



## On His Watch

*Katie Ruggle*

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**On His Watch** Katie Ruggle

**In the remote Rocky Mountains, lives depend on the Search & Rescue brotherhood. But in a place this far off the map, trust is hard to come by and secrets can be murder...**

Ice rescue diver Derek Warner never meant to be a hero. But when two little girls go missing, he's the first in line to bring them home-even if that means scouring the wilderness with the woman he once loved and lost, Artemis Rey.

Artemis has never stopped wanting Derek. Now, racing to find the girls before it's too late, minutes turn to hours. Night falls. Old flames rekindle. And a danger grows in the darkest wilderness that may be more than even the Search and Rescue brotherhood can hope to face...

## On His Watch Details

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Author : Katie Ruggle

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# From Reader Review On His Watch for online ebook

## Didi says

2.75 stars

Not bad for a debut work I guess. This novella is a prequel to a new series centered on Search and Rescue team members (which would probably involved divers, firefighters, and the sheriff office) so we can look forward to men-in-uniform in actions for future books.

For novella, this sure was a busy one; what's with children class visit turned into drowning rescue, then escalating to searching rescue. On top of that, old flames reunited.

On the side, there were also the intro (in the literal sense of the word) of the pairing who would have their story in Hold Your Breath and other characters who would most likely have their own story later on. The author also threw in hints of what *troubles* brewing in this isolated Rocky Mountains' town.

The hero of this story, ice rescue diver Derek Warner, came from a rather crook family background. His love interest was an elementary school teacher, a childhood friend turned lover and left after an incident with law. Too bad, we only had glimpse of their past relationship, and only through their convos. With so many happening, it's amazing how they managed to patch their problems and started anew.

Overall, this story felt more like a sprint for me. Barely started then already over. I didn't feel much connections with the main characters, or even with kids having troubles here. But I enjoyed Ms. Ruggle's writing no less. And I look forward to the next installment in this series.

*ARC is kindly given by the publisher via **NetGalley** for the exchange of a fair and honest review.*

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## CD {Boulder Blvd} says

This is a novella and although it is setting up a series; it fails to develop secondary characters enough to make you want to come back and read future books in the series. It barely develops the primary characters. The arc that will go through all the books in the series is interesting and once Ms. Ruggle started working on this aspect of the book it did get interesting.

The premise starts with a demonstration of ice diving rescue to a group of grade school children. When a child goes through the ice they go from demonstration to real life rescue. Sounds interesting, but... The problem is the way the teachers/parents are developed. They are apparently stupid and incompetent - you know the hand wringers who don't know what to do. First, you have our h, who starts to go out on the ice that won't hold her while professionals are standing by who know exactly what to do. How did she manage to get a degree to teach? She should have been ensuring the safety of the other children. Then the two teachers decide they need to call the parents and neither want to and they do paper, rock, scissors to decide who has to call. I almost stopped reading. Where is the school protocol? I'm positive it isn't paper, rock, scissors. The teacher would call the principal and school protocol would be initiated.

Not surprising two children go missing (with this group of adults I'm not surprised the entire bus of kids

didn't go missing) and the book then focuses on trying to rescue the missing kids before a winter storm hits. This is when the book picks up and becomes less irritating and more interesting.

The separation of our h/H from the rest of the searches, their convenient alone time and their instant reconciliation is too contrived and failed to keep my interest.

Ms. Ruggle's writing is good; I just think the characters and plot needed more depth and a longer time frame to really make the story work for me.

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## Ami says

*On His Watch* is a prequel novella to Ruggle's "Search and Rescue" series, whose first full-length novel will be released in Spring 2016.

For the most part, I thought it gave a good glimpse about what the series about Field County Rescue Dive Team would be like. Honestly, I have never read stories about SAR diver before -- I get a number of firefighters or detectives but never divers -- and this novella offered a nice change. It even had a heart-pumping scene of our hero, Derek, rescued a kid who fell through the ice into the cold water. It was quite intense! Not only that, this novella also had missing children and a mountain lion!! So on the action front, Ruggle did pretty well.

However, I wasn't really sure about the romance... Derek and Artemis used to be a couple, until four years ago when Derek broke up with Artemis and then Artemis married another guy. The thing is, I felt that so many things happened off page, and it was pretty shoved down due to the length (this is a novella after all) and the attempt to find the missing children. I understand that the novella wants to introduce readers to the various characters, but most of the times I got this feeling that I 'missed' the process of building up the camaraderie or relationship. These characters knew each other, and then referring to things that I didn't really know. You know what I mean?

