



Into the Heat

Tamara Lush

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Leo Villeneuve is a wounded, tattooed Afghanistan war veteran who is trying like hell to avoid his pain--and his past.

He returns to Florida, hoping to heal, but knows he's running from danger. On a sun-kissed beach he runs into Jessica Clarke, the one woman he's never forgotten. Their attraction for each other burns as hot as the summer sun, but Leo's got secrets he can't reveal. Because, if he does, he'll risk the one thing he can least afford to lose: Jessica's love.

This is a full-length, standalone novel with an HEA and NO cliffhanger. No cheating. It's part of the Burning Secrets Series, but the books don't have to be read in order.

Into the Heat Details

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From Reader Review Into the Heat for online ebook

Maria says

Into the heat tells the story about two people who had an intense romantic relationship as teenagers and are being reunited a few years later. As the novel progresses, more and more is revealed about the characters' past and the reason why certain things have happened.

This was a very well-written novel with a lot of detailed descriptions and a really interesting storyline. It definitely classifies as a new-adult book not only because of the few sexual scenes, but also because some of the issues the characters deal with are quite mature.

I felt like all the drama in some situations was a bit too much which made them a bit unrealistic. Also, at times the characters reacted kind of drastically to some situations, especially Jess. I found some aspects of her personality rather childish but overall she was a fun character to read.

All in all, Into the Heat is a great read with a lot of plot twists. I really felt for the characters and sympathized with them. I highly recommend it to all the new-adult lovers.

BeautyandtheBooks says

4.5 stars! This was another great story by Tamara Lush! She quickly became one of my favorites. I couldn't get my hand on this book fast enough! Leo and Jessica fell in love as teenagers, only to have it ripped out from under them. They each had their own problems throughout their years apart. This story is all about second chances. Jessica finally took control of her life and Leo finally opened up about everything. I loved watching them grow with every turn of the page. Florida to me is just Florida, but the author has a way of making it so magical. Tamara Lush can really "Tell a Story".

Andrea Hanzel says

I would consider this a new adult romance. Which I read occasionally, as long as the characters are mature. I am past the point in my life where I want to read about someone who was cool in high school. This couple is very immature for their age, especially considering the things that they have been through.

A well written, descriptive story that I wasn't crazy about. And I HATE saying that. I have mad respect for authors. I wish I could write! But this story just didn't work for me.

Leo is really not that great of a guy. All the things he should have told Jess. His PTSD...if his medication didn't work, why keep taking it? Why not....tell your doctor? And if you think you might have done something...illegal...(trying to not give away too much), why take on a project for your father? Why get involved with Jess again?

There are little things that irritated me. If Jess states she doesn't cook well, why is running a small hotel where she has to cook for people? And what in the world does a person do with guava paste?

Most people will enjoy this story, maybe because of some explicit sex and the un-hero hero.

Karen says

Reunion story

This is a good standalone addition to the Burning Secrets trilogy. It features Jessica Clark, who co-owns a hotel in Palmira, Florida with her sister. Five years earlier when she was sixteen, Jessica met a boy from New Orleans and fell in love. Leo Villeneuve was only eighteen when he and his father vacationed in Florida, but he, too, fell in love. Then their parents forced them apart, Leo graduated and he joined the Marines. After nearly dieing in an IED blast, he's back home, but has PTSD. Then his father expands their NOLA based bakery business to Palmira, setting up the opportunity for a reunion of the young lovers, who are still young, but now different because of their life experiences. And both have secrets, some that could again rip them apart. This reunion story comes with a heaping portion of angst and gets 3.5 stars.

Casey says

Find this review and more at [Ramblings From This Chick](#)

Into the Heat is the second book in the Burning Secrets series by Tamara Lush. Each book is a standalone story though, so if you haven't read the first book like I hadn't you can easily read this one on it's own. This was my first book by Tamara Lush, but it won't be my last. I enjoyed this second chance romance, and I really liked Tamara's writing style.

Leo joined the Marines and went off to Afghanistan, leaving Jessica behind broken hearted. When he returns though, he is no longer the same man he was before. Now suffering from PTSD he knows that the chances of Jessica wanting anything to do with him are slim. But they quickly discover that the attraction and chemistry are still there. Will they be able to have a second chance at love, or will there be too many things standing in their way?

