



## Temptation Ridge

*Robyn Carr*

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**Shelby McIntyre has big plans—plans that include finding Mr. Right.**

Her dream man will have a clean-shaven jaw, creases in his pants and hopefully an advanced degree. What she gets is rugged Luke Riordan. At twenty-five, after five years as her mother's caregiver, it's time for Shelby to experience freedom and adventure. Time for travel, college and romance.

But when she visits Virgin River, she runs into Luke Riordan, decidedly not whom she has in mind. A handsome Blackhawk pilot, Luke exited the army after twenty years, four wars and having been shot out of the sky three times. At thirty-eight he's tough and jaded. His major was in one-night stands, with a minor in commitment avoidance.

Technically, these two are all wrong for one another. But sometimes what you want and what you need are two different things...two very good things.

"The Virgin River books are so compelling—I connected instantly with the characters and just wanted more and more and more." —#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Debbie Macomber

## **Temptation Ridge Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2014 by Harlequin MIRA (first published 2009)

ISBN :

Author : Robyn Carr

Format : Kindle Edition 419 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Temptation Ridge for online ebook

### Arlena says

Title: Temptation Ridge (A Virgin River Novel)

Author: Robyn Carr

Publisher: Mira Books

Series: Virgin River #6

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Rating: 5

Reviewed:

"Temptation Ridge" by Robyn Carr was a beautiful contemporary novel of the Virgin River #6 that featured three romances. The main storyline was of Shelby McIntyre and Luke Riordan...then it moves on to Walt Booth and Muriel and lastly Abby MacCall and Cameron Michaels. Be prepared for a read of not only romances that are going on in this small California town but where you will find the people will come together in sadness, in rescue times, along with plenty of babies being born, pregnancies, town near disaster, abuse, a homeless man with 'Down's Syndrome,' and a town drunk.

The characters were all well developed, believable and colorful bring out a well written read of suspense, humorous, tearful and even some sexy scenes that will keep you interested turning the pages to see what will happen next.

I found "Temptation Ridge" a well written romance novel that I would definitely recommend to you as very good read.

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### Kathrynn says

Loved it! I've enjoyed all the Virgin River books, but this is the best one since the first hit the shelves, imo. Be sure to read the series in order because the characters continue to develop with each book.

Neat reading about the earlier characters and getting updated on them: Mel and Jack, Brie and Mike, Preacher (John) and Paige, Walt and Muriel, and many more. This book did not have the Shady Brady (Dan) character in it, though.

The two main characters in this one were Luke Riordan and Shelby (Walt's niece). Loved their story. One thing that keeps me so engrossed in this series is the straightforwardness of the heroines. They don't play coy games and are very direct, upfront, strong and independent. What I love most of the heros is their absolute love and adoration for their wives and families.

There were two other romances running through this one: Walt and Muriel (very sweet); Cameron and Abbey. I would like to have read more about Cameron and Abbey and can't wait for their story to develop.

There was some sadness in this book, so have some tissues handy. There was also some great laughs with Luke's brother's and his mom who had "the look" down pat.

This is a book I will re-read one day. It put a smile on my face and I was sad to see it end.

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### **Kristen says**

#### **4 Stars**

These books are the perfect "getting into the holiday spirit" type of read. They have a quaint, almost Hallmark-movie type feel to them that leaves me feeling uplifted. That said, I don't think I'd have the patience to read them, as they're not as couple centered as I prefer in my romances. However, I've loved listening to them as I go about my day.

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### **Sue says**

Definitely enjoyed this one, it wasn't a single couple story but several. New characters were added to Virgin River, Luke Riordan a former black hawk pilot and Shelby, General Booth's niece.

The Riordan's are going to be exactly what the series needed, 5 soldier brothers that will be rolling off their service and likely bound for Virgin River. Muriel and Walt (General Booth) have sparked a lovely romance, she formerly Hollywood royalty and he all Army they make for a fun couple. Then there is this sweet character Art, a man who has down syndrome who has been abused and is taken in by Luke. And just to make sure the next novel has a couple to work with there is Abby and Cam. Cam is now the new doctor in VR and Abby is there to escape the tabloid press (Won't say more on that because that would really be a spoiler).

