



Welcoming the Bad Boy

Annie Rains

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From the author of *Welcome to Forever* (“Full of heart and emotion!”—Lori Wilde) comes a sweet, sexy novel about breaking all the rules. In Seaside, North Carolina, the boys on the base are heroes—but that doesn’t mean they’re always well-behaved.

As a preacher’s daughter, Valerie Hunt only dates the very respectable, very boring men who meet her father’s strict standards. In private, however, she leads a double life as a romance writer of steamy stories about the least respectable sorts of men. Valerie has always kept her hottest fantasies separate from her real life, but when she nearly runs a hot-blooded biker off the road, the lines begin to blur.

Even though Valerie almost killed him, Griffin Black can’t be angry after he learns the reason for her distracted driving: an unruly puppy belonging to her ailing friend. As a member of the military police K-9 unit, Griffin insists on training the dog himself. But he soon wonders how he’s ever going to stay disciplined around the most alluring, down-to-earth, and totally unattainable woman he’s ever met. Valerie is the ultimate good girl. And Griffin is going to need all his old tricks to unleash her wild side.

Welcoming the Bad Boy Details

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Author : Annie Rains

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Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, War, Military Fiction, Contemporary, Military Romance

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From Reader Review Welcoming the Bad Boy for online ebook

Traci says

Out of the three A Hero's Welcome Series, I think this one was so far my favorite.

We have well-developed characters with an important back story that is addressed within the text. Our two protagonist have family obstacles that need to be resolved before they can truly allow themselves to open up fully to someone. The story alternates POV's between Griffin and Val. I have come to like that a great deal, because we (as the readers) see how their internal thoughts evolve.

Griffin and Val are so endearing. You love Griffin. He is your bad boy with all that roughness and hard exterior, but once you get to know him he is a complete softy. He is a K-9 Marine Cop. His partner and constant companion is his dog. He is training a new dog named Jaws, because his other partner, Trooper, has now retired from the military. Trooper has become Griffin's pet at home. I love when we have some animals in a story. They have their own personalities that shine through the pages.

Griffin's family obstacle is his Mother. He found out some startling facts when he was about the head to college that shook his whole world. Ever since then, he hasn't spoken to his mother. Now she is ill and Griffin guilt over his mother weights him down in all other aspects of his life. It isn't till he finally is able to talk to her and have a real conversation that the burned is able to be lifted. Till then he struggles to find a balance between helping his mother and his strong attraction to Val.

Val was born and raised in Seaside. Her father is a pastor for one of the churches in the area. Their relationship has been estranged since the death of her mother. Even though she still attends his congregation and helps him out with church duties, she still seeks for his constant approval. This need to please her father makes her hide facts about herself from everyone. The main secret she harbors is the fact that she is a romance writer, and a popular one at that. It isn't till the-cat-is-out-of-the-bag that she finally finds herself face to face with her biggest fear – her father shunning her or criticizing her for her art.

Griffin and Val's guilt and need of acceptance from their individual parents haunts their relationship. They both are aware that the other one needs to resolve those conflicts to be able to move on in life, but both struggle to do it.

Annie Rains first book and parts of the second, kind of leave you hanging. Not in the cliffhanger since, more with regards to how the parent-child conflict is fully resolved. In this book not only are all obstacles resolved, we are able to come full circle. I am glad that she did that. I feel that I have closure with Griffin and his mom; as well as with Val and her dad. So now the question is, who does she write about next. She slyly introducing other characters that she will write about next, but we have two different girls she may pick between. I am pretty sure the next book will be on Troy but will the love interest be Allison or Beth???? The question remains. Maybe she will answer for us??

Mollien Fote Osterman says

Title: Welcoming the Bad Boy

Series: A Hero's Welcome Novel

Author: Annie Rains

Publisher: Loveswept

Reviewer: Mollien

Release Date: August 2, 2016

Genre(s): Military Romance

Page Count: 269 pages

Heat Level: 3 flames out of 5

Rating: 4 stars out of 5

Blurb:

As a preacher's daughter, Valerie Hunt only dates the very respectable, very boring men who meet her father's strict standards. In private, however, she leads a double life as a romance writer of steamy stories about the least respectable sorts of men. Valerie has always kept her hottest fantasies separate from her real life, but when she nearly runs a hot-blooded biker off the road, the lines begin to blur.