For example, when the girls were missing, and then Derek asked Artemis, "*Steve's girls are missing?*" ... I thought, "Wait, who's *Steve*??" Or when one of the firemen said that his Chief would come later and help the search team because there was "*Another arson*" ... and my mind went directly, "What? Which arson? What was going on? There was arson happening?!?"

It was like that you know ... even the cause of Derek and Artemis' break-up didn't mention until later on in by way of conversation, and I was a bit struggling to get the reference of them knowing one another before.

Still, it did give me curiosity to know more about these people. So I will stick around to check out the full length novel next year...

PS: I checked Amazon; it seems that this book is free.

*The ARC is provided by the publisher via Netgalley for an exchange of fair and honest review. No high rating is required for any ARC received.*

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## **Sophia says**

I snagged book one and then was made aware of this free prequel. Oh course I was going to get it and read it first. I'm glad I did since it looks like it gives intros to characters and the situation along with a nice rescue adventure ala second chance romance.

The story opens with Callum and Derek set up to show a group of school kids a demonstration of their job as ice divers on the Search and Rescue team. Derek is a little nervous about talking to grade-school kids in a group, but it is one of the teachers on the field trip group that has him really distracted. He has been in love with Artemis Rey since he was a kid and it was by his own actions that he lost his chance and she turned to someone else. He has avoided her up until now.

Artie has crushed on Derek all her life and now here he is larger than life and even after everything, she still wants him. But then one of the kids goes through the ice and after that operation, she discovers that two others have gone missing. Artie and Derek pair up when the teams go out in worsening weather conditions to find the girls. And along the way, they are finally able to address the past and maybe find another chance along with the missing kids.

This was an intro to a new to me author and new series. It was also a quick novella. There are some fun parts like in the beginning when Derek tries to wheedle the 'still angry over the goat incident' Callum to let him out of the school kids' group presentation. Derek and Callum played well off of each other since Derek is funloving and Callum is gruff and serious.

But then things get real and fast as kids being kids- a bully gets taunted on a dare and ends up falling through the ice and then a couple of kids get lost in the forest. This showcases the teams' work. Although there was a part of me that thought two big serious incidents with the same school group might be a bit much and that was before what comes later with the lost girls.

The second chance between Derek and Artie was sweet and I liked them together though it was whirlwind. It resolved fairly quickly (amazing what can happen when two adults actually take the time to communicate). What broke them up in the past made sense for their teenage selves making mistakes and not mature enough to handle the situation they were in. This one wasn't upsetting because they really did need the extra time particularly Derek, to get in the right place for a lasting relationship.

It was a novella with a lot going on. I confess that I found that distracting. I want to see if that goes away when I read a full-length book in the series. I think the Search & Rescue backdrop will be great and I love the mountain small town setting. All in all, it leaves me wanting to press on.

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## **♥Rachel♥ says**

**3.5 Stars**

Two little girls go missing in the wilderness while on a school field trip, and their teacher, Artemis is panicked. No worries, because her old flame, Derek on the Search and Rescue team is there and ready to help.

As they search for the girls Artemis and Derek can't resist the feelings that never went away, all the while trying to stay alive in a brutal storm.

Short and sweet with a little danger, and some steamy moments! Definitely whet my appetite for the series, so I'll be reading the next book: Hold Your Breath featuring the stoic (but handsome, of course!) Callum and sweet Lou.

As a bonus, this novella is **free** on **Amazon** , **Barnes & Noble** and **Kobo** !

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### **Bev says**

A sweet, second chance novella based around a rescue of two kiddies in the mountains. Derek and Artemis were a couple until four years before when Derek walked away from her. They meet up again after all this time and the sizzle is still there between them.

I'm not a huge fan of novellas and although this one wasn't at all bad it could have done with a lot less of the rescue mission, scenery, weather and a couple of side plots thrown in - arson and a mountain lion. It was too much for such a short story that could have done with a lot more information on their previous relationship. He eviscerated her when he walked away, she found and married someone else in the meantime. See, I needed to know more about all this.

Callum (Derek's boss in the dive rescue) was introduced as a hard nosed badass and his story is up next. I'm curious about him so plan on reading that one.

