehow for me, as a reader that loves chronologic order in her reading, it was weird reading about characters I already have known through the many Rough Rider books. Still I can never go wrong with a Lorelei James book: LONG TIME GONE was an emotional and sexy story sprinkled with subtle humor and kept me entertained for several hours.

Beanbag Love says

This was a fairly short novella about Kimi West and Cal McKay. Cal, as Rough Riders readers will remember, is Carson McKay's twin brother. Kimi is Carolyn West McKay's younger sister.

I loooooooved the origin story of Carson and Carolyn, Cowboy Take Me Away, but this one fell short. And not just because it was a fraction of the length.

When Kimi and Cal first meet (we saw this in CTMA) she's only sixteen. They hit it off, but he's 24 years old so while they do kiss, he doesn't let it go any further. The age difference didn't bother me much, probably because we were first introduced to Kimi (and Cal in more of a background way) in Rough Riders and she's part of the older generation. Knowing she and Cal are together for the long haul makes this first meeting not so squicky. Also, Kimi and Carolyn are both older than their chronological ages due to their family experiences.

The story felt rushed and there's a whole chunk that gets glossed over completely. It felt like the middle of the book just wasn't there. In the end I was unsatisfied. TBH, though, I loved Cowboy Take Me Away so

much that this one could never have matched it, but evidence of a little effort might have been helpful.

The worst part of the whole book? The announcement that Boone and Sierra's story will kick off LJ's foray into the NA genre with the Rough Riders Legacy series. I hate that genre. And the excerpt didn't make it any better. Years later, Sierra is still a brat. Yay.

So, this was disappointing. I did like getting to know Cal a bit since he's always seemed more like Carson's shadow. I wanted more for him and Kimi didn't come off as well as she could have by the end. As I said above, though, knowing they're together for the long haul and raise two great sons is a big help to pulling this up to three stars.

Better luck next time. :)

Francesca the Fierce (Under the Covers Book Blog) says

Another look back in time to the origins of some of my favorite heroes in romance. Yes, after the epic story of Carson McKay and Carolyn West in COWBOY TAKE ME AWAY, Ms. James goes back in time to show us how Calvin McKay and Kimi West got together.

I've always been intrigued by the fact that twins Calvin and Carson McKay ended up marrying the West sisters. I had already fallen in love with Carolyn, and it was fun to see the differences between the brothers as well as the sisters.

LONG TIME GONE gives us that glimpse. And where COWBOY TAKE ME AWAY was more tumultuous and heart wrenching, LONG TIME GONE was easy going, a slow burn that once it gets going it quickly sparks.

Calvin falls in lust with Kimi at first sight when he meets her just before his brother's wedding. At the time she was a week shy of 17. She may be young, but she knows what she wants. She has a big personality with a side of rebel. She's been repressed by her family and just wants to forge her path on her own. Even if that path leads her away from home. Or maybe in hopes of that.

Calvin shocked me with his cool and calm demeanor, his patience and his determination to get the girl he had his heart set on. Kimi doesn't make things easy but somehow Calvin is just that strong, silent type that works perfectly to reel her in and tame her. They are almost complete opposites and complement each other so well. Reading these stories now almost makes me forget about any of their interactions I've read in the series. And definitely makes me want to do a whole series re-read!

For long time lovers of the series (like me!), this is a must read. Everything you love from Ms. James is here, and I can't help but want to gobble up anything new about the McKays to fit in my puzzle. For new fans? It may just be a glimpse into the big McKay world that you MUST get into. This might just be the best western erotic series out there. So do yourself a favor and pick it up right away.