Even though Valerie almost killed him, Griffin Black can't be angry after he learns the reason for her distracted driving: an unruly puppy belonging to her ailing friend. As a member of the military police K-9 unit, Griffin insists on training the dog himself. But he soon wonders how he's ever going to stay disciplined around the most alluring, down-to-earth, and totally unattainable woman he's ever met. Valerie is the ultimate good girl. And Griffin is going to need all his old tricks to unleash her wild side.

Review:

This is the third book of this series of stand alone novels about the military town of Seaside, North Carolina. It is the second book that I have read of this series, and I may have to check out the book that I missed. This story revolves around Griffin Black, a military police officer in the K-9 unit, and Valerie Hunt, school secretary, daughter of the local minister and secret romance writer. The plot of the story has Griffin and Valerie fighting their mutual attraction. Griffin is the bad boy with the tattoos who rides a motorcycle. Even though Valerie has the good girl image, she keeps hidden the wild girl that reads and writes romance books, and an attraction to bad boys that would shock her conservative, preacher father. Suffering from writer's block, Valerie finds some hot inspiration in the man that has become a part of her life. The chemistry between Griffin and Valerie is hot from the beginning. The book moves along at a steady pace, building to a sweet romantic HEA ending. The characters not only grow to develop strong relationships with each other, but with their parents. Both Griffin and Valerie have strained relationships with their parents. Griffin with his once vibrant mother who doesn't recognize him due to her advance Alzheimer's. Valerie with her strict, religious, father who has kept his distance and approval from Valerie since the death of her mother. This is a sweet, moving story that is worth reading.

SCORES on a scale of 1-5 Stars rate each of the Following 5

Categories

PLOT: 4 Stars

CHEMISTRY: 4 Stars

PACING: 4 Stars

ENDING: 4 Stars

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: 4 Stars

Review Copy of Welcoming the Bad Boy provided by the Loveswept for an honest review. Reviewed by Mollien from Alpha Book Club

Connie N. says

#3 in the Hero's Welcome romance series

Thanks to NetGalley for a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

What I particularly like about this series is that there's a sweet romance, of course, but there are also real struggles that the characters must face. This story doesn't exactly have the same sorts of conflicts as the characters faced in previous books, but there are still some emotional moments. Griffin has regrets over hurtful things he said to his mother now that she can't understand because of early onset Alzheimer's. And even though Val is an adult, she still yearns for her rigid father's acceptance, which he hasn't been able to give since her mother's death years ago. The characters are great--warm and loving and intelligent. They come together unexpectedly, and it's nice to watch the development of their relationship. The conflicts between them make sense since they're both dealing with their own emotional responses to their other situations. I really enjoy this series and this author and look forward to more from both.

B. says

Annie Rains specializes in sweet romances between likable characters. Despite the title, this is another such book. Griffin Black is no bad boy. Sure, he has tattoos and rides a motorcycle, but that's about it. He's a Marine canine trainer stationed in a small North Carolina town. The heroine is Valerie Hunt, a preacher's daughter who resents her father's expectations of her and how he seems to just need her to perform duties for his congregation. But she really isn't a rebel. She works at the local school and dedicates her free time, when she's not writing steamy romance novels, by volunteering at the senior center where Griffin's mother who suffers from Alzheimer's lives. Val and Griffin begin a light-hearted romance having fun dates. And Val finds inspiration for her newest novel as she spends more time with Griffin.

Griffin is very cute as he reads the romance novel that Val has been reading to the seniors without realizing that it's one written by Val herself. Griffin reads the novel so he can find hints on how to romance Val. How can you not like a guy who reads romance novels and who loves his dog while worrying over his sick mother? There is a little bit of a subplot as Griffin works to train a new dog. It's quite endearing how he worries over that dog.

If you don't mind that Griffin isn't a bad boy and Val isn't really a rebel, then this is an enjoyable read.

