



## A Way Back Into Love (Love, #1)

*Veronica Thatcher*

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Nothing is perfect. Life is messy. Relationships are complex. Outcomes, uncertain. People, irrational. But love...well, that makes everything complicated. And when you are caught in a tangled web of secrets, lies, and complex affairs, someone is bound to get burned.

Emily Stevens is a spunky, spirited college girl whose life gets turned upside-down when she realizes she's in love with her best friend of fifteen years, Derek Thorpe. As Emily prepares to confess her feelings to Derek, something happens one night which changes her life forever. Five years later, Emily finds herself in Boston, alone and heartbroken. Will she ever be able to forget the past? And what will she find when she returns home...to the man she left behind?

## **A Way Back Into Love (Love, #1) Details**

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Author : Veronica Thatcher

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## **From Reader Review A Way Back Into Love (Love, #1) for online ebook**

### **Kathy Rouchelle says**

I have never had a character that I have not been able to stand as much as I couldn't stand Emily. This woman worked my last nerve from the time she came back home and met up with Derek again. Don't get me wrong, Derek was right there with her in my feelings for these characters, but Emily almost made me want to quit reading this book. But I didn't! Why? Because this story was so captivating that I had to keep reading to see what the big secret was. What was Derek's secret, what was Emily's secret? My problem with the characters, well Emily mostly was that for two people who had finished med school and were now surgical interns they were, she was so damn immature at times that it would infuriate me. Her childish name calling became almost too much at one point, and yes I get that they have been best friends since they were 6 years old, but I think some of that should have been grown out of, or at least traded in for more mature teasing/name calling. Derek, well he was a little soft to me. But then, maybe he was just built that way. (This is not a critique of the author's writing, it's a critique of the characters personalities). My opinion of course. My other concern was the dialect. I was a little confused by some of the conversations and had to read them a couple of times and at times I thought maybe it was a typo until I would see that the other character would repeat the same line the exact same way. I know she flew to Boston to go to medical school, but where did these people live to speak the way that they did? Just a little confusing for me. Not a deal breaker though.

However, besides my dislike of these characters, they were very well written and disfunctionally well developed in their own way. I think that I finally started liking them right at the end of the book.

It is a gripping story that will grab you and drag you through the two characters lives and you will not want to let go, because you have to know what happened to them. Excellent storyline even though the characters were a bit immature, in my opinion.

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### **Autumn Winchester says**

Not too bad for a new author. Loved how the plot and characters worked well together!

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### **Wander Girl Life says**

I picked this book up since I wanted to read something very light and breezy. This book was definitely that. The story revolves around Emily Stevens and Derek Thrope who are best friends since the first day of school. With time their bond blossoms and so does their feelings for each other. But they dread to confess their feelings for each other in order to preserve their friendship. With one drunken night and lots of misunderstandings Emily moves out of town and Derek ends up with Emily's mean half sister, Emma. But this is all in the past. Emily is back in Fresno for her surgical internship and she has to face Derek again. The story is quite predictable but is still fun to read it. The plot was based in present with constant flashbacks from the past. A lot of incidences in the hospital reminded me of the series Grey's Anatomy. But maybe it's just me.

The narration is from a third person's perspective throughout the book. I felt that the narration from both

Emily's and Derek's POV would have added a flavor, making it easy for the reader to sympathize with the duo. For me the highlight was the relationship that Emily and Derek shared. I loved how they rebounded immediately after Emily's return inspite of so much hurt and history.

This is a love story that clearly states that confessions at the right time are very important and life may not offer second chances to everybody. This is the first book in the series and I will recommend this book to whoever is looking to read a light, quick love story.

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## **Marilyn says**

A Way Back Into Love by Veronica Thatcher is a contemporary romance that has a second chance love trope. We meet Derek and Emily. These 2 have been the best of friends since they were 6 years old. There was a huge situation that occurred while they were in college that drove Emily to the opposite side of the country. Emily has been in love with Derek since she can remember. Derek has also loved Emily forever. They never acted on their attraction because they did not want to ruin their friendship. Five years go by before Emily returns to start her internship at the hospital. Can you guess who she runs into on her first day of her internship, yup you guessed it Derek. While she was gone he moved on or at least tried to move on. He is currently engaged to Emily's sister. Needless to say it's not an easy situation. Seeing each other again they rekindle their friendship. But those feeling they once had start coming back. On top of all this Emily harbors feelings of abandonment from her father leaving and her mother never really supporting her. Can they get over the past to see if they can make a go of it? Will Emily's sister be upset? Can trust really be rebuilt after the problems from the past? I give this book a 5 star review. Will be adding this author to my to be read pile.

