



Falling for Her Enemy

Victoria James

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A sweet category romance from Entangled's imprint...

She's falling for the one man who could destroy everything...

Alex McAllister always dreamed of a life filled with the laughter and love of a family, but being abandoned at a young age left her wary of letting anyone in. Now that she's settled in Still Harbor, Alex struggles between keeping her distance and the magnetic pull of the handsome stranger who claims he's the biological father of her adopted daughter.

Hayden Brooks never wanted to be a father. Long hours spent building his family's real estate empire suits him just fine. But when he discovers an ex put the baby he unknowingly fathered up for adoption, his world crumbles. He tracks the child to Still Harbor with the intention of bringing her home-and comes face to face with his daughter's stunning adoptive mother.

The paternity test is in. And Hayden's about to make the most shocking decision of his life, just in time for Christmas...

Falling for Her Enemy Details

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Author : Victoria James

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From Reader Review *Falling for Her Enemy* for online ebook

Pavitra (For The Love of Fictional Worlds) says

I received an eARC of the book via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Those of you, who know my preference in romances, know that I absolutely love a kid in the romance, especially when the kid is involved in getting two stubborn people together!

Hence, my main reason for requesting this book – but mostly I also do love a character getting a wake up and honestly realising his/her mistakes and moving on. And this book had both!

Alex is a single mother – by choice. She adopted a kid when she realised that going the traditional way wasn't exactly happening – but then when the supposedly father of her kid contacts her, especially with the intention of taking her away, she buckles for the fight of her life.

Hayden on the other hand is a workaholic who doesn't really have time for family or even love so when a one – night stand comes back into his life with a bomb that he has a kid out in the world – the family values instilled in him, he goes forth to find the aforementioned kid and bring her to his family fold. What he did not expect was to find her in a family who has loved and protected her throughout her life.

Hayden and Alex have this slow simmering chemistry, mostly unconscious cause to them, they are the anti-thesis of what they “should” be attracted to, but mostly it's because they did not expect to like each other. Hayden is Alex's enemy though it is hard for her to think of him so! Hayden isn't supposed to fall for the woman who is taking care of his kid – but he does and now it is more of a problem than anything!

This romance is sweet to the core, I loved how these two characters fall for each other due to the exact same reasons they wanted to hate each other. This book is for those times when you want to be reminded of that sweetness that can exist when we meet the one person capable of getting through our defenses.

For more books and review don't forget to visit - For The Love of Fictional Worlds

Marla Mei says

Falling for Her Enemy is a book that I truly did enjoy but still failed to give me strong loving feelings towards it. I could chalk it up to the fact that I felt like the book focused more on Alex and Hayden's attraction to each other rather than figuring out if Hayden is the real father of Cassy. I mean, I don't think it would've taken a month for the guy to take a paternity test, would it? (I guess if it wasn't one month then Hayden and Alex wouldn't have fallen in love with each other and there'll be no more story so yeah okay let's just accept it and move on.) Alex is reluctant, you see, because she's afraid that the only good thing in her life will be taken away from her again.

I wouldn't have minded that instant attraction if I myself felt it, too. But what I did feel is an attraction that was way too contrived and forced. I really think the story could still work without the romance in it--even better, really--but alas, it couldn't be because this book is a romance! There should be lurrve and kissing and all those sappy shit.

The only thing that could really be blamed here is my expectations and the fact that this book and I just don't have any chemistry at all. This is another one of those it's not you, it's me books for me. Jeez, I've been reading loads of them lately.

An ARC was provided by Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says

When it comes to me reading and reviewing books by Victoria James, I feel like a broken record. Her stories are emotional, heart-warming, and at times, tear inspiring. These attributes are what make her one of my favorite authors, if not favorite author.

Alex McAllister and her foster sisters Kate and Cara all met and grew up in foster care. Together, they vowed to each adopt a child and raise those kids together in a loving environment, something they didn't have. Alex's world is shattered when she discovers a man who thinks that he's her daughter Cassy's birth father.