I received an ARC from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

KAS says

Annie Rains is a new author for me and the book description intrigued me. Although I found it to be a fast paced read, there wasn't a whole lot of depth to the characters and not much romance to speak of either until the very end. The story was more along the lines of the two main characters, Val and Grifin, either thinking about, talking about or having sex. I just needed to have a lot more substance to the characters to care about their sex life.

I thought the connection Val and Griffin shared caring for his mother, who is an Alzheimer's patient at the local nursing home, was sweet. Also Griffin's love for his K-9 dogs was a nice touch!

*I received a copy of this book, via Netgalley, in exchange for an honest review *

Beth says

This is the third book in the Hero's Welcome series, but as with the second book in the series, it can be read as a stand-alone. Characters from the previous books make an appearance, but it does not impact this story in any way.

I was surprised that I enjoyed this story more than Welcome Home Cowboy. I think it's because I like the bad boy vibe, however, you can't judge a book by its cover. What I mean by this is Griffin looks the part of the bad boy with his tattoos, motorcycle and he appears broody, but he is so much more. He is a member of the military police K-9 unit and he even adopted his previous canine partner when he was retired. He is currently training a new partner that is struggling with obeying certain commands, which frustrates Griffin because he knows the consequences if the dog doesn't obey those commands, he is either adopted out or put down depending on the outcome of his supervisors' review.

Griffin & Partner Jaws

Valerie is a school secretary during the school year, however, she has a secret that she has told no one about, even her best friends. She is a best-selling romance author under the pen name that she referred to as her alter ego, Sophie Evans. She writes her books while she is on summer break and she has a deadline coming up and she has writers block. She has seen Griffin around at Hero's a local bar on occasion, but has never talked to him until she almost ran him off the road while trying to get her friend and neighbor's dog off her lap while driving. Her neighbor (Alma) is elderly and fell after tripping over Sweet Cheeks (the dog). Griffin under the guise of giving her pointers on how to train the unruly dog, tries to woo Valerie.

Valerie

Alma (recovering from her broken hip) is in the same nursing home that Griffin's mom is at, she has early stage Alzheimer's. Griffin just moved her to Seaside, North Carolina from California so she can be close to

him. She doesn't know who Griffin is and can't accept that he is her son. This really bothers Griffin as he has unfinished business with his mother, who he hasn't talked to in 10 years. Valerie volunteers at the nursing home reading to the ladies in the book club. She has taken up what her mother had done years ago. Valerie's mom died when Valerie was 9 from cancer. Being the only child of the town preacher, Valerie has obligations to the church that her father is constantly volunteering her for. Her relationship is strained with her father and she can never seem to please him.

Griffin

Griffin is interested in knowing more about Valerie, but he feels that he shouldn't get into a relationship with the obligations he has to his job and his mother, however, he is drawn to her. Valerie is looking at Griffin as a muse, but she also would like to have a summer fling with him. He could provide her with all kinds of vivid ideas!

This book had me swooning with Griffin's efforts to court Valerie. He was so sweet to her. There was a lot of fun banter and teasing between them and I had a few laugh out loud moments. There was sweet heat and sexy times that were steamy! There are lessons to be learned in this book too, I won't get into it, but definitely life lessons. There were parts that made my heart hurt for the characters and their predicaments. This is such a beautiful love story between two people who felt they couldn't find room in their lives for love.

I highly recommend this sweet military romance! I can't wait to see who is next!

ARC kindly provided by NetGalley for an honest review.

Irene says

4.5 stars

Welcoming the Bad Boy was a beautiful and heartwarming read.

From the first page I was drawn in with these endearing characters. It warmed my heart watching Valerie and Griffin connect and move from friends to lovers. Both Val and Griffin had big hearts, they loved hard and totally belonged together.

I'm really enjoying the Hero's Welcome series, each book can be read as a standalone and I highly recommend them.

Thank you to Random House Publishing Group - Loveswept via Netgalley for the advance copy.

Catherine (The Sassy Bookster) says

I started reading this series from the final book and it was a little hard to connect with the characters, but I totally loved this installment. What can be more fun than sparks flying between a tattooed, bike-riding bad boy and a preacher's daughter? This story was so good it left me smiling a lot.

