



Opening Hearts

Iona Findley

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Pregnant and alone at 35!

Jessalyn O'Donnell returns from her best friend's wedding with a surprise of her own. She knows how it happened -- three sex-filled nights with a smokin' hot guy, known only as Sam -- but she has no way to get in touch with him.

When smokejumper Sam Ricci returns to his hometown after the annual firefighting season ends, he has no plans for fatherhood. His lifestyle is too risky, and he loves his job -- almost as much as he loves women. Everything changes when he runs into Jessalyn again and discovers her plans for single parenthood.

Sam doesn't want to be tied down. Jessalyn would rather go it alone than deal with an absent husband. So why, when a twist of fate brings them together again, does it feel so right?

No Cliffhanger. Book 1 is a complete story in the Hero's Heart Series

Do you like firefighters, secret babies and second chances? If so, this contemporary romance is for you.

Do you enjoy light, easy reads? OPENING HEARTS is perfect for a quick reading "getaway."

MORE IN THE HERO'S HEART SERIES:

Opening Hearts (Book #1) Sam and Jessalyn

Risking Hearts (Book #2) Jake and Hope

Joining Hearts (Book #3) Zoe and Marcus

Opening Hearts Details

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Author : Iona Findley

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From Reader Review Opening Hearts for online ebook

Amanda (Hootie) Clark says

I seriously don't think there is anyone else on this planet who enjoys a "Surprise baby" story quite like I do. For me, there is just something about some crazy good sex and a little bundle of joy bringing two people together that does something for me. With that in mind and such a great synopsis that caught my attention I had a feeling this would be a good story. But what really sold me was this quote...

"Five years of celibacy. Hell, maybe longer. And one fling, just one in five years, and she was pregnant with no husband or boyfriend in sight."

Five years of celibacy? There's something I could seriously relate to. I once went 6 years after a bad breakup so right away I could get into the head-space of the Heroine, Jessalyn. So you go five years (or more) with no sex and a surprise baby is bound to happen when you finally open the flood gates. You're on a cruise ship, alcohol is flowing and in walks a sexy muscular hunk of man meat and sh-- gets real, fast! You have three fun filled nights and when the lust clears you're left with a baby and you don't even know his last name so you have no way of finding him to let him know. Happens all the time right? Maury Povich anyone? Anyway, a chance meeting forces them to face the music and that's where the magic happens.

The characters in this one were spectacular. Despite their severe lapse in judgement in having unprotected sex without knowing anything about the other person, they were a great couple I felt belonged with each other. Jessalyn was a strong and independent heroine who has worked from the ground up to create a business to be able to work from home and still support herself. Even though she was 35 and single she chose to keep the baby and raise it solo. I admire women like that because my mother was a strong single mother. The loss of her father and later her brother left her with just her mother as her only family tie so it was equally heart warming with the addition of the baby to add more love to her life. Despite my hatred of guys who go through women just because they have a penis and it fits in every slot, I found myself adoring Sam. Yes, he was a big ladies man and didn't have any intentions of settling down because he loved his job and the excitement of a different chick on rotation, Sam was actually a decent guy. True he may have wanted to shirk his responsibility at first (like most guys) but once he really processed what was happening he became a stand up kind of guy and didn't back down. And ultimately discovered settling down wasn't so terrible. No matter how much I wanted this baby to bring this couple together I loved that the author actually had them get to know each other on a level besides sex and the bond they formed was so charming.

One thing I loved most was seeing how Sam and Jessalyn interacted with all the secondary characters. Sam having to meet her mother and how flirty her mother got not knowing initially that Sam was the father of her grandson was comical. Sam's brother Marcus intrigued me with his pre-teen daughter and the back and forth they had a few times made me want to know more about his story. There were a few things I would have liked to see in this book though. Like Jessalyn meeting Sam's mother for the first time as opposed to just having it narrated in a rushed manner. I felt kind of jipped a little bit because Sam's mother was so funny with her third degree questions about this mystery woman who wrangled her player son and Jessalyn's worry that she would hate her because of the age difference. Not to mention a crazy chick Sam got involved with before he found Jessalyn again, who kept calling and bothering him after a hookup. It's not a big deal in the grand scheme of things but it was mentioned enough that I kept thinking she would pop up and ruin things for the couple but she was just forgotten. I felt I needed a little closure in that matter.

Minus the two pet peeves I had, Opening Hearts was a GREAT first book in the series that will definitely have me continuing with the rest of the books on pins and needles. Love, romance, heart warming and mildly dramatic moments and some sexy times all came together to create a reading experience I'd be happy to revisit again and follow more of this author's work in the future.

Lynn Lim says

What a phenomenal book!

