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Dinah McCall , Sharon Sala

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SHE OFFERED HIM A SECOND CHANCE...

Jackson Rule had spent nearly half his life behind bars for murder. Now he was starting over-or trying to. Once he laid hungry eyes on his new employer, though, his resolve to lead a simple, solitary life deserted him, replaced by yearnings for fierce, forbidden passion.

WHAT COULD HE GIVE HER BUT TROUBLE

Preacher's daughter Rebecca Hill was raised to give folks the benefit of the doubt--though maybe this time she'd taken charity a bit too far. True, Jackson Rule had paid his debt to society, and was a hard, honest worker. What threatened to undo her was the sheer burning desire she felt in his presence, and the sinking feeling that her heart would be his captive forever.

Jackson Rule Details

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From Reader Review Jackson Rule for online ebook

Mo says

Even better the second time around

Original review.....Just discovered this author - absolutely loved this book. The tortured hero Jackson is so lovable and love the heroine also. Will be checking out more by this author.

Kathleen says

3.5 stars. In contemporary New Orleans, a cynical ex-convict with a marshmallow heart falls for a warm-hearted, strong-minded, red-haired preacher's daughter named Rebecca. He works at her nursery and saves her life twice. Saves a few other lives, too -- an old man and a child. I liked Jackson and his staunch-hearted, courageous Rebecca. Glad that Jackson got his HEA in the end.

However, the plot is far-fetched and problematic on several counts. 1) Jackson saved too many lives, by always being in the right place at the right time. Four different times he played the hero. 2) Also, I couldn't buy into the fact that cynical Jackson asked a judgmentally harsh old man -- *that mean-spirited minister* -- to counsel severely abused little Tyler and teach him about God's love? Jackson knew what the preacher was like, so it felt like a breach in his characterization and a plot contrivance to involve Rebecca's father in the story. 3) Also, since Jackson was convicted of manslaughter when he was only 16, under extremely obvious extenuating self-defense circumstances, I don't believe they would put him in an adult prison -- or certainly not for 15 years. 4) I also doubt that hysterical amnesia lasts 15 years, but I can accept that. However, I doubt that it is "healed" in one afternoon, with the retrieved new memory fully accepted by officials, with no lengthy questioning.

Sigh. I wish the plot had not had me rolling my eyes so frequently, but the romance was somewhat gripping. Some scenes were great. I liked the storm and the scenes with Pete, the scenes at the Jesus Shelter, with the homeless children. I thought the nightmares, and the disturbing images in the mirror were pretty cool, too.

The epilogue was sweet, but no mention of little wretched Tyler. Disappointing, when authors use secondary characters as mere hero props. My heart was engaged in his plight, but we never find out what comes of him.

Contents: sexual molestation, murder, a few fairly explicit sex scenes, a little swearing, a few typos.

Roksana says

5 BIG emotional stars!

This book was so emotional....I actually had pain in my chest for all the wrongs that "our HERO" had to endure and all the suffering he had to go through every step of the way!

My heart went to Jackson every time he was humiliated by "prejudice" and "real hate" of human race..just

that single knowledge makes you resent people...**HOW COME WE ARE CAPABLE OF SUCH VIOLENCE AND HATRED TO ONE ANOTHER???** This left me feeling extremely sad, frustrated and angry on Jackson's behalf... He spend 15 years in prison completely innocent and he paid the highest price for it in and out of prison...**FOR WHAT? FOR BEING INNOCENT???** That was one hell of a realistic portrait of social exclusion and questionable choices people are making that are morally wrong...because how can you stand for forgiveness and mercy teaching others to do so when yourself cannot bend to do that?

But again the heroes bravery and selflessness was so beautiful and rare....For what he did for his sister was beyond my speech! I found myself in a state of mind that took me to a world full of hopefulness and righteousness..that people like him are "rare" human beings that can restore our beliefs in humanity and values like honor and integrity!

I liked the heroine..she was honest and real...and did not followed the path of her father that was a reverent and despite his every messages he delivered in his church masses..he was the one not forgiving and hateful towards Jackson, but she was fully on the hero's side and I respected her for that greatly!