Valerie Hunt chaffs at the restrictions her being the town preacher's daughter have placed on her. She's expected to be a good example to others and date only respectable men. Only, she is itching to let her wild side out and her outlet is her secret life as a steamy romance writer. While it's not enough, she has a handle on it, until the day she meets MP Griffin Black. With his tattoos, his bike and his leather outfits, Griffin fits the picture of a rebel, the kind of man Val should stay away from because her father would disapprove. Except he is more than that.

Griffin is a hard-working officer dedicated to his job and also to his mother who he moved to a nearby facility after she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, to be closer to her. And he has awakened Val's rebellious streak in ways that need more of an outlet than her writing. A summer fling is the perfect way to deal with the attraction between them and for Val, an added benefit is that he serves as motivation for her new book. But what happens at the end of the summer when both of them want more?

The appeal of this story for me lies in the way Ms. Rains captures life in a small town in such an apt way, particularly other people's expectations and perceptions. As a preacher's daughter, Val was pigeon-holed into a role that smothered her even as she tried to live up to expectations and earn her father's approval. One glance at Griffin's bike and tattoos was enough for him to be judged as a bad boy, even without getting to know him. The only place they found unconditional acceptance was in the nursing home, which was its own kind of social gathering.

WELCOMING THE BAD BOY is a lighthearted and fun story with moments of deep emotions and I really enjoyed it. Griffin's quest to make up for his past was very touching and the evolution of his relationship with Val was enjoyable even if sometimes annoying. I really had a fun time reading this book and will definitely recommend it, even as a stand-alone.

Disclaimer: I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book. All opinions stated are solely mine.

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Rob.C. Rob.C. says

Wow. Another amazing book by the author of Welcome To Forever and Welcome Home Cowboy. If you've enjoyed the previous books in this beautiful series, you will definitely love Griffin and Valerie's story. If you haven't, this could be your chance to discover a wonderful series that will have you swoon, laugh, maybe even shed a tear or two at some points, and warm your heart and all the way down to your toes (watch out for a bit of heat here and there, too!).

I'll start this review by saying I'm not a fan of bad boys-the tattooed, heart-breaking, badass heroes that so

many women drool after, both in books and in real life aren't usually my cup of tea. Growing up watching Disney movies, I've always loved the idea of a real Prince Charming who'd come trotting on his white horse and sweep me off my feet. Apparently, Annie Rains proved that Prince Charming can also be a tattooed, ex-military riding a Harley and still be absolutely adorable. Well, Griffin Black, even though he's all of the above, technically isn't really a bad boy at all, and I just couldn't help falling for him from the very first scene and a little more with every page I read.

I liked Valerie back in book one, so I was looking forward to her story, and I'm happy the author didn't disappoint my expectations. She is a romance author, so I immediately felt a connection with her—but that's not the only reason I liked her. I knew she was funny and a little crazy, but I wasn't expecting the softer, more romantic and naughtier side that comes out in this book, and that made me root for her from the very beginning. I suffered with her, felt her frustration and insecurities, and by seeing Griffin through her writer's eyes and imagination, I couldn't help falling for him alongside with her.

The story, as it's customary in this series, is a mix of heart-warming, emotional, funny and sexy moments all woven together to create a book you just won't be able to put down until you've reached the last page – and even then, you might end up wishing for a few more pages (or chapters). I know I did! From the very first chapter to the last page, I laughed, swooned, was close to tears, blushed a little and eventually was left with fuzzy feelings enveloping me.

The characters from book one and book two are back (yay for Micah and Lawson, Kat and Julie!) and new characters are introduced – including some adorable police dogs that stole my heart almost as fast as Griffin did.

I have to say, this book is way sexier than the others, but well, Griffin is supposedly a bad boy and Valerie is a romance author who needs real-life inspiration to get over writer's block, so... desperate times call for desperate measures!

In short, if you're looking for a sexy book boyfriend and a relatable heroine, an intense story and a beautiful happy ending, look no further: *Welcoming The Bad Boy* is the book for you! And if you haven't, go back and read the previous books, too. I promise the men of Seaside will sweep you off your feet.

