



## Never Too Late: A Novel

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**Never Too Late: A Novel** Robyn Carr

**#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Robyn Carr examines the lives of three sisters as they step beyond the roles of wife, mother, daughter and discover the importance of being a woman first**

Clare Wilson is starting over. She's had it with her marriage to a charming serial cheater. Even her own son thinks she's given his father too many chances. With the support of her sisters, Maggie and Sarah, she's ready to move on. Facing her fortieth birthday, Clare is finally feeling the rush of unadulterated freedom.

But when a near-fatal car accident lands Clare in the hospital, her life takes another detour. While recovering, Clare realizes she has the power to choose her life's path. The wonderful younger police officer who witnessed her crash is over the moon for her. A man from her past stirs up long-buried feelings. Even her ex is pining for her. With enthusiasm and a little envy, her sisters watch her bloom.

Together, the sisters encourage each other to seek what they need to be happy. Along the way they all learn that it's never too late to begin again.

## Never Too Late: A Novel Details

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# From Reader Review Never Too Late: A Novel for online ebook

## Season says

It was okay. I don't know if I just wasn't in the right frame of mind or what because I normally love everything Ms. Carr writes. I thought some of the characters were not developed enough and others, too much. Parts felt like they took forever to get through and others were rushed.

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## Ashlyn says

I was about to give this book at least 4 stars. I love the first half of the book. About how Clare finally took charge of her life, and have three men pursuing her. The story was going really well there then.

However, I was really quite annoyed with the second half of the book, and especially the later chapters. I thought I would be reading more of Clare and how her romance with Pete would progress, since she was supposed to be the heroine in this book, but instead in the later part of the book, the attention is shifted to Sarah & Sam. All the focus were on them, even the ending.. And the thing is, I really don't care know what happen between them. Their romance was unconvincing and it really annoyed me.

It would have been better if the book focused more on the main character Clare.

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## Dee says

Two-haiku review:

Her husband cheated  
She leaves him, finds two new guys  
Can she love again?

Story of sisters  
Three of them, each with issues  
Love can overcome

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## ♥Rachel♥ says

**Never Too Late** focused on the lives and loves of three sisters, Clare, Sarah and Maggie, but mainly centered on Clare, a wife and mother recently separated for the FOURTH time from her cheating husband of sixteen years!! Even her fifteen year old son doesn't want his mom to get back together with the idiot! When an accident shakes up her life, Clare knows it's time to move on and embrace change.

At first I could sympathize with Clare's family and their frustration over not kicking Roger (the cheating douche bag) to the curb sooner, but as Clare's history is revealed I could understand why she didn't. I

appreciated that I didn't have to "see" the back and forth, because the story tuned in after she firmed her resolve. Clare was a wonderful person and mother, and instead of dwelling on the negative, she tried to focus on the positive things she shared with Roger, the good times. Clare didn't bash her husband to her son; she let him form his own opinions about his dad, and tried to support their continued relationship. Something I thought was highly commendable and mature. I thought Clare's romance would take one path when the story started, but it diverted, and I was happy with the direction it went!

Maggie, the oldest of the three seems so put together, with a charmed life. But after years together her marriage isn't as passionate as it once was, and for some reason her husband, Bob, doesn't seem to mind all that much. Maggie's teenage daughters are going through some growing pains, as well.

Sarah has never found "the one", not that she's been really looking. Clare's changes inspire her to make some of her own. Well that, and a new, gorgeous man! I don't want to get into her story too much so as not to spoil things.

**Never Too Late** was my first Robyn Carr book and I was impressed! I loved this story! She wrote realistic, but oh-so-hot romances with no ridiculous drama or angst, but the story was so much more. Witnessing these sisters navigate the ups and downs of their lives, and come out on top was a pleasure. I felt that Robyn Carr perfectly captured the struggles of a long term marriage, family life, and romances. I was caught up and enchanted by each story, fully invested in the HEA of each sister!

As for the audiobook version, Therese Plummer did a fabulous job narrating **Never Too Late**, both female and male voices.

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## Darcy says

This was a fun book about Clare whose life has been crumbling for years, but finally there are a couple of events that push her over the edge to take control of her life.

I really liked that Clare used the accident to do things that she should have years ago. She didn't just make those changes over night, but slowly acknowledged what needed to be done and did it.

I really liked her first romance, I wanted it to work out and when Clare decided to end it I was mad at her, until I saw how things worked for him. I wasn't sure about the second romance, there was something that him and the past that made me leery. I wasn't sure that they would get past the past. In the end the right romance happened.

