



Here to Stay

Melissa Tagg

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Witty and Heartwarming Contemporary Romance by an Up-and-Coming Author

Blake Hunziker has played nomad for five years and landed in his fair share of trouble too. But now he's finally returning to his hometown--the Lake Michigan tourist town of Whisper Shore. Counting on a not-so-warm welcome, he's surprised at not only a positive reception but also a job offer. Determined to settle down and prove himself responsible, he agrees to the catch that comes with the job offer--coordinating the annual Christmas festival--even though he has no idea how he'll pull it off.

Autumn Kingsley, inn owner and experienced organizer of the Christmas festival, has always dreamed of traveling the world. Now she has a job opportunity in Paris and a surprise potential investor coming to town who just might take on her family's inn and finally leave her free to go. The only problem is that she has just two weeks to whip the inn into shape.

Their families have a long history of not getting along, but when Blake comes to Autumn for help with the festival, she actually agrees...in exchange for his help with the repairs to her inn. They may have struck a simple deal, but complications are quick to pile on when the guy who's had enough of running away and the woman who can't wait to leave join forces.

Here to Stay Details

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From Reader Review Here to Stay for online ebook

Melissa says

So I would give this story more than 5 stars if Goodreads gave me the option. This is an amazing story of redemption and overcoming tragedies and the rough stuff of life. Blake and Autumn are real people with real hurts to overcome and face and the way Melissa weaves their stories makes for a great read. I love how everything comes together in the end. If you enjoyed Made to Last, then this is a MUST read!!

Brittany says

Here to Stay was one of those books that I had trouble setting down when I needed to accomplish other things! I truly enjoyed every bit of it and the characters found their way into my heart. Having read Made to Last, I was familiar with Blake's (aka Blaze's) character. He was a fun addition to Made to Last and toward the end of that book, we got a hint that there was much more to Blaze than meets the eye.

Well, in Here to Stay, you truly get to know the real Blaze, or Blake, as the case may be. He is REALLY trying to shake the nickname that has followed him around for years! There is so much to this guy. You get to see his true character shine in this story and can't help but root for him to be able to let go of his guilt from the past and find his place in this world.

Autumn was also a great character. She has felt overlooked and burdened for so many years and just yearns for freedom. When she had to give up on the chance to travel years earlier, she questioned how much God really cared for her and this caused her relationship with God to suffer. She definitely wants to shake the dust of her little town off her shoes and start living her dreams. But, when she begins working alongside Blake, she begins to question the feelings that she is having for him. Is she supposed to forfeit the dream she has been working toward for years? Is God asking her to sacrifice again?

This book was so refreshing! It is a feel-good book with great depth. There are hard questions asked and sacrifices to be made. I loved it from start to finish! It is book two in the Where Love Begins series and you will appreciate knowing more about Blake if you read about him in Made to Last, but Here to Stay can definitely stand on its own.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from Bethany House Publishers in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

You can read this review on my blog at:
<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

Renee says

Author Melissa Tagg's trademark is turning her love of romantic comedies—especially old movie classics—into fun, page-turning novels, and Here to Stay is a prime example!

The story focuses on two adult children of feuding families. Blake Hunziker is the rich prodigal, who reluctantly returns home after years of adventurous wandering. Autumn Kingsley is the obedient daughter, who reluctantly stayed home to tend her family's dream—even while she yearned to see the world and fulfill her own. As the back cover copy says, this story throws together “a guy who's done running away with a girl who can't wait to leave.”

Autumn and Blake both wrestle with feeling they have disappointed important people in their lives. When they join forces to run the town festival, they find themselves growing in appreciation for the unique folks in their town and for each other. Soon the worth they see in each other helps Autumn and Blake believe God sees worth in them. And they discover that His way of making dreams come true will never leave them feeling shortchanged by life.

*This novel was so much fun! In Autumn's desire to see the world, I spotted traces of *While You Were Sleeping* and *It's a Wonderful Life*. (Isn't the romance in the beginning rom-com like? Come on, Donna Reed in the hydrangea bush?) And maybe because I just finished a *Gilmore Girl* marathon, a lady innkeeper with a wisecracking male assistant really worked for me. I also enjoyed the Stars Hollow small-town feel of *Whisper Shore* and its quirky residents.*

To say *Here to Stay* is a feel-good story does not diminish it in anyway. After all, how can any novel leave a reader feeling hopeful and happy without celebrating God's heart and the many ways He touches our lives with love?

What I liked best . . .

