



Redwood Bend

Robyn Carr

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Return to Virgin River with the books that started it all...

Former actor Dylan Childress left the LA scene for a quiet life running an aviation company in Montana. But with business slowing, Dylan wonders if he should take one of the offers Hollywood keeps sending his way. He figures a motorcycle trip to Virgin River with his buddies might help him decide what path to take. But his own troubles are left at the side of the road when he spots a woman stranded on the way into town.

Katie Malone and her twin boys' trip to Virgin River is stopped short by a tire as flat as her failed romance. To make matters worse, it's raining, the boys are hungry and Katie is having trouble putting on the spare. So when some bikers pull up, offering to help, all Katie feels is relief. Then she sees sexy, leather-clad Dylan, and in one brief moment the world turns on its axis.

Katie's a sensible single mother and Dylan's a die-hard commitment-phobe. Neither one is looking for long-term romance. But sometimes it takes only a moment to know you've found something that could change your life forever.

Redwood Bend Details

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From Reader Review Redwood Bend for online ebook

jenjn79 says

Rating: 4.5 / 5

Yet another wonderful addition to a series that is one of my favorite romance series ever.

Series Note:

This is the 18th book in the Virgin River series. I won't say you have to read the series in order to read this book, but it is a wonderful series and I think there are definite benefits of reading it in order. However, this book can stand on it's own pretty well, probably.

Summary:

Katie Malone is traveling across country to stay in Virgin River, where her brother has settled, after a romance didn't work out and realizing her twin 5 year olds need some stability. She's hoping for some down time in Virgin River before deciding what the next step in her life should be. A flat tire just outside down leads to some unexpected consequences in her life when a mysterious biker happens by and helps her out.

A former child-star, Dylan Childress is on a motorcycle tour of the Virgin River area with some friends before he gets back down to work trying to figure out how to save his aviation business. When he meets intriguing Katie Malone on the road, he's mystified by her. She's everything he's ever wanted but told himself he couldn't have. Neither are looking for a relationship, but one finds them. Working it out isn't easy, though, as both are at a crossroads in their lives and trying to find a way to be together won't be easy.

Review:

What is it about this series that is so enchanting and engaging? From the first book I've been hooked and I keep coming back for more. I haven't loved every book in the series, but even the ones that aren't my favorites are a pleasure to read. Maybe it's the continuity of the books...it's the best series I've ever read when it comes to keeping characters, setting, and romances going from book to book. Maybe it's the wonderful setting, or the fantastic characters, or the simplicity and realism of true romance and life issues. Or I guess it's a combination of all that. Whatever it is, Robyn Carr has created such a wonderful set of books with this series.

I really enjoyed this book. I can't say it's one of my top favorites, but it's definitely one of the more enjoyable ones. I loved both the main characters. Katie Malone is a spunky, widowed mother of twin 5 year-olds and Dylan Childress is a former bad boy child star who turned his life around and is now a quite reclusive owner of an aviation business. Both were a pleasure to read about.

The romance is sweetly done. I read a review that felt the romance wasn't developed enough, that the two fell in love too quickly and too simply. I couldn't disagree more. I thought the development of the romance was wonderfully done. Maybe it didn't take very long (a month or so) but I had no issues with the development. I could feel the chemistry between the two. And RC did a great job of portraying their inner conflict over getting involved. Especially with Dylan and his struggle to put his inner demons to rest and to allow himself to fall in love and hope for a future with Katie. I found Dylan to be a rather intriguing guy and I loved his storyline. Would he go back to movies? Would he save his business? Would he move to VR to be with Katie? Would he get eaten by a bear ;) It was great stuff. And I was really rooting for these two and just want to keep reading about them and how it would all work out.

Maybe the storyline isn't wildly original and maybe the tone is similar to a lot of the other VR books, but again, I didn't mind. Robyn Carr is such a wonderful storyteller that every book, no matter how different or similar to other books in the series, is a joy to read. You just get sucked into the story she is telling about Katie and Dylan, the town of Virgin River, and all the other people involved.

Plus, you can't get through a VR book without getting to read about a lot of the past characters. This book didn't involve them quite as much as some past books - the focus in this one was pretty centered around Dylan and Katie - but you get a nice dose of Jack, Connor, Leslie, Luke...some cameos from Preacher, Paige, Paul, Nora, some others, and an introduction the hero of the next book, Tom.