I really liked the sisters and their relationship. They were there for each other even amid all the chaos that happened. Clare was great with her son too. I really liked how when Jason screwed up she punished him and that she fought with him to keep some sort of relationship with his father.

All in all this was a sweet book to read.

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## **Kathrynn says**

This is one of my favorite books. This is a stand alone read and there are two main stories going on here. One with Clare and her "friend" and the other develops with Sarah, Clare's younger sister, and her "friend."

Clare is a 40ish mom of a teenage son. The story begins with her having left her husband because of his numerous affairs. They still talk and he tries to talk her into returning (again), but she moves on with her life, meets someone else, etc.

I thought I saw how this was going and was pleasantly surprised by how wrong I was.

This author doesn't just focus on the two main characters in her books and this was no different. There is a second love story in this book with Sarah that held my attention, too. Oh, and another with the "married" sister really captured my heart. How they rekindled their marriage, etc.

Wonderful book.

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## **Laurie Carlson says**

5+ STARS!!!

This book is about three sisters, Clare, Maggie, and Sarah. We meet Clare first, and learn about her broken marriage, done by her multi-philandering now definitely soon to-be ex-husband. Clare's mind is made up. She's done giving him chances as he always wants her back, and for how long this time? This made it #4. She's DONE! She's leaving him!

One night when her to-be-ex was supposed to be out of town, she stops at her house where she used to live with her then husband so she could pick a few things up she wanted, yet when she walks into the supposedly empty house, she hears, then SEES her to-be Ex has picked right back up again, now with #5 (or could it be even more?) with a blonde liaison in what used to be her marital bed!

As she is driving home after she sees that, she is unknowingly T-boned by an SUV into her little Toyota which required the jaws of life to get her out. She's barely hanging onto life and they don't know if she'll make it. This brings everyone back home to Dad's house where the sisters end up bonding with one another again.

Maggie is an extremely high powered attorney who has so much money they are swimming in it. Everything she owns is top quality, right down to her barely there hot hair!

Sarah, alone, suffering from depression, with no friends, and she's single, too, doesn't even want to leave her apartment every day, but does so to see Maggie.

How this accident brings these amazing sisters bonded back together again, is even better than at any other time in their lives, is amazing!

I read an Advanced eReader's Copy for this review, so this line may or may not be in the finished copy as I don't have it to compare it to, but there was one sentence in the very beginning that instantly connected me with this book, and it was something I could relate to in a huge way, is, "Once a woman is secure in her heart and mind there's almost no more powerful force in nature." So true! I loved it! That set the tone in this book for me instantly! This author's writing had me in the beginning, instantly, invested in this story to begin with, but when I came upon that, and having experienced that exact thought/event in my own life, this author hit it

head-on! I knew her book was going to be great from that one sentence! Sure enough!

Have you read a Robyn Carr novel yet? I HIGHLY recommend it! This was my first novel by her, and I am now an 'over-the-moon fan'! I see what everyone loves about her books and why they hit the the NY Times Bestseller lists!

I loved this book, LOVE her writing, and LOVED the story and how she portrayed life as regular, everyday occurrences we can ALL relate to! Let's say I really enjoyed this story, and it sounds like I would love ALL her books! I have a 'new to me' author to follow and read, with a LOT of books to catch up on that she has written! I'm SO excited! I received this book for FREE from the publisher, Harlequin/Mira, the ebook from NetGalley in exchange to read and write a review about it. It is NOT required for this review to be either positive or negative, but of my own honest opinion. "Free" means I was provided with ZERO MONIES to read this book nor to write this review, but to enjoy the pure pleasure of reading it. I am disclosing this information in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255, <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/wa...> Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.

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### **Joyce Kleine says**

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### **SheriC (PM) says**

The writing style consists of brief bits of dialogue between info-dumps. Do not like.

DNF at 13%, after an 1 1/2 hours of listening. Audiobook, borrowed from my public library via Overdrive. Outstanding performance by Therese Plummer. I'm already looking for others of hers that I might enjoy better.

Attempted to read for the 2017 Romance Bingo, for the Second Chances square. I guess I'll have to find another book for that one.

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### **Rachel Brand says**

3.5 out of 5 stars.