Jackson worked very hard to finally have his well deserved happiness...but it was very painful road to get it and I am glad the author gave him his HEA that rightfully no one could deserved more than he did!

The book was not perfect but it did not matter to me as such....**Its the message behind this book that got to me and i took it in to my heart...for we all should learn how to interact with one another without hate and prejudices...for this the world would be a far better place to live.**

Buggy says

Opening Line: *"The urge to run was overwhelming. But Andrew Jackson had not survived the last fifteen years in a maximum security prison by running so he walked through the last set of locked gates leading to the outside world."*

Now I know this is a favourite read for many people and I really wanted to love it. Based on reviews I expected to love it and I did fall pretty hard for the hero Jackson but due to the high cheese factor and melodramatics of the heroine I can only give it 3 stars.

The story was good enough, I mean convicted murderer and preachers daughter hooking up, okay you've got my attention, sounds intriguing. And the hero was kinda awesome; all emotionally tortured and misunderstood, riding around on his Harley, looking sexy and just wanting to be loved. But the heroine, jeez she drove me crazy with her gasping, fainting, sobbing and over the top tantrums. How do these TSTL women keep getting all the great guys?

Yes the melodramatics were high here which was too bad. Ultimately I could have overlooked those moments but then we also had the stilted and phony dialogue to contend with. I mean who talks like this...

"When she tried the lights she found to her dismay that they didn't work. "Pooh" she said, (really, Pooh?!), but she wasn't afraid of the dark. She knew this place like the back of her hand."

And the love scenes, I actually eye rolled and cringed my way through those because of the clichéd

sappiness...

"The room was dark, but they didn't need light to see with their hearts."

"Their dance was timeless and yet for them all too new."

Part of my problem may have stemmed from the fact that I went into this expecting a somewhat darker read. Where I got that idea I'm not entirely sure (the back blurb?) but this is definitely not dark, some of the themes sure, but not the writing.

Jackson Rule has just been released from prison after serving a fifteen year sentence for manslaughter. Convicted at the age of 15 he lost his youth inside the walls of Angola State Pen. Now at 31 Jackson has a lot of catching up to do, but society doesn't give many breaks to an ex con and in the first few chapters we watch as he frustratingly tries to reconnect with his sister and build a life for himself. Getting a job proves the hardest, especially without a driver's license and it's just dumb luck that sees him filling out an application at Rebecca Hill's nursery. For some reason she sees something in him others don't and is willing to look beyond his past mistakes. After all he's done his time. Her father the preacher however is another matter entirely.

Of course the sparks fly between our couple, Rebecca knows that Jackson is a good man –probably because he keeps rescuing people (from burning buildings, from would be rapists, from heart attacks) but Jackson is emotionally scarred from the violence in his past and tries to keep his distance, feeling that his reputation would ruin Rebecca. Really though it's just a matter of time.

Lots of readers love this story so don't take my word for it, this isn't a bad book and Jackson is worth putting up with a silly heroine and some corny dialogue for. Cheers.

303jb3

Nancy says

Very heartwarming and satisfying. Even though the criminal justice aspect of the story didn't ring true for me, Jackson Rule was a thoroughly enjoyable read!

Saly says

Jackson Rule has been released from prison after 15 years. He went in as a 16 year old boy and has spent his youth inside but he has no regrets. Prison released him and his sister from a horrific father and it was worth the price. The only thing he wants now is never to lose his freedom and to see his sister Molly who has spent her time in a hospice with no comprehension of her past.

He finds a place to live and a bike, but finding a job with his ex-con status is difficult. Rebecca is a preacher's daughter who runs a nursery. She does things her way and loves her father, but hates his interfering ways.

She gives Jackson a job and slowly over-time they both develop feelings for each other but Jackson's time in prison has changed him, he is pretty closed off, does his job and leaves, but that starts changing. Jackson tries to put distance between himself and Rebecca by calling her mam and avoiding her since he knows her father doesn't approve of him and so will the others.