I received a complimentary copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

1-Click Addict Support Group says

Much like *Welcome Home, Cowboy*, the previous book in this series—and currently the only other Annie Rains book I've read—*Welcoming the Bad Boy* was a quick and easy read, and one that was just plain *good*.

I mean that in a positive way, of course. It was a solid story, good girl, (kinda) bad boy, some fantasy fulfillment and a handful of heart-achey moments to draw the reader in. I enjoyed Griffin and Val, and found myself smiling more often than not over their summer fling turned *more* relationship. It was sweet, gentle and charming, and although nothing groundbreaking, it was just the kind of book that's perfect for a pleasurable, peaceful afternoon.

Sure, Griffin—tatted-up, motorcycle riding Griffin—wasn't as bad as you might expect, given the title, but he was still absolutely swoonworthy. Give me a man that's good with kids or animals any day, and watch me

fall in love. Which I did with K-9 Military Police Officer Black. It was easy to see why Val, who was hiding a fun little secret, would fall for him, which just made this book even easier to enjoy.

At the end of the day—or, more accurately, at the end of this book—my time with Griffin and Val in Seaside, North Carolina may not have been the most memorably wonderful book I've ever read, but it certainly did leave me feeling happy, and light, and like I'd love to read more from this author and in this series. Maybe Beth can be next?! ~ Beth, 3.5 stars

Heather says

This is the third book in the Hero's Welcome series by Annie Rains. It can easily be read as a stand alone. Two of the women in the group were paired up in previous books but their characters are only briefly featured in the books so if you haven't read them it won't impact the story. However, I now see that I missed the second book and I want to go back and get it just because I really enjoy this series!

Val is torn between being the good preacher's daughter and living her life as she wants rather than trying to always please her father. She is the good preacher's daughter but she has a secret. She is also secretly a romance author. But she has a looming deadline and writer's block.

Griffin is a stereotypical bad-boy and everything her father disapproves of. However, it seems he is the cure for her writer's block. Even though Val is determined that this will only be a summer fling, her heart quickly sees that Griffin is not really the bad-boy she thought.

This was an enjoyable contemporary romance with great characters. It does touch on some difficult points as Griffin's mother suffers from early-onset Alzheimer's. Even so there are plenty of light-hearted moments, usually featuring Sweet Cheeks, the neighbor's dog.

ARC provided in exchange for an honest review.

Rachel Lacey says

This might be my favorite book in the series, you guys (and that's saying a lot because I love them all!) First of all, we have Val, the preacher's daughter who secretly writes steamy romance novels. And then there's Griffin. Griffin may ride a motorcycle and have tattoos, but he's seriously swoon-worthy sweet too. And did I mention that he's a military K-9 officer? Yep, he wears a uniform *and* he loves dogs.

What we have here is a whole lot of WIN! Also, a whole lot of really sweet, heartwarming romance. I love the setting in Seaside, North Carolina, and I have loved getting to know all of its inhabitants too. I can't wait for Welcome Home for Christmas in a few months! :)

Tanya (Girl Plus Books) says

3.5 STARS

Having read the previous two entries in the Welcome Heroes series, I was excited to continue with another story set in the fictional military town of Seaside, NC. As the daughter of a preacher, Val has always felt the pressure to live up to her father's high standards. A school secretary by day, Val writes romance novels under

a pseudonym by night, knowing it would be looked down upon by her father. Griffin has just moved his estranged mother to a nursing home in Seaside and has no interest in a serious relationship. But when these two come together they both find the unexpected.

Val feels suffocated by her role as preacher's daughter and the type of men her father would find suitable. Meeting Griffin at a time when she's in serious need of inspiration for her novel seems like perfect timing. Meanwhile Griffin, a military police officer with the K-9 unit, has his hands full with work and his mother, who is suffering from Alzheimer's. Brought together again and again by the dog Val is caring for and by her volunteer work at the nursing home where Griffin's mother is living, the two enter into a summer fling. While I never saw any evidence of Griffin being a "bad boy" (do tattoos and a motorcycle automatically make a bad boy?), I enjoyed watching these two characters come together. Griffin in particular was an empathetic character. His interactions with his mother were heartbreakingly emotional. I loved the evolution of Griffin and Val's relationship and watching as they reached their happy ever after.