The perils of accident-prone Autumn
How Blake transforms from guilt-ridden prodigal to confident hero
The town-wide snowball fight
Sweet Lucy from Hope House, a home for mentally handicapped adults
The photo-taking trip to Susie and Vern's farm
The bathtub adventure
An earnest discussion about Narnia
The appearance of Miranda Woodruff and the From the Ground Up crew

My favorite quotes . . .

“In alert expectancy such as this, we're never left feeling shortchanged. Quite the contrary. We can't round up enough containers to hold everything God generously pours into our lives through the Holy Spirit.”
Romans 5:5, The Message

“You don't have to see every open door on the way to your end goal, just the one staring you in the face.”

“Maybe you start by thinking back to the last time you can remember when everything felt right. Like you were exactly where God wanted you to be.”

Sarah says

Very cute! I really enjoyed this book, the cute banter, the sweet romance, and Tagg's just awesome writing style.

Maria says

Blake Hunziker and Autumn Kingsley are not friends. Their families basically hate each other because one cannot run a hotel and get along with those who run an inn in the same little town, right? To make things worse though, something dreadful happened in the past and did not help their relationship get better. But now, after six years, these two young people that are apparently “enemies” need to join forces to help their town, and maybe they will have the chance to show their families that there is always hope when one learns to forgive.

What did I love about this book? Every. Single. Thing. I will attempt to explain my feelings but I must warn whoever will decide to read my review that they will see the expression ‘I loved’ thousands of times!

I loved the cover. Is it not the cutest one? Well, it is definitely one of my favourite covers. I loved the title. ‘Here to Stay’. It makes me think about other words such as: commitment, dedication, faithfulness... forever. I loved the story. What happened in the past of these two families is indeed tragic, but I liked how everything was described and handled. I liked the atmosphere that is present in the book, because it was relaxing and lovely, despite some difficult moments to face. It was so engaging I really wanted to forget all the things I had to do and just read it. I loved Blake Hunziker. He is wonderful, period. I loved... can I say Blake Hunziker again? Because he really deserves to be mentioned twice! I loved Autumn and her love for books. We are so similar! I could not live without my books. I loved Whisper Shore. I would love to live in a place like that! But most of all, I loved the way Blake admired and teased and took care of Autumn, and I loved all the things he did for her without expecting anything in exchange. He did everything because it was the right thing to do, and that was just wonderful!

“Here to Stay” is a book you need to read if you want to spend great hours with beautiful and lovable characters, and if you are looking for a sweet, romantic and emotional read. This is the second book in the “Where Love Begins” series, but in my opinion it can be read as a standalone. Though I recommend to read the first one, Made to Last, as well because it is a lovely novel and Melissa Tagg is a fantastic author!

Toni Shiloh says

Melissa Tagg wrote another heart warming romance. I loved Autumn and Blake and their Whisper Shore romance. I would go on but don't want to give anything away. It's sufficient to say I enjoyed it and can't wait for the next book by Ms. Tagg.

Katrina Epperson says

Blake Hunziker always enjoyed taking a risk until the day his only brother, Ryan, took that step out of his plane. That day was like any other, flying the plane while his brother and a friend skydived, but when Ryan's shoot failed to open Blake knew his life was changed forever. He felt so much pain and guilt over his brother's death that he fled his hometown and family thinking he could leave his past behind, but as we all know you can't escape your past. For the past 5 years he traveled all over the world experiencing many adventures, but now he's ready to face not only his past decisions, but also those he hurt.

Autumn Kingsley has always dreamed of traveling and seeing the world. When her mother gifts her with the deed to the family inn several years ago she felt the weight of responsibility drop heavily on her shoulders. She has taken out loans to keep the inn open, but with a drop in business and needed repairs Autumn has reached her limit. She feels if she can give the inn a quick facelift that she would be able to interest investors which in turn would free her up to finally live out her dreams.

Blake arrives in town and obtains the welcome he expected, but what he doesn't expect is how much the town has changed during his absence. The annual Christmas Festival is only weeks away and when offered the job of organizing it he feels this is a way to show everyone how much he's changed. Knowing he needs help with the coordination Blake seeks out Autumn's assistance. Autumn usually helps out with the festival, but she only has two weeks to whip the inn in shape for a visit from an investor. Blake offers to exchange his home repair skills with Autumn if she will help him with the festival. Sounds simple, but the Hunzikers and the Kingleys have never gotten along so this idea is far from simple.

I immediately loved Blake and felt so much empathy for him. He carries so much guilt over his brother's death. Autumn on the other hand is very compassionate to everyone, but seems like she has tunnel vision when it comes to traveling the world. She thinks if she can fix the inn then the investors will flock to her wanting to invest. To me her expectations were unrealistic, but you know we all harbor unrealistic expectations at times about things we love. She saw more in Blake than his entire family and she gave him the compassion he needed over his grief, but then again it appears that Autumn is the only person Blake opens up to.

