



## Her Australian Hero

*Margaret Way*

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**“If you’ve never read Margaret Way before, you’re in for a treat.”—New York Times bestselling author Diana Palmer**

*An epic tale of modern day Australia, where greed, desire, tragedy, and ambition collide . . .*

Alexandra Ross has always known Lavender Hill will be hers one day. The grand old house, with its waving jacaranda fronds circling around it like a canopy against the white-hot Australian sun. The acres of orchards, trees heavy with sweet-smelling mangoes and prickly pink lychee. The rushing emerald creek that claimed her brother’s life; the genteel boudoir where her mother died of grief, gin, and stroke. Even the quad bike her bullheaded father uses to tear around the plantation like a teenager, as his covetous young wife plays tea party with Alex’s mother’s favorite china.

Someday Alex will undo her father’s blunders and be the good neighbor her childhood friend Rafe Rutherford deserves. The yearning she feels for Rafe can never overcome the heartbreak they’ve lived through together, but at least she will have his companionship.

Until her father is killed and the plantation is divided. If she wants to keep the land she loves Alex must break free of guilt and hesitation. And once she begins to fight for what her heart desires, there’s no telling where she’ll stop . . .

## Her Australian Hero Details

Date : Published June 21st 2016 by Lyrical Shine

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Author : Margaret Way

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Genre : Romance, Cultural, Australia, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Her Australian Hero for online ebook

### Elaine says

rating 3.5/5

Wow - talk about the wicked stepmother, this story certainly has one of those! It also has a disgruntled ex employee out for vengeance, a heroic, handsome neighbour to come to the rescue and plenty of dramatic encounters to keep the pages turning and is set in beautiful, historic, Australian countryside in the heat of summer. The overall plot is great and there are many potentially brilliant characters, the best of whom just has to be the wicked stepmother. It is only 170 pages long so a comparatively quick read, just right when you want to read something short, with plenty of turmoil and action.

Thanks to the author, publishers and NetGalley, too, for letting me read this in exchange for my honest review.

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### Dawn says

This author paints in words the vivid landscape of Australia allowing the reader to feel the heat and humidity, smell the flowers and see the homesteads of the characters. Alexandra and Rafe come to terms of their love while she works on the family property and he assists to solve the mystery of her family and past. Always enjoy reading this author's books.

Ebook from Netgalley and publisher with thanks.

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### Marier says

Ok the wicked stepmother should not be the one who steals the show. She took over the book but in the end Alex and Rafe found what they needed. The story was a good one and it could have been expanded upon so that the other character could be as developed as Sasham the greedy stepmother. Too much time was spent on the brother Alex lost. More time should have been spent on rounding out Rafe and Alex'z character. Overall it was a good book.

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### Gigi staub says

An epic tale of modern day Australia, where greed, desire, tragedy, and ambition collide. ..

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Review:

I have to say this Author has a way with her words that really make you feel the place that she is writing about. I have not read this Author before and I liked her descriptions of not only the setting of the book but the people also. This is a sad story, so much hurt and loss goes on through the story. Instead of bringing those left behind closer, it throws them even more apart. Thank goodness Alex comes to her senses before she loses Rafe for good. They are so good together, enough in common and different to make them interesting. Besides this being a dramatic piece, there is some action and mystery also thrown into the story to give some good tension. The one thing I did find a little bothersome was the switching back and forth between multiple points-of-view and then the epilogue has what seems like voyeuristic/Author POV, it was a little odd and hard to follow sometimes. This seems to be the first in a new series, though I am not sure how they will tie together as this seems like a stand-alone book.

3.5Stars

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\*I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for a fair and honest review.\*

### **MissKitty says**

Meh, very corny. No angst to build tension and all the characters seemed like cardboard caricatures.

Wealthy and beautiful Hero and heroine who, because of some tragedy, have a strained relationship, that just suddenly morphs into something romantic and sexual.

The villain is a caricature of a greedy gold-digger who is so unbelievable.

The heroine is too good and kind to be true, it made me disgusted with her instead of admiring her for these supposed qualities.

The epilogue was unnecessary, just a long description of the couple's wedding. By that time, I was thinking "who cares!"

Overall just generally an unsatisfactory read.

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### **Anniek says**

Alexandra, Alex for short, is helping her father to get Lavender Hill back on track. Alex knows that the big mango and lychee plantation will once be hers. Her mother married her father against the wishes of her grandparents. Her grandparents made sure that her father wouldn't have any hold on Lavender Hill after their deaths. Alex's mother followed their wishes in her will. Her father is allowed live at Lavender Hill until he dies and Alex will then inherit the plantation.

Alex and her brother looked up to Rafe when they were children and they followed him around everywhere. Rafe lives on, and now also owns, the plantation next door. He is a very successful businessman. When they were teens Alex's brother died in a tragic accident. Rafe tried to save him, but didn't succeed. Since that day Alex has never felt like she is good enough. Her father loved her brother with all his heart and ever since losing him he doesn't have any love left for his daughter.

Alex and Rafe are both heartbroken and they still have nightmares about the accident. Alex's father has remarried and his new wife is a gold digger. She and Alex don't get along and her stepmother is willing to do anything to get under Alex's skin. When her father dies during a reckless ride on a quad bike Alex is the only one left. It turns out she could use all the help she can get. Her stepmother isn't very patient and moves in immediately to let Alex know that she is going for everything she can get. Alex needs Rafe now more than ever. Is she able to let Rafe in again?