Welcoming the Bad Boy was another thoroughly enjoyable entry in the Welcome Heroes series. Readers (and dog lovers!) who like their romance on the sweet and light side will love this one.

Welcoming the Bad Boy is the third in a series but can easily be read as a stand-alone.

This review was originally published at **GIRL PLUS BOOKS** as part of the blog tour for *Welcoming the Bad Boy*.

Misty (Reds Romance Reviews) says

One look at Griffin Black and you see bad boy, but there's more to him than meets the eye. Sure he has tattoos, owns a motorcycle and looks the part, but underneath your first impression of him you find a caring man with a heart of gold. His job has brought him to North Carolina, to work as a Marine canine trainer, and also gives him an opportunity to spend some time with his ailing mother. When his life literally collides with Valerie Hunt's alongside the road, he knows he can't let her go... there is just something about her that intrigues him.

Valerie Hunt has lived her life according to her father's rules far long enough, she wants to experience things in life, that don't come from his good book and she has every intention of making it happen. For so long she's done everything she can to live up to his expectations, but she's tired of living her life according to his terms, she yearns to live out her wildest fantasies, and the minute Griffin Black walks into her life she knows he may just be the man to help her with that!

This was my first time reading a book by this author, and I can say with complete certainty that it won't be my last! I was really impressed with the writing style, and how easy it was for me to just fall right into the story, and get pulled into it right away. The story line was unlike anything else I have read in the past, which made for a refreshing change of pace, it captivated my attention right away and kept me flying through the pages. I devoured this sexy and sweet little read in one sitting! Highly recommend this one, Ms. Rain's endearing characters will steal your heart and leave you with a smile on your face!

ARC requested through NetGalley, and kindly provided by the publisher in exchange for a honest and unbiased review.

Claire Robinson says

5 - ***Fiction is so much better than reality.*** Stars!

I just adore this series, Annie Rains has hit every one of my happy places with each new book from the *Hero's Welcome* stories.

Supposed bad-boy, and the assumed good-girl preachers daughter, this is a trope that I always enjoy and the author gave this couple a really good story. There is a lot going on with secondary characters, and the back-stories to both the main characters, and it just gave everything added depth for me, as you would expect, appearances are certainly deceiving with Val and Griffin.

"I'm taking a break from good guys... Bad is exactly what I need this summer. The badder the better."

Val being *Seaside High*'s school secretary is just getting herself into the summer holiday groove, having the summer to herself seeing that her closest friends are all away with their significant others isn't such a bad thing, as she's on deadline, and seeing as no-one knows that she's an author on the side, them not being around gives her the perfect opportunity to kick back and get some writing done. Only problem being is she's lost all inspiration, and when in the past words just flowed onto the page, she's struggling to get even the opening sentence out this time.

But then, an unplanned run in, and almost run over with Griffin Black and his motorbike, due to the yappy Pomeranian she's babysitting turns things on in her head (as well as other parts) and a summer of casual, no-strings sexy fun, with the Tattooed, K-9 Officer gives her allsorts of inspiration writing and otherwise.

"I fell for you, hard and fast this summer, and there's no going back now."

What started out as fun turns into more for one of them over the course of the summer as they spend more time with each other, but the other is under the misapprehension that they will go their separate ways at the end of the holidays, even though their feelings run deeper as well...

I devoured *Welcoming the Bad Boy* pretty much in one sitting, and I am hoping that a few titbits dropped in this one in relation to several of the single secondary characters, that there are potentially at least a couple more books to come, especially as I really don't want to leave the town of *Seaside* or its residents just yet. Annie has created such a great set up that I really hope we get to visit again and again.

I must also highlight one of the best quotes I have ever read, not majorly pertinent to the story, but Annie sums up perfectly how I feel about reading, why I read and books in general –

Hope to read more from this author soon.

ARC generously provided, and it was a pleasure to provide the above honest review.