And like I've said in other reviews, every time I read a new Virgin River book it's like coming home because Robyn Carr has created such a heart-warming, vivid, wonderful place in Virgin River, California. I look forward to the next installment.

Catherine Anderson says

This was a delightful read. Katie is a strong and likable woman--a good mother, a widow who overcame not only sadness but also being relocated away from her only family. Dylan leaps off the page, a realistic, well-drawn character. Kudos to Ms. Carr. I highly recommend this book!

Obsidian says

This was one of my least favorite books in the series. A male and female lead that were lame together and a male lead that sucked. I think Carr was going for a reformed rake story-line taking place in contemporary times, but honestly it didn't work. And I loathe contemporary romances where the male lead is all I am only here to get laid and am not interested in a relationship and the woman is maybe I can change him. Stop it!

I wish an author would have the woman saying okay I can do that, and having her go merrily on her way after the hook-up. Have that guy chase after her and have her honestly not be interested and not acting as if she is not interested in order to get him to be interested. Did you all follow that?

Dylan sucks. I think that if Katie had been single with no kids I wouldn't have cared. But she did have kids and I think that it was in Jerry Maguire that Cuba Gooding Jr. said to Tom Cruise's character, you do not mess with single mothers unless you plan on being there. And I kind of want to know what Katie is thinking since she doesn't seem smart at all.

Katie has left behind what she thought was a promising relationship with a dentist (poor dentists, the romance world hates you all) and takes her two twin boys to be with her brother Conner for the summer. Katie is also a widow (Virgin River, you strike again) and you would think she would be cautious about introducing her kids to men unless she's dating them. I try not to get judgey with fictional characters too much (total lie, I am super judgey, I love books but certain things drive me up the wall while reading) but I honestly wanted to tell Katie to find a vibrator and just leave Dylan alone.

Dylan's plot was laughably bad. He is a former child actor who is trying to keep his flight business in Montana afloat. It's not doing well so he goes back to acting. After like a 10 year or 20 year break. I can't

even remember because I just rolled my eyes. He's terrible towards his mother and half brother and sister because he sees them as only being there to just suck him dry and use him to get their own careers back on the track. Besides a few paragraphs here and there that was all you get there dealing with them.

Dylan sticks around Virgin River a bit (even though his business is failing) to get laid. Seriously. He decides he is attracted to Katie though he is not interested in a relationship and based on his dialogue cannot really stand her kids.

I know there were other people in this book, I just can't recall them besides Conner and Leslie from the last book. Most of this book really dealt with Katie weeping over Dylan and trying not to show him she missed him and then a curveball is thrown in that had me vibrating with the urge to dropkick my Kindle. I did not do that since I had a brand new Kindle Fire HD for Christmas from my brothers, and I don't treat gifts from family like soccer balls. Back to the book, it was a terrible idea to introduce, and I think the only reason why was in order to have this couple be together because even Carr I felt like was not too enthused about them.

Karla says

While it's always good to go back to Virgin River, this time I left a little disappointed. I was looking forward to this book, and while it started out well enough, it took an odd turn about halfway through.

Katie is Conner's younger sister from Hidden Summit. She is a widow, with twin boys, and lost her husband to the war before her children were born. I was anxious to see this brave woman, with such a tragic past find true love once again. As she's making her way to reunite with her brother Conner and his girlfriend Leslie, she has some car trouble and a group of men motoring their way to Virgin River stop to give her a hand. That's where she first sees Dylan Childress, former childhood star turned pilot and entrepreneur, on a ride with some of his buddies. Their connection is instantaneous and they meet up again once their paths cross in Virgin River. He was always up front with her about his life, what he's looking for, and where life was taking him. Very shortly it seems, he going back to Hollywood, financial issues are forcing him to seek work there. Although it's not what he wants to do, he feels responsible for the well-being of his employees and their families.

Dylan is a sweetheart and did nothing but cater to Katie and treat her with the utmost respect. Unfortunately the same can't be said for her. Wow the **bitch-o-meter** went full tilt to the right when things didn't go her way, even though Dylan delayed leaving and offered her every opportunity to stay in touch. Nothing she said made any sense from there on out and I felt like she was talking in circles. Katie kept reiterating that she was a "mother first" and no one would get between her and her kids. I think Robyn Carr was trying to use the "bear" situation to mirror Katie's attitude, but it only made her come off like a...well like...a BITCH! She was supposed to be sassy, but...um...I didn't see it that way. Dylan stayed true to character, and I adored him. They both end up having a life-changing wakeup call and decide to give it a go.

