



## The Wanderer

*Robyn Carr*

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**The Wanderer** Robyn Carr

**Discover #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Robyn Carr's popular Thunder Point—a heartfelt series that will make you laugh, make you sigh and make you fall in love with a small town filled with people you'll never forget**

Nestled on the Oregon coast is a small town of rocky beaches and rugged charm. Locals love the land's unspoiled beauty. Developers see it as a potential gold mine. When newcomer Hank Cooper learns he's been left an old friend's entire beachfront property, he finds himself with a community's destiny in his hands.

Cooper has never been a man to settle in one place, and Thunder Point was supposed to be just another quick stop. But Cooper finds himself getting involved with the town. And with Sarah Dupre, a woman as complicated as she is beautiful.

With the whole town watching for his next move, Cooper has to choose between his old life and a place full of new possibilities. A place that just might be home.

## The Wanderer Details

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Author : Robyn Carr

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## From Reader Review The Wanderer for online ebook

### UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Robyn Carr is one of the truly great voices in contemporary romance, and fans of her *Virgin River* series are going to fall, and fall hard, for the people of *Thunder Point*.

*From the cover:*

Nestled on the Oregon coast is a small town of rocky beaches and rugged charm. Locals love the land's unspoiled beauty. Developers see it as a potential gold mine. When newcomer Hank Cooper learns he's been left an old friend's entire beachfront property, he finds himself with a community's destiny in his hands.

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With the whole town watching for his next move, Cooper has to choose between his old life and a place full of new possibilities. A place that just might be home.

Robyn Carr holds a special place in my heart because she's the author who introduced me to the contemporary romance genre. A lot of people write it, but few write it as well as Ms. Carr. Story after story she delivers tales of love, passion, and hope, whether growing up or growing old. The people are not just words on a page, they come alive and make me wish I were a part of their world. Neighbors or friends, families or lovers, they're everyday people with such heart and soul that I can't get enough of them.

*The Wanderer* is the first book in the *Thunder Point* series, and yet, it doesn't feel like a 'first' at all. I was immediately swept up in this community, the lives and the loves of its residents... Truly, I can't say enough good things about this wonderful story.

4.5/5

*My thanks to Harlequin MIRA and Netgalley.com for providing me with a copy of this story for review. I enjoyed every minute of it!*

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### KatLynne says

Hank 'Coop' Cooper is a man who hasn't put down roots in quite awhile. He's ex-Army and most of his jobs since leaving involve flying choppers. After learning of his good friend Ben's sudden death, he decides to make a short visit to Ben's home in Thunder Point and hopefully get more details about his accident. Upon arrival, he finds an old, dilapidated Bar/Bait Shop sitting on some of the most gorgeous beachfront property around. Imagine his surprise when he later learns Ben has left this little piece of paradise all to him.

Pondering the motive behind Ben's generosity, Coop decides to stick around and give the Bar a good overall before putting it on the market. Each day he becomes more involved with the town and finds himself liking

the camaraderie of this community. What starts out as a short visit turns into months and when he finally meets Sarah Dupre, a beautiful, young helicopter pilot, he's soon thinking this could be a place to finally call home?

Robyn Carr is a very talented writer and no matter what story she's telling I'm always drawn in and have such a warm, comfortable feeling while there. As with her Virgin River series, very soon after starting *The Wanderer*, I felt part of this small community and invested in the lives of its citizens. I loved Coop and how he handled each obstacle he faced. It takes some time before he meets the lovely Sarah and I do wish more time had been given to them as a couple.

While the spotlight is on the relationship between Coop and Sarah, the reader will also meet a winning cast of lovable, down to earth secondary characters that will charm you. Many are involved in a love story of their own. The addition of a bully keeps you embroiled in a small mystery and the descriptive details of the area will have you longing for a visit. There are lots of things going on in Thunder Point and it all comes together for a very enjoyable read.

Robyn Carr's first installment in her *Thunder Point* series is a winner and I'm looking forward to more. If you enjoy a slow building romance, centered on small town living, you'll love this one.

