



## Rocky Mountain Devil

*Vivian Arend*

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New York Times Bestselling Author Vivian Arend? brings you the penultimate book in the SIX PACK RANCH series.

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After three years away, Laurel's ready to start over with the gorgeous cowboy who's always owned a piece of her heart. But when her college ex shows up in town, she's got a lot more to deal with than expected, including one suddenly possessive cowboy determined to protect her even as he tutors her through every sexual lesson in the book.

Desire flares hotter and hotter through stolen moments and willing seduction. But when tragedy strikes, Rafe's left on shaky ground, his biggest fear now a reality that could tear them apart and rip forever from their grasp.

Will the connection forged by time be strong enough to see them through to the other side?

*Warning: Friends to lovers equals sweet kisses heating to earth-shaking passion, mixed with laughter and tears. Get ready for hellos, farewells and goodbyes...some forever. Because everyone knows the only real secrets in a small town are the ones you're willing to take to the grave.*

## Rocky Mountain Devil Details

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Author : Vivian Arend

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## From Reader Review Rocky Mountain Devil for online ebook

### Jackie Kiwibooknerd says

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### Tami says

This review is based on an ARC received from the author in exchange for an honest opinion.

It read rather smoothly. This author has long been a favorite of mine and this book did not change that fact.

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### Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4.5 stars

I never get tired of returning to Vivian Arend's Rocky Mountain House and the Coleman clan. Best friends since Kindergarten and with many years of mischief between them, in Rocky Mountain Devil we watch Rafe Coleman and Laurel Sitko tiptoe through the relationship mine field as the deal with family issues, former lovers, and some pretty life changing secrets.

From the moment they met in the sandbox in Kindergarten Rafe and Laurel have been best friends and while Laurel left for awhile to go to college and they took that time to live their lives the moment she returns home Rafe lets her know he plans to pursue her but only after he returns from a summer away working for his brother. This was a cute couple in that Rafe felt sure he was a bad influence all of Laurel's life with her being a local minister's daughter and she reminding him often that most the things that got them into trouble were her ideas. I liked that they had such a rich history and that they'd shared everything up until the time she left for college and while they both dated and lived their lives, back together in the same place they pick up right where they left off but with the added twist of dating. While Laurel was eager to take their relationship to the next level, Rafe insisted they take their time and really learn each other as adults. I liked that they didn't rush as it only added to the sexiness factor and when they did finally get there it was just all the better.

For the most part there wasn't a lot of drama between these two; but even when they did have issues they backed off, regrouped and then one or the other made them face down the problem. Being friends and knowing each other so well really helped them deal with everything going on in their lives AND they didn't cut each other much slack. Rafe needed someone who was going to hang in there when his demons came out and Laurel proved to be one tough cookie.

We saw a lot of Rafe's brother Gabe and his wife and many, many of the other Coleman's, but what I appreciated the most was Laurel's father taking some time to visit with Rafe but not to lecture or question just to reach out and help him to look at his life. With Rafe not having a decent father figure in his life, I think he appreciated Pastor Dave's insight more than he ever let on.

Rocky Mountain Devil was complex, emotional, and sexy and I thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

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### **MountainKat says**

\*4+ Stars\*

I really liked this one! Rafe and Laurel were wonderful. I wanted to kick Rafe's butt a few times, but Laurel took care of that! The ending was so sweet - I love that. Looking forward to Jesse's story!

I listened to the audio and it was ok. Tatiana Sokolov will never be a favorite, but listening is easier than reading, especially these days.

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### **Jennifer says**

ARC received for review

This is only the second book I've read in this series, but it is a stand-alone so don't worry about being lost. Rafe and Laurel have been friends since they were six years old. They never kissed or dated were just BFFs until the night before she leaves for college. They are apart for those years and both have relationships. But when she moves home...it's all over...she's his and she agrees. Of course, life and love is never that easy. Her ex suddenly shows up, and he has drama with his dad. In the end true love conquers all.

Now where did Jesse go?