Rebecca is very accepting of Jackson despite not knowing his past fully. She calls out her father on his hypocrisy. Seeing Jackson save a child like himself and work at a shelter was a joy. Even when both of them confess their feelings for each other, Jackson keeps a part of himself aloof.

In the end when the details of the past come out, it was painful to read.
I really loved the book.

London says

[.Yes. (hide spoiler)]

Jacqueline says

Lovely book. Good strong characters. I loved Jackson, convicted of murdering his abusive father and vigorous in his assertion that he was glad he killed him and would do it again a hundred times. Rebecca is a preacher's daughter who lives by the judge not lest you be judged rule who gives him a job after prison. Her father, the preacher, is a more realistic portrayal of a preacher as a failable man not all goody two shoes as many preachers are written. Even though some of the things that happened in the book were not real surprises, the book as a whole was well written. One of the best parts for me was when Rebecca decided she loved him, she was firm in her love and didn't continually doubt him and his worth. I did find it a bit of a stretch that a 16 year old boy went to prison for 15 years for killing his abusive father when both he and his sister were beat bloody. Self defense anyone? I also thought that 15 years seemed a bit long for hysterical amnesia but I really don't know about that as I'm not a doctor. But for good romance I loved it.

Rachel says

[no (hide spoiler)]

Karla says

3.5 Stars!

The story's been done before, although since *Jackson Rule* was published nearly 20 years ago, it might well have been the trendsetter for this plot line. There were times when Jackson Rule, the man, was little too good to be true, and his story started to ooze sap. For a man who spent 15 years locked away I would have thought he would be more bitter, I wanted him to have more of an edge, but he softened up awfully quick. He was

everyone's hero, which I found charming at first and then the exaggerated heroics nearly became too much! I wanted to slap Rebecca's father upside the head! For a preacher man he wasn't one to easily forgive, he didn't "practice what he preached" and his dislike of Jackson got on my nerves.

If I had one major issue it would be (view spoiler). I found it hard to grasp. Then again stranger things have happened.

As much as I'm complaining I did love Jackson, there is something about the underdog, the man who's been wronged, that grabs my heart every time! I also liked that Rebecca never judged him, and gave him the time and space to find his way to her.

For the most part, I enjoyed the book and found myself flipping through the pages towards the finish, and was left feeling good!

Thanks for the rec Crista!

Ridley says

This was a disappointing read for me. I had been super excited to read it based on the unusual pairing of a preacher's daughter and an ex-con, but as I was reading it I could swear I heard the story's squeaky little voice begging to be heard from under a mountain of plot and bland telling.

Andrew Jackson Rule, newly released from Angola prison after serving 15 years for the murder of his father, heads to New Orleans to start putting his new life together. After walking into town when a short run-in with a woman at a country store causes him to miss his bus, he sets himself up in a dingy apartment in a bad part of town. Now 32, he's determined to keep his head down and work hard to make a living for himself and his mentally ill sister. He buys an old Harley from a junk shop and sets out to find himself a job.

Just outside the city, Rebecca Hill runs a garden shop and nursery, with her father's friend as her lone employee. Looking for an additional set of hands around the place, she'd taken out an ad in the newspaper. When the man who had saved her from falling into traffic outside a country store walks in to apply, she's intrigued by the gruff stranger. Even after he divulges his history, she decides to take a chance and hire him on, remembering her preacher father's exhortations to *judge not lest ye be judged*.

So I think your average romance reader can predict how the story goes. They'll be wildly attracted to each other. He'll push her away boorishly because he thinks he's not good enough. The preacher father will disapprove of Jackson then have a crisis of faith over being judgemental. She'll be feisty and martyr-like, becoming more and more enthralled with him the more he withdraws. Circumstances will change, some sort of truth will out and the HEA bursts onto the scene.

But, whatever. I don't necessarily begrudge a formula. I read Harlequins by the milk crate. What I do begrudge is a formula plainly told to me. I don't like being managed.

What McCall failed to do was make her idea for a story come to life. She was constantly telling me what people did and what exactly they were thinking. Lest I ever wonder what anybody might be thinking at any point, she liberally hops from head to head to let me know. No character is spared, no matter how ephemeral their presence.

