



## The Summer He Came Home

*Juliana Stone*

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**The Summer He Came Home** Juliana Stone

**Sometimes the best place to find love is right back where you started...**

Falling asleep in a different bed every night has made it easy for Cain Black to forget his past. It's been ten years since he packed his guitar and left Crystal Lake to chase his dreams. Now tragedy has forced him home again. And though Cain relishes the freedom of the road, one stolen moment with Maggie O'Rourke makes him wonder if he's missing out on something bigger than fame.

For Maggie—single mother and newly settled in Crystal Lake—love is a luxury she just can't afford. Sure, she appreciates the tall, dark and handsome looks of prodigal son Cain Black. But how long can she expect the notorious hellion to stay?

The last thing either of them wants is something complicated. But sometimes love has its own plans.

## The Summer He Came Home Details

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Author : Juliana Stone

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# From Reader Review The Summer He Came Home for online ebook

## Brianna (The Book Vixen) says

*Review copy provided via NetGalley*

**Why I Read this Book:** I hadn't read anything by this author yet and *The Summer He Came Home* sounded like a good book to start with. I also have a thing for celebrity/commoner love stories and small town romance.

**What I Liked:** *The Summer He Came Home* had a well-rounded group of characters. Cain Black, the frontman for an up and coming rock band, returns back home due to unfortunate circumstances. Maggie had moved to Crystal Lake for a fresh start with her son. I was a little hesitant about Maggie being a single mother, as I'm not a fan of kids being in my romance novels, but Michael was a great character. I didn't feel like he was used as a plot moppet in any way and he wasn't the least bit annoying.

Jake and Raine stole a bit of the spotlight from Cain and Maggie but I welcomed it. Theirs (Jake and Raine) seems to be a strained relationship. There is a lot of tension between them; I think there is so much more going on between these two than what we see on the surface. This will be an interesting, and different, romance if it works out between them.

There were some hilarious, laugh out loud moments that made *The Summer He Came Home* a fun and enjoyable read.

**What I Didn't Like:** There was something that didn't make sense to me, something I can't elaborate on because I don't want to give too much away. I will say that Maggie lets her son do something that contradicted her feelings/fears, and at a pivotal moment in the book. And Maggie's cell phone doesn't have caller ID. Whose cell phone doesn't have caller ID these days?

## Memorable Moment:

*"What's that?" Her voice was throaty, seductive.*

*His grin was wicked. "It's a condom ring thing. A vibrating condom ring."*

*Okay, she wasn't expecting that. "Oh, I've never..."*

*He peeled the wrapper back and winked. "Me neither" – he leaned toward her – "but I'm thinking we're going to like it." "Quote."*

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**Overall Impression:** *The Summer He Came Home* was an enjoyable celebrity/commoner love story with a dash of suspense and danger. I look forward to reading the next book in this series, *The Christmas He Loved Her*, which is Jake's book. I can't wait to see how his story is going to pan out.

## **Katie\_la\_geek says**

Summer He Came Home does exactly what it says on the tin, it is a very sweet and entertaining romance but offers no more than that. It is a book you can snuggle up with on a blustery winter's day and forget about life for a little while, and sometimes that is all you need.

There was a lot to like about this book. I really liked that the main character was a mother, and that she was a good and thoughtful mum. She always worries about her boy, which makes her a little uptight where the romance is concerned but that is the way it should be. Maggie is not always the easiest person to like. She has a lot to contend with and is always looked over her shoulder in case her past comes back to haunt her. I cannot blame her for her caution or concerns given her situation.

I liked Cain immediately, I think he was supposed to be a bit of a bad boy but to be honest I never really thought that. He was so smitten with Maggie and determined to make it work with her. His interaction with Maggie's son was adorable and the love he clearly has for his friends was admirable. The romance was nice and I liked them together, but it didn't blow my mind.

I did think that it was a little bit boring in places and needed something to get it going but it wasn't a major problem. My only other complaint was that I felt the ending was very rushed, Maggie has spent most of the novel keeping Cain at a distance but then suddenly she was ready to marry him, that didn't quite work for me. Also, the big relationship issue about the fact that Cain lives and has a career elsewhere was never resolved was a shame.