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## **Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says**

**Book** – A Way Back Into Love

**Author** – Veronica Thatcher

**Series** – Love #1

**Publication Date** – February 15, 2017

**Genre** –Contemporary Romance

**Type** – Part of Series

**Rating** – 4.25 out of 5 Stars

*Complimentary copy generously provided by the author in exchange for an honest review.*

### **My Thoughts - Story**

God....friends to lovers gets me every time!

Emily and Derek are right up there as probably one of the best couples I find myself rooting for! Ms. Thatcher did a superb job of tuning into my “feels” and hitting me with them over the head a few times!

Wow...what a premise to be in for Emily with Derek and her sister...UGH – I don't know how she did it but as my favorite saying in life....”What comes around, goes around”

I can't wait to keep reading this series!

Now – there are a few things that did annoy me while reading but for this being Ms. Thatcher's debut novel – I think she did a fantastic job.

**Reason for Reading** – Author Request

**Story** – 5 out of 5 Stars

**Steam** – 4 out of 5 Stars

**Angst** – 5 out of 5 Stars

**Writing** – 4 out of 5 Stars

**Content Flow** – 4 out of 5 Stars

**Would Read More from Author?** Yes

**Recommend To** – Readers who love second chances and friends to lovers!

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### **Read.Review.Repeat Blog says**

"A Way Back Into Love by Veronica Thatcher was a best friends to lovers story. When Emily realizes that she is in love with her best friend Derek, things start to spiral out of control for both of them. They realize several years later the mistakes they both made and also allowing outside forces to interfere caused them to not be together the past years.

It was a well written story. It was a bit slow paced but it did keep my attention."

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### **Bookish Indulgences with b00k r3vi3ws says**

Emily and Derek have been best friends since their school days. They both clearly feel an attraction towards each other but are scared to open up in case it jeopardizes their friendship. On an unfortunate night, Emily and Derek's relationship takes a new turn and Emily leaves town to pursue her higher education. When she returns after five long years, her feelings for Derek are still there. Does she stand a chance or have things between them broken far beyond repair.

As a person who does not believe in love at first sight and not a fan of modern day insta-love, this book feeds to my belief system quite a bit. I really believe that you need to really know a person in order to be able to love them truly and deeply. And who knows you better than your long term best friend? Emily and Derek share a bond that has been built of trust and friendship over the years and as such it is easy to believe in their love and in them. There were certain points in the story when I literally wanted to nudge them to drop their inhibitions and come clear. The author has put quite an effort into building the characters to their full strengths and weaknesses.

The plot is pretty predictable but it the author attention to narrating her story that keeps a reader hooked to the pages. The different relationships in the book also manage to keep your interest. What I would have loved to see more of in the book is depth to some of the side characters. The support system that the protagonists have can often help a reader to connect to the protagonists even more and that was lacking in the book. Overall, as a debut novel, this is a job well done. I hope to see the author, her characters and depth of the plots only grow with her books.

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## **Candy says**

Emily Stevens & Derek Thorpe have been best friends since they first met when they were six years old on their first day of kindergarten. They had been inseparable for fifteen years after that first meeting being everything platonic to one another until a drunken encounter in the back of Emily's car. Once Emily believed that Derek's feeling for her were not mutual she fled from Fresno to Boston to finish her college education & to be as far away from Derek as possible. Now college & med-school were done & it was time to return home & face everything she had run away from. Five years had passed but she still loved Derek even though he was now engaged to her sister Emma. It was going to be an awkward home coming to say the least. Somehow Emily & Derek fall back into their comfortable friendship after a few uneasy missteps. Emily senses that not all was well between Derek & her sister. And the more time Emily & Derek spent together the stronger their friendship became. Stronger than it ever was when they were growing up together. But not everyone is happy that Emily & Derek have grown so close again. There is plenty of wreckage remembered by those who were there to pick up all the broken pieces five years ago. Finally Emily is at her snapping point & tells Derek he needs to decide what he wants, Derek summons the courage to ask Emily why she left five years ago. When all the secrets that they each have been keeping are allowed to be freed, both Emily & Derek are left to see how each of them had played a part in how everything fell apart. What will Derek decide what to do? How will Emily deal with the truth? What does the future hold for Emily & Derek?

This is a truly a coming of age young friends become lovers' romance. Though the flashback style of writing was somewhat funky to follow at times, this was a very sweet love story about two young people struggle to be honest with their true feelings for one another. When they both finally have the courage to tell the other how they have felt for a long time they begin to see that they were always meant to be together. They also learn that life & being together isn't always easy but working at a positive relationship is rewarding & gives life a beautiful meaning.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader's Copy of this book.