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### **Christine~justlovemybooks.com blog~ says**

Review coming soon

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### **Maria Rose says**

This review appears at All About Romance: <http://allaboutromance.com/book-reviews/>

Rocky Mountain Devil is book number ten in the Six Pack Ranch series. Luckily, for those who haven't yet discovered this Canadian Rocky Mountain set series, each book is easily read as a standalone without a broad continuing story arc (other than some weddings and babies for previously profiled couples). As a fellow Canadian, I appreciate that the author has centered her series in Western Canada, where she also lives. While her characters are fictional, it wouldn't surprise me if some of them have a foothold in reality. The Coleman extended family is the backbone of the series, and this particular story is all about Rafe Coleman, one of the so-called 'Angel Colemans' ; though being the most likely to get into trouble, Rafe was always thought of as a little devil. So it's only natural that he'd be paired up with preacher's daughter Laurel Sitko in

this delightful and heartwarming friends-to-lovers romance.

Rafe and Laurel have been friends since she and her family moved to Rocky Mountain House when she was in kindergarten. From their first meeting, it was clear they were kindred spirits and they got into enough scrapes over their school years to cement their bond. When Laurel went off to Bible College for three years, Rafe couldn't wait for her to return. They'd fooled around a little bit on graduation night but had an understanding that while separated – if the right person came along, they wouldn't hold themselves back from a relationship. Laurel's return and subsequent job at the library (and more importantly her single status) is all the impetus Rafe needs to start his slow and steady seduction to show Laurel that their relationship is ready to move onto the next stage. But Laurel has some baggage from her years away that she isn't sure she's ready to share. And even though Rafe knows he wants things to proceed with Laurel, his own family upbringing makes him hesitate to promise more than just right now. Can the move from friends-to-lovers also mean a chance at forever?

There are a few things in this story that stand out, resulting in a memorable read. One of these is the treatment of religion. Now, this isn't an inspirational romance by any means. There are enough sex scenes to dispel that notion. But as a small town romance, the faith life of the community can't be ignored like it can be in a big city romance – especially with the heroine being the pastor's daughter (and yes, there is a *Footloose* reference in the story). But unlike that movie, Laurel has a very good relationship with her parents. They are the type of pastor and wife that you'd want to have in your community – caring and thoughtful people. Laurel's experience in Bible College included a failed relationship with a young man, Jeff Lawson, one of the consequences of which resulted in her leaving the college early and going to a different school. Her faith is in question and that's part of her journey in this story, finding her spiritual path again after circumstances have caused her to have doubts. I think the topic is treated in a realistic manner and is important to understanding Laurel's character and her life choices.

The conflict in the novel comes from a surprising source. Jeff has come to Rocky Mountain House to consider a position at Laurel's father's church. In his mind, his breakup with her was temporary, and he's keen to have her back in his life. It's the opposite of Laurel's experience. She doesn't want anything more to do with him. Her parents, knowing nothing of what happened in bible college think he'd be a good match for her, a more appropriate one than Rafe (though they don't say that outright). Rafe knows he'll never be the perfect match for Laurel in her parents' eyes, but he doesn't give himself enough credit, and fortunately they are smart enough to see the good, solid man that he really is. Rafe's relationship with Laurel's parents is part and parcel of his relationship with her and the scenes with him on his best behavior are gently amusing.

Rafe knows some of what happened between Laurel and Jeff, but not all. His confrontations with Jeff are polite but edged with the knowledge that Rafe isn't going to let Laurel go without a fight. However some of what Jeff says to Rafe about who would be better suited as a marriage partner for Laurel hits its mark. Rafe's father Ben has become a bitter and angry old man since the death of Rafe's younger brother, and while his mother puts up with it, it's made Rafe's relationship with his father very fractious. He worries that he's got the hereditary makeup to become like his father and that what he and Laurel have now could go sour. This is what makes him go slowly with Laurel and not push for a future commitment, preferring to take things one day at a time. He takes his time on the bedroom front, wanting to take Laurel out on proper dates, and building up to a sexual relationship. This slow burn of sexual tension is deliciously crafted and it's Laurel who finally pushes Rafe to give in to their mutual desires. Becoming lovers doesn't change the strength of their friendship; it just adds another layer to their relationship. But soon Rafe realizes that he wants it all.