Back to Luke and Shelby, he's just a great character if Jack wasn't there Luke would definitely be the next Jack. A giving heart, loyal, brave and the willingness to help. He's learning the VR ropes, so he's not quite Jack.. who is in a word social, Jack is the heart beat of VR and we wouldn't have it any other way. Shelby is strong but very inexperienced 25 year old, but mature well beyond her years (her life hasn't been easy). Luke is 39, he sees no future for them but they both start a romance thinking it'll be a nice diversion. And for once in a VR romance the girl isn't pregnant... lol we joke about VR's water.

Therese Plummer narrated.

Story and narration a solid 4.25 sorry couldn't award it a 5, those stories have to touch my heart. psst... Angst usually does it for me.

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### **Julianna says**

Reviewed for THC Reviews

Robyn Carr has really been on a roll lately with the *Virgin River* series. When I first started the series, I enjoyed the stories, but wasn't quite as impressed as other readers seemed to be. However, with each book I've read, they seem to keep getting better and better. In *Temptation Ridge*, Ms. Carr builds on the character of Shelby MacIntyre who was first introduced in *Whispering Rock* and pairs her with a brand new hero who has just come to town, tough guy and former Black Hawk pilot, Luke Riordan. There are also a couple of

secondary romances brewing, we get to visit with all the residents of Virgin River, including all the past heroes and heroines, and say goodbye to another beloved character who has been there since the beginning. I was very saddened by this character's passing, and have to say that I know the author is doing her job very well when she creates a character who seems so real, I can actually cry over their death. As always, coming back to Virgin River is like coming home to visit family.

Luke is the owner of a group of broken down hunting cabins just outside Virgin River. After retiring from the military, he comes to town to fix them up, intending to resell them for a profit, but ends up finding a place where he feels at home. Luke has a reputation as a playboy, but he's a total goner for Shelby from the moment he first sees her on the road into town. Thinking she's too young for him, he tries to keep his distance, but it only takes one look at her for him to prefer her demure innocence over a slutty willing woman he meets in a bar. Almost instantly he begins to lose his taste for casual sex and barely even realizes it. When Luke started getting jealous of his brother, Sean's ability to charm Shelby, it was rather funny, although I think he was only half kidding about murdering Sean for it.:-) Luke may be a little rough around the edges, but he's incredibly gentle with Shelby. He's such a considerate and tender lover, and their love scenes were absolutely perfect. What Luke does for Art, an abused, homeless man with Down's Syndrome is nothing short of wonderful. It all goes to show what a big heart Luke has even though he tries to hide it. I thought it was rather funny that Shelby seemed to be the one who was OK with the casual nature of their relationship, while Luke was the one who was experiencing deeper feelings and beginning to be bothered by her easy-going attitude. In spite of knowing he's falling in love with Shelby, he fights it tooth and nail, in part because of his ex-wife's cruel betrayal. He also thinks Shelby is too young to be tied down to a man who's considerably older than her and that she should experience more of life before making a commitment to any relationship. On the surface this seems like selfless reasoning and I did understand his issues, but Luke was such an incredibly stubborn man, I almost wanted to jump into the story and smack some sense into him. He was ready to give up the only woman who truly loved him for himself and made him happy. Normally, I'm not a fan of a secondary character giving away important information about a main character because it usually takes away valuable relationship development from the couple. However, in this case, without his brother, Aiden's intervention, I'm not sure Luke ever would have come to his senses.

