



## Come Home to Me

*Brenda Novak*

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## **Come Home to Me** Brenda Novak

Home is where her heart is...

When Presley Christensen returns to Whiskey Creek with her little boy after two years away, she has completely changed her life. She's made peace with her past and overcome the negative behavior that resulted from her difficult childhood. Now she's back in the small town that was the closest thing to "home" she ever knew—the town where she can be with the sister who's her only family.

There's just one catch. Aaron Amos still lives in Whiskey Creek, at least until he moves to Reno to open a branch of the Amos brothers' auto body shop. And no matter how hard she's tried, Presley hasn't been able to get over him. Seeing him again makes the longing so much worse. But she hopes she can get through the next few months, because she can't fall back into his arms...or his bed. She's come too far to backslide now. And there's a secret she's been guarding—a secret she'll do anything to protect.

## **Come Home to Me Details**

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## From Reader Review Come Home to Me for online ebook

### Susan says

My least favorite of the series so far, which is too bad because I was really looking forward to it. Presley had been a hot mess when she left town two years ago. She had been into parties, drugs and sex, and Aaron had been her cohort of choice. She had been crazy in love with him, even though he didn't feel the same way about her, and made a real pest of herself at times. When he turned her away at a time she really needed him, she fled in despair.

Two years later she has come back to Whiskey Creek. She has gotten her act together and has made a good life for herself and her little boy. She has a healthy lifestyle and has started a yoga and massage studio. She's thrilled to have repaired her relationship with her sister. The only drawback is that Aaron is still living in Whiskey Creek, at least for awhile longer. As much as she has tried, she has never stopped loving him.

Aaron never forgot her either. He had tried to find her when she first left, but gave up after awhile. Now that she's back, he'd really like to pick up where they left off, but she's resisting. He can see that she has changed, but he likes the new Presley. He can also see the desire in her eyes, and can feel it when he kisses her, but she won't give him the time of day. He starts to realize that she is serious when she tells him that she's looking for a man who is willing to love her and commit to her and her son, and that's something he's never been able to do.

I wasn't all that upset with her decision not to tell Aaron that Wyatt was his when she first discovered she was pregnant. She was in a bad place emotionally and he had never made a secret of his feelings about love and marriage. She thought she was doing the right thing for herself and the baby. It got a little trickier once she came back to town. Her sister knew the truth, but didn't tell her husband, who was also Aaron's brother. I got very frustrated with her when she would make a big show of telling him that there was nothing between them anymore, but then give in and sleep with him. It was even worse when she started dating another man, a really nice guy, and still couldn't resist Aaron. I also didn't like the way that she was so proud of the way she had changed, but refused to consider that Aaron may have changed too. Even after she came clean about Wyatt she kept telling Aaron that she didn't expect anything of him, even though he made it clear that he wanted to be part of Wyatt's life. She just kept pushing him away.

While Aaron frustrated me at first because he seemed more interested in sleeping with her than anything else, there were still plenty of signs that he had gone through some changes in the last two years. He's not the hard partier that he had been, he's shown a lot of responsibility with the business, and he doesn't seem quite as hotheaded as he had been. It's obvious that he cares a lot more than he wants to admit, especially when she goes out with the other guy. What really made me like him was when he found out about Wyatt. He was angry, but he was also hurt that she had had so little faith in him. I loved seeing him jump into being a father with his whole heart. It was really sweet to see him and his brothers that first day that they had Wyatt all to themselves. He also cared enough about Presley to try to do what she wanted, but also to let her know that he wanted a chance to try to build something with her. His move away was hard on both of them, but it did serve to open up their eyes to what they really felt. I really liked his go big moment at the end.

The part I absolutely hated about the book, that took it from a four to a three (and almost lower) was the storyline involving Cheyenne and Dylan. I understood the stress that their inability to conceive was putting on their marriage, but the actions that Cheyenne took were so far beyond wrong. How she could justify that kind of deception against the man she says she loves is inconceivable, and to involve his brother is even worse. I kept waiting for something bad to happen, but it was left completely hanging. I really hate the idea that they could get away with it.