As the tenth book in a series, it's expected that there will be multiple scenes involving other characters. The author manages to do this in a subtle way, not overwhelming the reader with a whole bunch of people all at

once, but gradually showing some of the relationships Rafe has with his family in smoothly flowing scenes throughout the story. For those who have read previous books, it's a welcome catching up of sorts with old friends. For new readers, it's enough of a taster to want to find out more. Plus, like any good series, there are some hints of what's to come next. Rafe's brother Gabe and sister-in-law Allison play a fairly prominent role (as do both sets of parents) and for Laurel it's a boon to have some of Rafe's family treat her as such, too. I like this family – they are not perfect and are a good reflection of the ups and downs of normal familial relationships. There is also a handy family tree at the start of the story to see where everyone fits in. *Rocky Mountain Devil* is a lighthearted read with its fair share of emotional moments, put together with a dash of Canadian country charm and starring a sexy couple destined to have a happy future together.

Note: a copy of this story was provided by the author for review.

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### **Darcy says**

I loved that Rafe and Laurel were friends as kids and that we got to see their friendship evolve. I think they made the right decision to not take things further when Laurel left for college, but loved that they both felt the zing when they met up again.

Their romance was nice, not a lot of issues, more just getting to know each other as adults. I liked that Rafe didn't rush things sexually, but gave them something to look forward to. Loved how all the Coleman's reacted, just welcomed another one to the fold. The girls shopping trip was great, loved how 4 different personalities mixed in a good way.

Things were going so smoothly, I kept waiting for something to happen. When it did, it was about expected and I found myself cheering Rafe on, even as I guessed what about to happen and how it would screw Rafe up. I liked that Laurel gave Rafe space at first, but then when he needed it showed up to help. By sharing her secret she was able to show Rafe that life does go on and he needs to join back in.

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### **Sandy S says**

3.75 stars

**ABOUT THE BOOK:** Release Date September 20, 2016

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After three years away, Laurel's ready to start over with the gorgeous cowboy who's always owned a piece of her heart. But when her college ex shows up in town, she's got a lot more to deal with than expected, including one suddenly possessive cowboy determined to protect her even as he tutors her through every sexual lesson in the book.

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REVIEW: 3.75 stars **ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVIL** is the tenth installment in Vivian Arend's contemporary, adult **SIX PACK RANCH** cowboy romance series focusing on the Coleman family of Rocky Alberta, Canada. This is twenty somethings rancher Raphael Coleman, and librarian Laurel Sitko's storyline. **ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVIL** can be read as a stand alone without any difficulty. Several characters cross-over between this series and the author's spin off series **Thompson and Sons**.

Told from dual third person perspectives (Rafe and Laurel) **ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVIL** is a friends to lovers romance that focuses on the rekindling friendship and relationship between Raphael 'Rafe' Coleman, and his angel Laurel Sitko. Rafe and Laurel have been best friends since the second week of kindergarten, and have been one another's support system for almost as long until Laurel headed off to college, and Rafe remained behind to work on the family ranch. In the three years Laurel was away, neither one contacted or kept in touch with one another but they had made a promise that if neither one was in a relationship they would get together upon Laurel's return. What ensues is Rafe's slow seduction of the woman he has loved for most of his life, and Laurel's struggles with the return of her past.

We are witness to Rafe and Gabe's battle with their emotionally absent father Ben- a man who has struggled since the death of his son Mike. Ben's behavior is a constant thorn in the Rafe and Gabe's side, a thorn that forces the brothers to keep their distance from the man they once called dad. Their long-suffering mother remains strong as the family dynamic continues to crumble.

The relationship between Rafe and Laurel is a friends to lovers romance that has been developing since the couple was five years old. Rafe's slow seduction of our heroine is truly romantic as he is determined to date with woman he has known for most of his life. The sex scenes are intimate and provocative. The sexual tension is palpable.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVIL** has a very large ensemble cast of secondary and supporting characters including numerous extended Coleman family members-cousins, aunts, and uncles, and the birth of a new generation-an Excel spreadsheet may be advisable to keep track of the multi-generational connections ;). Rafe's cousin Jesse is struggling with his relationship with his twin brother Joel, and makes a decision about his current direction in life. Jesse's story will be told next in **Rocky Mountain Home**.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVIL** is an emotional story line with plenty of heartbreak for the Coleman family. There are moments of sexy romance and love; frustration and acceptance; loss and moving forward. The premise is engaging; the characters are dynamic and energetic; the romance is passionate and heartwarming. There is very little story line conflict-the outside threat to Rafe and Laurel's relationship is tepid and never crosses over the proverbial line-the biggest threat is Rafe's guilt about family and loss.

