



Last Chance Christmas

Hope Ramsay

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**"Last Chance captures the essence of Southern charm and quirkiness. I'm totally captivated!" ---
Sherryl Woods, *New York Times* bestselling author**

Dear Reader,

I've been wishing for a miracle for my oldest boy, Stone, and this Christmas my prayers might just be answered!

Her name is Lark, and she's here in Last Chance, looking into her father's past-and stirring up a whole mess of trouble without meaning to. As the chief of police, Stone sure has his hands full trying to keep up with her. Ever since his wife died, Stone's put everything into raising his daughters and dodging the Christ Church Ladies' Auxiliary matchmakers. And it's clear Lark has been through some trouble and could use a place to finally call home. I only hope Stone can let go of the past soon enough to keep her . . .

Goodness, I need to stop talking and finish up Jane's highlights so we can make the town tree-lighting. You come back by because the Cut 'n' Curl's got hot rollers, free coffee, fresh-baked Christmas cookies-and the best gossip in town.

See you real soon,

Ruby Rhodes

Last Chance Christmas Details

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From Reader Review Last Chance Christmas for online ebook

Mary (BookHounds) says

MY THOUGHTS

LOVED IT!

Stone Rhodes has lost his wife, and with two young girls to raise, has not been interested in moving on with his life. As Ruby's oldest son, she and her Ladies at the Cut 'n' Curl have given up on ever getting him out of his rut of work and taking care of Lizzy and Haley. Haley was in the car when a drunk driver killed his wife and even though she was only two when the accident happened, she still hasn't gotten over it. Haley has been telling her father that an angel is weeping over him and when she demands an answer from her, she is told he must open his heart and move on. This sets Haley in motion, in the way only a young girl at Christmas who wants a special present can campaign.

When Lark Chaikin, takes her father, Abe's, last wishes to heart, she travels to Last Chance to spread his ashes on the Golfing for God putt putt, which is owned by Stone's father. Apparently, there was some interaction between Stone's grandfather and Lark's father where the grandfather died the night Abe left town. Lark has a lot of issues mostly stemming from her job as a Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist where she covers the horrors of war and natural disasters. After witnessing her mentor and friend die in a bomb blast, she doesn't think she will ever work again. She finds herself quickly intertwined with the ladies of the Cut 'n' Curl as they nurse her back to health when she is taken ill. They also want to take care of her mental as well as physical.

As the town's history becomes clear to Lark, she wonders if she will ever be able to take care of her father's last wish and move on with her life. Of course, the Ladies know what is best for both Stone and Lark and there are some really sweet and AWWW moments as these two damaged people come together under the magic of an angel and the holidays. There is also a wonderful subplot of high school aged, Lizzy and her spunky ways trying to grow up under the watchful eyes of her father. She is one I want to read more about. This one will leave you a bit misty eyed, but cheered at the same time. I need to go back and read the story of Stone and Sharon and their romance. I just need that novella now so I can be all caught up in Last Chance.

Sharon Chance says

This is the first "Last Chance" book I've read, but I really enjoyed it! I'll go back and look up the previous books to see what fun I've missed out on. Loved the small town setting, and the characters were a lot of fun too!

Sally Andrews says

Pretty cool Christmas story about love and loss, learning to let go....oh, and angels!

Marilyn Upright says

I absolutely love this series by Hope Ramsay. I cannot wait to read more.

Lark Chaikin, famous photojournalist of war scenes arrives at Last Chance at Golfing for Jesus. (Golfing for Jesus is a putt putt golf course dedicated to God.) Lark arrives with her fathers ashes in an urn. His last wish was for his ashes to be dumped at a one of the putt putt stops. Stone is the local sheriff and he sees her car at the closed Golfing for God. When he runs the tag it belongs to her father Chaikin who is infamous in Last Chance for killing Stones grandfather in 1968. Needless to say when he approaches Lark he isnt happy. But when he looks at her and tells her the story she passes out. He picks her up and takes her to the clinic. Stone has two daughters Lizzy a teen and Haley a 7 year old who has been seeing angels since her mother died in a car crash that Haley was in. Between his girls, his mama, a matchmaker, the 40 year old murder and a new murder Lark and Stone search for and find the truth about what really happened 40 years ago.