I realized when I was quite a ways into the story that the author was writing most of the scenes from Luke's perspective. We don't get a whole lot of input from Shelby's point of view, so a lot of what we learn about her comes from the way that Luke and the other characters view her and her own actions. Shelby is a very sweet girl who spent several years of her youth caring for an ailing mother. She didn't have to do this. It was her choice, and I think this alone shows what a strong, determined young woman she is. Now that her mother has passed away, Shelby is ready to start a new life and wants to go to nursing school, but first she comes to Virgin River to spend some time with her Uncle Walt and cousin, Vanni. Even though Luke is nothing like the man she'd envisioned for herself, Shelby finds that she is very attracted to him almost immediately. For being shy and sheltered in her youth, Shelby certainly comes out of her shell and blossoms very quickly. She seems to really enjoy flirting and teasing with Luke and then watching him squirm. Shelby is very kind and caring, but she's also very headstrong and independent. She definitely goes after what she wants and what she wants is an experienced, attractive man like Luke to be her first lover. She didn't expect to fall in love with him so easily, but when she believes that Luke doesn't return her affection, she decides that maybe it's time to leave town. I really appreciated that Shelby was so mature about their relationship. Right from the start, Luke was honest with Shelby about not being a commitment sort of guy, so after giving him ample time to express his feelings, Shelby doesn't whine or cry or beg for things to be different. She merely tells him how she feels and leaves the ball in his court. I loved the way Shelby went toe-to-toe with Luke in the last few pages. I was beginning to doubt this couple having an HEA, but Ms. Carr really pulled it off through Shelby's determination and assertiveness.

As I mentioned earlier, there are a couple of secondary romances in *Temptation Ridge*. First we have Cameron who briefly dated Vanni in *Second Chance Pass*. I always liked him and thought he would make a good hero. Although I certainly didn't want him paired with Vanni, I was rather disappointed that such a nice guy got left out in the cold. Still, I thought we'd probably seen the last of him when that all ended, so I was very glad when he turned up again in this book. It looks like he has finally found a good match with Abby, one of Vanni's friends. Cameron is a real sweetheart. He's hot, he's a doctor, he loves kids, and he's kind and caring. I can't believe no one has snapped him up yet. I know I'd do it in a heartbeat. I just love how tender and gentle he is with Abby, trying to reassure her and allay her fears. Hopefully, he'll finally get the HEA he's been craving. It definitely looks like we'll be seeing a lot more of Cameron in *Virgin River*, and I certainly can't say I'm complaining. I think he's going to make a great addition to the community. The other secondary romance is for Walt and Muriel. Muriel is very down to earth for a famous movie star, and Walt is just head over heels for her. They take things to the next level and experience a deepening of their relationship that began in *Second Chance Pass*. These two show that love isn't just for the young, but also the young at heart.

You can't have a *Virgin River* book without lots of secondary characters. All the previous heroes and heroines return. Jack and Mel are still the backbone of the town. I just love how Jack reassures Mel that her body is still beautiful to him, although I still think she was being a bit too self-conscious given the circumstances. I was very pleased however, to see that for once Mel was not giving Jack a hard time in this book. She did get a little bossy at one point, except this time it's directed at poor Preacher and his fabulous cooking. She was also a little meddlesome, but this time it was for a good reason and greatly helped a long-time resident of the town. I loved Mel's banter with Doc too. Mike and Brie welcome their first child, and I'm really starting to enjoy the birthing parties the town holds every time a new baby arrives. Preacher and Paige, Paul and Vanni, and Mike and Brie all move into their new homes. I was thrilled to see Joe and Nikki marrying, although I dearly would have loved to see more of this couple. They had really captured my attention with their brief but passionate secondary romance in *Second Chance Pass*. Tom stopped in for a quick visit before heading to West Point, and I'm really glad to see that he and Brenda are still a couple despite their youth and the long-distance nature of their relationship. We also get a pretty good introduction to Luke's two brothers, Sean and Aiden. Sean is more the carefree jokester, while Aiden is a little more serious and looking to settle down. These two become the heroes of *Angel's Peak* (#10) and *Moonlight Road* (#11) respectively.