Now the elephant in the room? The Boone and Sierra story excerpt. I refuse to read it, because it will only heighten my anticipation and I don't think I can handle that right now. But if you don't mind the itchy grabby paws it'll give you by reading it, then go for it! Ms. James gave us some exciting news about the "placement" of this story in the Rough Riders universe. I think you'll be happy with the news, as much as I am.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

I knew one thing going in to Long Time Gone and that was I was finally going to get some insight into the couple that birthed my favorite McKay, Kade and his twin Kane. What I didn't expect was to see a man who completely understood a woman enough to let her go and experience life while he stayed home and prepared for her return. This is a novella that reads like a novel and I loved it but, I won't lie and say I could have easily read another 5 years worth of their story because I loved them so much (and I'm just nosey that way). A love story of two people who met before their time to be together, who never once forgot the other, and who trusted each other enough to live their lives while waiting for their time to come Long Time Gone is an epic journey of a great romance and one I thoroughly enjoyed.

I always knew Kimi McKay was a spitfire and we knew her sons called her the blond tornado but we find out in this book that label started with her dear husband, Calvin. What I loved so much about this story is seeing how different Kimi was from Carolyn and how different Calvin was from Carson. They lived their lives differently, they wanted different things and they didn't apologize for it. At a time when women were expected to stay home, raise a family and tend to their husband's needs, Kimi wanted something different out of her life and Cal made sure she got it even though it almost killed him to do so.

From their story told over a span of about 7 years we see that Kimi has a mind of her own, she's strong and she has a sense of adventure. We see that Cal is steady, he is even tempered and he will do anything to make sure Kimi gets what she needs out of life. As I read this book I couldn't help but think about the traits these two passed down to their sons. Both Kade and Kane learned out to handle a strong woman from their father, they learned to be there for them but to know when to back off and let them figure out what they wanted out of life and they learned that sometimes you just have to put your foot down when the time is right. From Kimi the boys learned to not be afraid of a woman's strength; to nurture it, to not be afraid to try new things; to be open to new experiences, and most of all to always follow your dreams.

There were so many fantastic moments in this book and I appreciated Cal's absolute trust in that they would be together from the start even though Kimi was only 16 when they met. Calvin proved that he knew she was worth waiting for and in doing so Kimi realized the difference between men and boys. While they were apart for a portion of this book, it was easy to see the absolute affection they had for one another. It would have been easy for them to try and tear each other apart with jealousy and anger over their separation but instead they focused on how they felt when they were together again and I admire them so much for the adult way they handled their lives.

From the sweet moments to the sexy ones and everything in between I LOVED every minute of Long Time Gone and I now feel like the Rough Riders series is fully complete.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Kim O says

If you love someone you have to be willing to let them go, if it's meant to be, they'll come back, right? So the saying goes.

Cal and Kimi McKay are one of those couples you know without a doubt love and care for each other deeply, but because we were given a look into how they met and fell in love, it only cemented what we already knew. THEY are one of the great McKay love stories and I'm thrilled to have read how it all came to be. My face hurt from smiling the first 4 chapters. It is so sweet, so perfect, my stomach was doing

cartwheels. It rocked on, my heart stopped, then I broke out in a sweat (cause it gets pretty steamy), then happy times with cartwheels again.

One of the reasons I love Lorelei James' writing style is because she can tell the sweetest story without making it sappy. I devour every word of every page until I'm left with a permanent smile on my face. We all know she is the Queen of steam, but she's also pretty damn good at telling a love story like no other.

Two things I noted while reading this. One, KADE is so much like his father, I fell in love with Cal even more upon this revelation because Kade is one amazing character. Two, Keely gets her wild ways from her aunt Kimi and maybe a little of her sass from her mama. All I gotta say is ELIZA BELLE...watch out for this one. heehee

I love this novella! I've read it more than once just because....

Now, if you bought Long Time Gone to read the Sierra and Boone sneak peek, good for you. I hope you enjoyed, but if you skipped Cal and Kimi's story altogether, shame on you! Go back and read this story right now. It's more than worth it. :)

Shelby P says

I had a hard time with 24 year old Cal being attracted to 16 year old Kimi so I really couldn't get into the beginning of the book. And although nothing happened between them until she was 18 it was still creepy. How would you feel if a 24 year old man had the hots for your 16 year old daughter?