*ARC courtesy of Netgalley*

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## Jen says

### 3.5 Stars

I have been a fan of Robyn Carr for a long time. Long before I ever came on Goodreads, and before I had my one-click Kindle addiction! I had come across a series that took place in a small town called Virgin River. I fell in love with that town and the people in it. So when I heard that Ms. Carr had another series coming out, this time about a town called Thunder Point; I just had to give it a try! Then I won a giveaway for book #4 and decided it was time to begin the journey to Thunder Point!

Thunder Point is a town that is along the Oregon Coast, and it is popular for its wonderful beach. Hank Cooper has been notified that his good friend from the army has died and left Cooper with his beachfront property. Cooper is the type of guy who doesn't settle down anywhere and he is very content in his nomadic kind of lifestyle...or so he thought. That is until he gets to know the people in this small town, and realizes that his late friend Ben was a very big part of Thunder Point. Of course, there also is a woman that Cooper has set his sights on, and surprisingly enough he begins to develop some major feelings towards Sarah. The tables become turned when Coop would love to settle down with her and she is the one that wants to avoid commitment! Will they be able to compromise and agree on trying some kind of relationship? Or will Sarah keep protecting her heart that has already been hurt badly?

In typical Robyn Carr fashion, there are several other characters and storylines in this book. Once again, I became absorbed in everyone's lives and what was going on in them. The down fall of the story was that it was very slow at getting started; but once I became familiar with everyone then I became more invested in each scene as they played out. I have a strong feeling that as each book goes on in the series, the more interesting they will get. I do have to say that I found this series so far not to be as heavy on the romance as Virgin River was. I am hoping the romance factor will pick up as time goes on. There is a wide variety of different problems and events that arise in the lives of the people of Thunder Point.

From friendships developing, to grieving, bullying, raising children, and of course romance; there is something for everyone in Thunder Point.

I am looking forward to discovering more about the town and it's interesting people. There is something about a small town that I personally love. Especially seeing how a community will band together in the middle of a crisis and be there for one another. Usually there are lots of secrets to discover as well. One thing is for sure, there will never be a dull moment in Thunder Point, and I am glad to be a part of the ride!!

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### **?Karlyn P? says**

Good news for Virgin River fans!! You will be happy to know we have not been abandoned, Robyn Carr has simply moved us to the rugged Oregon coastline and given us a new cast of characters to fall in love with, (and, of course, a few to hate). Best yet, anyone who hasn't read Virgin River series will have no problem jumping into this series without feeling lost.

Thunder Point is the fictional town near the very real areas of Bandon, Coos Bay, Coquille and North Bend. I was lucky enough to spend two-weeks last summer traveling the Oregon coast, and I remember these great touristy towns fondly. What a great setting for a new series!! This book made me feel like I was back on that wonderful vacation.

The Wanderer was told primarily through the POV of Hank 'Coop' Cooper, a new arrival into to town after learning his buddy Ben died in an accident and left his beachfront bar and property to him. Virgin River fans might remember a tiny cameo appearance of Hank/Coop in the last book, Sunrise Point, where Luke Riordan had an old buddy (Coop) come to town to do some hunting. (Turned out Coop had an unfriendly past with Jack, but that storyline was dropped from The Wanderer.) Coop then learns of his friend Ben's death and leaves Virgin River.

Once Coop arrives in Thunder Point, he soon finds himself the owner of prime real estate (despite the dilapidated conditions of the bar/bait shop), and for the first time in a long time is not in a hurry to leave. The town fits him, the folks are friendly, and then there is the smoking hot lady who walks her dog on the beach. Sarah. So should he sell the bar, or stay around a while?

The town and the characters are the main focus of the first half of the book, but don't give up hope of a solid romance. Coop and Sarah's story dominates the last half of the book, as well as a budding secondary romance between the town sheriff, Mac, and his best pal Gina. (I can't wait for their book next!)