As a result, the plot is just so obvious. I had started to wonder early-on if maybe he'd be a virgin, since he'd been in custody since he was 16. No sooner had I wondered than I was informed on page 35 that he wasn't.

The memory of his fifteenth birthday and an older and obliging woman who'd lived in a trailer near theirs came swiftly, along with the lessons she had taught him. By the time he'd reached sixteen, Jackson had been well-versed in the ways of making love.

Right then, we'll just have to take her word that he's a great lover. He also had a comfortable bank balance sitting around from when he was working at a grocery as a 14 and 15 year old. Could she have contrived any more obviously to fit him to the genre standard for heroes?

Unfortunately, the whole of the book's character development is engineered in this bloodless sort of way. Jackson's goodness is displayed by saving Rebecca from two bizarre near-rapes, performing CPR on his co-worker, romping with a homeless shelter full of woefully undeveloped plot moppets and so on and so forth. Since it's all just told to me, I felt rather beaten over the head with it. "Yes, I get you, he's the hero and has a heart of gold. Can we get on to giving these people personalities yet?" Unfortunately, talking to 15 year old books does not yield results, and the characters ended the book the shallow plot vehicles they began.

I'm not sure why I was so turned off by this book when so many people list this as a favorite. I can see the potential, and I'm more than aware of what the author was going for, but the propensity for telling and the over-obvious symbolism completely prevented me from connecting to the characters. What a shame.

Lyuda says

Wow, what an amazing story of good triumphs over evil and love conquers it all! We first meet Andrew Jackson Rule as he exited doors of a maximum security prison where he spent 15 years for killing his father. Surviving abusive childhood and prison, he is on the verge of fighting another battle: re-entering into society which scorns at ex-convict. His life can't catch a break . He is rejected again and again and the only thing that keeps him going is the thought of his sister Molly. Jackson would do anything to help her regain her life back. The only person who is willing to give him a chance is Rebecca, a preacher's daughter. She is a proud owner of green house- her striving business. Rebecca hires Jackson despite warnings of well-meaning people around her. The more they see and know each other, the more they like each other. Their attraction grows reluctantly to love. But there is no future together between ex-con and preacher's daughter or is there? What I love most about the story is the characters - strong, mature, full of goodness. The hero is one of these real men in romance that is worthy of the word "Hero".

Love2Read?HEAs? {Anne} says

Rated 4 Hard Life Stars

I enjoyed this book, but also disliked parts of it. I didn't feel the character's connection as much as I would have liked. It was frustrating at times, then others were awesome. So 4 Stars it is.

I would still recommend it to read though.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

If you are looking to read a book with a hero who has really, really gotten a bad break in life, look no further! Poor Jackson. He went to prison for fifteen years. He was sixteen years old. I cannot imagine how that must have been. Only to serve his time and go out into a world where few people are willing to look past what they think he is: ex-con, murderer, trash. I like to think that a person should be given a clean slate in life. I guess that doesn't really happen in real life. I don't want to get into my beliefs about the criminal justice system, because I don't think anyone wants to hear them. But, I will say that I think a person who serves their time and is willing to live an honest life, should get the opportunity to do so. Unfortunately, that's harder than it seems. For people generally take things at face value, and let their fears and suspicions rule them (I am not excluding myself from this).

I was surprised at how narrow-minded and judgmental Rebecca's reverend father was. I do realize that many Christians (but not all) are true to this portrayal of Reverend Hill. They are goody-goody and never miss church, but do not show their true beliefs through their actions. I was glad that Rebecca tried to live true to his teaching and her faith, and she called him on his hypocrisy. And Reverend Hill is forced to search his own heart and realize his own actions do not show what he preaches and believes.

In contrast to Reverend Hill, Rebecca and a few others were willing to give Jackson a chance. In fact, Rebecca was more loving and understanding to Jackson than he was to himself. He had a huge case of self-hatred! It was hard to deal with at times, but given his awful childhood and the fact that he spent almost half his life in prison, I could see why he was this way.

The cynical reader would probably find Jackson's continued shows of goodness a bit too much. Let's count:

- 1) Saves Rebecca by pulling her out of the path of an oncoming vehicle, and fixing her truck which had overheated for free.