Hayden Brooks is blindsided when a one-night stand shows up on his doorstep seven years later, claiming he fathered a child she put up for adoption. He doesn't believe the woman but knows if he does have a child in the world, he has to be in that child's life and possibly get custody. Hayden flies cross country from Vancouver to Toronto to get answers. He isn't prepared for the connection he feels to Cassy or the attraction and protectiveness he feels for Alex.

Alex is put in a horrible situation from the start of the book. All she wants to do is own her own bakery and be a mother to Cassy. Both of those hopes and dreams are teetering on the brink of not happening. To say my heart broke for Alex is an understatement. Hayden has his reasons for wanting to take Cassy with him if he is in fact her father. The situation these two find themselves in is really a no-win situation. No matter what, someone's going to get hurt.

I love all the characters in Falling for Her Enemy and the Still Harbor series. For a six-year-old, Cassy is pretty grounded and very vocal. She definitely carries her own in the story. Alex and Hayden have this push and pull relationship. They each want to like the other, but they have to remember in the end that only one is going to get Cassy. When they do give into their attraction, it's beautiful.

Victoria James continues to write amazing stories. I have no clue how she does it. Falling for Her Enemy is emotional and does evoke tears. It's heart-warming, making you want Alex, Cassy, and Hayden to become a family. With all the emotions the book stirs, Victoria has put in funny moments. My tablet can attest to having my latte spewed on it. If you aren't already a fan of Victoria James, this book will make you become one.

****Received a copy of the book courtesy of Entangled Publishing for an honest and unbiased opinion. I've also purchased the book.****

Alp says

DNF at 38%

Selfish heroine--NO, THANK YOU. Too bad, the plot is very interesting...

I'm sorry.

Claire Robinson says

4.5 - **"I hope it's you."** Stars!

Victoria James takes her readers back for another visit to the town and residents of *Still Harbour* and *Falling for Her Enemy* gives us Alexandra McAllisters' story.

I really enjoyed this book, you are given a heavy indication as to what the STORY is likely to be about towards the end of its predecessor *Falling for The P.I.*, in that Alex is told that her adopted daughter's possible father has been searching for her. In steps Hayden Brooks, successful man about town, never expecting to be thrust into the position of father, and especially not in a sleepy town like *Still Harbor*.

They were on opposite sides, yet the same.

The chemistry between the two of them bubbles from their first meeting, and although both of them are reluctant to see where it could lead, especially in light of the fact that Hayden is in town to potentially pull Alex's carefully crafted happy apart.

"I really, really wish you'd turned out to be an asshole."

I think what really gives this story its depth is the fact that the author took the time to show both of them and their individual vulnerabilities in relation to the situation they find themselves in. Hayden is just as far out of his comfort zone as Alex in that he may have a daughter he didn't know about, especially as fatherhood isn't something he has really considered seriously up to the point of finding out. Alex is dealing with feelings and emotions for a man, something she has never entertained before, and especially not a man like Hayden, who has the potential to drastically change everything about how and why she lives her life the way she does.

Set against a backdrop of snow, Christmas and goodwill to all men, women and children, this is the perfect book to curl up with on a cold afternoon or evening, and just get lost in a beautifully written story.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, and it was a pleasure to provide the above honest review.

Kelly says

I love stories where there are children involved. That's why I love the Bliss Imprint. This series has got that wrapped up for me by how it starts with three women who live together with their adopted daughters after meeting each other while being in foster care as kids and each woman has her own story. I read Kate's story

first but you don't have to read it in order to follow along but it helps.

This one is Alex's story. She adopted Cassy from the foster care system. She has loved her since she saw her and works hard every day to provide Cassy with love and everything she needs to grow into a great adult. But the one thing Alex can't provide for Cassy is a daddy.