Alex and Rafe are both very strong and loyal people. They are very attracted to one another but Alex is afraid to let him get close. She feels the need to do everything by herself at first. I found her an even stronger person when she finally allows other people near her. I loved the way she and Rafe care for each other. Rafe is gorgeous, successful, kind and loving. He puts others before himself and I instantly liked him. I could easily imagine how Alex and her brother used to think of him as their hero.

I always get intrigued when I read about how far people are willing to go when there is money involved. Love will get you much further. How people can be lead by such awful greed is completely lost on me. I liked the way this aspect of the story is being told and of course I wanted to know the outcome as soon as possible.

Margaret Way describes the surroundings and the plantation so well. I was almost feeling the bright, burning sun and I wanted to try out those delicious mangos. Her Australian Hero is a great story. It has a mystery involved, but in the end what it all comes down to is love. This story is supposed to be the first in a new series by Margaret Way and I will definitely keep an eye out for the second book, because I can't wait to read more.

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### **Ann Cooper says**

I love books set in the outback and you certainly got a sense of the relentless heat in the late summer. The actual story line was good too but I felt the author skimmed too much on some of the characters. Sasha was brilliantly portrayed - larger than life, grasping, nasty - a great character!

But she missed out on building up Alex and Rafe. It's a short book, so maybe that is why they never really got off the ground. The repetitive references to Alex's brother and his death became almost boring and felt like an excuse for much of the way she made her characters behave.

The end was very rushed as well, as if she was running out of time. I hope lessons learned in the first book show up in the next one in the series.

Overall, a good story but a bit rushed.

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Lorraine Oliver says**

Her Australian Hero is the first book of Margaret Way's new Australian's series. It was a great story! There was a lot of mental angst between some of the characters. The main characters in this book are Alexandra Ross, a caring, and loving woman, who works hard to keep her family afloat. She has lost her mother, and her brother who was 14 when he died and he was her big brother, they were so close, and she never recovered from it. Neither did her mother, who died a few years later from alcoholism and the will to live no longer in her after her son died. Her father quit taking care of the plantation they owned, and it was Alex who straightened everything up after he almost lost their property. Less than a year after his wife's death, he remarried a selfish conniving woman, who took pleasure in annoying Alex.

The other main character is Rafe Rutherford who grew up with Alex and her brother, although he was four years older and he tried to save her brother the day he tried to cross a swelling river, slipped and fell into the water. He bashed his head and though Rafe was able to pull him out of the fast moving river and give him CPR, it was too late. He held Alex and tried to comfort her until they came for her brother. Rafe was like Alex and her brother's big brother they never had.

Something happens to Alex's father and he dies. Rafe steps up to take care of Alex, although she has tried not to accept help from him, as she is hiding a secret from him-she has always loved him, not realizing Rafe has always felt the same way. It takes a tragedy to get them together.

In the background the step mother is planning and plotting and scheming how she is going to kick Alex out of her own property. When the dad is killed she goes to stay at a hotel, and does not attend the funeral. She only comes to the house for the reading of the will! Things do not go her way and her true colors start to show.

You have to read this book to see what happens! What will happen with Rafe and Alex? What will happen with the stepmother- will she get any money out of this? And who is she? What is she hiding?

Will love ever come back to Lavendar Hill? This is a great love story, but it also has a lot of mystery too, so you get a really good book!

I gave this book 5\*\*\*\*\*stars and can't wait to read the second book in this series!

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### **Frederic says**

This is 2.5 stars review round up to 3 stars

To be honest, I am not quite sure how to begin my review of this book. There were some good moments, but overall it had a lot of irritating elements that kept me to truly appreciate this story.

Let's begin with what I liked: Sasha. She is the wicked stepmother and she is the one that stole the show. She is a mean gold digger and it is the only character that I liked in this story. In fact, it is the sole reason that I cared to finish this book. Margaret Way did a wonderful job in portraying that decadent woman. Sasha would do all that she can to get her share of the family inheritance. I love the part where the main characters were trying to discover Sasha's background, but I was a little disappointed when the secret was finally revealed. I wanted more drama and more surprises.

I was unable to connect to either of the main characters. They are totally stereotypical. I understand that Alex was still grieving her brother and mother. However, it was just over the top. I did not have the sense that she really wanted closure nor had she worked on her emotional issues. Add to the mix her father death and I was in for a treat (not the kind that I prefer). Rafe is a typical alpha male. He is handsome and a true gentleman, but other than that, there is nothing much to add. Even though the author did a fairly good job to have us feel the attraction between Alex and Gabe. The romance/passion part of their story is a miss. I did not care at all if they would end up together or not. To me, they were looking like a supporting cast rather than main characters. There is a scene when Alex found all of her family jewels that were hidden and she decides to wear them all. Gabe sees her and then you can imagine how that scene ends. I just did not get it. Amy (Alex's friend) was way more likable than Alex and I feel she should have been more present throughout the story.

The story was interesting. I was not a fan of going into the point of view of some random characters throughout the story. From time to time I had to reread some part just to make sure I was following the story.

The end of the story was just okay and I still don't get why Alex reacted the way she did with Sasha. I guess we still need some mysteries in life...

I am not planning to read the other books in this series since the first book failed to make an impact on me.

\*I was given this book by Jeep Diva in exchange for an honest review

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