## Harlequin Books says

"TOP PICK! If you haven't started reading the Whiskey Creek series, get going! Novak's latest installment spotlights a love that refuses to quit and teaches us that fate always has the upper hand in love. Readers will swoon over bad boy Aaron and be consumed by his rugged character. The author's gift for writing about passion never ceases to amaze, and fans of romance will be hooked with just one visit to Whiskey Creek". (RT Book Reviews) rated 4 1/2 stars

Whiskey Creek, book 6

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## HJ says

DNF at 57%.

This has to be one of the stupidest storylines I've ever read. Just ridiculously immature and shenanigan laden antics.

Ugh.

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## Amy says

Wow! There was so much wrong with this story I was tempted not to finish it. I didn't feel Aaron or Presley. Not only did I not feel their relationship, I didn't like either of them. Oh... and the subplot about Cheyenne, Dylan and trying to get pregnant? Wrong!!!!

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## Tanya says

This was by far the worst of the Whiskey Creek series. The adorable Cheyenne and Dylan have become lecturing and annoying, and don't even get me started on that stupid subplot of Chey trying to become pregnant. Did the author turn this series over to some ghostwriter? It sure didn't feel like the same characters. Aaron and Presley were boring. A total lack of chemistry. And we conveniently just keep hearing about their "past troubles". Hello!? They were both on crack cocaine and had to go to rehab! I don't think the word "rehab" was mentioned once in the book re: Aaron, and we just kept hearing about Presley's struggles to "overcome". I was actually rooting for Riley for most of the book. A real struggle to force myself to finish this book and will probably be the last Brenda Novak book I buy.

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## Jonetta says

Originally posted on The Book Nympho

I've looked forward to Presley's story as she has emerged from the lowest depths to completely turnaround her life. The only drawback was the big lie concerning the paternity of her 18-month old son. She's not only *not* told the father, Aaron Amos, he has a son but Presley out and out denied that he was. And, her sister Cheyenne is in on the secret and she's married to Aaron's brother.

### **What I liked about the story**

It was truly uplifting to witness the change in Presley Christiansen. Not only was she totally committed to the welfare of her son, Wyatt, she was determined to make a sustainable life for herself. Presley had a career plan and was focused on achieving her goals. What she accomplished was extraordinary and she was unafraid to hold her head up around those aware of her past or who had previously looked down on her.

### **Where the story left me cold**

It was inevitable that Wyatt's father would discover the truth about the child's paternity. Since Presley's sister, Cheyenne was complicit in this deception (keeping it from her own husband), I anticipated that the reveal would be explosive. Not only was it not, Cheyenne and Presley continued to believe they were justified and really didn't suffer any repercussions. What was even more disappointing was Presley's reaction to Aaron's later bonding with Wyatt. She resented it and most of her actions were to try to push him away.

There's a parallel story involving a dreadful deception by Cheyenne. I kept reading, knowing that brighter, more ethical heads would prevail. Unfortunately, that didn't happen and this character is truly unredeemable for me. Given her personal circumstances, it was inconceivable to me that she could ever even entertain the idea of what she did, let alone do it. I have no further interest in this character and just couldn't understand the course selected. It was unrealistic and unfortunate.

### **The bottom line**

I love this series because of the characters and small town setting. But, I had a tough time with the last romance and this story left me freezing cold. It's well written and the storyline hooked me from beginning to end. However, most of that was because of my hope that it would turnaround but, sadly, it didn't. I really liked Cheyenne and Dylan but now I'm hoping he gets a new HEA; her actions were that repugnant to me. This storyline eclipsed the romance of Presley and Amos, which was also somewhat of a letdown. To say I was disappointed is an understatement.

(I received an ARC from NetGalley)

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### **Jacqueline says**

This one was just so so for me. I liked it but there were some issues that held it back for me. First let's discuss Riley. He's just looking desperate here. He asks this chick out and says "I just want to see if you're the one for me." No guy does that. There was no reason for him to even suggest it since they'd never had any sort of even friendship before. Talk about seeming desperate. He just latched on to whatever female comes into town in a desperate attempt to score a wife? Lame.