I would not rave about Summer He Came Home, it did not change my life, but for fans of the genre it is a very enjoyable read that I would recommend.

**The publisher provided me with a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review**

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## **Andrea says**

By now it's no secret that I absolutely love "going home" books. Seriously, I can't get enough of them. What's even better is when it's a rockstar going home. So when The Summer He Came Home was offered to me for review, and I took a glance at the cover, you better believe I was all over that!

The Summer He Came Home is the story of two lost people: Cain Black and Maggie O'Rourke. Cain left home ten years ago to chase his dream of being a rockstar, and never looked back. He's found success, but not happiness. Once again, I have a book with my favorite type of guy, the bad boy who is actually a good guy. Before Cain left Crystal Lake, he was one of the Bad Boys, along with his best friends Jesse, Jake and Mac. I loved how the Bad Boys had this amazing friendship that held true no matter how many years and miles separated them. The kind of friendship that doesn't require words to know what each is going through, and knowing that they'll have each other's backs no matter what. Cain was so freaking easy to read about. He was a straight-up nice guy, good to his family, friends, and Maggie.

Maggie was also easy to like right away. A single mom with a scary past, she's trying to make ends meet and keep her head down. Maggie is a housekeeper to a lot of the citizens of Crystal Lake, and the people have

quickly grown to love and accept her and her son as their own. When Maggie meets Cain, she fights to push down the attraction she feels towards him. The last thing she needs is a complication in her life. Knowing that he won't be in town for long, she doesn't want her son or herself to become attached to the handsome and loving Cain. It's a losing battle, though, and Maggie tells herself to keep it casual, and we all know how that works out, right? Yeah, it doesn't take long for Maggie to fall hard for Cain, despite the heartbreak she knows is headed her way. I adored Maggie for her strength, her big heart, and for always putting her son first.

The Summer He Came Home was fun and sweet, but also very sad, and at the end, extremely tense. But it ended in the absolute best way possible I appreciated the slow buildup between Cain and Maggie. I loved seeing them fall in love, to slowly realize that despite the relationship's casual start, there is more at play. The author did a great job at making the characters and their relationship realistic. I loved that the actual town, Crystal Lake, was a character. The buildings and the history they represented, the intermingling people who made up the town, and the history of the Bad Boys, it all combined to create a fantastic story that I could not put down.

There were many hints as to the issues the other Bad Boys were facing, Jake... he has a lot of rage and pain inside him, and rightly so. And Mac, he came across as sort of flippant about his painful past, but his pain is barely contained. I can't wait for these guys to get their own books. The Bad Boys of Crystal Lake is another great series and I am anxiously waiting for the next book.

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### **Holly says**

I adored this book, and it left me hungry for more of the Bad Boys of Crystal Lake. Anyone who knows me knows that I am a sucker for a story set in Michigan, which is and has always been my home. This story takes place in Crystal Lake, which is in Northwestern Michigan and absolutely beautiful!

Cain Black is a yummy tattooed rock star, I know, I could stop there and you would read this book, but I will give you a little more just in case :) - Anyway, Cain Black is an international rock star and has come home for his friend's funeral - this friend was one of the four so called Bad Boys of Crystal Lake - he comes home after apparently a long time away and he immediately meets Maggie, well, her son Michael first and then Maggie, but he is immediately intrigued. Not only because she is a beautiful fiery red head but because she is a new face in a town where everyone knows everyone.

Cain begins to question whether he even wants to leave Michigan to return to his home in LA, especially the more he gets to know Maggie. He knows she has run from something in her past but she holds her cards very close and doesn't share much. But, once Michael lets a little something slip Cain knows that Maggie could very well be in danger and he will do anything to keep her safe.