- 2) Saves his next-door neighbor child from his abusive father, and later from a fire

- 3) Does CPR on Pete (a coworker and friend of Rebecca) when he has a heart-attack, thus saving his life.

- 4) Reads to, spends time with, and counsels young children who live at the shelter where he volunteers.

- 5) And there's a big whoozy, which is a major spoiler, so I won't say, but I'm counting it.

This wasn't an issue for me. I liked that his actions showed what a good person he was, even though people assumed the worst of him. He was very innocent in many ways. A sweet boy who had been weighed, judged, and found wanting, and given no first or second chances in life. This book made me cry a few times. I'm the kind of girl who likes to believe that people are good and good things happen to good people. Deep down, I'm an optimist, which is why I do like feel good romances (disguised as deeply angsty and sad romances with deliriously happy endings). So, this book did not fail to impress me. I know that some people will find this book too sappy. I can't speak for them. I loved this book, and I wanted to give Jackson a big, huge hug. I'm glad that he has Rebecca and other loved ones to do that for me.

Tessamari ♥Many Waters...♥ ~ Sweet Spot Book Blog says

3.75-4 Stars

“Be careful, lady.” His voice was harsh as his hands raked through her wet, tangled hair, bringing her face closer to his own.

“Of what?”

“Of this.” He cupped her hips with his hands and lifted her off her feet. “Of that.” His groin had swelled in one huge ache and was pressing into her flesh. “Of me.”

I needed a break from my current read and decided to pick this up. I’m not really sure why I decided to, but I think I just needed some good ole fashioned predictable drama, especially one that involved redemption and second chances. I love these types of stories. Yes, this involved an ex-con/murderer, but I knew that there was something else to our Hero’s story and I was determined to find out.

And the facts were that he was an ex-con and the woman he wanted was the daughter of a man of God. It was an impossible situation, and Jackson knew it.

An ex-con and a preacher’s daughter. Yea, you know there was going to be some drama in this book. Jackson Rule was just released from prison after serving fifteen years for shooting his father. The thing about it is, if you’d ask him if he’d do it all over again, he’ll tell you without a doubt, yes, he would. His father was very abusive to him and his sister. One day, it all came crashing down. Now he’s out, he wants nothing more than to make a life for himself and hopefully rekindle the relationship he had with his sister, who has been in a mental health facility all these years after the murder. He is determined to find a job, but being an ex-con, he knew it wasn’t going to be easy.

He lowered his lips and she forgot to move. And when they connected with her lips, she forgot to breathe. Gently. Coaxing. Taking. Giving.

His mouth moved from one pleasure to another until Rebecca lost all track of place and time.

Who was this man that suddenly appeared in Rebecca’s life. She’s never met such a contradiction. Jackson doesn’t seem to be at all what he’s pegged to be. A murderer? An ex-con? Yes and yes. However she saw something more in Jackson, especially after he saved her life more than once. Her father is always preaching about forgiveness and after his heroic display, she easily decided to take the risk and hired Jackson to help around her greenhouse. The fact that was what he was didn’t faze her. Nope, she’s as strong willed as they come. She wasn’t surprised that he was a model worker, hardworking and honest. What she didn’t expect is the chemistry brewing between her and Jackson.

Jackson however, knew he was never going to be good enough for a woman like Rebecca. He wouldn’t risk the type of scrutiny she would endure if they decide to make their working relationship into something more. No. He would stand his ground. He will fight his feelings. He could never live with himself if her reputation was to be tainted by a man like him. So begins the battle of wills.

“I love you, Rebecca Hills, more than you will ever know.”

He wasn’t certain, but he imagined that he heard her whisper “thank God” right before the kiss.

Like I said, I really enjoyed stories like this. I’m happy Rebecca believed in Jackson and never gave up on him no matter what her father or her friends say. There were only a couple drawbacks that prevented me from loving this read. One: Needs more steam. (Yes, I have issues, but you already knew that.) Two: It seemed like it took the two forever to finally get together. The story wasn’t slow or anything, but it really could’ve helped if things moved along faster. As for the ending, well, that was a bit of a shock, but no worries, it ended happily. Overall, a very good contemporary read.