The Wanderer had a great mix of characters that weaved multiple story lines. There is the mystery of Ben's death, as well as a storyline of a high-school bully pushing around the new kid Landon. Landon is Sarah's 16 y/o brother, who she has helped raise since her parents were killed 10 years ago. Even he had a small budding romance, which was fun to watch.

The reason I loved the Virgin River series is because it made me laugh, smile and always care about the characters. I can see Thunder Point easily working that same magic for me.

*ARC copy provided by Harlequin through Netgalley.com*

## Karla says

### 3.5 Stars! A strong beginning and then it 'wandered' off course and just rambled along!

Maybe it was just me, but this was somewhat of a disappointment. I get this is a new series, however I couldn't help but compare it to *Virgin River*, and this is no *Virgin River*.

I enjoyed the first 50% of the book, as Cooper finds his way around Thunder Point, after that he lost me. The relationship he forms with Sarah held no appeal for me at all; I didn't feel any chemistry between them, skimmed around their scenes, and focused on the other couples in the book. I also thought being that Sarah was a female in a career that is dominated by men, that her job would bring some excitement to the book...didn't happen. She was a helicopter pilot, so was Cooper, imagine the possibilities! Robyn Carr missed the mark with this one, it was right in front of her and she passed it by.

Gina and Mac's relationship was more interesting, and in my opinion they should have been the featured couple in this book, not the next one, which there again, makes no sense, since they pretty much resolved their issues. I did however enjoy the budding romance between Landon and Eve, and the bullying storyline that they were involved in. Very sweet, loved Eve's strength and Landon was adorable! I hope we hear more about them as the series moves forward.

Bottom line, there was too much going on, but nothing at the same time. The mystery surrounding Ben's death, ended poorly in my opinion. I think the author tried to introduce us to way too much in this first book and should have focused on one couple, Gina and Mac, introduced us to Cooper and Sarah and left it at that. Then move their relationship along in book 2, along with Eve and Landon.

So, was it the book, or my expectations and comparisons to a series I love, *Virgin River*...I'm not sure. I was looking for that feeling that I read something special, but alas, I didn't feel much at all.

*A copy of this book was provided by Harlequin Mira via NetGalley*

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## Jill says

When Hank Cooper is notified that his old friend, Ben has died he travels from Virgin River to Thunder Point, Oregon. When he arrives he finds out that Ben has left him his bait shop and land. Sarah Dupre has only lived a short time in Thunder Point with her young brother, Landon but already feels at home and welcomed by the locals.

Robyn Carr is almost synonymous with smalltown romances. She has perfected the formula in the *Virgin River* series, transplanting the setting and stories from the mountains to the coast of Oregon with this new series *Thunder Point*.

Though this is Cooper and Sarah's romance, the relationship between Cooper and Landon, Sarah's brother starts off first as Cooper identifies with and takes the young Landon under his wing. Cooper also begins a budding bromance with Deputy Roger (Mac) McCain who is the hero in a secondary romance with local, Gina.

Former helicopter pilot, Cooper has never settled down, hence the moniker *The Wanderer*. But he may just have found himself a home with Sarah, a Search and Rescue helicopter pilot for the Coast Guard and a community in the coastal town of Thunder Point.

This is another smalltown community romance series, similar in vein to *Virgin River*. This first title in the series typically calls for a bit of time spent on introducing the town and its people and relationships. Consequently Cooper and Sarah's romance is a little rushed and not dealt with deeply or developed particularly well. Plus, with a side serving of mystery surrounding Ben's death, it cuts into the romantic relationship.

Regardless, this is another wonderful story from Robyn Carr and a very promising start. Bottom line: If you love *Virgin River* you'll love this new series by Robyn Carr.

**Steam:** 2.5-3

*ARC courtesy of Harlequin (Mira) via NetGalley*

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## Anne OK says

I just finished the debut of Robyn Carr's new "Thunder Point Series." She never fails to take me places I love to go while introducing me to captivating characters every step along the way. When I'm looking for a comfortable and peaceful reading zone, her books come to my rescue. The ever popular *Virgin River Series* (and yes, I've read each and every book) always fulfilled my reading needs in every way possible. And now, I'm eager to set out on a new adventure along the coastline of Oregon in another small and beautiful place amid an entirely different set of friends and family. I have no doubt that this new series will offer me another safe and comfy place to land just when I need it.