Clare Wilson has given her husband numerous second chances over the years. She's forgiven his many affairs in the hope that keeping her marriage intact is the best thing for their teenage son. But when she's in a near-fatal car accident following a run-in with her husband and another woman, she decides that she's had enough. Her brush with death convinces her to make a clean break from her philandering husband. Clare has a long road to recovery ahead of her—both in her personal life and her physical therapy—and she's prepared for this. What she isn't expecting is the cute police officer who witnessed her accident to keep checking up on her. Is he simply doing his duty, or do his calls mean something more? More importantly, is Clare ready for another relationship? Between finding a job to support herself, negotiating her divorce and trying to reconcile her son with his absentee father, Clare isn't sure that she should be getting involved with another man right now...even if it is awfully difficult to avoid Officer Sam's advances. When she is ready to date,

will it be Sam she chooses, or someone from her past...perhaps the one who has haunted her all these years?

I didn't used to read a lot of contemporary romances, but I decided to pick up one of Robyn Carr's Virgin River novels a couple of years ago and she got me hooked—both on her writing, and contemporary love stories. *Never Too Late* is a little different from the novels Robyn's fans may be used to, and the writing style makes it clear that this is one of her earlier books (the 2015 reissue being almost ten years old). Nevertheless, it contains some of the elements that Robyn's fans are fond of—small towns, strong bonds between family members, sizzling romance, and plenty of second chances.

Clare's story is one that a lot of readers will be able to relate to, or at least sympathise with. It's not easy to restart your life on your own, after being married for over fifteen years. Clare has been a housewife and stay-at-home mother for the majority of her adult life, and now she has to navigate the world of work all over again, as an almost forty-year-old rookie. And after so many years out of the working world, Clare discovers that although she trained to be a teacher, it's no longer a job she enjoys. It was encouraging to watch Clare try to figure out her new niche in life, where her talents and interests could best be put to use. Although her situation isn't ideal, Clare offers hope to other men and women who may find their worlds' similarly turned upside-down. Divorce isn't the end of the world, especially when you have the support of your friends and family to hold you up.

Clare's sisters play a large part in this novel, and they even have their own sort-of sub-plots. I say “sort-of” because the way that Maggie and Sarah's stories wove into the main plot didn't always flow terribly well. We hear a little about Maggie's marital problems at the start of the book, and then it takes ages for her story to be picked up again. Maggie is growing frustrated with her husband's inattention and the lack of romance in her life, and the antics of her teenage daughters are causing her additional stress, but her story takes up so little page-time that it almost felt like it didn't need to be there at all. It either needed to be more detailed, or taken out altogether, as the little we did hear about Maggie's troubles almost trivialised them.

Sarah doesn't get a lot of attention at the start of the book, other than the constant reminders that she dresses in plain, frumpy clothes and spends all of her time on her art. After a while, I got a bit tired of these comments. Finally, Sarah gets more page-time when she spots a guy who catches her attention. She gets a complete makeover and devotes all her free time to getting this guy to pay attention to her, almost to the point of stalking him. While I don't have any problems with women making the first move in a relationship (in fact, more women should do it!), Sarah turning her world upside down for this guy seemed a bit ridiculous given that she'd met him twice and barely spoken to him. It was a little too “love at first sight” for me. I understood that Sarah being interested in this guy was a big deal because she'd been reclusive and blocked out the world for so long, but she did seem a little stalkerish. I'm glad that she found her happy ending, but the story didn't entirely work for me.

I'm hesitant to class this as a romance novel. While each of the sisters has their own romance, it isn't always the focal point of the story. A lot of Clare's sections focused on her getting her new life in order, and while she is pursued by Officer Sam for a while, he isn't the love of her life. While other reviewers have complained that half the book focused on Sam when Clare wasn't actually in love with him, I actually appreciated the way Clare's story worked out. How many of us have dated people (sometimes for a significant amount of time) only to realise that they're not the one we want to spend the rest of our lives with? Clare spends a lot of time talking to and hanging out with Sam, but she knows after a couple of dates that he's far more serious about the relationship than she is. It takes courage to admit that a relationship isn't working, and given that Clare had been stuck in a failing marriage for so long, it made sense that she was cautious about dating. I kind of figured, based on Clare's backstory, that she might end up with someone from her past. While I don't want to spoil the ending for anyone, I will admit that I wished more of the book

had focused on Clare reconnecting with her lost love. We got some nice scenes, but not nearly enough for my liking.

This definitely isn't my favourite of Robyn Carr's novels, but it is an easy read and an encouraging tale of second chances. Whether you're married, single or starting over, *Never Too Late* reminds readers that hope is still out there, sometimes lurking in the most unexpected places.

Disclaimer: This is a general market romance and contains scenes of sexual nature, and occasional strong language.

Review title provided by Little Bird Publicity.