The book wasn't all bad and most of it was classic VR! We got to see some of our favorites, Jack being the one that made the biggest appearance and of course there was some suspense that brings the town together. I've really missed Mel though, and I wish the RC would bring her into the storyline in the future. She is after all the one that started it when she met Jack. They are the heart of the town. This book was a little steamier than some of the other books in the series, but it worked, because when Katie and Dylan connected on that level you could certainly feel the desire they had for each other. I also felt that the ending didn't really ring true and Katie had another personality change when once again she was "nice".

If you're a fan of the series, and believe me I am, then give it a try. You might feel differently than me, but I would not count this one in as one of the better books in the Virgin River saga.

Alicia (is beyond tired of your *ish) says

Single parent romance novels:

I am exactly like J.D. I get all puppy-dog excited when I find one and run to it with optimism and longing and it deftly cuts me down. I am disappointed far more often reading these than I come out liking the story.

So why do I read them time and time again? Because it's my weakness, okay! My name is Alicia and I love single dad/single guy falling in love with a single woman/single mom stories and I can't help it. So, I will continue to read them hoping beyond hope that the next one I pick up will be the cute, non-rage inducing story I always want them to be.

I got suckered into Redwood Bend not just for the single mother with five-year-old boys, but because the hero was an actor considering a return to Hollywood. Well, crap. That makes two tropes I love. Maybe I deserved to get hit with every clichéd plot device and predictable element under the romance novel sun.

I was extremely disappointed with the quality of writing. It was so juvenile I truly felt like I was reading YA. Especially with the word choices in both dialogue and exposition. It seemed to me it was written in a conversational style that just didn't work with the ages of the characters and for the presumable age of the intended audience. There were exclamation! points! everywhere! Why are they so excited all the time? Too many sentences began with a superfluous "and" that would just drive me crazy.

"Do you still miss him sometimes?" Dylan asked.

And she decided on honesty.

"She can't see the mother, but I guaran-damn-tee you she's nearby. Real nearby."

And Dylan shot for the door.

This appeared a lot and some of them were worse than the examples I gave. It made my teeth grind. There was something very off in the dialogue. It is probably something only I noticed and it is really hard to pinpoint. The best way I can describe it is that the characters started off having a coherent conversation with each other and then suddenly one would say something somewhat random and the conversation split. They'd still be talking to each other but sounded like they were having two different conversations.

The two leads, Dylan and Katie, were in their thirties and yet I felt like I was reading about a couple of 16-year-olds. Sometimes their personalities would show this, but a lot of it was also in the things they said.

"I just Frenched a movie star."

"Okay, the bottom line here is— he's ready Freddy and I am not a one-night stand."

"The second I saw him I couldn't breathe for a minute, like a full minute. Then when I saw him at Jack's it made me feel all tickly inside, but it was just one of those things. Seeing a cute,

sexy guy and thinking, wow."

"All he had here was the most awesome woman he'd ever met..."

"He blamed Katie Malone's boobs, large, luminous eyes and easy laughter. The boobs weren't extraordinary. In fact they were kind of small, but they certainly spoke to him."

I mean . . . really?

The story was bland and predictable. Nothing close to what it could have been. I would have anticipated predictable if this were just a standalone book, but with seventeen books in front of it I was hoping there would be a stronger story backing up this installment. That may be my fault. I should know by now to keep my expectations low. In this story Dylan Childress is a former child star of a TV sitcom (think Jonathan Taylor Thomas of Home Improvement fame – seriously, the description of him in the book totally made me think of JTT, but as a Hollywood "bad boy"). He's a love 'em and leave 'em type of guy. Not in the horrendous-dick sort of way but in the severe-childhood-family-issues way. So he doesn't form lasting relationships and he never dates mothers. Until, of course, he meets Katie Malone and her twins on the side of the road one night. Oh, you think I mean her twin boys in the backseat of her car? No, her wet t-shirt ensconced breasts. Though he did like the kids, too. He was only on a quick vacation in Virgin River as he lives in Montana. But after he meets Katie he prolongs what was to be four days into four weeks.