*Virgin River* is a very symbiotic community. When Mel said it's almost more like a commune than a town, she couldn't have been more right. I just love the way everyone works together to help everyone else out. It's like a modern frontier settlement where people, in some ways, depend on each other for survival. If only this town were real, I'd love to go there for a visit or maybe even to live, but alas, it only exists in the mind of Robyn Carr. I'm so glad that she has chosen to share it with her readers and will be greatly looking forward to my next visit. I've been very excited for Ricky's story for a long time, and he's next up in *Paradise Valley*.

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### ♥Rachel♥ says

Shelby was amazing. Luke tried my patience, but I still loved him, too. I can understand his reluctance because of his past, but come on! And don't make the decision for your partner of what they want or need.

I'm looking forward to more of Abby and Cameron. I wanted to shake Abby, though.

Walt and Muriel have a great thing going, and I'm thrilled that we get to see romance with characters of this

age. I mean, look at Harrison Ford! He's well past Walt's 60 (or is it 61? too lazy to look up) and Muriel's 56, but he's pretty darn sexy! Gives me something to look forward to! I want more!

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### **jenjn79 says**

Yet another excellent edition to the Virgin River series. I think I liked *Second Chance Pass* just a smidge more...so I'd probably rate this one 4.75 stars. But it was still a great book to read. I had a few minor quibbles, but overall, I enjoyed it a lot.

*Temptation Ridge*, the sixth book in the Virgin River series, takes up back to Virgin River where you catch up with existing characters, meet some new ones, see some previous ones return, and say a last goodbye to another. Shelby McIntyre, who was introduced in the previous book, is moving to Virgin River for a little while, planning to stay with her Uncle Walt and cousin Vanessa. On the way into town, she meets Luke Riordan, an retired army man coming to Virgin River to work on some property he owns.

After five years taking care of her invalid mother, Shelby has plans. Take a few months to herself, travel a little, then start nursing school. And if she happens to meet a guy somewhere in there, all the better. She knows just what kind of guy she wants...until she meets Luke. From the first there is a strong attraction between them. Luke tries to fight it. He believes he's no good for her. But Shelby, once she decides she wants Luke, doesn't let up. And soon the two are virtually playing house.

While elsewhere in Virgin River, Walt and Muriel move their relationship further, a beloved character dies, babies are born, pregnancies discovered, and a bunch of kids are put in danger. Pretty much everything you'd come to expect from a Virgin River novel.

I always enjoy coming back to Virgin River and getting to see what all the characters are up to. I just love Mel and Jack. They're kind of the heart and soul of the series. There were some scenes with Mel in this book that just broke my heart. I cried for like 10 pages straight.

I really liked Shelby in this book. She's such a strong, together heroine. Rather empowering to read about. I loved the way she handled the situation with Luke, especially near the end. Their romance was sweet yet hot. I do wish they'd gotten a little more attention during the first part of the book, but I was really happy that for once the last page (chapter) of the book dealt with the H/H instead of some other Virgin River couple.

If I had to quibble with one or two things...one would be the introduction of Abby and the reintroduction of Cameron. What's happened between them so far is very similar to Nikki and Joe from the last book. I just found a little bit of a lack of originality there. And the other thing would be that I thought it was weird that in the beginning, Mel was one this big kick about her weight but after that one chapter, it was never mentioned again. Grant it, she was rather distracted, but I just thought it was odd for something to be introduced like it was this big thing for her, then completely disappear.

They're just little quibbles, though. I liked everything else about the book. And I'm really looking forward to *Paradise Valley*...though I am a bit dubious about the potential heroine of that one.

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## Quinn says

Please bear with me as I stumble through this review. I've been sitting staring blankly at the screen for a full minute, because I'm still not sure what I think of this book. It has some absolutely wonderful moments, and some powerfully tragic ones, too. But it seems like it's taken me six books to finally start getting irritated with things that have bothered other readers right from the start.

For a start: Mel. I've never been particularly bothered by her character or the author's penchant for using Mel's character to promote women's health issues (apart from the disastrous scene in the last book); but in this one I could totally see how readers would find her pushy and abrasive.