There was a lot going on in this first book with the necessary set up and background for the new series. And it looks to be filled with an array of tempting and delightful cast members – young and old. I'm already in love with Deputy Yummy Pants McCain! Felt just a tiny bit of a disappointment when the romance between Cooper and Sarah got a late start, but I'm very hopeful we'll see more of this couple in the next book substantiating their connection.

This book was an absolute delight to read. I'm anxiously looking forward to future trips to Thunder Point!

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## Ian says

*The Wanderer* centres around Cooper and Sarah. After the death of an old friend from Army, Cooper travels to Thunder Point, Oregon to learn what happened to him. While there he learns that his friend has left him a

large parcel of pristine beach front land, including a ramshackle bait shop. But Cooper is a wanderer and settling down isn't in the plan.

After her ex-husband's betrayal, Sarah doesn't trust men. And especially men like Cooper who freely admits to having commitment issues. But as Cooper helps her brother deal with a bully, with faltering steps she grows closer to him.

One of the things I like most about Robyn Carr is she doesn't just write romance, she writes whole communities. We will revisit the stories that begin in this book as the series progresses. I think this book was a little cluttered with a lot of set-up for the next books in the series but after the first 30% it found its stride and settled into an entertaining and satisfying book.

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

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### **Jackie Lane says**

I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT WAIT FOR THIS BOOK TO COME OUT. I LOVE HER VIRGIN RIVER AND GRACE VALLEY SERIES AND AM EXPECTING GREAT THINGS FROM THIS NEW SERIES!

This new series by Carr did not disappoint. There was a lot of set up for future books, but I absolutely loved the character development and the story itself. It can be another VR series but in a different setting.

Set in Oregon, Cooper's friend dies and leaves him his falling down place and the land. Cooper comes to Oregon in his fifth wheel and meets Mac, the Sheriff, Landon, the high school quarterback, Sarah, Landon's sister, Gina who runs the diner and many of the other characters.

This book was almost 5 stars for me, but I felt a few things were left dangling, but a great start to a new series.

4.5 stars

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### **Keri says**

It was ok and didn't quite have the same punch that the first book in Virgin River. The world building took forever and Cooper and Susan didn't even connect until almost page 200. So the romance seemed rushed and disconnected to me and the ending was rushed. Maybe I am bit burned out on this type of small town romance.

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### **Gwen (The Gwendolyn Reading Method) says**

This is reaaaally slow. Our main romantic leads don't even meet each other til halfway through the book. But you know, by the end, that slowness really works and this book is still kinda stuck in my brain, so I'd say that's a successful book!

## Auntee says

How could anything compare to **Virgin River**? I don't know, but I think Robyn Carr did it with this first book in the **Thunder Point** series.

Former Army helicopter pilot (friend of Luke Riordan!) Hank Cooper is the new Jack; or maybe good guy single father (women refer to him as "Deputy Yummy Pants") Roger "Mac McCain is the Jack-like character? Anyway, you can see that newcomer (to Thunder Point, Oregon) Cooper and Mac are going to have a strong bond throughout the series, just like Jack and Preacher.

*"Coop"...*

*Coop brings his fifth-wheel to town...*

*Deputy "Mac" nearly steals the book...*

You get romances for each of these hunks, as well as a romance for the middle-age set; a teenage romance that well may last long enough so they can eventually get their own book; colorful town characters; a beautiful setting; plenty of backstory for each of the main characters; and even a bit of mystery/suspense/who-done-it.

*Coop's lady Sarah...*

*I loved single mom Gina...*

*Aunt Lou and her secrets were a hoot...*

The book had me enthralled from the get-go. Robyn Carr has done it again. If she's finished with **Virgin River**, I have no worries now that she can duplicate the feelings I had for that series with this new one. I'm already in love with most of the characters, and can't wait to read the next story (The Newcomer!