CC says

2.5-3 stars. I know I am in the minority but this book just did not do it for me.

The story idea was a good one and it had so much potential. Overall, I like the heroine. Wish she had taken a firmer stand later in the book. But she got this book the few stars I gave it.

I was so bored for well over half the book. Slow build would be an understatement! The MCs barely spoke to each other and I felt no chemistry. Attraction yes. Chemistry, heat or love - not a bit. Their inner dialogues were repetitive and, at times, strange. I felt the author was so concerned with showing social injustice and proving the Hero to be a good man she got lost in it. Personally I also do not like hearing everyone else's thoughts. I guess when you have so little dialogue you need it. But it only made me dislike many of the characters even more.

The reverend was a bit OTT. I get his initial reaction, though I would certainly stop going to church with a hypocrite. But for him to continue for months and months. It was frustrating. At least the heroine took none of his crap.

The Hero's inner dialogue made no sense. I could tell the big secret that was coming early on. So the thoughts he had made no sense. Those who have read the book will understand this. Those who have not, it is too big of a spoiler.

The Hero had his head firmly planted up his ass for the ENTIRE book. He never let the heroine in. He never told her about his life, present or past. And she was a pushover for thinking that as ok. Especially at the end!!! But his reaction to her big secret was unforgivable! Even if he changed his mind quickly, it showed that he still was not ready to have a relationship because he thought about the fact that she still did not know him. Seriously?! You have been f'ing her for months and you still have told her NOTHING!!!

The fact that the author totally dropped the homeless kids storyline when they started f'ing was upsetting. She invested us in the kid and then you just get a minor passing comment from the reverend later. To me that proves it was just filler - a plot device meant to show the Hero's worth as a person. But I am not a stupid reader. I got that point very quickly. Like 10% in. So why did you feel the need to bash me over the head with it for another 60%?

The resolution with his sister was ridiculous. Totally.

The epilogue was blah.

Yes this is a totally safe read.

Linda says

Dinah McCall, aka Sharon Sala, is a hit or miss with me. Sometimes her characters are flat and the plots are commonplace. This is not true of JACKSON RULE. Andrew Jackson Rule has just been released from prison. He served his sentence for murdering his father, something he has never contested. All he wants to do is get settled and try to lead a normal life as possible. He needs to find a place to live, acquire a piece of transportation, get a job and then take care of his only sibling, his sister Molly. He would do anything for her.

When he briefly meets Rebecca Hill, her truck is giving her trouble. A preacher's daughter, she wants to believe there is good in everyone. Unexpectedly, Jackson comes to her rescue, fixing her truck AND saving her from accidentally being run over. Then he leaves her just as quick but they will meet again.

Just when you think you know what will happen next, Ms. McCall interjects another element. You learn that Jackson has always been a solitary type of guy. Rebecca thrives on being around others. They slowly come to a middle ground. I enjoyed that the romance built slowly between these two. I liked that each of them became a better person with the other's assistance.

There was a couple of reasons why I didn't give this romance five stars. (view spoiler)

I also understood Jackson's hesitancy in talking about Molly to Rebecca but I wish it would have happened sooner than it did. Otherwise I relished his romance. If you are looking for something with a twist, try JACKSON RULE. There was a reason that this book won the 1995-96 RT Reviewers' Choice for Contemporary Romance.

Kate's Corner says

First read 18/12/2013
Reread 23/06/2015

Keri says

This is still one of my all time favorite DM books...evah! I read and re-read this book so many times, I had to go buy another copy. Jackson is an ex-con, looking for a job. Is there anyone out there that is going to give him a chance? A preacher's daughter decides that everybody needs a second chance. Once she begins working with this silent, dark eyed taciturn man, she realizes there is more here than meets the eye. Will she give her heart a chance to discover all of his hidden depths? An awesome story that gets better with age.