This is a very touching story and I loved it. The storyline will pull the reader in and keep them turning pages. The author's ability to weave words together and draw out such strong emotions is amazing. The characters will have you laughing one minute and close to tears the next. The author takes you on an emotional journey of facing fears, dreaming dreams and following the directions God is leading you. This is a story of trust, faith and love. I would recommend it to anyone.

I was given this book by the author for an honest review without prejudice.

Kav says

Loved this to bits. Really. One of the best contemporary romances around. There's a campy Gilmore Girls vibe about this story. Autumn might not have a teenage daughter but she's got the small town inn and the

quirky employees that go along with it. And oh my goodness, there are so many laugh out loud scenes I think I cracked a rib or two laughing so hard! Tagg wields the unexpected with delightful aplomb. And all that witty mayhem is punctuated with toe-curling romance. Best almost kisses ever!

Let's take a moment to exhale a happy sigh over Blake. He's the epitome of good hero material. Endearing charm matched with a tortured soul. He is finally ready to come back home after a family tragedy has kept him wandering for the past five years. Determined to prove himself, he's blindsided by his attraction to Autumn. She's just as confused. Her plans are set and they don't include a romance. Delicious complications tied this reader's heart into way too many knots before reaching the end.

A contemporary romance that will make you a tad shy of giddy -- both during the read and for a long while after!

Angie H says

"Just one more chapter, just one more chapter" was pretty much what I said every time I sat down to read this book. Until I realized it was after midnight and my little ones would probably wake me up at 6:00. Totally worth it though! =)

This book was fantastic! I have come to the conclusion my favourite romances are the ones where there is funny banter back and forth between the two main MC's. The dialogue in this book had my laughing so many times! Super sweet moments, also some very heartbreaking ones. This book is more than just a romance novel and I loved seeing the growth of Autumn and Blake, together and separately.

Melissa Tagg has definitely become a auto read/buy author for me, and I REALLY hope there is more in this series!! =)

Abbi says

Oh, where to start?! Saying I loved this book would be a gross understatement, adored is closer but still doesn't quite describe how amazing this book was! Made to Last was one of my favorite reads of 2013 and I loved Blake's character in that book. So needless to say I had some insanely high expectations for Here to Stay and I am quite happy to announce that Melissa surpassed them all, leaving me giddy happy and totally in love with this new book!

Blake was so completely awesome! I loved his character's sense of humor and fun-loving nature in the first book and while those things were still there we were given a much deeper look into who Blake Hunziker really is, and it just made him even more amazing! I especially loved the scenes where he allowed himself to be vulnerable, I honestly melted and just wanted to wrap him in a big hug. Then there was his caring side, some of the things he did for people were just so stinkin' sweet but I won't spoil them for you! And the last thing I'm going to mention is how much I admired how he was no longer running from his past but was finally ready to stand up and face it.

Autumn was fantastic too! I appreciated how hard she worked to keep her family's inn running even though she was planning to leave and how much she cared for everyone there. Her personality reminded me of myself a bit, funny, cautious but willing to take risks with the right people, wanting to do what was best for everyone, book loving, and remembering random facts. I also loved how perfectly she and Blake fit together, definitely a match made in heaven.

And then there were all the minor characters who were great as well, inn staff, Ellie and Jake, Mrs Satterly,

Lucy, the Hunzikers, and the Kingsleys. I thought it was really cute how Melissa incorporated her nephew Ollie, who has Down Syndrome, by having a little boy named Oliver and another character who had DS. Knowing about Ollie made those parts of the book all the more sweet!

One random thing I want to mention that I absolutely loved was the fact that Blake gave Autumn the nickname of Red! It fit so well and I loved the connection to The Philadelphia story.

I could go on gushing for quite a lot more but this review is already crazy long so I'll wrap up! I love Melissa's writing style, her humor, the way she throws in fun movie references, and it just seems like every word is perfectly placed to create this wonderful story. In short this book was absolutely superb and I think it was even better than *Made to Last*! Also it is one of those rare books that I wanted to reread as soon as I'd finished it!

I received this book free from the publisher in exchange for my review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own.

Hannah says

4.5 stars.

I like Melissa Tagg better and better with every book she releases...and her debut was pretty far up in my ratings, so that's saying a lot. I knew I was going to enjoy Blake's story, and I certainly did! I love this type of small-town tale, and there's even a brief appearance from Randi Woodruff from the first book.