For the most part their getting together was fairly cute. They had several dates before physical action, which is something I love. The audience actually gets to read about them getting to know each other, which is another thing I love. Dylan was upfront with Katie from the beginning. Told her about his usual "no dating single moms" rule and why he had it in the first place – his messed up childhood. Her response to the baring of his soul? "You call this a date?" Nice. (Almost equally annoying to me was later on when she tells him about her late husband and he responds with, "Let's warm up the omelet.") Dylan also told her about his aviation business back in Montana and that he would have to leave soon because he had to ensure that his staff would have jobs and he may have to do something he really doesn't want to do to make sure he can keep the business afloat.

It's when the inevitable comes that this book takes a nose dive that almost had me flouncing. Spoilers ahead because I can't rage properly and not give the story away. But I'm sure you've already figured out the entire plot. It's not that hard. (view spoiler)

Really? I didn't know a man could do that when he didn't know about the pregnancy. Way to forget your ESP on that shit, Dylan!

Dylan immediately starts groveling to Katie like he did something wrong and she was, in any way, misled or lied to and didn't make the conscious choice to enter into a fling with him. She acts like a fucking martyr. Like he should have to earn her forgiveness. She dismissed the residual issues he had from his childhood like they were absolutely nothing, using his honesty with her against him. Yes, they were an emotional crutch for him, but the pain of it was real.

She acted like he should have said "screw it" to his business and everyone relying on him for their livelihoods to stay with her (both of them without work and raising two kids). It doesn't matter to her that he kept in touch with her and told her he missed her, doesn't matter that he came back, doesn't matter that he didn't leave her for his sake but to save other people's jobs. She continued to push him away and act like a victim while refusing to tell him about the baby – she was trying to push him out of town first. Why in the hell would he even want to be with such a callous, self-involved bitch? Yet he kept going on about how she was the best woman he'd ever known (next to his grandmother, which is the only blood family member he claimed). In the end Dylan's tenacity and her brother's crazy backed Katie into a corner and she had to tell him. Afterward, she stopped fighting him and her feelings for him and they began a real relationship. Meanwhile, I just wanted her to get eaten by the bear they had talked about the entire book. (hide spoiler)]

The book got tolerable again at this point and my rage subsided, but the predictability did not. There is one thing that kind of saved this a little in the end for me. Anyone reading the book had to know it was coming from the moment Katie and the twins moved into their cottage, but it didn't play out perfectly. (view spoiler)

The story could have stood more Dylan bonding with the boys, but their scenes together were rather cute. I especially liked when he could finally tell them apart. It just wasn't enough to make up for the lackluster writing, predictable story, and rage inducing heroine. This was the first Robyn Carr novel I've read, and I can't say that I'm all too inclined to pick up another one. If this were a debut I would consider giving her a chance down the road, but this is the seventeenth installment of this series. I don't think there's much of a chance of a change in her writing style to something I'd enjoy. I was going to rate this 1.5, but the bear made it a solid 2.

Pam Nelson says

4 Redwood Bend Stars

Well for some reason I got the middle to end of book first then beginning to middle.

So since I know how it all ends because I read from Middle to end I choose not to read the beginning.

And that's totally fine, this story was how I had hoped Katie's journey would good from meeting her in the book prier.

I loved that she moved to be with her brother and his lady. And she has the support because twin boys can't be easy to raise.

I loved the whole dynamic and now I know why it felt like I was missing all the good parts, haha

Overall even from reading from the middle to the end I loved it.

Narration is AMAZING!

You don't have to like my review but its 100% my opinion, and I am allowed to have it.

Ana says

Katie Malone and Dylan Childress have absolutely nothing in common. Dylan is a child actor turned Montana rancher and pilot. Katie is a widowed mother of mischievous twins. But when fate threw them together, they saw something in each other, something that said that just maybe they could be more.

Katie needs to change her life. She spent the last few months dating a man for whom she felt no attraction (he turned out to be gay). So she packs up and heads towards Virgin River and her brother Conner (hero of Hidden Summit). Along the way she gets a flat, luckily a motorcycle gang stops to help her. The moment she sees Dylan she is attracted to him. Of course, she is aware of the fact that nothing could happen between them, in fact they'll probably never see each other again. Fate can be tricky.

Dylan has done everything he could to change his life. After a close friend of his died from overdose, his grandmother took him away from the dazzling lights of Hollywood. He grew up into a fine and responsible man, but he is still wary of romantic relationships. After all, seeing how his parents (and his step-siblings) ruined their life, and mostly anything they touched, he does have his reasons. But resisting Katie and her boys is mighty hard.