Luli says

¡Cómo me hubiese gustado que esta historia me hubiese encantado! Si la autora hubiese sido más valiente... o si el final hubiese sido menos despampanante... porque son las únicas pegas que le he encontrado, la verdad... por lo demás ha estado muy bien, bastante realista y con detalles encantadores para poder asimilar

algunos aspectos más oscuros...

Pues tenemos a Jackson Rule, recién salido de la cárcel donde ha cumplido la mitad de su vida por asesinato. El de su padre, un ser violento y desalmado que no se merecía otra cosa... Jackson, que vuelve a su pueblo porque allí está aún su hermana, ingresada en una institución, y necesita estar cerca de ella. Ya te puedes imaginar como las pasa el hombre para adaptarse a la vida fuera de la cárcel...canutas.

La pega que le encuentro es que la señora McCall se ha pasado un poco *heroizándolo*, un poco...un pelín...

Por otro lado tenemos a Rebecca, hija del cura del pueblo, que es igual de guapa que obstinada y que decide darle una oportunidad a Jackson. A pesar de este personaje tampoco tiene ningún fallo, sí ha sido más creíble que el de Jackson.

El romance ha sido muy bonito, y realista, las razones que ambos protagonistas esgrimen para estar separados son reales y sensatas y la atracción que sienten el uno por el otro casi que se palpa. Me ha encantado.

Y por último tenemos a los secundarios:

Pete, amigo de la familia y padre subrogado de Rebecca que trabaja con ella y con Jackson. La relación que mantienen los tres es especial y nos deja momentos muy tiernos...quizás demasiado tiernos, pero como ya dije anteriormente, un poco de azúcar para poder asimilar las situaciones más desagradables no está tan mal. También está el padre de Rebecca, Daniel el cura, y digamos que la humildad y la capacidad de perdonar no están entre sus cualidades. Y desde luego no da pie con bola con la hija, se llevan más tiempo enfadados que bien. Por decirlo suavemente, ninguno de los padres que aparecen en la historia van a ganar el premio a padre del año. Esto me ha resultado llamativo...

Y también tenemos a la hermana de Jackson, Molly, que podría haber sido un personaje fantástico pero ha acabado siendo uno de cartón piedra...una pena.

Así que en líneas generales, si la autora hubiese sido más valiente con el final (view spoiler) y menos melodramática (view spoiler) le hubiese dado una estrellita más. Pero ese desenlace me dejó un poco desilusionada.

How I wish I would have loved this story! If the author had been braver ... or if the end would have been less OTT ... because, to be honest, they are the only faults I have found, otherwise it has been a lovely and realistic story with some charming details to compensate some darker aspects ...

So we have Jackson Rule, newly released from prison where he has served half of his life for murder. That of his father, a violent and callous man who, should I dare to say, deserved his fate... And Jackson has to return to his hometown because his sister is still there, hospitalized into an institution, and he needs to be near her. You can imagine how the man suffers to adapt to the life outside prison. It's so sad... But I think that Mrs. McCall has gone a bit too far *idealizing* the hero. A bit...

On the other hand we have Rebecca, daughter of the town's preacher, who is as beautiful as stubborn and decides to give Jackson a chance. Despite the heroine being (too) flawless, her character has been more believable than Jackson's.

The romance has been so lovely and realistic, both MC's reasons to keep their distant are real and sensible

and the attraction they feel for each other is almost palpable.
I loved it.

And then we have the secondary characters:

Pete, a family friend and surrogate father to Rebecca who works with her and Jackson. Their relationship is special and leaves us very tender moments ... maybe too tender, but as I said before, a little sugar is good to swallow some miserable stuff that happens.

There is also Rebecca's father, Daniel the preacher, who doesn't know the meaning of humility and the ability to forgive is not among his qualities. And certainly he is off form with his daughter, they spent more time angry at each other than not. To put it mildly, none of the fathers in this story will win the prize "father of the year". This has bothered me ...

And we also have Jackson's sister, Molly, who could have been a fantastic character but has ended up being a cardboard one ... a pity.

So in general, if the author had been braver with the final (view spoiler) and less melodramatic (view spoiler) I would have given it one more star. But that outcome had left me a little disappointed.
