



Stone Creek

Victoria Lustbader

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In the small town of Stone Creek, a random encounter offers two lonely people a chance at happiness.

Danny, a young widower, still grieves for his late wife, but for the sake of his five-year-old son, Caleb, he knows he must move on. Alone in her summer house, Lily has left her workaholic husband, Paul, to his long hours and late nights back in the city. In Stone Creek, she can yearn in solitude for the treasure she's been denied: a child.

What occurs when Lily and Danny meet is immediate and undeniable—despite Lily being ten years older and married. But ultimately it is little Caleb's sadness and need that will tip the scales, upsetting a precarious balance between joy and despair, between what cannot happen . . . and what must.

An unforgettable novel of tremendous emotional heft, *Stone Creek* brilliantly illuminates how the powers of love and loss transform the human heart.

Stone Creek Details

Date : Published May 27th 2008 by William Morrow Paperbacks

ISBN : 9780061369216

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Format : Paperback 400 pages

Genre : Fiction, Romance

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From Reader Review Stone Creek for online ebook

Jackie says

Stone Creek is a book about the highs and lows of life and how, sometimes, if we are lucky, the right people come along to help us through them. Lily tries too hard to be what everyone expects her to be and to want what everyone else

thinks she should want. Paul tries to make up for his profound emotional distance by being a fantastic lover, only slowly realizing that that makes him a terrible husband to Lily. Caleb is mourning the sudden loss of his wife while trying to raise his young son under the meddling influence of his bitter mother-in-law Eve. Eve is fighting a war with Caleb so she doesn't have to admit that what she is really fighting is her profound anger, grief, fear and the specter of a fateful secret she has kept too long. At first, this collection of people seem like nothing but bad news to each other. But Lustbader's clever storytelling shows us that they are exactly the right people in the exactly the right place to heal each other. This is a love story about all the kinds of different loves we have in our lives and how they make us who we are and help us to be who we want to be.

Cindy says

I'm wavering between 3.5 and 4 stars on this book. Overall, it was a very sad story focusing on two marriages. The first marriage, between Danny and Tara, ends abruptly when Tara dies of a brain aneurysm at a very young age. Danny is destroyed by the death of his beloved wife, and his grief is compounded by the way his mother-in-law treats him (who is hiding her own secrets). He tries to keep himself together for the sake of his 5 year old son, Caleb.

The other marriage, between Lily and Paul, is on the rocks due to their inability to have a baby, and by the fact that Paul feels that he "should" become a parent, but doesn't seem to really want children. When they are unable to conceive, he focuses his anger on Lily and treats her badly. He goes on an extended business trip, which leaves Lily to fall into the arms of Danny.

However, in the end, Lily and Danny do not end up together. Lustbader alludes to their continued friendship, but that part of the story is not developed. Instead, Lily returns to Paul, and they end up in marriage counseling. Is their marriage able to survive? We don't really know by the end of the story.

Karen Hogan says

A childless woman and a young widower with a son, provide the safety net that each needs to move on with their lives. The author did a good job portraying the damage that life sometimes inflicts on people in different ways.

Michele Bailey says

I really enjoyed Stone Creek. I think the writing was very good and the story was familiar but different. It was very real. The loss that we suffer in life is hard to deal with and often we just don't have the tools. I do not condone having an affair but it was a great part of the story. It was really another loss they had to face. Its the way real life is. Many times in life you can't have your way. Even if it feels so right and the loss of it will break you. You learn you come close, but you don't break. You have to move on, go forward. Many times I thought the book was going to go a certain, predictable way, but it didn't. I appreciated the unexpected and overall where the book ended. It showed that our choices impact more than ourselves in many ways. Of course, we all want our 'happy ending,' but it doesn't always come. We can be happy, though, if we choose to with where we ended up.

Dawn says

I was really anxious to read this book and was really hoping that it would turn out as good as I wanted it to be. I first picked it up at the bookstore as I was walking to the checkout with an already full armload and had to save for my next trip. It had a very interesting premise of a childless couple who were facing some difficulty in their marriage, and a widowed father trying to learn how to go on with his life after suddenly losing the love of his life. I envisioned a story fraught with a dying marriage and a unexpected love blossoming between two people who are least expecting it. The little boy would be the answer to the childless woman and everyone would live happily ever after.