Also Kimi was a bit too aggressive for my liking; I like my virginal characters to be a tad bit more submissive and inexperienced and not asking to blow the guy the first time out having sex. There really wasn't very much new to the story than what we got in Carson and Carolyn's book.

The best part of the story for me was when Kimi met her nephews Cord and Colby.

Cindy ~ says

I swear I could read about the McKay's and West till my dying days. This was a special treat to get an even better glimpse into the early days of Calvin McKay and Kimi West romance than what we got in Cowboy Take Me Away.

Don't know what more I can say about Long Time Gone other than I loved it. And if their story wasn't enough of a treat finally getting a sneak peak at Sierra and Boone's story that will be coming out next year made me even more giddy.

Edith says

3 stars

Aaaw, how much I missed the McKay Boys... I love this series so much.

ValerieC says

Review of Kindle ebook purchased in June, 2015

3 stars

A pleasant read, but there's nothing that knocked my socks off. I can honestly say I have never met a man that would wait all those years for a woman to sow her wild oats. It also seems like maybe the time-frame doesn't jive with their ages in some of the last books of the series, but it's really vague as to what era this happens. This story would have to occur in the 1950's for them to be the ages they were in the last of the series. They would basically be my parents' contemporaries. I don't think the Prudhoe Bay stuff was happening that early on, but even if it was, 'nice' women didn't just go off much on their own to such a place... kind of like nice women didn't just go off on their own to mining or oil boom towns. Especially pretty women. It was a much different time than now. I guess I just didn't 'buy it'.

Anyway, Kimi's adventures in Alaska just seemed to be skimmed over and Cal's life is pretty much just ranch drudgery and bar-hopping.

I really wouldn't buy this again. It should have been a little longer.

Monique Pearson says

When you know it's meant to be you just have to let it happen in its own time. I loved this whirlwind love story!

Alba and Her Secrets..♥ says

◆ 5 "Devouring" Stars! ◆

After reading *Turn and Burn*, which belongs to another Lorelei's series, I remembered that she had written a short story about the other parents in the *Rough Riders* series, so I decided to read it. And let me tell you, it was fantastic!

Long Time Gone is the story of Calvin McKay (the funny and hot twin brother of Carson) and Kimi West (the feisty younger sister of Carolyn, Carson's wife). Also, if you have read this amazing series, you may know them as the parents of the hot McKay twins: Kade and Kane.

"Please tell me you're not my future brother-in-law?"

"I'm not. But darlin' girl, I'm damn near certain I'm your future husband."

What I loved the most about this series is these two last stories about the parents of this amazing family. I

mean, I loved *Cowboy Take Me Away* and now, I loved this novella as well. I actually wanted more!! I loved the relationship that grows between Cal and Kimi and their instantaneous chemistry and funny moments.

“Get in the truck or I’m going to fuck you right here, in the parking lot, Kimi. Where anyone can see just what you do to me.” He nuzzled her ear. “And how goddamn much I missed you.”

“That sounds like a threat, cowboy.”

“No, sweet darlin’ mine. It’s a promise.”

Still, James' had time to make me laugh and also cry, and I love that. So sad when they are apart!

He rested his forehead to hers. “I don’t think my heart was beating at all until the moment I saw you again.”

And well, I still cannot believe this series is finished. HOWEVER, GREAT NEWS!!: at the end of the book, Lorelei announced that she is starting a spin-off series (*The Rough Riders Legacy*) and I am crazy excited about it because the first story is about Sierra and Boone (who started their story in the 14th book, *Gone Country*).

Therefore, my rating is 5 STARS because simply this was a fabulous read! I love everything about it: the couple, the secondary characters, their smokin' chemistry and the emotions that they produced in me. Totally recommend if you are into western romance!

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