



Can't Let Go

Molly McLain

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Everyone has a secret...

Reed Fletcher has spent years perfecting his reputation as River Bend's most shameless player. Don't confuse him with a heartless asshole--he's just honest about what he wants and he'll do anything to get it. Being born under less than perfect circumstances has given him no other choice.

Everyone has a story...

Mia Carderas has used her sweet and sexy demeanor to get everything she could possibly want out of life. Or so she lets everyone believe. When her father falls ill back home, that carefully constructed façade begins to crack. The only way to keep it together is to accept help from a former friend...and more recent lover. A man who knows more than he should--a man who could ruin it all if she isn't careful.

Everyone has a weakness...

Finding a balance between what Reed wants and what Mia needs proves harder than he expected. With every slow blink and every shared moment, he loses more of himself to her...willingly. Maybe neither of them is who they've pretended to be. But where exactly does that leave them when it all comes crashing down?

Can't Let Go Details

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Author : Molly McLain

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From Reader Review Can't Let Go for online ebook

Love N. Books says

ellie's \$0.02:

I haven't read the rest of the series and I'm just now coming in on book 5 (I know, I know), so obviously you can get by on reading stand alone if I can. Doesn't matter regardless, because I'm a fan of Molly's writing style, which means I'll pick up a book in the middle and read that too.

This a best friends to lovers story. Reed being the small town ladies man, which I thought would annoy me to no end. I actually was more annoyed with Mia though. Once all three of us warmed up, I was able to enjoy these two characters and their sizzling chemistry.

Oh. Maybe that was Molly's storytelling and involvement too.

High recommend if you're in the mood for a player gone good, a friends to lovers, some hot sex, some emotion, and an exceptional story.

ButtonsMom2003 says

Molly McLain's best book yet!

I've read every book that Molly McLain has published and enjoyed them all but Can't Let Go is her best one yet, in my opinion. We've waited about 2 years for Reed's story in her River Bend series and OMG – it was worth the wait.

I love books that bring me to tears – be they sad or happy ones – it means an author has engaged my emotions and that's why I read. Can't Let Go might be the most romantic and emotional book I've read so far this year; it's definitely in the top 5. You don't need to have read any of the other River Bend stories before you read this one (it really does standalone) but if you love reading series in order as much as I do you might consider starting at the beginning.

Reed Fletcher has sampled a lot of ladies and it's earned him the kind of reputation he's not really proud of now that he's more mature. Mia has always been special to him but they never really got together until that one night when she needed him and he discovered he also needed her.

This book has so many wonderful lines and Reed turned out to be one of the most romantic of the River Bend men. Below are a few of my favorite quotes.

Reed to Mia in a note:

Dear Mia,
You're my favorite memory from the past...
The most exciting part of my present...
And the only woman I want in my future.

Can't wait to begin this journey with you.

Love always,

Reed

Reed to Mia's father:

"I have to thank you for bringing her into my life, Jose. Or rather, letting me into hers when you hired my mother at the diner. You didn't have to take me under your wing and let me into your family, but you did." A lump lodged in his throat and when he spoke again, his voice cracked. "You and Stella loved me and now I hope you can trust me enough to love your little girl."

And one more, Reed to Mia:

"Mia, I'm in love with you. Have been for years, if the ache in my chest when you're around means anything." He glanced down, swallowed hard, and opened himself wide. "I've said those words before when I didn't mean them and, for that, I'm sorry. Because those words are yours, baby. I'm yours."

Reed and Mia have to overcome a lot of things in their journey to HEA but it's so worth it. Molly left a few breadcrumbs throughout the story so I can't say that I was totally shocked when certain things came out but I wasn't really expecting Reed's reaction. Sorry that I won't say more – I don't do spoilers – you'll have to read this wonderful story for yourself.

Molly, you might have struggled a bit to get the story told but let me tell you, as a long-time reader of your books I think it was well worth it.

Pelusa Rivera says

Received an Advanced Review from Author for my fair review. Again, another emotional read, but wow it was great, and what an ending to a series, we waited for Reed, and Molly sure did bring it..So this can be read as a standalone, but if you are like me, I like to start from the beginning to know who is who. Reed is known as a playboy, and he is so different in this book and that reputation and the way he is with Mia, oh, he is so sweet and wonderful. And, then there is Mia, she has some really heartwrenching scenes dealing with her dad, and remembering the past and how she was bullied, from some of the people we know and loved, but they are not those, same ones now. I implore you, to not sit back and wait, read it.

Sharon Moritz-rosenthal says

I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book.