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## **Emily Goodman says**

I soooo much wanted to love this book! Best friends to lovers is my trope. They hook me every single time. With Veronica Thatcher's promise of two childhood friends possibly becoming more, I was signing up and ready to read. Only, with *A Way Back to Love*, I was kind of disappointed.

Now, story wise, I was feeling the interaction between Emily and Derek. Their tiptoeing between friendship and more was definitely interesting. It was some other things about this story that made me go hmmm.... Now, let it be noted, this book is written in third person. Now, to many this may be your thing, but to me I'm not the biggest fan. Especially when it contains a few other distractions. I never could quite place where this story was set. It says Boston, Thatcher mentions Fresno, but it's written with what I am guessing is an English accent. So I never could quite come to grips as to how to picture the characters or dive into the book. It just seemed like some of the verbiage used didn't really match up with American college kids. Maybe it was just me.

I really wanted to be a big fan. I wanted to fall desperately in love especially since this was book one in a

series. But, my hopes ran dry. If you are okay with third person and maybe have a more imaginative spirit than me, then A Way Back to Love may be just your story, but for me it just wasn't.

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## **Angela says**

4 Stars

A Way Back into Love is a contemporary romance/ second chance at love story by Veronica Thatcher. Emily Stevens and Derek Thorpe have been friends ever since they were children, and Emily realises that she has loved him for a long time. She can't imagine her life without him, but worries that if she reveals how she feels and he doesn't feel the same, it will damage their friendship. But, she decides that she really has to confess her feelings for him. Unfortunately circumstances happen that waylay her plan. Emily ends up leaving for college and med school, forever changed.

Skip forward five years and Emily has returned to do her surgical internship at the local hospital. What happened five years ago? What happened in the time she was away? What happened with Derek? Will the past continue to taunt her? What happens when she sees Derek again after all this time? Will they reconnect, or is it too late?

This is a great story. It really tugged at my heart-strings from the beginning till the end. I was so caught up in their story, rooting for them the whole way. That's not to say that I didn't get quite a few urges to shake them and tell them to get their acts together.... Communication guys!!! Communicate!!! Be honest about your feelings!!!

I liked Emily and Derek, they were great characters- but I hated Emma, she was so very hateful, a very self-centred Cow!

The back story is told in the form of flashbacks and there are quite a few transitions from the past to the present and back again- the author has done a good job in making the transitions go as smoothly as possible. The pace of the story was a little slow, but overall the story is well written and very enjoyable.

I loved the funny moments and the witty, funny banter. The story is very sweet and I loved how Ms. Thatcher ended the story.

Thank you Ms. Thatcher!

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## **Maggie says**

I wrote this review while reading A Way Back Into Love so please bare with my jumpiness!

Reading A Way Back Into Love reminded me of all those years ago when I was in high school. I had a Derek. He was my best friend and the guy I wanted to be with and spend the rest of my life with. But we drifted apart. I'm happy with my life now but on occasion my mind always wanders to the past and the days of high school and I think 'What might have been?'

The pain of losing a best friend the way Emily lost Derek is one of the worst. It feels like your heart being ripped from your chest each time you see him with your sister or supposed best girl friend.

In A Way Back Into Love you can feel the emotions that the characters are feeling no matter what they are. Especially, the pain and heartache our main male and female characters feel.

Emma has always been a bitch but damn she is a monstrous bitch, especially towards her sister Emily.

Wow! I was waiting for that kiss to happen! Glad it did but sad it happened when it did!

I love the banter between Derek and Emily; they're hilarious but cute!

Emily can be such a baby! Who doesn't love fishing?!

A jealous Derek is a hilarious Derek!!!!

Emma is a conniving witch with a capital B! She did something so heinous to Derek but kept it a secret until he broke off their engagement, who does that crap!!! She accused him of cheating on her with Emily when he didn't but she did something way worse! Dumb bitch!

I knew that would happen, they were meant to be!

What a lovely ending to a wonderful book!!! But I didn't want it to end!!! I want more dammit!

Veronica Thatcher is a lovely author who moves you with her words! Go check A Way Back Into Love, you won't regret it!!!

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### **Sara Oxtan says**

A way back into love by Veronica Thatcher a fab four star read. This is the first book by this author I have read, and the first book in the Love series. This is a story about love and friendship and is so full of drama and compassion you are taken on a roller coaster ride of feels. Veronica Thatcher writes a great story, and I can't wait to read what she gives us next.

Emily Stevens is a woman who many will identify with, she a spunky woman who knows life isn't always rainbows and glitter farts, she knows that relationships aren't always easy and they do need work, she is also painfully aware that sometimes people get hurt, especially when you aren't truthful about everything, and usually the ones who get hurt are the ones who don't deserve it. Emily has known Derek Thorpe since they were small children, and she has been in love with him for almost as long, they have been inseparable before Emily made a decision that mean she left for five years. Will five years make a difference to her feelings? When Emily and Derek's friendship grows and develops, there is always the worry that things will fall apart and the friendship will be lost. When there is confusion abound and feelings are mixed with worry, will they ever make it past the friend's zone? You need to read the book to find out. Emily and Derek are worth taking the chance on.