Okay main story. It's only been two years since both the hero and the heroine were messed up drug users. I'm glad they're clean but I think their story should have been put off for a few years. I would have bought the whole "turned their lives around" thing much more.

I didn't really like the actions of the hero. How could he not understand that if he wasn't in love with her and wasn't ready for a committed relationship that he should have left her alone? Only a douche would keep trying to get in the pants of a woman who acknowledges that she had been/was in love with him but who was

trying to get over him and move on with her life in a healthy manner. The only excuse would have been if he was crazy in love with her and wanted to make a life with her. And even if he secretly was and hadn't acknowledged it to himself, his conscious mind should have said "hey, she's just a chick who I like to bang but she wants a committed relationship or she wants to move on. I'm a decent guy, I'll step back." His actions didn't match his thoughts and words.

However, the writing was good as always and I liked the heroine and how she was trying to turn her life around.

And that situation with Aaron and Cheyenne? Raise your hand if you think that's not going to come back and bite them all in the ass. Not looking forward to reading that catastrophe.

Still I enjoy this series and am looking forward to any and all to come. I was getting this weird inkling that maybe Riley is going to end up with Pheonix, his baby mama who is in prison. What do you all think?

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### **Sara says**

2,5 Estrellas. No me gusta puntuar un libro tan bajo pero es que.... me ha faltado algo. El planteamiento inicial te atrae, pero los protagonistas.... No entiendo cómo Aarón no puede darse cuenta de la verdad sobre Wyatt antes, vamos a ver no hay que ser un flecha para sacar cuentas y más si esa chica ha sido tu novia. Tampoco entiendo la necedad de Presley por negar sus sentimientos por él cuando ronda su cabeza las veinticuatro horas del día y lo de Cheyenne.... Puedo entender que no quiera desilusionar a su marido, pero ocultarle algo así.... Si tanto le ama no se cómo podría vivir con ello. En fin, que no haya conectado con la historia no significa que deje de lado a esta autora, leeré alguno más de esta serie para quitarme el mal sabor de boca.

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### **Ana says**

\*\*I really dislike giving a book 1 star but I think this is the worst of the series.

The subplot was so CRAZY out there that it took away from the main characters. If you enjoyed When Snow Falls with **Dylan & Cheyenne** you may not want to read this book. I would have preferred to have Ms Novak kill off Cheyenne than go ahead with this insane story. I kept thinking this can't be happening. There was not even a trace of Cheyenne in this book. This was a completely different person. I wondered if someone else had written this book.

The only person in this story I was hoping would find some happiness was Aaron. I was hoping someone would give him some credit for turning his life around but it never happened.

Presley kept having the same conversation in head throughout the entire book. I know she had a lot to overcome but I was hoping she would have some more confidence in all she had accomplished.

Riley should never have been part of the story to begin with. He has never been a favorite character, for me, to begin with. Also, he never even gave her a second glance all the years she lived in Whiskey Creek. Presley was pretty clear from the beginning she wasn't really interested in more than a friendship.

I'm curious how the events in this story will play out in the next book.

### **Tasha says**

I lost all respect for Cheyenne in this installment of the series. Which is sad, because her book was my favorite of the series. The plotting she was doing behind her husband's back was unacceptable. Sure, she thought it was for a good cause, but it was not the way to handle it. It was downright deceptive and manipulative. What she was doing was grounds for a divorce in my opinion because how can you stay married to someone who's that conniving and you can't trust? I just couldn't bring myself to get past all the lying to truly enjoy this book.

Presley and Aaron never seemed able to get it together. Of course at the very end, Aaron finally has it all figured out. There was no chemistry with Presley and Riley, but she and Aaron just seemed to incompatible outside of the bedroom. I still feel that the core group of friends are so hard up to find that special someone that they latch onto anyone. Riley never cared or noticed Presley before, when she needed someone the most, but now all of a sudden he's truly serious and in love with her? Doubtful.