Katie is a woman at whom life has thrown quite a few curveballs. Her husband was a soldier who was killed in the line of duty a month before she was due with their children. Then her brother saw a murder, and she had to relocate. And then the man she considered dating turned out to be gay. But despite all of that she stayed brave and optimistic. So when the opportunity came to be happy she took it with both hands. She's strong.

Dylan, as I already mentioned, is commitment phobic, but he never tried to deny that what he had with Katie was something special. And the way that he was with the boys was amazing.

There were some quite amazing scenes, especially the ones with the bears. :-)

And then there were some things I didn't like. Mostly (view spoiler). And no matter how much I liked Dylan, he still can't hold a candle to Jack, Preacher and some other heroes from the series. So, IMO, the books suffers in comparison, on it's own, I probably would've liked it more.

I like the book. Both Dylan and Katie are great, and then there's the citizens of Virgin River (I love you, Jack! :-)), and Andy and Mitch (Katie's sons) are so cute.

Rating:

4 stars

ARC received from NetGalley

Splage says

Loves this series!! I am not a huge series person especially one that really makes you commit like VR. I tend to stick with favorite authors more than series; books that come in groups and can be read as stand-alones in case I skip one so it isn't hard to catch up. This is book 18 and I still completely love it. Some are better than others, all are good to great though and I hope they never end. I feel I living in VR when I read them and these are my neighbors. Who doesn't want to be surrounded by good wholesome, incredible looking alpha studs who take care of their women and cherish their families! If you want a top notch feel good series that stirs up tons of emotion this is the one I would recommend.

Redwood Bend was another wonderful book. Actually I liked it better than the past 4 or 5, although as I said all have been good. This centers around Katie, a widowed mother with 5 year old rambunctious twins. Katie was introduced in book 17, Hidden Summit, as Conner's sister. She moves to VR to be with her brother and to give her sons a positive male influence. Her husband was killed in Afghanistan, a green beret and decorated hero. He was a real hard act to follow, I don't think that Dylan, the hero, completely did the job, but I fell in love with him anyway. Dylan was a child actor that got messed up in Hollywood at a young age and was rescued by his grandmother who straightened him out. Carr did a great job of portraying what I feel is the scene many of these actors come from... think Lindsay Lohan, Britney Spears here. Dylan was lucky to come out alive.

Katie's gets a flat tire in the pouring rain on the winding roads on her way to VR. She is a self efficient strong mother, knows her way around "man jobs" (at least MY man's jobs) because her father raised her brother and her the same. So she is out there attempting to change the tire when a group of motorcycle men come upon her. She recognizes Dylan immediately even though it is twenty years later from his heart throb status. She was a crazy fan of his at 12, but she doesn't lead on that she recognizes him for quite a long time. What I loved about Katie was that her kids were always first, but she wasn't afraid of experiencing life and future relationships or their failures. I loved Dylan when the relationship begins. He thinks in his mind that he could never have a true love or family because of where he comes from and the examples he saw in his own dysfunctional family. He was a heartbreaker and at times I had trouble forgiving him for what he put Katie and her boys through, but I loved the emotions it brought out in me.

One thing I am missing in the past several books of the series is the secondary love story Carr many times interweaves. Sometimes there are almost as many pages dedicated to the supporting romance as the main one. I especially love the younger secondary romances such as Ricky Sudder and Tommy Booth. Even though they are high schoolers, Carr doesn't shy away from letting them be intimate and dealing with real mature issues. I am hoping that Brenda and Tommy eventually have their own story, like Ricky and Lizzie did.

?Karlyn P? says

Not my favorite in this series, but I did enjoy it. In this book we meet two new characters in Virgin River. Katie Malone is sister to Conner, hero of Hidden Summit, and a mother of twin 5-year old boys. Dylan Childress is a struggling pilot/business man from Montana just driving through on his Harley Davidson with several buddies. We do see some of the regulars around town, but not so much beyond Jack and Paul.

After Dylan spots Katie on the side of the road and helps her with a flat tire, they meet up again later in town. It doesn't take long for their physical attraction to heat up, and they start up a no-strings-attached relationship. Dylan makes arrangements to stay in town longer, thus allowing him more time with Katie. We soon learn that Dylan was once a child star from a semi-famous family, but who hasn't acted in over twenty years. So as a means to fund his dying business, he agrees to film a movie for some big bucks.