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### **KAS says**

This was my first time reading a book by Robyn Carr and was completely drawn in from page one. I love her style of writing and down to earth characters. The story centers around Clare, an almost 40 year old wife, mother, sister and daughter, who is sucker punched twice, both emotionally and physically. Her husband has cheated on her once again and then she finds herself lucky to be alive after a horrific car collision, which takes months to recover from.

Finally Clare decides the time has come for her to get her life back on track and truly find happiness. While this journey certainly has bumps along the way, she finds her life has become quite fascinating with rarely a dull moment, as three extremely attractive men are vying for her attention, one of them being her soon to be ex-husband who has decided he cannot live without her. Sam, the drop-dead gorgeous police officer who witnessed the car accident, is hot on her heels, and has reignited flames in her she thought were in eternal hibernation.

Enjoyable read! I know I will be reading additional books by Robyn Carr.

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### **Leona says**

Definitely well worth the investment of time. Robyn Carr knows how to weave a great story.

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### **Kathryn says**

*Never Too Late* by Robyn Carr is the story of three sisters and second chances. Clare the middle sister, has finally had it with her husband Roger, he has cheated on her once too often. In spite of repeated assurances that he is getting counselling nothing seems to change. Sarah, the youngest, has let herself go and has thrown herself into her art and work. Yet when she sees Clare with Sam, a young police officer - about ten years younger than Clare, something is triggered within her and she surprises both her sisters with her step back into the swing of life.

Maggie is the oldest of the sisters, she is happily married, with two daughters. She is a successful lawyer, attractive and intelligent - like her sisters. Yet there is one part of her life that she is not happy with, and



seeing her sisters obviously becoming 'lucky', she pushes for what would completely make her happy. Could it be a simple solution - perhaps!

As well as having Sam's attention, Clare is also reconnecting with an old friend - Pete. Pete is the brother of Clare's first love, but unfortunately he died young. Pete and Clare have a history though, and its one Clare is determined to face and deal with.

I liked this book because of the challenges it threw up to the characters and the way they responded. It wasn't only the women who grew and developed. The men too, had their chance and on the whole took those small steps where it counted. Roger lost his wife because of his inability to be faithful, however he is strongly motivated to be a good father to Jason their son. Will he be successful? Can Sam recognise who he really loves? Will Maggie's husband recognise her distress and will he step up to the plate?

There is a strong sense of family and the support a good family gives when someone is in difficulty in *Never Too Late*. In life we all make mistakes, and the support of family often get us through them. Issues of parenting are explored on a wide variety of fronts. Strong, honest communication is a stand out point in the book and I believe was a factor in a variety of issues being successfully dealt with.

Another wonderful Robyn Carr book, I read this book five years ago! To be honest I remembered very little of it, so it was a very enjoyable read. It makes me wonder whether I should pick up more books on my keeper shelf and reread them!

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## **Marlene says**

Originally published at Reading Reality

There's something about *Never Too Late* that makes it seem like a precursor for the utterly marvelous *Four Friends*.

I say precursor because *Never Too Late* was originally published in 2006, and is being reissued in the wake of *Four Friends*' success.

Instead of four friends, *Never Too Late* features three sisters. Clare, Maggie and Sarah have each come to a crossroads in their lives, and are in different places but possibly the same set of ruts. Then Clare has a life-altering automobile accident and in the stress of re-working her own life, all three sisters find themselves taking a sharp look at their own.

At the time of the accident, Clare and her husband Roger were separated. Again. Roger has a problem keeping his pants zipped, and Clare has left him. Again. She usually takes him back. Eventually. There have been a lot of good times in their marriage, and they have a teen-aged son they both love. Roger isn't a bad husband, he just isn't a faithful one, and never has been.

Clare stops by their house, which Roger is still living in, to drop off a birthday card and pick up some of her kitchen stuff. Roger said he was going to be out of town on his birthday. Instead, Clare finds him in their old bedroom boinking some blond. Or being boinked, since the blond is on top.

It's finally enough to break Clare's cycle of discovery, separation, reconciliation. In a strange way, Roger

isn't totally wrong this time. They are separated and have been for months at this point. But he lied about being out of town, and he's doing it with someone else in their bed. It does blow away Clare's willingness to reconcile – it finally makes her witness that he is never going to change.

She speeds away from the “scene of the crime” only to get stopped by a handsome young cop who clocks her 15 or 20 miles over the speed limit. He's too smitten to write Clare a ticket, and Clare feels a boost from having a younger man hit on her.

It all goes to crap when she gets T-boned in the next intersection by a distracted driver who totally blows through a red light. Clare wakes up in the hospital in agony, shattered in more places than she ever imagined.