Margaret Dombrowski says

I did not expect the ending to happen the way it did. I enjoyed reading about Lark and so glad Stone has been finally "healed"

Susan says

Very good book. Lark has come to Last Chance to scatter her father's ashes at the Golfing for God putt-putt course. She doesn't understand why, but it was his last request so that's what she'll do. When she arrives she discovers that there are some roadblocks to carrying out her plans. Her father was not the most popular guy to have visited the town and there are secrets that are about to be stirred up. She needs to get permission from multiple people to fulfill her father's wishes. And the local police chief isn't any too happy about the trouble she's stirring up. Stone is a widower who is having trouble moving on. His wife was his soulmate and he feels lost without her. He's raising his two daughters, teenage Lizzy and seven year old Haley. Haley has been talking about the "sorrowful angel" she has been seeing since the death of her mother. Having Lark show up in town is creating problems for him. Some people want him to run her out of town and others are glad she's there. Being around her is waking up feelings that make him feel guilty but also seem to be filling a hole in his life. Working together they uncover the secrets that have created problems for their families and bring them to the light of day. There's also a modern murder that ends up being tied to some of the same people.

Lark plans to spread her father's ashes and get back to her work as a war correspondent/photojournalist. Part of her troubles is that she is suffering from some PTSD because of her last job. A friend died as she was taking pictures and she hasn't been able to use her camera since then. Taking care of her father has given her a break, but she still hasn't recovered. Meeting Stone puts a crimp in her plans as he explains the problems. Her father is blamed for the death of his grandfather and there are a lot of people who don't want to help her. At first Stone is among them. Lark finds some that are willing to talk to her and help her take care of her father's ashes. She also finds herself increasingly attracted to Stone, even though there's no future in it. I loved the way that just being around Stone started to lessen her trauma. She also found that she could talk to him about anything, including those bad memories. He understood and didn't try to judge or advise, he just listened. I also loved her reaction to life in the small town, something she had never experienced before. It

really didn't take long before she started to fit in to the whole community. I especially loved seeing her with Stone's daughters. She knew just what to say to Haley about Santa and her angel, and she was just as great with Lizzy. I loved the way her independence and experience saved Lizzy and David at the end. Her fears nearly kept her from going after what she wanted, until she admitted to herself that she wanted the love she had seen all around Last Chance.

Stone has been getting by for the last six years since the death of his wife. He has his family around to help and support him but he misses his wife. He is frustrated by his youngest daughter's constant talk of her angel. When Lark arrives in Last Chance he senses that she is bringing a whole bunch of trouble with her. He's heard about how her father was responsible for his grandfather's death for years. He knows his father will never agree to her spreading those ashes at the golf course, though it isn't entirely up to him. He tells her about how she will have to get permission from others too. He really hopes she'll just give up and leave. It doesn't take long before her presence starts making waves and people are telling him to run her out of town. He soon realizes that that's the last thing he wants. I loved seeing him get to know Lark and see the woman behind the tough facade. I also loved the way his feelings for her were growing but he was so unsure about what to do about it. He's the strong, silent type but also somewhat vulnerable. It was sweet seeing the way he kind of bumbled his way around asking her out and taking her places. I also loved the way he tried to protect them both from the gossips of the town, but ended up right in the middle of it anyway. I really enjoyed seeing him finally let go of his past and how Haley and her "angel" were part of it. I must admit that I had my suspicions about that angel from the beginning and was very happy to see that I was right. I enjoyed his conversation with the "matchmaker" who gives advice and how it also opened his eyes to the possibilities for his future.

Besides the terrific romance elements of the book, I really enjoyed the whole small town setting. All the characters are realistic and not cutesy at all. Lark's arrival brought out some of the less savory history of being a small Southern town in the sixties. Part of the mystery involving Lark's father was rooted in his actions with an African-American woman and the segregation that was still being practiced. There was a very interesting twist to that story at the end. Stone also had to deal with a murder that happened just outside town, getting the county sheriff involved. By the end of the book that mystery is solved in a surprising way. There was a sweet teen romance involving Lizzy and a classmate, a Jewish boy that is dealing with some bullying by a teenaged bigot. I really loved Lizzy's attitude, though she was certainly good at pushing her dad's buttons. Lizzy and David found themselves in the middle of some serious danger and it was David who came through for Lizzy. There was a lot of excitement at the golf course that day and a couple very interesting plot twists. I'm really looking forward to reading the next book.