I was particularly bothered by the way she approached asking Preacher to cook healthier, low-fat food because she had gained weight. For a start, there was no asking, there was only demanding, and her approach was unnecessarily bullying and hostile. I didn't get that at all – they are supposed to be friends, and Preacher is a gorgeous man.

Apart from that, if you're not happy with what Preacher cooks, try making your own food. Even if you can't cook, you can throw together a salad for goodness sake. No one is shoving the food down your throat. See? It bothered me. I'm sure many readers would say that is typical Mel behaviour, but I haven't seen her in that light before.

I also felt that Mel ambushing virgin Shelby and submitting her to an intrusive on-the-spot pelvic exam without just cause (and detailing the whole thing to the reader) was a bit much. The overload of pregnancies still doesn't bother me (albeit I can see that the overwhelming male response is implausible), but that scene did. I don't like pushy people, and I saw that trait in Mel in this installment.

Finally, the author's transitions to the parallel storylines and secondary romances are jarring. Some of them just came completely out of nowhere. We're going along nicely, settling into the story and immersing ourselves in the Virgin River life and **BAM!** Along comes what appears to be a completely unrelated and random introduction of a totally different story. What? Who? Why?

It's not that I even dislike these other stories - I actually enjoyed them a great deal - but there's got to be a better way of introducing them, and crossing to them. It's just not working and is very jarring for the reader and serves to completely pull you out of the other storylines. I was first attracted to the original Virgin River novel because it gave a feeling of comfort, but this is quite an uncomfortable way of reading, no matter how appealing the stories.

Finally, what is with the need to insert a random, large scale tragedy or threat to the town? I know I'm not reading romantic suspense here, so I don't expect the author to randomly throw in some kind of danger for the sake of action or suspense. And that's what it feels like. It just doesn't fit with the general pace and feel of the novel, no matter how well it is written.

This is why I'm feeling conflicted about this one. I finish typing all that, and I'm wanting to give the book a low rating. Then, realising that I've said nothing of the plot, I get to thinking of the storylines and characters, and how much I enjoyed them. Then I want to give it a high rating. Probably we'll end up somewhere in the middle, but I shall keep typing and see how I feel.

The primary romance in this one is between lovely 25 year old virgin Shelby, and 38 year old ex-army,

emotionally unavailable Luke. I really enjoyed their romance. Neither was at all what the other was looking for, yet they somehow fit perfectly. They made it clear to each other that there would be no future, but neither was prepared for how hard they would fall. I wondered how the author was going to manage their HEA without the use of a magic wand, and I think it was handled realistically and with great emotion.

I really appreciated that Shelby and Luke's story remained the focus of the book throughout. There was still a lot going on, but they remained central for the entire course of the book, start to finish, which is what I expect from a romance. The previous book in the series didn't end with the primary couple's HEA – they got that out of the way and disappeared before the end of the book. Thankfully the author got it right this time.

I also loved the introduction of Art's character, a man with Downs syndrome, and I thought the author did a wonderful job with Art's characterisation and the details surrounding his arrival in Virgin River. I absolutely loved reading about him and I hope we get to see lots more of him.

I didn't expect to see much more of Cam after the last book, so I was surprised, and ultimately pleased to see him back in Virgin River again. I really enjoyed his storyline and as it is still unresolved, I'm looking forward to seeing how it progresses. He really deserves a HEA and I'm looking forward to seeing him get it. Oh, but the circumstances facilitating his return were devastating.

I'm not a reader who is often moved to tears over a book, but this one had me bawling. I'm not talking a quiet tear or two – this was noisy, messy sobbing. Unbelievable. I can't remember the last time that happened. It says a lot about the author's characterisations and ability to completely draw the reader in and have them connect and care about the characters so deeply, and in my case, unconsciously.

So how do I rate this book? I'm too tired now to continue arguing with myself over whether I should just disregard the parts that didn't work for me and give this a four; then thinking about the fact that there were parts that irritated me, which means that it's maybe closer to a three. Even if I go for 3.5, do I round up or down? Somebody stop me. What am I doing spending so much time agonising over a rating on GR anyway?