Copy supplied for review

Reviewed by Sandy

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### **Bea Charmed says**

I struggled with this, considered DNFing it. I just didn't care. I couldn't connect with the characters.

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### **Dar says**

Sweet, confused, little Rafe! More than any of the other Coleman's, Rafe seems to be the one always around, in all the books, and we got to see him grow up. And unlike the rest of the Coleman crew, he has lost more, in his brother Mike, and then when Gabe left for years. It doesn't seem real he has grown up enough to settle down, but then again, Laurel has always been in his life

Laurel and Rafe have been best friends since kindergarten, and while she left to go to school, she is back now. Their lives, and themselves, have grown while apart, but Rafe knows what he wants, and he only needs to bring Laurel for the ride

The slow build, the revealing of emotions and reasons, the sexy cowboys everywhere, and a new Coleman baby to boot, makes for an amazing book. We also get a glimpse, a hint, a small peek, on what has been going through Jesse's head lately. It only seems appropriate that the series, for the boys, end with a Six-Pack Ranch fella, as it all started with one

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### **Amyiw says**

[ that she was at a clinic and believed it to be a woman's choice. (hide spoiler)]

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### **Marta Cox says**

Another story that connects the ever growing Colman family and as usual such a joy to read. When I think of these stories I think about warmth because that's the overall feeling that comes through in these books. I also expect some poignancy as the author explores just what it really means to connect to others. Oh and of course love but it can take many guises, lovers, family, maybe even animals but sometimes it's just the love shared between friends which brings me nicely to our couple.

Rafe met an angel when sitting in the sandbox at school, an angel whose name was Laurel. Laurel knew she might find it hard starting in a new school but Rafe turned out to be everything she needed in a friend. So what if she's the preachers daughter because Rafe sees her exactly as she is and as they grow their bond is rock solid but time doesn't stand still and they both grow up and set out to build lives for themselves. Yet times change and Laurel returns home to Rocky only to find that what she left behind is still everything she needs and more besides. Can Rafe and Laurel truly find a way forward together or will past events rear their ugly head and stifle their happy ending?

Such a slow burn romance as Rafe is determined not to rush or force anything upon his best friend Laurel. That's probably the sweetest thing about their story as friends become lovers and Laurel learns that being part of the Coleman clan is like getting one giant hug! Yet there is sadness in this story , a deft light touch is employed but it still felt oh so very real. Don't worry though as you will enjoy seeing Rafe get all protective of his girl and there are genuinely funny moments as he battles down his inner caveman but to say more would be to reveal too much.

What I can say is I always feel happy when I read these stories and even though it's not a lifestyle I know it still feels real. Every family has known sadness , we all keep secrets and yet the one thing that unites is wanting to belong and when I read this series I really want to be a part of the loveable Colemans!

I was gifted a copy of this in exchange for an honest review

Four and a half from me

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### **Gisele says**

I liked it. The only thing I wanted was for Laurel to have a good talk to her parents, which didn't happen. Bummer.

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### **Under the Covers Book Blog says**

It's been a while since I've read a book in this series, mostly because I wasn't paying attention and completely missed when this came out! But what happens when there's so much time between reading books for me? I forget the characters! So yeah, I went into this one without much recollection about Raphael Coleman.

What I was immediately excited about is the fact that Rafe and Laurel have been best friends since they were kids. They used to get in trouble together, share all their special memories, as really good friends. There was no one without the other. And after some time apart where they had lives of their own apart from each other, they are finally back in town together and trying to make a relationship work. Which is what they've always wanted. Loved that!

There are some things about this book I really liked, like the fact that the pacing of the relationship makes sense for them reconnecting and even though they may want to jump feet first into dating and getting physical they still take things slow. Not quite a slow burn, but almost? That made sense to me. Also, the characters themselves were very likeable and had their own personal struggles to deal with.

What I'm never a fan of and I've been happy not to see if so much in the books I've read lately is the "I'm no good for you because I'll end up being like my father" mentality. Whyyyy????? I hate this!!! So, this dragged down my enjoyment of the book a lot just because it kept making me stabby.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVIL felt very comfortable and nice, which at times can also be a little boring, but it was overall a sweet read and it's always nice to be back in this world Ms. Arend has created with all the sexy cowboys. Now I'm left wanting more.

\*Reviewed by Francesca♥ ? Don't want to miss any of our posts? Subscribe to our blog by email! ? ♥

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