Jessalyn O'Donnell runs an Internet company from home, a very successful business. Sam Ricci is a hot shot, a seasonal firefighter, a smokejumper. He is also five years younger than Jessalyn. Jessalyn and Sam meet on a cruise. Jessalyn is on the cruise for her best friend Sadie's wedding while Sam is there for some firefighting training. They see each other in one of the ships lounges the attraction is very intense. So intense they make love forgetting about in protection. Several weeks after the cruise Jess discovers that she is pregnant. She decides to raise the baby on her own because she does not know how to get a hold of Sam. She hires a company to do a remodel on her second bedroom, which is now her office lo and behold, Sam is one of the contractors. Sam is awestruck when he finds the woman that he has not been able to forget since the cruise even more shocking to see that she is pregnant. He does not take it well to find out he is going to be a father. After Sam's shell shock wears off, he starts to have second thoughts. One day on the job, he needs a pen. While looking for one he sees the ultrasound photos of the baby. He does a total 180, he really does want to be a father. The problem now telling Jess he was an idiot. I am not going to describe any more, or give any spoilers. I will say this is a wonderful read.

This is a great story of two people falling in love the author does a phenomenal job telling the story the emotional roller coaster during the pregnancy and the birth of the baby. Ms. Findley makes you feel all the emotions that these two people are going through. A book that takes me on a emotional roller coaster ride is one of the characteristics that make me love a good book.

Thank you Ms. Findley, for the free copy of this book, I have definitely found another offer to follow I love your work,

Thank you for reading my review. Please go out and buy this book you really will enjoy it if you like contemporary romance. Best part, this book is a standalone book, but it is also part of a series. More books to love by Ms. Findley!

Linda Walters says

There is more than just an age difference between the two of them. They may have got together for a few days; enjoyed each others company. They even made a baby together but that is were the similarities end. They were keeping it casual not knowing a lot about each other while they were on the boat. That made it even more difficult when they can't stop thinking of each other. They don't even know each other's last name. And now there is a baby in the mix. Something unexpected causes them to come face to face again. With it comes the shock of seeing Jessalyn pregnant and Sam wondering if its his. He still isn't ready to be a daddy even when he finds out it is his. Even pregnant women have sex and that is part of the story as well, with

quite a few details about it. Even as drawn to Sam as Jessalyn is, she's still afraid to take the risks of really letting him in her life. She's afraid that he can be reckless, and thrill seeking, all the while being incredibly charming. Really attractive and very charming, a dangerous mix.

There were a couple of unexpected events towards the end of the book, which makes for a good twist to the story. Sweet epilogue at the very end, of course.

I did like the fact that the author included her inspiration for this story and her desire to bring attention to not only firefighters but often not as recognized, smoke jumpers.

"I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review."

Vikki Vaught says

I'm so glad I found this book, and it's FREE on amazon. It's a very funny story and excellent dialogue and I found myself laughing out loud on more than one occasion. This is one you do not want to miss.

Jessalyn O'Donnell goes on a cruise and meets Sam Ricci. It's been five long years without a man, and this smokin' hot guy is just what she wants. She enjoys three fantastic nights filled with the best sex of her life. Since it's only a fling, she only knows his first name. She never expects to see him again.

Sam Ricci is single, loves women and risks his life four months of the year as a Smokejumper. Normally, he's a love 'em and leave 'em kind of guy, but he can't get the gorgeous red-haired Jessalyn out of his mind. Fire season is over and he's home helping his brother in his remodeling business. Imagine his surprise when their new client is none other than the woman he can't forget and she's pregnant!

Neither of them know where this circumstance will lead them. As they traverse these uncharted seas, will it be possible to turn their fling into a permanent arrangement for their unborn child?

Wow, this was such a great read. Along with plenty of humor, there's a lot of emotion and a good deal of action. The plot is fantastic, and the pacing is great. The chemistry between Jessalyn and Sam is off the charts.

Jessalyn's character has a quirky side and was a true delight. I loved her from the start. She takes her lemons and turns them into lemonade. I loved that she was a bit of a cougar in the sense that she is thirty-five to Sam's twenty-seven. That added a nice twist to their romance.

Sam is the typical young, carefree guy, not ready to settle down with one woman. I loved his confusion when he can't forget Jessalyn. At first, he's shocked and not too happy to learn he's the father of Jessalyn's baby, but he quickly mans up and accepts responsibility. He's even willing to give up the career he loves if it will help him win her love.

I highly recommend Opening Hearts to all who enjoy a great romance with plenty of sparkling dialogue, great characters, and strong emotion. This is the first book in a series and can't wait to read the next one. Happy reading!

Em__Jay says

Overall, an unsatisfactory read. Once I reached the 50% mark I began to skim pages. This is a book dealing with serious topics at a superficial level. The story is as one dimensional as the characters.

Life-changing decisions are seemingly made with less thought than choosing what meal to order in a restaurant. Seriously. Our heroine is worried about the volume of food she is eating and this topic was given about the same coverage as her decision to give her child the hero's surname even though she knows little about him and they are only beginning to date. This plus other oddities in the story make it impossible to take this book with the level of seriousness and drama I assume the author was aiming for.

Patricia Ventola says

It was one of these books that you read just for fun. To avoid bothering while you wait for something.