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### **Auntee says**

Wow, wow, wow! Another big winner by the talented Robyn Carr--this may be my favorite of the series since book #1, "Virgin River". There was just something about these characters that grabbed me emotionally. I loved the strength and courage of the heroine, Shelby McIntyre, who was determined to live her life to the fullest after spending years as her dying mother's devoted caretaker. And I loved the hero, former Army Blackhawk pilot Luke Riordan, who may not have been what Shelby thought she was looking for, but boy was he ever perfect for her. Be sure to have a big box of Kleenex close by, especially if you're a big marshmallow like me, because you'll need it with this one.

After spending the last five years of her life caring for her beloved mother who was slowly dying from ALS, 25 year old Shelby has finally laid her Mom to rest, sold her house and packed her belongings, and is ready to move on with her life. It's time to get started on some things that have been on the back burner: take a vacation, see the world, enroll in college, get a job, and maybe find Mr. Right along the way. Shelby's version of Mr. Right is a clean cut guy in a polo shirt, styled hair and an advanced degree. But before she gets started on her grand adventure, she wants to spend some quality time with her uncle, retired Army General Walt Booth, at his ranch in the tiny California town of Virgin River. On her way into town she

meets up with sexy, cocky, "he's so not what I'm looking for but boy I've got to have him" Luke Riordan.

Luke's 38, recently retired from the Army, and is looking to possibly settle down somewhere and get on with his post-army life. Luke and one of his four brothers recently acquired some property (complete with some run-down cabins) in Virgin River, with the idea of fixing them up and selling them for a profit. When he meets Shelby he's instantly attracted but thinks she's a teenager, and totally off limits. When he finds out she's actually 25, he's intrigued, but keeps telling himself it would be wrong, wrong, wrong to start something with her. He's not looking for love and marriage--he's tried that once and it was disasterous and humiliating--and Shelby looks like a forever kind of girl. But being around Shelby week after week is so tempting, and when she lets it be known that she is in fact not looking for marriage or forever--it would interfere with her plans--Luke is ready to give in. They begin a sizzling hot affair, and they are absolutely perfect for each other. They both think they can handle the no strings thing they've got going on, and that everything will be fine and dandy when Shelby eventually starts her new life in a few months. Neither expected that they would each fall head-over heels in love--but are they ready to admit that? Will Shelby give up her big plans for the future if Luke asks her to stay? Will Luke be willing to trust Shelby with his heart, or is he too battle scarred from his past relationships to even try? And can either of these two live without the other?

Loved, loved, loved everything about this one, from the main romance between Luke and Shelby, to the other romances between Shelby's Uncle Walt and former movie star Muriel, and Dr. Cameron Michaels surprising romance with one of Vanni's ("Second Chance Pass") girlfriends. I enjoyed catching up with all the town 'doings' in Virgin River. There's a birth, surprising pregnancies, another near town disaster where a lot of residents become heroes, and sadly, a death of a beloved character. There's some new characters introduced, including an abused, homeless man with Down's Syndrome who Luke befriends, the introduction of one of Vanni's flight attendant friends, and most importantly, the introduction of Luke's mother and two of Luke's 4 brothers. (Please Robyn Carr, write a story about at least one of them!)

The ending had me tied in knots! My heart nearly broke when Shelby thought stubborn Luke couldn't give her all that she needed, and that she wasn't enough for him (tissue alert) and decided to get on with her life as originally planned. Thank God for Luke's younger brother Aiden, who came through with a heart-to-heart with Shelby, revealing things about Luke that Shelby never knew. I loved when Shelby returned to confront Luke with what she knew, and when Luke finally declared his true feelings to Shelby, I just about melted.

Once again, the author's descriptive narrative immerses you in the tiny California town and it's colorful characters, and before long you'll be turning the pages so fast, dying to find out what's going to happen. I could not put this one down--I just fell in love with the hero and heroine--and it just about killed me when it looked like they wouldn't make a go of it. This is definitely one couple I hope to read more about. I'm also interested to see how pediatrician Cameron makes out with his budding romance--he has a lot of hurdles to overcome. And the 'senior' romance between Walt and reluctant movie star Muriel may be coming to a crossroads, and I can't wait to find out what direction it will lead to. These are all the reasons that I am anxiously awaiting the release of the next book in the series, "Paradise Valley".