In comes Hayden. He finds out that a one night stand resulted in a child who was given up for adoption and he believes Cassy is his. So he comes across Canada to do a paternity test and spend time with her. His mission was to take her home with him once the test comes back. What he didn't plan on was falling for Alex. He also fell hard for Cassy too. He lived to work since his mother died when he was a child. He had forgotten what a family felt like.

Alex wants to hate him. He is trying to take the one thing in the world she lives for. She doesn't want a man in her life. She has trust issues. But she can't deny the attraction the two feel for each other. The more time they spend together the harder it is for Alex. She wants him but she hates him too. What a dilemma!

As the three spend time together, Hayden and Alex see things that make it hard not to notice the similarities between Hayden and Cassy; like being left handed and some of their face features and personalities.

Hayden charmed me. Ok I fell for him hard too. I was feeling a little happy the next day thinking about Hayden while at work. I loved how the author's words made it hard for Alex to resist him even though he was trying to disrupt her life. The simple words on the page had charmed and mesmerized me! She describes an awful lot of emotions they both felt and I loved when the light bulb going off in their heads and they can no longer deny each other.

Cassy is a smart and loving child and how can you not love her too! She cracks me up and she warms my heart wanting a daddy and wanting her mom to make Hayden her daddy. She reprimands her mom for not being nice to him.

Then the Christmas season in the book got me all excited for the upcoming season too. Ugh! I just want to crawl into the book and live it. I am on a book high right now!

BookLover says

ARC requested through Netgalley, and kindly provided by Entangled Publishing in exchange for a honest review.

After reading the first book in this series, , and loving it, I was very excited to receive an advanced copy of the next installment, *Falling for Her Enemy*. Victoria James did not disappoint. I was drawn into this story from the first page and found myself irritated when work, sleep and family obligations kept me from getting to read more than a chapter or two at a time.

We met Alex and her adoptive daughter, Cassy, in book one. Enter Hayden, Cassy's potential biological father. Hayden is furious to find out he may have fathered a daughter and was not told she existed. Alex is terrified she may be about to lose the life she has fought so hard to build.

Hayden and Alex's chemistry was great. I loved how inexplicably drawn to one another they were. Despite

wanting to hate one another, and trying their best to do just that, they couldn't deny the mutual attraction and respect they had for one another.

Cassy really stole the show in Hayden and Alex's budding romance. She instantly fell for Hayden and picked him as a match for Alex. Her misuse of big words was hilarious.

"I don't know if you know this, but she's not my pathological mother."

Victoria's stories always leave me with a silly smile on my face. I love her writing style how it always captivate me!

Great read!!! The teaser we got for Cara's story has me anxious to read her story when it comes out.

Christi Snow says

My Review:

I have never read this author before, but she has a new fan. I loved this book so much.

Alex is a single mom who in a single week has had all her dreams threatened. She's been on the five-year savings plan to buy the bakery she works at, but suddenly the owner has to sell early. And her one joy in life is her adoptive daughter...who's supposed birth father has shown up to claim paternity.

Hayden is a hard-working multi-millionaire. He's spent his life trying to make up for a mistake he made when he was too young. So when a woman comes to him to tell him that she gave their baby up for adoption 6 years ago, he plans to become a father to that little girl...without much thought of what it will do to the woman who's adopted and loved her for the last 6 years. But it's not that Hayden is unfeeling...far from it. It's just he has to be part of his child's life, but his life is elsewhere. He's very cognizant to the fact that both mother and child will need visitation to make this transition work. What he doesn't count on is falling as much for the mother as he does the child.

Seriously, this was just the perfect holiday romance. The story set-up was perfect and heartwarming. Tons of heartstrings being tugged in the middle of incredible small town picturesque life and snowfall. No one in this book is the bad guy. It's so easy to see from all sides of it, which made my heart twist for the characters just that much more.