This book was a little predictable, but wonderful nonetheless! As wonderful as Cain, Maggie and Michael were the author was able to tease you with just enough about the other characters, who I can only assume will have their own books soon, to leave me begging for more about them! This story has a little bit of everything- love, sex, suspense and humor - honestly I laughed right out loud during the scene where Cain is attempting to buy condoms and runs into the pastor's wife and she starts asking him about jock itch and what to buy for it because her husband has something awful!! hahaha - I am smiling just thinking about it :)

\*\*\*This book was provided to me by Netgalley

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### **Beth says**

Closer than brothers, that's what the bad boys of Crystal Lake were. Now, three of the bad boys have returned home to Crystal Lake to attend the funeral of the fourth.

Cain Black left Crystal Lake 10 years ago in search of fame and fortune. Returning home to bury one of his dearest friends, might just be the last straw. Cain is a musician in an up and coming band...he is on his way to stardom but his life is unsettled. He just divorced his movie star wife and could use some rest and relaxation of home.

Maggie O'Rouke is a single mom and maid to pretty much all in Crystal Lake. She is instantly attracted to Cain Black, but she won't let an attraction upset her carefully constructed life for her and her son. She definitely doesn't need any rock star complications.

Cain sees something in Maggie that his life has been missing. But will he be able to make a place for Maggie and her son in his life. Can Maggie risk giving her heart to the notorious play boy?

What an incredible premise for a new series...3 friends return to their home town with some personal issues after they bury the forth friend/brother. All three of these men have extremely intriguing stories and I can't wait to read them.

I loved this story. It was heartfelt, sweet and romantic. Two people with extremely different and dark circumstances find themselves and love in each other, what a perfect romance!

This ARC copy of **The Summer He Came Home** was given to me by Sourcebooks Casablanca in exchange for an honest review. Publish Date April 2, 2013.

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### **Angela Carr (Under the Covers Book Blog) says**

Review also posted at

"The Summer He Came Home is the first I've read of Ms. Stone's work and it will not be my last. She delivered a small town themed romance with a hint of rock star and a suspenseful storyline that had me intrigued from the cover page until end." ~Under the Covers

The Summer He Came Home is the first I've read of Ms. Stone's work and it will not be my last. She delivered a small town themed romance with a hint of rock star and a suspenseful storyline that had me intrigued from the cover page until end.

One of the Bad Boys of Crystal Lake had passed away, and Cain Black is back to attend his funeral. It will be a sad reunion but it's an even he will not miss. It's been ten years since he left and coming back to his old town will bring back all kinds of memories. To his surprise, this trip will make him realize what he has been missing, and it will come in a form of a single mom and her son.

Maggie and her son Michael had just moved to Crystal Lake. Everyone in town knows that she has been working as a household maid, making an honest living and trying to raise her son in peace. But what they don't know is that she has a dark past that will follow her to this small town.

I enjoyed the romance between Cain and Maggie. I love that Maggie had her priorities straight, and romantic relations was the least of her concerns. Knowing she's not interested made her more intriguing to Cain since he is used to having women at his beck and call. Of course, Cain, the ever sexy and romantic tried even harder to woo her. From setting up dates, babysitting her son so she can rest, and even standing up for her. I love the alpha in him. Watching this tattooed ex football player now a successful rock star do all the courting was such a treat. And let me tell you, Cain brought a lot of sexy to this book. An unexpected scene had me clutching my ereader as it was the lifeline of the story. I expected this to be a typical small town story line which is true enough but I did not expect the suspense element to be strong. Don't get me wrong, it was a pleasant surprise and I thought it brought a good balance to the rest of the story.

Michael, Maggie's son was adorable and he just broke my heart. Poor boy had to experience a whole lot for his age but finding a HEA for him was a relief. Cain's mom was a biggie. She was his foundation and I think she did a great job trying to keep him grounded. There were issues as any family would but overall I thought she contributed a great deal to Cain's character. As far as the rest of the Bad Boys, I'm not quite sure how I feel about them yet. They definitely have stories to tell and I'm guessing both dark and disturbed. I can't wait for the next book to see what they are about. I'm hoping it will be as enjoyable as this one.

\*ARC provided by Netgalley

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### **Karla says**

Review posted at: Swept Away By Romance

#### **4 Stars!! What a pleasant surprise! I WANT MORE!!**

This was one of those books that you think to yourself, the cover looks good, but will the inside match the goodness on the outside?! The answer is a resounding **YES!!!** I was drawn in immediately and barely came up for air. The story captivated me and the characters clutched at my heart and didn't let go.