In the end, I just never really felt any love connection between Presley and Aaron. He was just jealous all the time whenever she was with Riley, but jealousy doesn't equal love.

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### **Samantha says**

Let me just say from the get go that I love Brenda Novak and I love this series. I bit the bullet and bought this book because none of the libraries in my area had a copy that I could borrow and my OCS wouldn't let me skip this story even though I didn't care for the Presley and Aaron mentions in Cheyenne and Dylan's book.

I felt compelled to write a review for this one though because I was soooo bothered by the whole Cheyenne/Dylan/Aaron/Presley pregnancy sub plot. By the time I finished the book, I was incredibly let down that this didn't resolve. But let's backtrack, their storyline was so woefully wrong to me that I just couldn't get past it. I felt like it was an episode of a soap opera. I kept waiting and waiting for it to not happen and then waited for it to implode, and was just miserable that it's going on like "normal." I enjoyed Cheyenne's story and was so distracted by my dislike for her in THIS story, that it took away from Presley's moment to have a book of her own.

So off I will go, to read installment 7, in hopes of getting the resolution I didn't get in this book.

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### **Lesley Peck says**

First I want to say I love the Whiskey Creek series but this book just didn't do it for me. I became so irritated by the characters acting so sneaky and lying ... about everything! I hope the next one is better because I really do like this series.

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## Jae says

Seriously, all the lying and sneaking! Through out the whole book. A major let down, this one. I hate reading about mentally handicapped adults. Gives me headache.

After all that juvenile drama with Aaron, Presley and Cheyenne, I felt sorry for Dylan. I reckon the truth will come out and snowballed in the future books soon, and I will hate reading about it then too.

My head is spinning **2 Stars**.

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## Ian says

On the night her mother died, Presley went looking for comfort in the arms of her lover Aaron. But she never meant as much to him as he did to her and he coldly rejected her. Broken hearted she left Whiskey Creek taking with her the secret that she was carrying his baby.

Two years have passed and Presley has got her life back on track and returned to Whiskey Creek. Dirt poor but determined to make a better life for herself and her son she sinks everything she has into a small business teaching yoga and offering therapuetic massage. But she wasn't expecting to be running into Aaron.

With everything on the line she pulls out all the stops to keep Aaron from learning the truth about their child.

Aaron has carried the guilt over how he treated Presley for two years. He's determined to make things right before he leaves town and gets on with his life, but every time he looks into her eyes he sees the hurt he caused her two years before.

As he gets to know Presley again, he begins to see things he missed the first time around, but Presley isn't willing to put her heart on the line again and for every small step forward he makes she puts up more walls to keep him out.

Brenda Novak is a master of romantic suspense — her *Bullet Proof* series had me a nervous wreck. I wouldn't describe her as a master of contemporary romance but she is competent and getting better with each new book. *Come Home to me* is far and away the most satisfying book I've read in this series to date. I genuinely liked Presley and Aaron and the story worked on every level.

**Many thanks to Harlequin and Netgalley for providing me with this ARC**

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## Rita says

This is the first Whiskey Creek story I did not enjoy. Presley got on my nerves so much. I understand that she had a difficult life, and it is wonderful that she managed to turn her life around, but I couldn't stand how she thought she knew everything. Presley seemed to think she had all of the answers about everyone - how they thought and what they felt. It was irritating to read how the characters kept saying that Presley was a different person and had turned her life around, and yet, Presley couldn't possibly imagine that maybe Aaron

was also a different person than he used to be. She had her mind completely made up about him. I didn't like her behavior in this book at all.

Another reason why this book was not at the level of the author's previous books is because there were so many secrets being kept for someone's own good. I just couldn't stand the deception. You don't keep secrets that are that big from someone you love, and you don't leave someone out of a decision that is so important. I felt like slapping Cheyenne.

Even though I didn't care for this book, I'll continue reading the Whiskey Creek series because I know that the stories can be so much better.

\*I received my ARC from Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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