While I loved seeing the regulars again in Virgin River, and enjoyed a side story about bears, I had some real issues with the storyline between the H/h in this book. Unfortunately, much of it didn't come off as overly believable for me. Dylan being able to get back into Hollywood after such a long hiatus, and apparently zero acting practice for twenty years was a huge stretch. He made it sound as if he was doing Hollywood a favor too. When a top producer calls him a 'natural' I had to laugh, because how would he even know?? And then there was the issue with his business in Montana. Why would anyone want to infuse a business with more capital if the business model itself was failing? He came across as a person with little business sense, and the fact he was gone from his business for several months proved that too me. Yes, we are told that he has a trusted business partner back in Montana running the show, but I saw that as a cop out. If your business is truly dying, you don't take extended vacations, hand the business over to number-2 in charge, and then hope for the best.

Katie was also an interesting character. She plans to rent Jack's old cabin in the woods for a few months until she can figure out her life, but besides enrolling her kids in day care (even though she isn't working) she spends her days either relaxing or hanging with Dylan. No job hunting, career training, volunteer work...etc. She doesn't seem too worried about money or figuring out her life, but we know she's not rich by any means. And for a person who claims to be so independent, she relies heavily on her brother to make decisions and help with her kids.

Then there were some issues with the story itself, which were more 'nit picks' than actual flaws. Still, they threw me out of the story all the same. For example, in the beginning of the book Katie arranged to have her SUV 'sent' to Sacramento California from Florida, where she planned to pick it up again in a few days after a short vacation at Disney World with the kids. Now unless she is super f'n rich and can hire massive air cargo shipment at the last minute, there is no way her SUV will travel the 3,000 miles from Florida to California in only a few days. A truck company will take weeks, if not a few months, and a hired driver would need at least a week as well.

Dylan was my least favorite hero in this entire series so far, and Katie is just average. I didn't buy their romance, I felt too much of it was a stretch to believe, but I did like the decisions they made in the end. The story did wrap up nicely and believable given their circumstances. I think you will be able to guess the ending pretty easily, and if you're like me you will agree it makes the most sense for their story.

So am I done with the Virgin River series? Not a chance! Despite not loving this one, I hope this series never ends.

Shawna says

3 ½ stars – Contemporary Romance

I've got to be honest. I love this longstanding series and it's one of my favorites; but this installment was rather bland and a little boring. Dylan acted somewhat immature and self-indulgent and the romance between him and Katie didn't feel very genuine to me. It's probably my least favorite of the series. I hope Sunrise Point gets things back on track.

Beanbag Love says

A solid addition to my favorite literary soap opera.

Dylan and Katie click immediately. They have decent chemistry and sparks do fly. He doesn't want a relationship because his family's emotional commitment history is hellish and he thinks he's pretty much illiterate in that area. Katie doesn't mean to get involved with someone who says they're not interested in more than a fling, but she can't help herself.

It's a pretty good story. Subtle, calm, romantic. My biggest problem came in the middle when I hated Katie for a stretch. She was planning to do something repugnant while sitting on a fairly unearned high horse and I was pretty annoyed for a bit. But then things calmly came around to happy again. It's a genuine comfort read.

I was glad to see Hollywood portrayed a little more realistically. Authors always get it wrong. Nobody really wants to write about what it's really like, I suppose, so you get Carr's Murial St. Clair and McNaught's Zach Benedict. It's far uglier than those characters' stories portray, particularly where kids are concerned, and this one comes a lot closer without distractingly pounding the reader on the head.

I also thought Carr did a good job of portraying the despair and hardship of a small business owner in the current economic climate. Very well done on that score. Not as didactic as Carr can pull out for a story line like that, so I definitely appreciated it.

All in all it's a good one.

Anne OK says

I always look forward to returning to Virgin River to catch up with all the previous characters we've come to know and love. Good to see the return of Tom Cavanaugh. I'm so happy that his book is next and I love knowing who'll be wandering into his apple orchard in the next installment, "Sunrise Point," to bring him his happily-ever-after.

The set up for "Redwood Bend" was good. There was a good solid story to be told. And just let me say, I had already guessed why Keith, the pediatric dentist, withheld all those kisses from Katie in "Hidden Summit."

I really liked Dylan's character and was captivated by his history. In the beginning I thought Katie was going to be a very likable character as well. However, she came off less than the strong woman I first saw her as. In

the end, she reclaimed my respect and I think she made the right decision even though she and Dylan and their crew won't be adding to VR's population.