I liked both Leo and Jess. I thought that they were great for one another. Each of them had issues and there was a lot that had happened to each of them. Yet they were able to help each other heal and move forward with their lives. I thought that they had a great connection and chemistry that hadn't diminished with the time apart and circumstances of their split.

Overall, I enjoyed this book a lot. It was sweet and full of hope and love. I thought that Tamara Lush did a great job of portraying some real life struggles in a respectful way and it felt genuine to me. If you are looking for a good second chance romance, this is one I would recommend checking out.

****ARC Provided by Inkslinger PR****

Lorraine Anton says

Great

Jessica and Leo. Into the Heat was so so Good. It had two great characters. He was so handsome. She had little self esteem and felt self conscious. They lived by the beach.
"You're still a perfect fit in my arms though"

"This feels right, Jess, you felt right right all those years ago and still do"

They have a second chance for love.

This one is more emotional than the other one for the challenge keeping both.

#19 BNB Challenge

Julie says

A short but intense read with a cast of believable characters and a touching story line.

Debra McEathron says

Great love story

Jessica and Leo are great characters. The story really deals with love lost and found between two people. It is a contemporary love story and deals with PTSD and some treatments available.

Amy says

Into The Heat

Tamara Lush

5 stars

So we all know I love the hero reads. This one had my heart in pieces at times.

Leo is returning to Florida after surviving hell in Afghanistan. He lost himself to the Marines the last five years. He needs to find calm before he goes crazy. He needs to repair himself to a whole person. Coming back home to help his father, he remembers a girl; the girl who holds his heart; the girl who can fill the emptiness in his soul; Jessica Clark. Her parents took her away and diverted their roads to each other all those years ago but not this time. Leo won't allow it.

Jessica knows she isn't the beauty queen; the golden model type. She is curvy, leaving her confidence in pieces. Her past has molded her into who she is now. The love of her life vanished. She thought they were more than what they obviously were. No one leaves out of the blue when they care. Leo is back But why after all these years.

This is just a heart wrenching wonderful story. I can't even explain the torment both these characters exude from the pages. I found myself taking a lot of deep breaths trying to keep myself composed between Leo's

suffering and Jessica's self esteem issues. Wow

You will find yourself yearning for these two characters to find their way back to each other. There are of course secrets that need to be seen and heard – GAH! -- I was so taken with this book.

Thank you Tamara for the ARC. What a beautiful set of characters you gifted us with.
Review to post to Ramblings From Beneath The Sheets. Go click this one up friends.

Kristen Lewendon says

Second-chance romance at it's finest. I know I've said it before but it's no less true now than it was then: I'm a sucker for a hero in uniform. Give him a tragic past to overcome and I'm hooked like a fish. Pair him with a sassy heroine who has her own tragedies to cope with, including the unresolved grief from their shared past and you might as well stick a fork in me 'cause I am done. Leo checked off every box for me. And Jess's struggles with self-confidence made my heart hurt. These two just about buried me with their emotional baggage. There were moments when it was almost too much to take but it never pushed me all the way over the edge, it just kept me teetering on the brink for most of the book. This was so good I didn't want it to be over.

I received a complimentary advanced copy of this book.

Coco.V says

? FREE on Amazon today (4/3/2018)!?

Blurb:

Leo Villeneuve is a wounded, tattooed Afghanistan war veteran who is trying like hell to avoid his pain--and his past.

He returns to Florida, hoping to heal, but knows he's running from danger. On a sun-kissed beach he runs into Jessica Clarke, the one woman he's never forgotten. Their attraction for each other burns as hot as the summer sun, but Leo's got secrets he can't reveal. Because, if he does, he'll risk the one thing he can least afford to lose: Jessica's love.

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Tami Talbert says

When I learned Tamara Lush was releasing a second novel, I was so excited for the chance to read it. I very much enjoyed her writing style when reading her first book and was greatly anticipating more stories from Ms. Lush as well as new characters to fall in love with. Into the Heat definitely lived up to and exceeded my expectations as it was filled with romance that will consume your heart, as well as a story of learning to open up again and put your trust in a love that is undeniable and unwavering.

