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Stranger In Town (Dundee, Idaho Series Book 5)



Synopsis

The car accident was Hannah Price's fault; a few seconds of inattention that changed Gabe Holbrook's life forever, destroying everything he'd been or ever wanted to be. He was a man who'd had it all. Intelligent, handsome, talented, rich, he'd been one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL. Now he's come home to Dundee, the small town where he was raised, but he's a stranger to the people who once knew him. Folks think he's bitter and withdrawn; he knows he's just focused on recovering. But thanks to Hannah Price, there are some things that can't be fixed. Hannah has been struggling to recover from that fateful night, too. Unlike Gabe, she sustained only minor injuries. But she's not sure she'll ever be able to forgive herself for making a mistake with such far-reaching consequences. Especially when Gabe becomes her older son's football coach, and she begins to fall in love with the man she nearly destroyed.

Look for all eight books in Brenda Novak's Dundee, Idaho series, available now. And don't miss her new romantic Whiskey Creek trilogy, available from Harlequin MIRA!

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Customer Reviews

Hannah Price takes a dangerous gamble on a snowy road and in a blink of an eye, ruins hometown legend Gabe Holbrook's NFL career. He never gives up on the chance that he'll one day walk

again, and keeps to himself in his remote cabin. When his high school football coach dies suddenly, the school needs a replacement, and his friend Mike asks him to take over. Hannah's son Kevin is nervous about the new coach - will he have residual anger towards Kevin because of his mother? Hannah tries to run interference and gets the brush off from Gabe. When she spots a beautiful chair that Gabe made, she asks if she can exchange home cooked meals for the chair. Hannah's looking for forgiveness, and finds love, never believing that he'd return her feelings. Making matters difficult is her former in-laws that would like nothing more than reconciliation for the good of the children. "Stranger in Town" is just a standard melodramatic Harlequin romance; nothing to write home about and certainly not up to par with Novak's other novels like the superb "Every Waking Moment."

The intensity of this story grabbed me right from the beginning. I was so enthralled by the events that took place, I could even put the book down long enough to even eat dinner. I can't even start to image what kind of guilt ran threw Hannah, knowing she took away a man's ability to live the life he once cherished so much. She knew Gabe was going through a hard time, but she also knew that there was nothing she could do to turn back the events that took place 3 years ago. Lord only knows that if she could, she surely would. Gabe was a famous quarterback in the NFL, he was also rich, good looking, and very popular with both the women and men alike. He had it all going his way, until that fateful night 3 years ago. He was on his way home for the Christmas holidays, when a car hit him head on. The crash left him paralyzed from the waist down. He holds no grudge against Hannah, he knew it was just one of those unfortunate accidents that happen every now and then. But after he realized his injuries might be permanent, he hid himself away in the mountains and lived like a hermit. It wasn't so much that he'd felt ashamed of being in the wheel chair, it was because he was tired of seeing the pity on the faces on every citizen in town, including his own family members. Hannah has been struggling to recover from that fateful night too, the guilt had all but eaten through her whole being. Things start to go into another direction though, when Gabe becomes her son's new high school football coach. The more interaction she has with Gabe, the more in love she is with him. But can they find happiness, or will that terrible accident keep them apart? I rated this book a 4.5 actually, but only because of the short ending. I know authors tend to do that when writing series books. They usually make up for it in the next book, but even so, I wished it would have ended a bit differently. Would I recommend this book? Yes, most definitely.

Wow! What a story! Guilt.....hard to overcome. Forgiveness.....hard to give. I love this entire

Dundee, Idaho series. Brenda Novak takes a small community and with each book centers around a different character. This story tells of a tragic car accident that leaves Gabe unable to walk; Hannah caused the wreck. Seeing Gabe in a wheelchair fills her with guilt. He's become withdrawn from the community and Hannah thinks she has a plan to change that.....a plan, of course that backfires, because Gabe turns the tables on her. Another beautiful book, another "must read".

It is always nice when you find a series of books based around characters that you enjoy. If you are reading this review and haven't read the other books in this series, start with 'A Baby of Her Own'. I guess you could read this book as a stand alone, but the series is great and you will fall in love with this little Idaho town and all(well most) of the people that live there. You will want to cheer for Hannah throughout this entire book and there are a few times I was laughing too. I could have used a few more chapters so I could've followed their story a little longer, but I guess it's time to start the next book to see what happened.

I only recently started reading books by Brenda Novak and I must say that I have become addicted to the Dundee Idaho folks. Makes me wish to live in a place like that. I hope to read more from Dundee. The car accident caused by Hannah Price changed Gabe Holbrook's life completely, his dream of being a starting quarterback in the NFL completely shattered. However, his will to live to recuperate is not diminished even if he has become a recluse. Fate will bring Hannah Price across his path once again and this time with a different result. Hannah is a divorcee with two boys and feels wholly guilty for what she caused to happen to Gabe. She is a strong woman and a very likeable character. She proposes to cook for him in exchange for one of his handmade chairs. This constant interaction develops into something more. They both discover that there is more to life than living with the gross mistakes of the past. Gabe is willing to move beyond his limitations to embrace a relationship with Hannah.

I really enjoy multiple books with the same place, usually a small town, as the setting. This is another novel in the Dundee (Idaho) series, and it's excellent. The people are believable, and the endings aren't always everything-comes-out-perfect. I think I've read all of this series now, and since the last one was dated several years ago, I assume the series is done. I wish there were more!

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