I am a BIG fan of this series and this is the book and story I have been waiting for YEARS!! And does it live up to my expectations YES!!! So much. I loved Reed and Mia's love story. It really had everything laughter, tears, and we catch up with all our favorite characters.

This story starts 9/10 months before the main story starts. It is a night that Mia will never forget and neither will Reed. They see each other after not seeing each other since age 18 and it was a very HOT night if you know what I mean.

Then the story starts 9 months later when Mia's father who is very close to Reed in River Bend, has a stroke and that is what finally brings Mia back home to River Bend and to her family and to Reed.

Reed who grew up with Mia is totally 100% there for her in a way he has never been there for anyone else in the entire series. In this story we get to know both Mia and Reed and no secret is not exposed. We learn who Reed's dad is and what Mia has been up to. And I want to warn you, these two their stories are not pretty but they really enrich the story. They both have pasts but what is so wonderful is the 100% both accept each other as they are and really respect the other, even with the things they did in their past.

Mia was a victim of bullying and from some of our favorite River Bend characters and so it was wonderful how they were brought into the story and how they made it up to her. The author shows how bullying can really affect you and carry into adulthood. But that just because you were a bully, that you can change and make up for the things you did in your youth.

This story is wonderful. I beyond loved it and it might be the final book too as all the main characters are partnered up and we get to see them happy in this story. If it is a conclusion to the series, it really ties up all the loose ends in a beautiful way.

If this is your first book by the author I do suggest you read the entire series so you know who Reed is but if you don't this story can easily stand alone as well, as the book explains Reed's relationship with everyone.

Renee Entress says

4 star

I was pulled right into this story. The story has laughs, surprises, suspense, danger, and heartbreak.

If you have not read the below I would recommend reading those books(s) first

Can't Shake You (River Bend, #1)

Can't Hold Back (River Bend, #1.5)

Can't Get Enough (River Bend, #2)

Always Enough (River Bend, #2.5)

Can't Walk Away (River Bend, #3)

Can't Resist Him (River Bend, #4)

Can't Forget Her (Hope Falls; River Bend #4.5)

This is Mia and Reed's story. Reed is a player and he likes it that way. He had a less than perfect childhood and now he knows what he wants and has no issues stating those wants. Mia needs help and must return home when her father falls ill. She leans on Reed but is he strong enough to help her? Or will all the closeness have them falling for each other and not the way they thought? Can Reed take care of Mia and let her go if she needs him too? Or will they both fall and reach for each other on the way?

I loved these characters and the side characters. I felt I could connect with the characters and the story was a great read. This book deals with real life issues. Lots of emotions will be pulled out of this story.

I recommend this book.

Pam says

Mia Carderas grew up in RiverBend, the daughter of a Mexican immigrant. She was bullied in high school because of that & the crush she had on Reed Fletcher, the star football player. Mia left River Bend for college & really hasn't. Even back. Until now when her father has suffered a stroke. Can she stand being in River Bend? Will she stay or head back to Omaha & the job that she dislikes but made her a lot of money?

Reed Fletcher was a star player in high school & college. He was on his way to a pro career until his knee was blown out in practice. Now he's a building inspector & high school football coach. A chance encounter with Mia has him remembering what is good in life & has the former playboy changing his ways. Can he get Mia to realize he's changed & his feelings are sincere?

While this book is the fifth in the series, it can be read as a stand alone. Each book in the series gives some background & follows a couple through their relationship. Reed & Mia were around each other growing up & Mia actually had a crush on him. Molly McLain has given the readers a town of well developed characters that have reformed themselves as they grew up. You have the mean girls that tormented Mia growing up, the adolescent boys that made fun of her & Reed, that stuck up for her somewhat. The owners & employees of the diner have created a small family & look out for each other. Between the feelings exposed in the interactions between the main characters, the pain & sorrow from Mia's dad's strokes, & the fear, shame & anger exposed from the final twist, the reader's emotions are on a rollercoaster journey. I really enjoyed this book & as long as you can handle some hot sexual scenes, I think you will too.

Lynn Lim says

I really love well written friends, best friends to lovers books. Add in that this is a small-town romance novel. Another plus in my book is that it is part of a wonderful series. Top that off.... This phenomenal book was written by the incomparable Molly McLain. I fell for Ms. McLain's writing a couple of years ago, and have never been disappointed. Now, for my review...

Molly McLain, you have accomplished a great feat. You made me fall for Reed Fletcher, which was not an

easy task. In previous books Reed, in my opinion was a womanizing, man-whore, prick. Moving thru the women of River Bend like water. Molly McLain, verrry sneaky, not previously giving the whole story of Reed Fletcher, but, that was your devious plan alllll along, wasn't it? We find out that Mia Carderas was his kryptonite, so to speak, the person responsible in a way for the way that he is, or was....