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### **Paula D says**

Emily has been in love with her best friend Derek and doesn't know how to tell him. One day things happen between them and Emily leaves for 5 years comes home and Derek is engaged to her sister Emma who is a



awful, stuck up snob. Things get heated up between everyone makes mistakes lots of drama and in the end it ends up the way it should have all along. I liked this story but it was hard to follow with it being in third person. I felt like something was missing or it would have been more amazing in two point of view Emily's and Derek's only. 4/5 stars \*\*\* I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Copy of this book \*\*\*

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## **Storm Chase says**

This is a classic love story with Emily loving Derek who ended up marrying Emma, Emily's sister. Five years later Emily and Derek meet again and they reconnect.

I was a bit confused here and there with both sisters being "Em" and the back and forth between cities and times could have been a bit smoother. Overall, it's a solid effort for a first novel and a light fun read overall. If you like classic romance, like Mills and Boon, you'll enjoy this.

3.5 out of 5, so 3 for GR and 4 for Amazon, once it's up.

On my blog, my review is longer:

This is a classic love story with Emily loving Derek who ended up marrying Emma, Emily's sister. Five years later Emily and Derek meet again and they reconnect.

First: I loved the cover. I'm hopeless at cover art and this one was so pretty! Second, the premise was a good one, and I was also looking forward to reading something plain and romantic after reading so much dark romance recently.

This is a first novel, and it's okay but I think it needed another round of beta reading and editing.

I was a bit confused here and there with both sisters being "Em". Really, one sister should have been renamed to Grace or whatever, because the similar names was a bit much. Also, the back and forth between cities and times could have been a bit smoother. I did like the way that the past was italicised, but with the changing third person perspectives, I wasn't sure something who was doing the talking.

What really didn't help was that the ARC had formatting issues. Some paragraphs came in huge clumps of text, and others were indented and very short. It was readable, but I did wonder if it contributed to some of the confusion. Anyway, ARCs are always plagued by little issues and I'm sure that the final copy is perfect. But for me, the lesson is to send nicely formatted ARCs to my own reviewers.

Overall, it's a solid effort for a first novel and a light fun read overall. If you like classic romance, like Mills and Boon, you'll enjoy this.

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## **Kelly says**

A way back into love- Veronica Thatcher- 4 star read

Emily Stevens has been through the ringer in life and she is only just in the peak of her twenties. She has

survived leaving home and everyone she knows to go to medical school and most importantly has survived shoving the feelings she has for her best friend of 15 years back into it's deep dark place.

Derek Thorpe has been a staple in her and her families life since Emily can remember, but an event makes Emily pack her bags and her shattered heart to Boston without even giving it a second chance. However, when medical school is done and she finds herself having to pick a hospital to start her rounds at, she finds herself drawn back home to Fresno to the same hospital that her parents work at and also the same hospital where her now former best friend, Derek, is also a resident at.

Emily has a very strange family dynamic where she has her mother, a stepfather and a stepsister, one that she always tried to treat her as blood but the feelings were never returned. She has a very close and healthy relationship with her stepfather, but things between her Mom and her stepsister Emma could use a lot of work. One major wrench in her "sister" dynamic with Emma is the fact that while she was away and falling out of touch with Derek, Emma swooped in and took him away- and oh yeah, are now engaged. From what Emily can sense, things aren't all rainbows and butterflies with their relationship though and finds herself worrying about Derek and his wellbeing Emily tries to break down all the walls she has built up for the past 5 years protecting her heart and finally gets the courage to let Derek know the real reasons why she actually left so quickly to Boston.

With everything aired out and their hearts truly showing what they want, will Emily and Derek find themselves in each other's lives like they deserve. Or, will Derek and Emily be stopped by their loyalty to family and destroy any possibility of love that there could be?

This sweet story has a little bit of everything for us romantics. Has some heartbreak, some angst, some family drama and most importantly the underlying theme of true love. Emily and Derek's character were a fantastic dynamic and you can see throughout the entire story that no matter what they still love each other. I did have some issues with the way the story was told. I found the flashbacks to current to past scene settings a bit confusing and also the character intros were very hard for me to keep track of since they were kind of all plopped at the beginning. Lastly, I am not a fan of authors dropping "fancy" words throughout a book just because. It is like a word of the day calendar and I find myself drawing away from that writing style. Overall, enjoyable story that grips you from beginning to end with a very sweet ending.

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