Although a bit disappointing, any revisit to Virgin River still provides a decent Saturday afternoon read. I'm looking forward to another visit back to the little town of Virgin River next month.

Regina says

Redwood Bend is a solid entry in the Virgin River series. It is not the best in the series, but it has all the ingredients that make these books comforting, enjoyable and perfect to help you relax. When I started Redwood Bend I had gone through some hard days at work and this story was the perfect escape.

Redwood Bend revisits the story of Katie, Conner's sister. We first saw Conner and Kate in Hidden Summit. Katie makes the move to Virgin River with her young twin boys and stays at the magical A-Frame cabin in the clearing, the very same cabin that Mel stayed at back in book 1. We get some of Preacher's cooking, some of Jack's bartender jokes, lots of Conner and Leslie and a good amount of build-up and angst involving the focus couple - Dylan and Katie.

Dylan is a former childhood and teenage TV and movie star. But former is the key, he lives a very different lifestyle but his past haunts him (after all he is a hero in a Virgin River book!). Katie is trying to move on in her life, get past losing her husband and raise her sons. Dylan and Katie's lives collide and the result is some great heat, a cute romance and some very touchy scenes.

So while this is not the best Virgin River book I have read, it is still entertaining, fun and moves the story arc along. Fans will definitely enjoy it. It can also be read as a standalone, Robyn Carr catches readers up with detailed recaps.

I do have a few complaints. I know the set up for these stories is simple and maybe that is the point for these comfort reads. But sometimes, it does get old: two individuals with difficult pasts, the road into Virgin River is fraught with danger so accidents and flat tires happen, Preacher cooks up good food for strangers, Jack is wise and knows a couple will hook up before they do, there more than likely is an unplanned pregnancy, groups of men enjoy fishing and hunting bonding trips, the wise family friend counsels the heroine on her choices and missteps, and no matter what curve balls are thrown the heroine she always smiles.

Another complaint, at the beginning of the story I was not sure which male character was going to be the hero of the story and who was doing the talking - Walt or Dylan. Maybe it was because I had a review copy and this was later fixed.

But the predictability of these books plays into the comfort. We may know the set-up, we may know the resolution, but there is something so realistic about the struggles the couples in this series go through. The setting is perfect, the characters are often close to perfect, but the road to the relationship is not perfect. Of course we know the couple will get there and that is what makes reading these books as comforting as hot chocolate on a cold and stormy night.

I do recommend this book for fans of the series, fans of lite make-over stories, fans of small town romance

and fans of contemporary romance. And I look forward to the next Virgin River story which will be out in just a few months!

I was provided a copy of from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Fanny says

Redwood Bend es el libro numero 16 de la saga Virgin River creada por Robyn Carr y tiene como protagonistas a Katie (hermana de Conner, protagonista del libro anterior) y Dylan, un nuevo personaje. Despues de haber leido tantos libros de esta serie me es dificil escribir una reseña, no solo porque no quiero dar ningun spoiler sino tambien porque las historias se parecen tanto que es complicado decir algo que no haya dicho en las otras reseñas.

Redwood Bend sigue la misma linea que las novelas anteriores : es rapida de leer, con una trama agil y entretenida, obviamente no sera del gusto de todos pero si quieres una lectura romantica (y bastante rosa) es muy buena opcion, reconozco que quizas no sea muy imparcial con esta clase de libros, ya que me gustan mucho, no solo por la parte romantica sino tambien por la buena relacion que tienen todos los personajes y la maravillosa forma de describir de la autora, casi consigue transportarte a Virgin River.

3 Estrellas!

Auntee says

Katie Malone and her 5 year old twin boys move back to California from Vermont after being in the witness protection program. After a failed romance with a pediatric dentist that was heading nowhere, young widow Katie decides to move to Virgin River to be near her brother Connor (Hidden Summit), who has always been a strong male influence for her boys. After being without a man for five years, Katie's ready to move on and find the kind of passion that once existed with her husband, and a father for her boys. But is former Hollywood child actor and current flight instructor/charter airline owner/ Montana resident Dylan Childress the man for her, even though he claims he's not the marrying kind?

Not my favorite of this long series, but fans of Robyn Carr should have no problems with it. Not many appearances by the VR characters (except for old standby Jack), which was kind of unusual; RC focuses mostly on the main characters, and characters Connor and Leslie from the previous book.

Full review closer to release date...

I received an ARC of this book from Netgalley...