Mia, well, she has some issues of her own. She left River Bend as fast as she possibly could. Mia has done some things that she is not particularly proud of since she left River Bend, but considers them the means to an end. However, when her father gets sick she returns home to the people and the town of River Bend. She finds out that maybe you can go home again.... And, just maybe the reasons that she left and stayed away, are just not there anymore

I loved watching Mia and Reed reconnect A.GAIN.... No, I will not say why I wrote it that way.... I will not give any spoilers away. Watching them go from BFF's to lovers, I cried. I LOVED the way Mia let Reed around by his.... Stop, again, I am not giving anything away... Let us just say that Reed is getting some comeuppance....lol.

As usual, Ms. McLain takes her readers on a very emotional ride in Can't Let Go, several times the tears flowed. One of my favorite times was the letter from Papi.... I CRIED!!!!

Beautiful, wonderful, heartfelt story. Ms. McLain, in my honest opinion... you are one of the best romance writers around and Can't Let Go is just another example of this! KUDOS!!

Thank you for reading my review.

NOW, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR. GO ONE-CLICK THIS BOOK!!!

Theresa Alberts says

Can't Let Go by Molly McLain is the next in the River Bend Series but can absolutely be read as a standalone. The story of Reed and Mia is one that started when they were children and took a hiatus of twelve years before it picked right back up again. A love story that succumbs all the obstacles in its way and has the characters finding each other in spite of them.

Mia left home long ago to make something of herself and refused to return home to River Bend. She sold her soul to corporate America in order to have the capital to fund her non-profit organization and it are at her a little more everyday. After finding her partner and fiancé having sex with his secretary, she knows walking away from the business and personal partnership is what needs to be done. But can she?

Reed has known Mia since they were children. He has loved her his whole life, but when she wanted to be with him, he wasn't ready and pushed her away. When they meet again at a business function, all of the old feelings surface and come to a head. Mia knows she probably won't see Reed again. Or will she?

Mia gets news that her father had a stroke and rushes to the place she hasn't returned to in over a decade. What awaits her isn't what she left behind, but family with friends that become family and of course love.

3 stars

Lucy Berson says

Can't Let Go, A River Bend Novel, by Molly McLain. This is a new author to me. I plan on going back and

reading the previous books, so I can better know the other characters.

I fell absolutely in love with this book from the beginning. Reed hasn't seen Mia in years but his feelings for her haven't changed one bit. They find comfort in each other but then they lose touch for almost a year. When Mia has to come home for an emergency, Reed refuses to let her push him away again. He plans in doing everything he can to be with her.

This book was emotion filled, hot and steamy all wrapped into one. I strongly recommend this book!!

bookaholic ge says

I voluntarily read an advance review copy of this book

Overall this was a great book. I loved the ups and downs, the drama, the laughs and all of the moments in-between. Molly did a great job drawing the reader in and leaving them wanting more of what River Bend had to offer.

I loved that both of these characters were imperfect. They both had good points and bad points to them all. For me Reed was a jerk at times but other moments he blew my mind away, he was sweet, caring, said all of the right words but there were times that I felt like he was a selfish jerk. Mia was going through so much, I loved that she kept being strong for her family. There were other times though that I felt that she was a doormat...and others I felt like she was selfish. I wanted her to shut Reed down a little bit more and let him know hey I don't like what you did....it wasn't ok and don't do it again.

What was weird for me is although both Reed and Mia had moments where I wanted to shake them...I also found that it drew me in. Their imperfect qualities made them more human. It made me feel like I could connect with them a little bit more because their emotions were so raw and real.

Meg says

5 Stars

I give Can't Let Go by Molly McLain five stars. This is Book Five of the River Bend Series. I have read every single book Molly has published and I LOVED them all, including this one! This book can be read as a stand-alone. This is a best friend to lover's book and a small-town romance at the same time. Molly has a phenomenal writing style, she will pull you right into the story within minutes of starting the book and you will never want to put it down. You will also be sad when it's over because her stories are that great! If you have read the other River Bend books you know that Reed Fletcher is a player and goes through woman like underwear. In this book, you are told Reed's story and you understand why he does this and you fall a little bit in love with him each chapter. Mia was bullied as a child growing up in River Bend and Reed was her only friend. After school Mia got out of River Bend as quick as possible because of her growing up years and ended up in a job that she will not tell her parents about because she is not proud of it. When something happens to make Mia come home to River Bend the sparks start to fly between her and Reed. This book is a must read along with the other River Bend Books! Enjoy!