ARC received from Netgalley for an honest review.

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### **Linda says**

Novella that's well written, and offers sexy and romance, humor, and gripping suspense in the search of two missing girls in rugged, frozen terrain. I will be reading more of the stories in this series.

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

#### **4 "All I ever wanted was you." Stars**

This was a quick, cute read about second chance love. A little under 100 pages it didn't take me long to whip through this read. I really liked Derek and Artie. Artie was this cute bossy teacher and Derek her playful rescue diving ex. Derek broke up with her 4 years ago but neither stopped loving each other. I thought their connection was good and the plot sweet. I got a glimpse of George in this book. I read the books out of order reading George's book(book 3) first so it was cute seeing what was suppose to be the first peek and the tall,

sexy man of few words. I also loved seeing how Lou and Callum meet. Can't wait for the next book. Below I leave the cute quote of Derek fighting with a 3rd grader!

**"Where are the firemen?" demanded a girl with dark curls poking out from under her stocking hat. "Ms. Belcher said we were going to see firemen." "No firemen." Derek frowned. Apparently, even girls under ten had a thing for firefighters. "Divers are way better." "Nuh-uh." The girl scowled at him. "Uh-huh." "Nuh-uh." "Totally better." "Are not."-3rd grader and Derek**

<http://jessicasoverthetopbookobsessio...>

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## **Lyndy Ann ? says**

**I was in a mood for something different to get me over a reading slump I have been in and I wanted something with some action and OMG what a day Arty and Derek had.**

For a novella this had plenty of action

drowning/rescue ✓?

missing kids ✓?

search party ✓?

bad weather ✓?

OH YES Arty and Derek used to be together years ago what will spending time together in an old shack do???

I liked both Derek and Arty and I am looking forward to getting to know the rest of the team, looking forward to reading the rest of Search and Rescue series.

**This is a freebie on Amazon.**

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## **Nicola says**

*On His Watch* is a good introduction to Katie Ruggle's *Search and Rescue* series. It's short, fast paced, and whilst it doesn't give you much time to become invested in the characters, it does introduce you to several whilst giving us a taster of what we can expect from the series.

***"I owe Derek one happy ending."***

With action created by 2 missing little girls and mild heat courtesy of the couple at the heart of this novella searching for them--teacher, Artemis (Artie) and rescue diver, Derek, the story flowed and was held together reasonably well. And with hints given as to a possible future romance and an unsolved mystery in the mountains, I'll certainly be reading the next book in the series.

*Copy received courtesy of Sourcebooks Casablanca via NetGalley for an honest and unbiased opinion.*

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## **Maya says**

ARC received via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Wow, for such a short read I'm really blown away by how good it was. The story has action, suspense, mystery, a bit of humor, romance and of course a HEA. We also get a preview of the next book in this series, Hold Your Breath (which btw. is already on my to-be-read list).

The story has multiple POVs' but that didn't bother me at all. It made me understand and relate to the story and characters even more, since you get to see their thoughts and feelings on the occurring events. The best part is that we get to meet the characters for the couple in next book.

Although I really liked all secondary characters, the main couple stole the show. They are so sweet and perfect together. This is their second chance and, boy, if the don't grab on to it. They came together after a four year separation and the reason they separated in the first place was because they both landed in jail for a night, since they drove a stolen bike but of course they didn't know that. His father was a crook and after he stole it, he then gave it to his soon as a birthday present. Artemis was that time studying to be a teacher and to keep her from trouble, Derek decides the next day to break up with her.

I loved Derek's POV. He never got over his lost love and after seeing her again, he couldn't keep his hands and thoughts off of her. He even got quite jealous and possessive when she meet the sheriff, since it was known for his to be a ladies magnet. When they finally got together, he was sooo sweet and caring. Made me wish for one of him in my bed. ;)

Artemis was very likable, too. She really cared for the children in her class and came over as this strong and stubborn woman but had also her heartwarming moments. I was sad for her because of what happened in her past, when she made the rash and poor choice of marrying the wrong guy. Thankfully she and Derek found each other again.

All that's left to say is go and buy the book! :)

Safety-gang: Safe.

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## **♥ WishfulMiss ♥ says**

Since I read the rest of this series I figured I'd complete it all by reading this short prequel. Derek and Artie were an okay 2nd chance romance and my least favorite couple.

I didn't like that Artie married OM while still being in love with Derek and the reason they broke up four years ago was pretty weak!