Staci says

Cute contemporary novel. I especially loved the attitude of Blake's parents about life following the loss of a son and the brief appearance of Miranda.

Andrea Cox says

Now available in a book store near you is Melissa Tagg's sophomore novel, *Here to Stay*. It's laugh-out-loud funny and a wonderful sequel to her debut book, *Made to Last*. The characters are heartwarming, the story easy to connect with, and the small-town family rivalries familiar to us all in some fashion.

Blake Hunziker plays the prodigal son as he returns from wandering the world after a tragedy changed his life forever. He hopes to find forgiveness and closure but doesn't expect to find it in the father who's always held him to high standards. When he receives a job offer, he realizes he'll need help from one of his family's rivals to pull off Whisper Shore's annual Christmas festival.

Autumn Kingsley has been stuck in Whisper Shore her whole life and dreams of traveling across the globe. Before she gets the chance to chase her dreams, she must restore her family's inn to its former glory. Despite the fact that the Hunzikers and Kingsleys have been rivals for decades, she needs Blake's help to make the necessary repairs to her inn.

Will they put their differences aside long enough to help one another during this holiday season? Or will they allow their families to ruin any chance of bringing success to their little town? Will their different dreams collide somewhere along the way?

Many parts of *Here to Stay* had the laughter pouring out of me. Among them were a wasp attack, roof prank, and Melissa Tagg's unique writer's voice. Believe me, this story will have your giggle box turned on from the get-go. Not only did Melissa write a hilarious story, but she also knew precisely when to turn the tone more serious. Her timing is impeccable. The plot perfectly planned out. The build-up and ending fit together in a greatly satisfying way.

I can't say enough good things about this story. You'll just have to read it for yourself and form your own opinion. Here are a few of my favorite lines to pique your interest:

This one made me chuckle.

"Jamie, I've already groused at you this morning. I have no desire to add to that by scaring you with my morning hair." ~Autumn Kingsley; Chapter Four

After reading this one, I found myself reprimanding Autumn. There's always reason to pray, girl!

"What was there to pray about? When your dream finally hit the 'come true' part, you ran with it, didn't you?" ~Autumn Kingsley; Chapter Two

This one I found swoon-worthy. Tell me if it doesn't make you sigh happily.

"Because I think you, my dear, might be my open door." ~Blake Hunziker; Chapter Six

Here to Stay swiftly leapt up my favorites list. It's standing firmly in my top three. That's a tricky spot to earn, but Melissa Tagg did it with flair. Must say, I'm looking forward to more from this author. This one beat her first one, in my opinion, and I'm anxious to see if she can do it again. Come on, girl. You've got this!

Thank you to Melissa Tagg and her publisher, Bethany House for a complimentary copy in exchange for my honest review. It's been a blast being a part of your influencer team. Thanks for allowing me to be a part of spreading the word about your first two books. With such great writing, you make my job so easy.

Beth says

I really enjoyed Melissa Tagg's debut last year, *Made to Last*, so I knew that I would at the very least enjoy *Here to Stay*. Happily I can say that "enjoy" was an understatement considering much I loved this book! Great characters, terrific plot and writing that flowed from one sentence to the next with ease – I fell into the story effortlessly and loved every minute I spent reading it.

Autumn is such a relatable character; she felt so realistic, and I loved the small nuances of her personality that really made her character pop. I easily empathized with her struggles and loved her for her flaws and imperfections. Blake and the supporting characters are all wonderful as well – there are just so many gems in this story, be it characters, scenes or dialogue. From the town Christmas festival to Autumn's run-down family inn and tense family past that she and Blake are up against, I loved it all. My favorite scenes include a trip to a photograph-worthy farm, a thrown-together snowball fight amongst the whole town, and the appearance of Miranda from *Made to Last* – I was really hoping for that cameo.

The setting is so well done; *Whisper Shore* perfectly embodies quirky small-town charm without coming across as cliché or boring. The author brought the town and its people to life in the best way possible, reminding me of all the best things about this type of story.

Though the story is hopeful and has a feel-good vibe, that is not at all saying that there is not wonderful depth to be found in Autumn and Blake's journey. Watching them let go of their guilt and what they thought would make them happy was one of my favorite parts of the story. Though there were many humorous moments, and some times that I laughed out loud (three words: the bathtub scene!), their genuine changes were what drew this reader's heart along the way.

Made to Last made me a fan of Melissa Tagg, but Here to Stay has left no doubt that she is staying on my list of authors to always read. I am so looking forward to seeing where she goes next.

Here to Stay is a favorite of the year!

Nicole says

Loved it! The story, the setting, the characters... The first book in a while that had me eager to turn more pages.