Physical therapy is going to take months, and her entire life is thrown out the window. Her sisters Maggie and Sarah rally round, along with their Dad, as they all pitch in to take care of Clare while she needs it.

But as Clare gets back on her feet, she makes changes in her life that will have far reaching consequences. And that handsome young police officer provides a much needed boost to her ego as well as a friend she can confide in, while Clare recovers and waits to see if there's anything there beyond friendship and some really hot chemistry that her fractured pelvis won't let her act on – yet.

At this point, it seems like the story is going to be about Clare moving into a new future with her hot cop, but instead, the story shifts.

In the middle of her divorce from philandering Roger, Clare discovers that she's not ready to get into a serious relationship with someone new. She's still getting her life on track. Unfortunately for Sam the cop, he's fallen in love and wants to start a serious relationship right now.

But Clare's sister Sarah is totally smitten with Sam, and when Clare moves out of her way, Sarah swoops in.

Meanwhile Maggie finally realizes that her perfect marriage isn't really perfect. She can't even remember the last time she had sex with her husband. Is the spark just gone, or is there a medical cause that can be fixed?

As Clare plans on a future without her ex, she looks for a job. She's been a substitute teacher for years, but now she needs to go back full-time. Where she knows she'll have to work with a former flame. She's felt guilty for 19 years about her drunken one-night stand with Pete – because at the time she was engaged to his brother. A brother who later died in an Air Force training exercise. She's never gotten over her guilt and regret, and Pete's never gotten over her.

Escape Rating B: I enjoyed *Never Too Late* quite a bit. It was a good antidote for several excellent but scary, sad or just plain disturbing books that I read recently. You will finish *Never Too Late* with a smile on your face, and that's always a good thing.

I'll admit that I didn't identify with the characters in the same way that I did *Four Friends*, so it didn't quite “sing” for me.

The sisters make for interesting contrasts. Maggie is always organized and on top of things, Clare is always forgiving, and Sarah is always retreating into her own little world. After Clare's accident, everything changes.

Clare has always been too accommodating. It's not just that she sees the best in people, but she always tries to take care of everyone. And she's too self-effacing about it, because she never takes care of herself. That she took Roger back over and over (and over) drove her family crazy. It also made them think less of her.

Her willingness to forgive Roger stems from her own need for forgiveness over her long-ago indiscretion. She feels like if she can't give it, she can't be worthy of it herself. What she needs to do is forgive herself, and for that she needs some closure with Pete.

Sarah's pursuit of Sam comes a bit out of nowhere. As a teen, she was a wild child, and their mother was always after her about it. When their mother died, those issues were unresolved. (There are lots of unresolved issues in this story). In grief, or as penance, Sarah flip-flopped from being a wild child to a complete frump.

When she meets Sam, she falls into insta-lust, if not insta-love. But frumpy Sarah goes unnoticed. She finally steps out into the world, and celebrates herself again, in order to have a chance at sweeping Sam off his unsuspecting feet. The poor guy is on the rebound from Clare and doesn't stand a chance.

The entire story wraps up a bit suddenly and a bit too easily at the end, but I really enjoyed my visit with Clare, Sarah and Maggie.

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## **Linda says**

NEVER TOO LATE is one of Robyn Carr's few books not related to any of her series. As she has done in other romances, the author weaves a few different story lines into the mix. If I could sum up this book in one word it would be 'relationships'.

First and foremost, it is about Clare Wilson. Found out again for the umpteenth time, her husband is cheating on her. They are currently separated, their son can't stand his own father and yet the miserable bas\*\*rd wants his family back. Too little, too late he knows he has screwed up again. The difference? Clare has finally had it.

She has just left her old house after finding Roger in bed with another woman when she is stopped for speeding. The police officer, Sam, cites her a warning and then lets her go. Soon after, and not her fault, she is in an accident. That same policeman witnesses everything and stays with her until the ambulance comes. In the months after, he keeps tabs on her.

So there is a relationship that develops between Clare and Sam. The romance also contains secondary stories about Clare's older sister Maggie and her husband. Another with Clare and an old flame from years ago. And yet another between Sarah, Clare's younger sister, and someone else. And then there is still Roger, thinking he might have a chance at repairing his marriage even though he is told over and over, it is done.

Whew! The angst. By then end I was worn out but in a good way. The book is more of a character study of the interaction between the sisters, their strengths and weaknesses and how it affects their relationships with men. The story also contained a number of realistic touches that made it seem especially authentic; not everyone is perfect including Clare. All I can say is by the time you finish NEVER TOO LATE, be sure and have something light and humorous ready to read.