Samantha says

Can't Let Go, the fifth novel in Molly McLain's River Bend series was another great contemporary romance by this author. It's been a while since I've ventured into the world of River Bend, so reading this book and seeing what all the previous characters were up to while also finally getting to see Reed finally get his own HEA made this book extra wonderful to read. Like I did with most of Molly's other books I laughed, I cried, and felt a multitude of other emotions while reading this book and in the end I was extremely satisfied with how this author decided to go about this love story. Reed was my least favorite character in previous books, but that also made him the character I most wanted to read about and Molly of course did not disappoint me with his story. I especially loved the heroine that he was paired with. Mia was so fierce and independent, but she also had a big heart when it came down to it and that made me love her so much! I also loved that there was history between these two and I loved the way that history both created challenges for their relationship as well as made it possible for them to finally be together. All-in-all this book was absolutely amazing and while the author made us wait forever for this book, it was definitely worth the wait!

Gi's Spot Reviews says

Wow...

Never, I mean, NEVER did I think I'd like Reed after everything we've seen from him in the rest of the series, specially considering my personal aversion to manwhores (and we all know he was the very definition of the word), but my God, did he do a one eighty after meeting Mia again after more than a decade of separation!

Sure, I could have gone without knowing they had feelings for each other of that magnitude and his attitude in their past, but they were kids, and the author explains it perfectly in a way that didn't make me twitchy! Mia and Reed really did a lot a background childhood history. Plus given how much LOVE, devotion, adoration and LOYALTY, he showed towards her since he's seen her again, he ended up stealing a piece of my black heart! He was absolutely fantastic in the present! It was an amazing story and couple to read about, and surprisingly, one of Fav of the River Bend! <3 <3 <3 <3

Melody Grabeel says

Mia Cardero has a life far different from the one she experienced as a misfit teenager, one she's not altogether happy with. She's proven herself but she's missing the security of family and the life she intended to have when she left River Bend.

Reed Fletcher likes his life in River Bend but he knows there is more. All of his friends have settled down and he's envious of their relationships and stability. He is immediately drawn to the dark-haired beauty when he sees her again though he regrets the way he and everyone else treated her during their youth.

This is the 5th book in the series. Though they can be read as stand alones, you will miss some of the other relationships mentioned in this book. I both loved and hated Reed in this series-well, hate is a strong word-severely disliked but I can say I am now firmly back in the love camp. He's beautifully flawed and steadfastly loyal. Mia was the perfect fit for him as she doesn't allow his past to define him though she

carries the scars of her own. Her devotion is easily apparent through her motions.

I have read many of this authors publications and have been waiting for this one for a while. The wait was well worth it. I am saddened this is the last book in the series as I've enjoyed being a part of the journey. I am looking forward to her other works.

litjen says

*** I received an advanced copy and chose to review it ***

** 100% spoiler-free review **

Ah River Bend....so nice to visit with you again! It's been awhile since book 4 came out and all of this time I've been waiting patiently to get Reed's story in book 5 and Molly McLain did not disappoint! First and foremost, Can't Let Go can definitely be read as a standalone and McLain does a great job of filling in new readers who are first being introduced to this series. However, as a seasoned reader of the entire River Bend series, I would be remiss if I didn't tell you to go back and read the other books---first for the stories because there is so much history for Reed and all of the other characters and also because Can't Let Go has major spoilers for said characters!

McLain has given readers all they were hoping with Reed and Mia's story. And, quite honestly, Reed is so much more than I expected! There has always been a stigma surrounding Reed and his actions in previous books have not shed him in a positive light. In Can't Let Go McLain cracks Reed wide open and what we learn is that he is flawed and his past has shaped him in ways that none of us could've imagined. He is so much more than his reputation in previous books and I felt for him as his past is slowly revealed. Mia was so much a part of that past and I loved seeing their relationship develop based on their close friendship. There were heartbreak moments as Mia deals with her father's condition but out of that heartbreak, love was reborn. Along with the more somber moments, there are laughs that balance the story in the perfect way.

Fans of McLain's River Bend series will love seeing their old favorites again. It's like a homecoming where you finally get to catch up with those long-lost friends you haven't seen in awhile. And, this is where all of those aforementioned spoilers come in!

Can't Let Go is the perfect friends-to-lovers, second-chance romance. It will make you feel, it will make you think and it will make you fall in love with these beautifully flawed characters. Don't miss it!