When Jessie and Leo first met five years ago, they both felt an immediate connection to one another. But when their parents decided to intervene, it ultimately leads to Leo's sudden disappearance from Jessie's life without ever saying goodbye. After five years in the Marines and being deployed in Afghanistan, Leo returns home having suffered great loss and injury. Hoping to find peace and healing, he returns to Palmira Island not only to help his father start a business, but also to find the only woman to ever possess his heart. Because of his sudden fading from her life, Jessie has lived these last years shattered with diminished self-confidence despite trying to move forward. Upon seeing each other again, the undeniable connection and bond between their souls reignites the overpowering passion inside that they have only ever experienced with each other. But when the hurt and insecurities from the past resurface and hidden secrets are brought to light, will Jessie and Leo be able to overcome them and finally give in to the love their hearts are destined to share forever?

I really loved these characters. Jessie is a voluptuous young woman which leads to some of her lack of self-confidence and self-esteem issues and I really loved that about her. We read so many stories where the lead character tends to be written as a petite size, and the fact that Ms. Lush has opted not to write Jessie that way is absolutely lovely and refreshing. Leo's reactions to Jessie when she displays these insecurities made me instantly fall in love with him as well, as he simply never sees anything more than the woman he has always loved. The undeniable bond and affection Jessie and Leo share with one another was wonderful and they both quickly embedded themselves into my heart. And the reality we see from Leo as he returns home suffering from the aftereffects of the war are poignant which touched me very deeply as well.

There are those stories that work their way into your mind making it virtually impossible to get the characters and images out of your head, sometimes even days after you've finished reading the book, and *Into the Heat* is definitely one of those stories. This is a fantastic tale of young love which never perishes despite the passage of time, and reignites quickly with a simple fanning of the flame. Ms. Lush has given us so many different layers to this story which is just one more of the many reasons I loved it.

After reading her first novel, I predicted Tamara Lush was going to be a must read author for me, and with *Into the Heat*, she has certainly solidified that. Although my list of must read authors continues to grow, Tamara has quickly moved her way towards the top and I know that's where she will remain.

Tanya Vought says

I enjoyed this book from start to finish. This author lures you in from the start and captivates you until the very end.

This book deals with real life situations. Your heart will hurt for both characters and hope they can heal.

Both Leo and Jessica belong together but their bad breakup hurt them both... 5 years later and feelings still very much there --can hope, faith and love be restored or will fears keep them back from the one thing they've always wanted?!

You'll have to find out!

Amazing debut novel! 4 stars from me!

Itsy Bitsy Book Bits says

I pretty much liked it from the beginning and that was how I was able to fly through it. We meet Leo Villeneuve who is a wounded, tattooed, Afghanistan war veteran who is trying to deal with his PTSD and sleep walking and sleep driving. He returns to Florida to open a bakery for his father and expand their business into Florida. While on the beach he runs into Jessica Clarke the woman he has not forgotten or stopped loving in the last 5 years. Jessica Clarke is running her family bed and breakfast after the sudden death of her mother. Leo was her first love and she has not been able to get over him all these years later. Her boyfriend cheated on her repeatedly after she was unable to have sex with him. She had a condition that made sex so painful she didn't want to do it with him. Jessica also has some body issues because she is not stick thin. So she's dealing with her own pain so to speak. After they run into each other you can feel their attraction. 5 years ago it was love at first sight. After a pregnancy scare their parents decide they don't need to see each other again. Which leads to Leo's sudden disappearance from Jessica's life without him ever saying goodbye. So in the present there is a lot of insecurities and hurt from the past and you find yourself hoping they can overcome them. Secrets are brought to light which threaten to tear them apart before they really have a chance to begin. One of the things I really liked about this book was that the author chose to write the main female character with curves and like a real woman. So Many women are written stick thin so it was refreshing to see a woman with curves. My favorite part was the epilogue. It gave me the update I needed to feel that the story was complete and essentially tied everything up. Anyway it was a very good book and I would read others by this author if given the opportunity.

Rachael says

A war torn hero living with PTSD and a fragile woman trying to come to terms with her mothers death and taking over the family business. A beautiful tale of young lovers coming together again to overcome the past. The characters felt real, as did the issues they were facing. Totally enjoyed reading it.