If you are a fan of contemporary romance, do yourself a favor and immerse yourself in this wonderful series. It's sexy, hot, has colorful characters, interesting happenings, and most importantly, is very romantic. Hopefully there's many more books to come--5 big stars!

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## Ana says

### Here be spoilers.

Oh, woe is me. I had such high hopes for this book. Such high hopes.

The blurb got me all excited. *A handsome Blackhawk pilot, Luke exited the army after twenty years, four wars and having been shot out of the sky three times. At thirty-eight he's tough and jaded.*

A Black Hawk pilot. A Black Hawk pilot! Yes please! I'm a huge fan of war movies. One of my favorite movies of all time is Black Hawk Down. I stumbled upon this book and my fangirl mode was instantly activated.

I went in expecting this-

I got this instead-

A small town full of boring people with boring first world problems.

Which brings me to my first issue. They say Temptation Ridge is a stand alone novel. That is a big fat lie. I've never seen so many secondary characters in one place. Whose book is this, anyway? Who are the main characters? Why am I reading about the heroine's cousin/uncle/friends? Who are these people? What's happening! Where's my handsome Black Hawk pilot ~~Josh~~ Luke? Aghhhh!

We get a glimpse of Shelby and sexy pilot Luke and then all of a sudden we're thrown straight into the midst of someone else's love story. Every novel should have a secondary love story. A secondary love story makes things more interesting. There are not two, but ten love stories in this book! Like WTF. If I wanted to read about annoying Mel and her annoying weight problems I'd read Virgin River. If I wanted to read about Shelby's boring cousin Vanessa I'd read Second Chance Pass. If I wanted to read about Shelby's old uncle I'd read... Oh wait, I don't care. Why are y'all in this book? Don't be greedy, go back to your own books! Begone!

My second issue. Mel. Oh boy. I can't stand her. Especially after listening to her whine about her weight issues. She is convinced that she is getting fat – totally not her fault. The cook is to blame. His meals are too delicious and too fattening. It's all his fault! So she tells him he has to start doing some cooking that isn't so fattening. Hey lady, no one is forcing you to eat pie every single day. Oh and another thing- learn to make your own damn meals. Stahp it. Just stahp.

Third issue. Old people romance.

Now, I've got nothing against old people. Do I want to read about them having sex? Kissing? No I do not. Walt (Shelby's retired army general uncle) and Muriel (former movie star) gave me chills every time they came on the scene. All I kept thinking about was - move it along gramps. No one wants to read about you and memaw doing the nasty. Guys just stahp.

So many irrelevant storylines. Someone's getting fat. Someone's going to college. Someone's moving. Someone's pregnant. Someone got arthritis. High school sweethearts being adorable. Old people being adorable. Babies being adorable. People hanging out at the local bar. Military drama.

What's going on! I just want my ~~Josh~~ Luke. Why are y'all still here! GTFO.

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### **Shawna says**

5+ stars – Contemporary Romance

I've been reading this series straight through from the very beginning over the past week and have found myself totally and happily immersed in the charming, small town community life of Virgin River.

The spotlight couple of *Temptation Ridge* is Shelby and Luke, and I really loved both characters and enjoyed their realistic romantic progression, but I wanted more of them and the ending left me yearning a bit. For some reason, this time around, the parallel storylines seemed more like a distraction and didn't quite work as well for me as they did in the previous books. Maybe it's because Shelby and Luke's relationship is more complex and his personal issues and their obstacles didn't seem to be totally resolved in the end.