I loved the backstory between the three "sisters" and their three daughters. I need to go back and read book #1 now and am anxiously awaiting #3. It's just a great feel-good book and set within the middle of the Christmas season, it's one that I can definitely recommend to make you feel happier and better as you go into the magic that is the holidays. The romance is phenomenal in the middle of this heart wrenching conflict.

And let's just take a moment to note the perfection that is that cover. Honestly in my viewpoint, this is simply the PERFECT holiday cover. I love it so, so much. Everything about it...the snow, the couple where he's carrying her, the colors. So much LOVE!

I received a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Fizza says

Interesting and quite romantic! This is a story about a man who finds out that he might have fathered a child he knows nothing about and a woman who realises that her adoptive daughter might have a father she couldn't possibly keep her away from. It is quite emotional time for both Alex and Hayden.

Hayden works at a bakery which she plans to buy as soon as she can save enough funds. She has a daughter whom she loves a lot. Then she finds out that she might not get the bakery she has always wanted and in addition to that there is a chance that she will lose her daughter too. Because Alex is rich and successful and she cannot possibly win if it came down to custody fight.

Alex only wants to know the truth. If he has a daughter then he plans to bring her home. No matter what he is willing to make his daughter's life as easy as possible. What he doesn't expect is to fall in love with her adoptive mother or liking Still Harbor to think about staying there...

The story flows smoothly, there are some amazingly romantic scenes and some exciting ones. I loved all the characters. Its definitely a four stars read!

Danielle says

Victoria James is a new author to me and I really enjoyed how she told the story. It was filled with Christmas spirit and lots of emotions.

Hayden had a one night stand almost 7 years ago but now the woman is standing in front of him telling him he put the baby up for adoption. She wants a million dollars. Hayden wants to track down his kid before he makes any decisions which leads him to Alex.

Alex has adopted and raised the child as her own. She comes face to face to Hayden and wants to hate him but the more time they spend in each other's company Alex begins to fall.

I loved the characters and how Alex built a family with her foster sisters and her daughter. Hayden was for sure a charmer but he was also very honest. I enjoyed that the relationship went really slow and had a nice build up to them getting romantic since there was so much at stake.

Now I didn't read the first book in this series but I plan to and I will also read the next. I enjoyed how close the Foster sisters were and you can see how they all have there own stories to tell.

I enjoyed James' voice and how the story just flowed. I wouldn't say it was a quick read but time flew by because of the characters and this special town she created.

If you love happily ever after Christmas stories this one is for you!

Alyse says

For more reviews, please follow my blog:

<http://alysenovak.blogspot.com>

Hayden Brooks has just learned that he could be a father. A woman he had a one-night-stand with 7 years ago claims that he is the father of the child she put up for adoption. This woman is also threatening to expose Hayden as a deadbeat dad if she doesn't give her a million dollars. (Way to keep it classy, lady!!) After learning he could be a father, Hayden begins the search for his child, which brings him to Still Harbor and Alex McAllister and her daughter, Cassy.

Alex has a plan for her life: raise her daughter in a loving home and buying the local bakery (in 5 years). Alex is determined to provide a stable life for herself and her adopted daughter, Cassy. And then walks Hayden Brooks threatening to take it all away from her. And she definitely shouldn't be attracted to the man with the potential to tear her life apart. She wants to hate him, but the more time Hayden spends with Alex and Cassy, it gets harder and harder for her to think of him as the asshole she wishes he was.

Falling for Her Enemy is a really sweet, light, heartfelt story about learning to trust and let down walls. The romance between Alex and Hayden progressed really nicely for me (especially since there potentially so much at stake between these two). I haven't read the first book in the series, but I definitely will go back and read it.

Rating: 4 out of 5

****I received an ARC through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.****

Angie says

I received a copy of this story through NetGalley from Entangled Publishing for an honest review. This is the 2nd book about 3 "sisters" who met in foster care. Each is single and has one child. In this case, Alex/Alexandra adopted Cassy as a baby and is now living with her 2 sisters and their children. Hayden finds out from a one night stand he is a father, but he's also not sure if she's saying it to blackmail him for his millions. Somehow he finds a PI who just happens to be Matt (book 1) and living with Alex's sister, Kate (which means he's living with Alex and Cassy as well).