Cain Black has come home after 10 years, and it's a homecoming that he's not looking forward to. The town is mourning a loss, one that Cain feels very deeply, but he's been away so long that he's unsure if his presence will be welcome. His doubts go unfounded, as he's welcomed back with open arms. What he doesn't expect is to feel a sense of comfort and familiarity in being home, and he likes it, he needs it, begins to thrive on it. On top of that, he meets a woman that has him wondering if life on the road is wearing thin for him and maybe it's time to settle down.

Maggie O'Rourke is an enigma, she settled suddenly in Crystal Lake with her young son, Michael, and no one knows much about her. People suspect she's on the run from something, but despite that, the town has embraced her. Now Cain can't keep his eyes and hands off this feisty little redhead who is trying to keep him at arm's length.

Cain and Maggie's relationship developed very nicely. She was resistant, but oh my, he was quite the charmer, a real heart-stopper and I rather enjoyed his character. Once she surrenders herself to him, the heat was on, and it was sensual and passionate, the chemistry was good between these two, as was the writing.

Michael's attachment to Cain was rather sweet and added another layer to the story, it felt very real. Plus, the reader gets a healthy dose of some of the other characters, namely Mac and Jake, Cain's buddies, the other Bad Boys of Crystal Lake. We get a sense of what they are about, and it sets the tone for their stories going forward, and I can tell you, they are just as appealing as Cain, and I want to know more about them.

Maggie's predicament always hovered in the background, and I wished it would have played out sooner. It was a rush to the end when the drama finally came to a head. I feel that somehow had it presented itself sooner, it might have made for a better read. Also, there seemed to be a few inconsistencies in the story and I didn't get all the information regarding some characters that I wanted, one of them being Maggie's ex-husband and also facts that would have dealt with her past.

Bottom line, a very good read, and a series that I'm looking forward to sinking my teeth into! The Christmas He Loved Her, Jake's book, is due out October 2013, too far away for me \*sigh\*! It should be a good one.

### **Cain Black...my bad boy...all mine...RAWRRRR!!**

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*ARC kindly provided by Sourcebooks Publishing via NetGalley in exchange for honest review.*

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### **Paula says**

-- *A Romantic Book Affairs Review*

Instead of going off to college like everyone expected him to, Cain Black leaves Crystal Lake to pursue his music career. After saying his goodbyes, Cain takes off with his beat-up Gibson Les Paul and heads to LA. Now, ten years later, Cain is in a band called BlackRock and is on this rise to international fame. When he receives news of his friend's death, he goes back home for the first time since he left. The last place Cain wants to be is back at the house where all his friends and family have gathered after the funeral of his friend – a friend who was part of the four the town called the Bad Boys of Crystal Lake. Cain was also one of those guys. This tight knit group of guys did everything together. Cain tried to remain in touch with his friends but, as time goes by, they grew apart. Unfortunately, being reunited with the bad boys was not a joyous occasion.

As he walks up to the house where his deceased friend grew up, he meets a spunky kid named Michael. Not long after this meet and greet with Michael, Maggie O'Rourke walks out on the porch looking for her son. And, in that instant, Cain felt an immediate connection with this woman. Not only is she is delicately beautiful, but she isn't a familiar face in a town where everyone knows everyone.

Now that Cain is away from LA, his foggy head begins to clear and he begins to question things about himself. Does he want to go back to LA where his life feels empty? And now that he's met Maggie, he's determined to get to know her more intimately. He even starts to think about settling down. As Cain slowly insinuates himself into her life, convincing her to go out with him, he realizes Maggie has a secret that she

holds close to her heart. If this secret gets out to the wrong person, Maggie and Michael could essentially be in danger.