Shelby, General Walt Booth's niece and Vanni's cousin, is a truly lovable heroine. After being the sole caregiver for her terminally ill mother for the past five years and enduring the pain of her loss, at age 25 she's ready to face the world and wants to experience all the things she's missed out on: school, travel, adventure, sex, and first love. Luke Riordan is a 38-year-old tough-edged ex-army Blackhawk pilot who recently retired after serving 20 years in hot combat zones like Somalia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He comes to Virgin River to restore some cabins he bought for investment property and for some much needed R&R. The last thing he wants is any sort of romantic entanglement or commitment, especially with an innocent, 25-year-old virgin with a retired army general for an uncle. He likes one night stands, doesn't believe in love, and has no desire for a wife and kids. Shelby might be young, but she's honest, emotionally strong, independent, direct, and knows exactly what she wants...and that's Luke! Of course, Luke has a very painful past that's scarred him emotionally and made him cynical of women, trust, and love, but Shelby is patient and determined to win his heart. They might be the last thing each expected to need or want, but wind up

being exactly what they both need. I just wish more of the story had been devoted to their romance and would have liked a little bit more conclusion to their HEA, but hopefully Carr will give their relationship some face time in future books.

One disappointment for me was the super quick wrap-up of Joe and Nikki's relationship from *Second Chance Pass*. I was really hoping they would be a spotlight couple and wanted more of their romance. Instead, we got another side tryst beginning between Nikki and Vanni's friend Abby and Dr. Cameron Michaels, which I'm guessing will be continued in the next book, *Paradise Valley*.

Walt and Muriel's vivacious relationship continues to grow, and their scenes are funny and sweet. Luke's friendship and emotional bond with a sweet-natured runaway with Down syndrome named Art is a nice addition to the story, and of course, the whole town embraces him as one of their own.

There's the death of a beloved member of the community, an accident involving a school bus that provides some tense drama, and some funny moments with Mel giving Jack and Preacher the third degree over making her fat.

So, although it's not my favorite book of the series, it's still an engaging, touching addition to the extraordinary Virgin River series and worthy of big 5 stars!

Anyone think we'll see more of Luke's brothers in future books? Wouldn't Sean and Aiden Riordan make fine Virgin River romantic heroes?

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### **Beanbag Love says**

This was a good installment. I really liked Shelby and Luke. Shelby was a great romantic heroine. Different from a lot of the typical ones in that she wasn't experienced at all, but she wasn't a fluffy doormat, either. You can definitely see why Luke falls for her.

And why she falls for Luke. \*throws ice water in face\*

Anyway, there are some sad things that cause tears and some happy things that cause tears and a lot of smiles along the way. In short, a typical Virgin River book.

My one huge complaint is that it ends abruptly and I wanted either one more chapter or an epilogue. It wasn't fair to Luke and Shelby and their story to end it when Carr did, so I'm grumbling about that.

Of course it made me want to read the next book right away, but I realized the next book won't have more of the Luke/Shelby story so I'm fine taking a break.

I can't believe I'm only about half way through the series. There were some new characters introduced and maybe we'll see them in future stories. I wouldn't mind reading a story about each of those Riordan boys. Yum.

So ... yeah ... good. :D

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## **Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says**

4.5 stars!

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## **?Karlyn P? says**

Fantastic addition to the series. I agree with other reviews who rate this right up there with book 1 Virgin River. (I also agree that it was difficult not to read in one sitting!! I was up all night!) The main romance in this book is with Luke and Shelby, and it was a beautiful romance. Shelby is the kind of heroine I like to read: smart, fun, level-headed. We also get to see some continuing characters as well as meet a few new ones. There are a lot of emotions in this book from happy, funny, tearful, steamy, suspensful and more. I can't wait for the next book that comes out next month. I also hope we get a Christmas book again to hold us over until the next series comes out in 2010. I am hooked on this series.

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## **❀angela says**

I know there are a lot of fans who are thrilled with the updates about previous main characters, but I haven't been reading these in order. I was really bored reading about characters I didn't care about, and there were *a lot* of them. Not just the previous main characters, but newly introduced characters that were thrown in because the author wanted to have three romance plot lines. I'm usually all for secondary characters but one too many things were going on in this book.

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