Even their reconciliation was anticlimactic. I did like the search and rescue plot. The rescue adventure, mountain lion encounter and the dive rescue livened things up.

I wonder if Steve will ever get his own story?



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## Shari Kay says

2.5 ★

I'm surprised I didn't care for this one much as i've really been enjoying the series. It is the prequel to KR's Search and Rescue and i'm so glad i didn't read it before the others because I might never have picked up another one if I had.

I liked Derek from the series and knew he was with Artie from info. given there. But, at least from the 2 books i've read, there was no history on HOW they got together and we've never *met* Artie. This novella gives us their story.

I just didn't like it. I didn't like that Derek let Artie go 4 years ago if she was the "one" and why. I didn't like Artie's "rebound" marriage and subsequent divorce when she clearly was still in love with Derek. It was unfair to Randy (even though author made him a douche...of course she did...and though they were all childhood friends he suddenly went *bad*)

I know the author was trying to make Artie seem strong throughout the book with her actions, but i got more of a 'bitchy/stubborn for no reason' vibe then anything else. I found the forgiveness from both of them to be way, way, way too fast. That's a lot of hurt to get over. I thought it was silly how "physical" they were under the circumstances. I didn't like the condensed monologue of her explanation about why her marriage happened and ended. It was weak and unfair to Randy (again made into a horrible person or not).

Artie just rubbed me the wrong way all together.

Basically, this author needs time to develop her characters--it's her strength in my opinion--and this novella didn't give her the time to do that and it suffered greatly for it. Will i read the next one in the series? Yes. I'm on to book 3

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## Claire Robinson says

3.5 - "I've missed this." Stars.

The first novella in Katie Ruggles' new *Search and Rescue* series gives us a quick introduction to some of the Rocky Mountain rescue teams main players. It also give us the reconnection story of Ice Rescue Diver; Derek Warner and Artemis Rey, the woman he loved and left 4 years previously.

**"Nothing's ever easy is it?"**

In the process of searching for two missing children one snowy windy evening, Derek and Artie also rediscover their feelings for each other, newly divorced Artie is the one woman Derek has always wanted, but never felt he was good enough for. But while getting themselves into scrapes and two children out of danger they both realize that the past and their mistakes with each other from then mean absolutely nothing when their feelings are still so strong for each other.

**”If I get another chance with you... I’m never letting you go.”**

This was a really quick read, it wasn’t too heavy going even though there were quite a few things happening plot-wise. Katie is an author new to me, and this novella was a great way to discover that her writing style and story-telling are things that I would like to experience more of in the future.

*Hold Your Breath* the next book in the series is due for release in April, and I look forward to reading more from this author.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, and it was my pleasure to provide the above honest review.

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## **Luli says**

Esta novela cumple su cometido: introducir una nueva serie de una autora desconocida (para mí).

Es difícil prever cómo va a ser la serie a partir de esta historia tan corta, pero me ha gustado lo suficiente como para darle una oportunidad.

Lo mejor ha sido que los personajes están desarrollados, no son excesivos y la parte del suspense ha sido creíble y nada melodramática.

Lo peor ha sido que estaban pasando demasiadas cosas a la vez para la poca longitud de la novela, y el romance no ha sido nada espectacular. Ha sonado poco creíble que una pareja que vive en el mismo sitio estén 4 años sin ningún tipo de contacto y a la primera vez que se ven todo encaje y sea perfecto.

Pero el balance suspense-romance ha sido impecable. Me ha encantado. Es difícil enmarcar un romance durante la búsqueda de menores desaparecidos sin que suene trivial y el giro de la autora aquí ha sido muy original.

Leeré el siguiente...a ver qué tal.

This novella fulfills its purpose: introducing a new series of an unknown (to me) author.

It is difficult to foresee how will be the series based on this short story, but I liked it enough to give it a try. The best thing was that the characters are well developed, they are not excessive and the suspense has been credible and not melodramatic.

The worst has been that there were too many things going on at the same time for a novella so short, and the romance was not anything special. It sounded bit far-fetched that a couple that live in the same town are 4 years without any contact and the first time that they see each other all is well and perfect.

But the balance among suspense and romance has been impeccable. I was delighted. It is difficult to frame a romance during the search for missing children without sounding trivial and the author’s idea here has been very original.

I will read the following... to see how things work out.

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