Nicola says

It was so difficult to like this. The time line was completely off and the pregnancy development was totally unrealistic. I mean at 2 months pregnant she was 'obviously pregnant' (she would barely be showing by that point, at most she'd look bloated but definitely not pregnant) and managed to get a perfect scan and find out the sex (this doesn't happen until around 4 or 5 months). Plus all of the romantic getting to know each other and falling in love parts that actually make a good romance novel were completely missed so you didn't develop any feeling for the characters at all. I hate leaving bad reviews but I'm so annoyed that I wasted my time with this one.

Melody Cox says

This was just an okay book for me and not one I would fancy rereading at a later date.

2.5 Stars

I have to be honest and say that throughout the book I just kept waiting for something of significance to jump out at me and, in my opinion, it never did. It left me with a blah feeling and I had trouble believing the big turn around in the hero and the sincerity was lacking.

Even though they had no plans to see each other after the cruise, I felt a bit betrayed by the hero when he went and found a red headed green-eyed gal at a party to hook up with because she kind of reminded him of the heroine. He was told to stay clear of her because she had stalker-ish tendencies in relationships but he wouldn't listen and just had to bed her...while the heroine who was crazy about him was home alone carrying his child with no way to contact him. I'm sorry, but regardless this type of thing leaves a very foul taste in my mouth.

Would I recommend? Let's just say I wouldn't read it again if I had know.

Alice-Elizabeth (marriedtobooks) says

I will be honest with you but there was something in this book that didn't sit well with me. I don't know if it was the plot or Jessalyn the main character but there were moments where I had to put the book down and wait for a while before continuing on. This is an Adult Contemporary that came up on an Instafreebie deal. I do love firefighters in a book but Sam for me was a bit... naïve. There wasn't a cliffhanger ending which was a good thing but sadly, I won't be continuing with the series.

Paige says

DNF 50%. This started off well and had an interesting premise but it went downhill. Sam just didn't work for me at all. He was going to just let Jessalyn hang in the wind knowing it was his kid. This went on for a while. Eventually he decided to give it a go as a father but he just left a bad taste in my mouth.

Ashley says

While the concept of this book was good and I didn't mind reading it I just couldn't get past that it felt like it was the authors first book and she is in high school! It wasn't the worst book I've ever read but it was just to vague!! There was hardly ever any details... At the end she has a complication with her pregnancy; well why did she need surgery, what happened to her body that actually needed surgery!!! It was just a basic book for a quick read just don't expect you to be moved by this book! It was free so that's good but I have no desire to read this author again!

Kristie says

I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

This is Iona Findley's first book in the "Hero's Heart" series and I will be looking for the next two in the series. It is written from a third person's perspective and flows effortlessly through the chapters.

The way the author chose to begin her book was interesting. The exact particulars of how Sam and Jessalyn meet and spend their time together on the cruise is left mostly to our imagination. Iona gives the reader enough information to connect with Sam and Jessalyn quickly. I liked that Jessalyn seemed down to earth and established as a woman with her own career and life. Her life changes in an instance.

Their chance reunion has changed both of them forever. I liked the fact that Sam and Jessalyn acted like adults, putting the needs of their unborn child before their own. They both are strong characters who are also are both receptive to love and their impending addition. The two of them seem determined to make their relationship work and grow.

I believe in true love. I want happy endings. This book will have you pulling for Jessalyn and Sam, wanting everything to be ok.

It is a sweet love story. Perfect for a summer read on the beach.

Debbie Oxier says

This was a great debut read from this author. I loved the characters. Sam was a smoke jumper, something of a ladies' man, and not looking for anything serious in his life. A risk taker, he lived for his job. Jessalyn was older than him, a successful business owner, and most of the time quite level headed. When she goes on a cruise where her best friend is getting married, she meets Sam. The two of them have a good time talking, flirting and indulging in a brief fling that ends when Sam is called out on a job. Neither Sam nor Jessalyn figure on seeing one another again, although they can't stop thinking about each other. When Jessalyn discovers she's pregnant, she has no way of contacting Sam as she doesn't even know his last name. Imagine her surprise when she opens the door to the contractor she hired and finds Sam and his brother, Marcus, standing there. At first Sam doesn't want anything to do with being a father, mainly because he's stunned at the unexpected turn his life has taken. However, it doesn't take long for him to change his tune once he sees an ultrasound of his son. So heartwarming and emotionally touching. The end was so tense but leaves you sighing. Totally unexpected but had me on pins and needles and made me cry. Can't wait for the next one in the series!

Samantha Brown says

The whole book just felt off

I typically like books about unexpected pregnancy and than guy and girl fall in love but this book just felt off. Some of the dates and facts didn't match up. There wasn't much chemistry between the couples. I was not fond of how it was written. And lots of things that were hard to believe, like in the beginning her waiting for two hours in her OB office cause he was in an emergency C-section. I work for an OB office and you reschedule appointments not make people wait over two hours. Not sure I will keep reading this series.

Emma says

2.5 stars