*ARC provided by Netgalley*

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## Chan says

My issues:

### 1. Incorrect title

This book should be titled "Introduction to Thunder Point." Robyn Carr uses this book to introduce the new town and ALL its inhabitants.

## 2. Page 171!

The MCs mentioned in the synopsis do not meet until page 171. I'M ALMOST HALFWAY DONE WITH THIS BOOK and they are just meeting?

## 3. Outdated language

I'm confused about the year this book is representing. Characters use words like 'posse' and phrases like 'hide behind your skirt' by a teenager, but modern technology is used.

## 4. Too many POVs

Every character (and there are a lot of them) has a POV.

**Overall:** Robyn Carr appears to be a well-loved author, but her books may not be for me. I was frustrated with this book for the reasons outlined above.

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## Pouting Always says

A good pleasure read where you don't have to put much effort into the reading itself. The characters are likable and the plot is a typical one for a romance book. The writing is simple and the story keeps your attention. Nothing life changing here really, just another feel good romance book. Good for if you just want to relax and unwind and need something a little cliched or predictable.

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## Jacob Proffitt says

This story takes a very long time to get started. There is a lot of establishing and more than a few PoV shifts. At least part of that is that Carr is following two separate romances as well as establishing a location that is fully-fleshed and rich in detail. None of this is bad, per se, but it does rather extend out the story somewhat and provide a bar to momentum and pacing.

And it works out okay. Not great, but not bad. Cooper is the biggest draw, by far. He's laid-back, understanding and just a solid, stand-up kind of guy. I loved that he took the time to understand why his friend had left him the property as well as get to know the town and people living there. And I liked that he did his best to see beyond the obvious and that he wasn't afraid to make friends in what he assumes will be a temporary location for him.

It's a good thing Cooper's so awesome because the other three romantic leads all had an enormous problem with negative motivation\*. And Mack is the king of negative motivation and a frustrating moron that was painful to witness. "Someone hurt me so I must not have love in my life because there will be pain" might as well have been the tagline on this novel. It was certainly the subtext. Scratch that, it was the supertext and spilled out all over absolutely everything. Frankly, this much negative motivation could very well have derailed my enjoyment of the story if the author had been less talented.

Fortunately, Carr has a great way with both secondary characters and setting so there was lots to keep me occupied while Mack and Sarah did the whole broody pain woe-is-me dance. I was worried for a bit that we were being setup for a thriller sideline, but I'm happy to say that Carr made that plotline very reasonable and having competent adults handling things (not least Mack, so his character had fun bits, too) worked out very much in the story's favor.

So this ended up being a solid three stars where I sometimes thought I'd bounce on all the avoiding and whining.

**A note about Steamy:** There are some explicit sex scenes. I didn't count very closely. There are 2½ couples (Mack's aunt gets some good lovin, too) so I'm guessing four or so just to pick a round number. The middle of my steam tolerance, at any rate. And, as with the only other Carr novel I've read, the couples here have amazing sex, every time, and it's the best ever because awesome!

\* **Negative Motivations:** I kind of hate that the term "negative motivation" isn't widespread, yet. Since it isn't, I'm going to save off this little jag to append to my reviews that feature the term. Jennifer Crusie blogged about it a bit back and it changed how I understand story. The problem with the term is that if you've never heard it before, you'd assume it meant motivations that are harmful or immoral. Not so. What it refers to is motivations *not to do something*. The thing is that many of us are motivated to not do things for a lot of different, perfectly valid and reasonable, reasons. The problem is that *in a story* motivations to not do things are a huge drag on the plot—particularly considering the fact that most negative motivations are overcome by the character simply deciding they don't care any more (or, rather, that they *do care* and are now motivated to do the thing). So not only do you have a counter to action but you also have a situation where to overcome it, all a character has to do is change their mind. Which means eventually, the reader is rooting for the character to get over him/herself already and do the thing we want them to do. Conflict drives story. Conflict between a reader and a main character drives readers away from story.

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