The story centers around a month during December as he gets to know Cassy until the paternity test is completed. Victoria James has a talent for delicately and emotionally incorporating a social issue in her stories (down syndrome, bulimia, abuse, etc.). One of the issues in this book is Alex's fear of abandonment which is heightened with the possibility of Hayden taking Cassy away from her. Cassy is adorable and says some very mature and adult things for a 6 year old (even if she uses the wrong word, i.e. pathological instead of biological). My only "wait, what?" moment was (view spoiler)

Overall, this is a quick and touching read (during Christmas) that continues the series. I'm anxious for Cara's story.

Alaina Meserole says

Falling for Her Enemy was a pretty cute book. It's a dual POV from Alexandra, who was a manager at a bakery and Hayden, who just found out that he's a dad. Both of their worlds are turned upside down on the same day. Alex finds out the bakery is closing - even though she wanted to buy it from the owner within 5 years. Then there's Hayden who found out that he had a daughter 7 years ago with a woman he had a drunken one night stand with. The kid was given up for an adoption.. which leads us back to Alex because she's the adoptive mother of the girl.

When they meet each other, there's obvious tension between the two. Hayden wants to make sure that he's actually the father and if he is.. well, he wants to be in her life a whole lot more than he was. Meanwhile, Alex is going to do whatever it takes to not lose her baby girl because she was the mother that she needed when her real parents didn't want her.

I really liked Alex and Cassy as a mother and daughter in this book. Their relationship was so precious and I definitely did not want them to be separated. I also felt really bad for Alex because of her past but then she also was letting Hayden get to know Cassy - which I thought was really sweet of her. I know it was probably so freaking hard for her to watch them develop a bond but I really did enjoy it too. Then there's the romance, which I thought was amazingly written. It wasn't instantaneously or anything which I'm glad because that probably would have ruined the book for me. I'm glad that it was slow and sweet.

Overall, I really enjoyed this book and this series. I can't wait to read the next book.

Irene says

4.5 heartwarming stars

Falling for Her Enemy was a beautiful and heartfelt read.

The storyline was touching and emotional, I really felt for both Alex and Hayden and what they had to deal with.

I enjoyed watching Alex and Hayden come together, it took time for them to open up and trust each other.

A huge draw for me was watching Hayden with Cassy, Alex's little girl. They made my heart swoon with their interactions, Cassy was such a sweetheart, loved her.

Overall this was a well written heartwarming read with beautiful characters that will leave you with a heart full of love.

I'm really enjoying the Still Harbor series, *Falling for Her Enemy* is the second book and while each book can be read as a standalone I highly recommend them both.

Looking forward to Cara's book next in Still Harbor #3

Thank you to Entangled Bliss via NetGalley for the advance copy.

Jonetta says

Bakery manager Alexandra (Alex) McAllister's perfect life is now spinning out of control. She learns, on the same day, that the owners of the bakery need to sell now instead of five years from now when she can afford to buy the business and a man claiming to be her adopted daughter's biological father is coming to claim her. Hayden Brooks just learned that his one-night stand may have produced a child and he's ready to take responsibility.

This was a sweet story tinged with a little heartbreak. I admired Alex for having created a lovely family after a truly sad start in life. Her story brought me to tears and her generosity towards Hayden, tepid as it might have been, in letting him have access to her daughter while waiting for the paternity results showed how much she loved Cassy. Hayden was more of a puzzle, causing me to vacillate between like and dislike regarding his motivations. The one thing that worked, though, was the slow development of their romance. Their attraction to each other was instant; their trust and actions not so fast making this a more substantive story.

I enjoyed this story, much more than the first in this series. It had the spark, charm and poignancy I've come to expect from the author. 3.5 stars

(I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review)