This secret complicates things between Cain and Maggie. She keeps a wall up between them even though it's apparent they have incredible chemistry. Maggie is conflicted by her feelings over Cain. She is afraid to get involved too deep with this bad boy, tattooed rock star that could eventually break her heart when he leaves to go back to LA. Plus, dating Cain isn't smart considering his reputation of being a womanizer and the attention that comes with being around Cain. She fears her secret getting out which, means it's important for Maggie to remain anonymous in a small town where everyone knows your name and your business. However, Cain does not give up that easily. He pursues Maggie to the point that she can no longer deny the combustible chemistry between them. She wants him. He wants her. And she eventually gives in to him.

Juliana Stone brings these two people together with an intense, slow burn and it's very sensually romantic. I love all of the sweet and tender and sexually charged moments before these two actually get together.

***“Open your eyes, Maggie.” His voice was so low, she barely heard him. But the feel of his hands on her face was urgent, and his muscles bunched against her palms as he shifted beneath her. She opened her eyes and ate the groan that sat at the back of her throat. Cain stared down at her as if he was starving. AS if he needed her to breathe. His right hand slid into her hair, and his lips brushed the softness of hers. His eyes never left hers as he whispered against her mouth. “I want...you.”***

See what I mean. Miz Stone definitely has a way with building up the anticipation between these two.

Cain and Maggie are both broken by the lives they've lead and are conflicted by the feelings they have for one another. Cain has been burned by a friend, lost a friend, and recently divorced from a woman who broke his heart. But being with Maggie makes him feel whole again. She fills the void he's been missing for a long time. Not only that, she doesn't care about his rock star status. But Maggie is scared of Cain, almost skittish, and with good reason. Being with Cain means letting him in, and when she finally does, it's like a breath of fresh air. He makes her feel sexy, sensual, and alive. With the way Cain handles Maggie with care, he shows her exactly the kind of man he truly is beyond the rock star persona. He's kind, funny, good with her son, and a gentle lover. He proves that he can be worthy to be the man in both her and her son's life.

I will admit, it took me a minute to warm up to Maggie. She's a very closed off and stubborn woman. Her personality didn't really shine through at first. However, I did come to understand her reasons for being so stand-offish. She was trying to protect herself and her son.

I do wish the ending wasn't so rushed. I would've liked to see how Maggie and her son adjusted to the trauma they went through, and how different their lives become as they settle in with Cain. Perhaps an epilogue would've helped. Hopefully we will get to see more of Maggie and Cain in the second book and learn more about their lives.

This is the first book in a trilogy, where three friends reunite because of the death of a brother and a friend. As time has taken its toll, they all have personal issues to overcome. I'm definitely looking forward to Jake (the brother to Jesse who died) and Raine's (Jesse's wife) story. I have a feeling that story is going to be loaded with guilt and angst.

*The Summer He Came Home* is a sweet and romantic contemporary that has just about everything – small town lovin', humor, bad boy rock star, and drama. It's true what they say about opposites attract. These two very different people find solace, happiness, and love within each other when they both never expected to

feel whole again.

Rating: B

Heat: Hot

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**~V~ says**

[ I realize he's asked her to marry him and she said yes but that's all we got! THE END!! (hide spoiler)]

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**Anna (Bobs Her Hair) says**

3.5 stars

The Bad Boys

**Cain Black** - singer/songwriter who left his hometown at 18 to find success in the rock industry and is on the verge of fame

**Jake Edwards** - the light-hearted twin to Jesse; secretly in love with his sister-law, Raine; promised a mortally-wounded Jesse he to look after Raine; seems to have other dark secrets

**Jesse Edwards** - Jake's serious (fraternal) twin; Raine's husband; killed in action

**Mackensie Draper** - left physically abusive to attend college to become very successful; can't convince his mother to leave his father, even after the father has beaten her; is spiraling into alcoholism

An enjoyable romance with steamy love scenes. Typical story of woman and child on the run from abusive man. I read this book to prepare for The Christmas He Loved Her (Jake's story).

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**Jess says**

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: B+

Rocker Cain Black is back in Crystal Lake to attend the funeral of one of his closest friends, Jesse. He, Mac, and Jesse's twin Jake make up the bad boys of Crystal Lake and they're all back now indefinitely and they're all dealing with demons. Cain's coming off a marriage gone wrong, his ex-wife slept with his band mate and co-song writer and now Cain's dealing with that fallout along with wondering if he'll ever be able to write and compose music again. He meets Maggie at the gathering following the funeral and she makes an impact.