For better or for worse, this wasn't exactly what happened. I did end up loving the story. It was so real and emotional and I really couldn't see how it would have worked out any other way than the way that Lustbader wrote it. That being said, I was definitely rooting for the love story between Danny and Lily to work out. I had a hard time feeling the love for Paul and thought that Lily deserved better.

In the end it was a raw, wrenching story that shows the power of love and the capacity it gives us for forgiveness and hope.

The only gripe that I had with the story was the way in which the narrative was written. It's hard to explain, it just seemed a bit stiff and out of place between the well written chunks of dialogue.

Overall, time well spent. I truly enjoyed the story and the characters and thought it was full of real to life experiences. Triumphs and struggles; love and pain; sorrow and pure joy.

Also, something I loved and almost forgot about, was how she created a soundtrack for the story that mirrored the way Lily or Danny was feeling and made it feel - for me, almost like the story was a movie I was reading instead of watching. Ingenious way to impart the right vibe and tone. I can see myself putting on some David Gray and re-reading this in a few years.

Jan says

Wonderful!

Kathleen says

Meh- that is all I can say for this book. I enjoyed Danny's story and understand the hurt he is going through and if he was able to heal in a different way, I would have enjoyed the story better. A book that makes having an affair seem like an ok thing, just isn't my kind of book. Lily just irritated me. Stand up for yourself a little please. Also, when I am reading a story that I expect to be more realistic (as compared to stories about vampires) I expect realistic situations. How many times in ones life do you meet someone and you are drawn to them by this overwhelming sensation like you were meant to know each other? Like I said, this was not my kind of book.

Season says

This could possibly be the worst book I have ever read. It was just terrible. The editing couldn't have been worse and the plot itself was so depressing. I had all I could do to finish the book and I felt that it was a complete waste of time in the end.

Ann says

A great read, although I didn't agree with one of the major decisions in the book.

Rosmary says

Some parts were too detailed. Didn't feel like it had an ending. You had to assume things. Not sure everyone having sex with another person was really necessary to help them with their grief. Didn't understand what was the strong connection between Danny and Lily. I know there was grief but that shouldn't have led to the road they went. It was too weird or even inappropriate. I was thinking it was going to be more of a friendship.

Christy says

As soon as I opened this book and read the first page I was pulled in immediately. The characters were so real; what has happened to Danny, Lily, Paul and Eve is heart-wrenching and sad. I wept for them and I was touched by how strong they were in dealing with their disappointments and loss. Ms. Lustbader's writing is vivid; I felt like I was a part of the story. This book made me question the desires and decisions that were made; it made me think about how I would act and react under similar circumstances; it made me realize that love hurts, heals and gives hope. These characters and this book will remain with me.

Jessie says

Danny is a young widower with a small child. Lily is the older, rich wife of a lawyer. They are drawn to each other, even though they are so very different. Their hurt, Danny's from the loss of his wife, Lily's from knowing she will never have a child, draw them together. Do they have a future together, or are they just meant to help each other through this season of life?

Wrighty says

This is a touching yet sad love story. Danny was only married to the love of his life for six years when she died and left him alone with their young son Caleb. His grief is so overwhelming he can barely take care of himself but he has a little boy depending on him. Lily is married to Paul who loves his wife but is married to his work first. His days and most of his nights belong to Wall Street. Lily is lonely and decides to go alone to their summer home outside of the city. It is during this time that Danny and Lily first meet and the attraction is undeniable. But she is older and married and only a friendship is feasible. Except the need to help rid Caleb of his sadness draws her closer. Lily is desperate to be a mother and that's exactly what this boy needs. Now there is a delicate balance. All of these people share a need for love but how far will they go to get it? This is an emotional journey for the characters and the reader.

Audrey says

Whoo-hoo, what an emotional ride this was!! Lots of happiness, lots of pain, lots of loss, lots of growing and learning all packed into one good book. Chick lit, in my opinion, as it is so heavy in emotional content. But the more romantic men out there might appreciate this one too.

Christine Stanton says

I found this book and put it on my wish list because I thought I wanted to read it. Later on, after I read the reviews, I was not so sure. The reviews were not very good. But, sometimes I like things that others don't like, like the obscure song on an album that you never hear on the radio. I am glad I decided to read this book myself. It was worth the time. If you like contemporary romance novels, this one will be better than most you read. I held my attention from beginning to end.