He can't get her and her young son Michael out of his head and it gives him one more reason to hang around Crystal Lake for the summer.

Maggie is running from her past, one that includes an abusive husband who made her life a living hell. She escaped with Michael and is trying to make a quiet life for them cleaning homes and staying under the radar. She doesn't open up to anyone, not even the friends she's made in town and she's especially reluctant to start anything with Cain, a man with a rockstar reputation and she doesn't want Michael, or herself, to get too attached. But Cain is persistent and present, and eventually Maggie caves, she'd be crazy not to!

There were many things I loved about Cain, the most being that he made himself there for Maggie. He built a relationship with her son, he planned dates, he was just a really good guy. One that I couldn't help but like and wanted to see win the girl. Maggie is so gun shy though, she holds everything back, not sharing even the smallest details about her past. Michael does tell Cain about what happened but Cain kept waiting for Maggie to share it with him and I liked how the emotional scene between them played out when Cain called her on taking a chance on their relationship. Their relationship was very easy to get hooked into. Cain's a sexy guy and Maggie can't resist him, but I loved the sweetness between them and especially how Cain connected with Michael.

The way the abusive husband storyline played out was a little predictable. But I did like that it didn't dominate the book. It takes up a few pages at the end and the only constant through the whole story was Maggie's fear in talking about her past, and not the guy himself. Even though Cain might have stolen my attention whenever he was on page, Maggie tugged at my heart. She's struggling to make a good life for her son, running away from a man who could destroy them and she stayed strong through it all. That's what made her relationship with Cain stronger, he gave her a reason to believe that she could and should have more in her life.

The rest of the bad boys trio, Mac and Jake, have my attention big time. Mac is struggling with alcohol and his own relationship with an abusive parent. Jake is obviously trying to deal with his brother's death, but he just seems so tortured, especially around Jesse's widow, Raine, who he obviously has deep feelings for. He takes his own feelings out on her and they're not in the best place by book's end. And I can't wait to see their story play out.

The Summer He Came Home is a solid start to this new small town series. Cain and Maggie have a strong emotional relationship that I enjoyed throughout. Cain might be a rockstar, but he's a man who knows what he wants and isn't afraid to take a chance and I loved seeing him convince Maggie to take that chance too.

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### **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Rhayne's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4 Stars

What a great start to a guaranteed emotional, sexy, intriguing series. This book delivers a variety of highly charged situations mixed with a little suspense and lots of romance. Add to the mix an adorable seven year old, some life-long friends, and a small town full of many nosy neighbors and that will give you a pretty good idea of the story line backdrop.

Cane has been gone for 10 years. He threw away a full ride football scholarship in exchange for a guitar and a chance to live out his musical dreams. He lived the high life and is on the brink of making it big when he heads back to town for his buddies funeral. He has no definitive plans for his future. He is trying to find himself, take a break, and decide what his next step is going to be.

Maggie and her son, Michael moved to Crystal Lake in hopes of re-starting their life. She has a past that she would like to forget and her only concern now is her son. She is a strong willed woman and is determined to never be dependent on anyone for anything.

From the moment Cane and Maggie meet their attraction is igniting. Neither one is prepared for the feelings they both have, but there is a connection that can't be denied. She tries time and time again to push him away, until her willpower is gone and she can't fight it. Their relationship is not typical. She needs to lie low and he is a famous musician. They are as opposite as night and day. Once they finally give in to their desires, they are truly magic together.

Just when they get to a good place in their lives, all hell breaks loose when their pasts and their ex's come crashing in full force. Cane has to lay it all on the line to fight for his girl and she has to find a way to trust and believe that what they have is important enough to hold on to. Maggie has a lot of struggles as she comes to accept that she deserves happiness. When you find the right one love definitely is worth fighting for. She just realizes this a little too late.

Ms. Stone does a superb job introducing this new series. We get a lot of back story and character introduction where this is the first in the series, but it's not done in an overbearing way. It flows really nicely with the current plot line. She is very talented in descriptive writer. She has the ability to make the characters jump off the pages and land right into your heart. I will definitely read the following books that are in this series. I can't wait to see what is in store next.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

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### **Elizabeth (Liz) says**

4 Stars

What a happy surprise this was!! Juliana Stone has a winner here. SUMMER HE CAME HOME was a well-done and fun first book in this new series!

Cain Black is a rocker. More precisely, he's the front man of the band BlackRock. He's used to and enjoys the freedom he has, and, for more than one reason, he isn't looking forward to returning to his hometown of Crystal Lake in Michigan. Maggie O'Rourke is a young, single mother, and new to Crystal Lake. She's hired herself out to clean the homes of the town's wealthiest families in order to keep a roof over head and food on the table. For both, a complicated relationship is the very last thing they want. Each has a past still to be dealt with and a future with more questions than answers. Sometimes love sneaks in so easily, though, despite all the hurdles and barricades.

As I said in the beginning, SUMMER HE CAME HOME turned out to be quite a surprise for me, and a great surprise at that! I expected a very light, simple read that was, honestly, much more fluff than substance. I'm

happy to say I actually got a whole lot more. While the plot may not be new, it IS one of my favorites, and the author took the opportunity to leave her mark on the storyline and the characters.

I'm an unabashed lover of almost any story involving a band and/or rock star. A well-written rocker is where I find my bliss. I very \*nearly\*found it with Cain Black! He's swoony and dreamy and HOT!! What was even better? There was some substance and depth underneath all of the rocker front! This is no one-dimensional rocker, friends;) I do wish that I had been able to delve even deeper into Cain Black.

Maggie O'Rourke is a lovely character. She puts one foot in front of the other and simply carries on, no matter what. I could identify with certain aspects of her character, and was interested to get to know Maggie better. I do feel, though, as if the opportunity to get to know her as I would have liked to never fully materialized. That was a true shame.

Cain and Maggie do have wonderful chemistry together, and, for me, that was one of the highlights of this story. I enjoyed their conversations, and I \*really\* enjoyed the attraction they couldn't fight;)

I would be remiss if I didn't point out the fantastic secondary characters in SUMMER HE CAME HOME. I grew to love Mac, Jake and Raine so very much, and I cannot wait for their stories to be told!!

While I do feel like parts of the book, in particular the last third, were rushed and could have used a little bit more exploration AND explanation, for the most part, Juliana Stone did a great job bringing these characters and this story to life. Bring on the next book, that's what I say!

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\*\*ARC provided by Sourcebooks via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*\*

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### **Shawna says**

4 stars – Contemporary Romance

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### **Jill says**

#### **3.5 stars**

Cain Black is back in Crystal Lake after ten years, for the funeral of one of his friends, bringing the remaining three *Bad Boys* together. Maggie-Grace O'Rourke arrived a year ago in Crystal Lake with her son, Michael. She's quiet and keeps mostly to herself, cleaning the locals' houses for income and devoting her life to her son.

This is yet another small-town contemporary romance, but there was plenty to like here. The writing, the prose is very good. Cain is gorgeous and wonderful with Michael. The other Bad Boys are as well and their stories look promising. And I enjoyed the relationship between Cain and Maggie, although the initial

attraction did seem rushed.

However, there were a few things that just lowered the rating for me. The biggest issue was the short space given to the resolution to the secrecy behind Maggie's past. She obviously had something going on that brought her to Crystal Lake. This secret is what kept her at arms length from the people and Cain for a while. But the resolution was too quick, too easy and felt anti-climactic.

Maggie took a while for me to warm to. She was prickly and standoffish and perhaps this was understandable given her past. One of the other issues I had was Cain's continuing career. As front man for his rising rock band, *BlackRock* how do his dreams of rock stardom factor in to his new relationship? Does he plan on staying in Crystal Lake? Perhaps this will be addressed in coming books.

Overall, a good start to the series. Though I liked the actual writing, there was nothing particularly new in the story. But if you enjoy contemporary romances, reformed bad boys, smalltown series this is still worth reading.

**Steam:** 3

*ARC courtesy of Sourcebooks via NetGalley*

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