Lisa Filipe says

Reviewed on <http://atastyread.blogspot.com>

Who doesn't LOVE a great Christmas story...and this certainly was a beautiful story about a chance at love a second time around, and opening our hearts to new possibilities. We have seen Stone throughout the complete series and he was grumpy and surly and just a Grinch. But why? We heard a bit here and there but never knew the full reasons or what happened between Stone and Sharon from when they were eighteen to now. We finally get all of our answers in Last Chance Christmas...completely worth the read.

We meet a few new friends, Lark Chaikin, who is our heroine, who has Stone feeling things that he thought were gone forever. David, a new friend of Lizzy, and a few other friends who help us solve a forty-year-old

murder mystery and reveal a huge secret that will change lives forever.

Haley and her sorrowful angel play a big part in Last Chance Christmas, and I have to say, I was thrilled that they were able to help Stone find his second chance at a Happily-Ever -After. This was a beautiful story about a man and woman who found each other at a time in their lives when they needed someone the most. Plan on getting choked up a few times while reading Last Chance Christmas, and keep an open mind and heart...Hope Ramsay will have you believing in Angels!!

I hope you will plan on reading the whole Last Chance series but make sure to put this one on your Christmas List....There is nothing like a story about a second chance at love...LOVED IT!!

Enjoy and Happy Reading!!

Jamie says

This was a great addition to the Last Chance series. It was a nice romance with a little mystery added in. The romance was great, but I liked the interaction of the town with everyone.

Lark went to Last Chance to scatter her father's ashes, fulfilling his last request. But he wants them scattered on the 18th hole of Golfing for God, and there is some tension there, they don't want her doing that. So she stays a few extra days to convince the people involved that it would be ok to spread the ashes. The main one she has to convince is Stone, the police chief. As they get to know each other, they find they understand each other better than either of them ever thought someone could.

A sweet romance, and of course, it involves Christmas, which makes any book great.

Christa says

Last Chance Christmas was a sweet romance with a bit of mystery added in. I really liked the characters of Lark Aiken and Stone Rhodes, and enjoyed watching their relationship develop. Stone's girls and the townspeople added to the book. I enjoyed the storyline, and look forward to more from this series.

Lark has gone to Last Chance, South Carolina to fulfill her father's last wishes of scattering his ashes at a miniature golf course there. She encounters resistance from the people of the town when she gets there, especially Stone, who is the chief of police. As Lark and Stone get to know one another, they can't deny the strong feelings between them.

This book was a great addition to the series. It was a touching romance, and had great characters. I received this book as an ARC through Netgalley.

Toni says

The best of the series yet!

The conclusion of the "Sorrowful Angel" role throughout the Last Chance series thus far was worth the wait! The youngest member of the Rhodes clan, Haley and her persistence in trying to get the message across was lovingly and artfully written by Hope Ramsay.

Romancing the Book says

Reviewed by: Crystal B

Book provided by: Publisher

Review originally posted at Romancing the Book

I had really been wanting to read a book from Hope Ramsay's Last Chance series, the titles and covers just looked appealing to me. So when given the opportunity to read and review Last Chance Christmas I jumped at the chance. It lived up to my expectations. I love small town romance series and this one fits the bill in my book.

Last Chance is one of those little towns where everyone knows everyone and everything that is going on. I so enjoy my "trips" to these little towns and enjoy meeting new people when I find another great small town to visit.

In this story I got to meet Lark Chaikin whom is on a mission to full fill her Dad's last request of placing his ashes at Golfing for God's 18th hole. However when her father left Last Chance years ago he did not leave on the best of terms so this is makes for an interesting situation. Lark is a strong woman that is dealing with some major trauma from her past. I really enjoyed meeting Lark, she seems like such a wonderful, interesting character that would have plenty of stories to read if we were to sit down and visit.

Stone Rhodes lost his wife and is raising two young daughters. He has a lot of things from his past that he has to deal with before he can move on and find love again. I really liked Stone's character in this book he seems like a really down home boy that puts his family first. I loved that fact that when Stone's wife passed away his parents stepped in to help him raise his two daughters. I love that his family is standing with him and lending him support. This is another one of those things that I love about small towns that everyone is always willing to help when someone is in need.

There is also a couple mysteries that has happened in town, one that took place years and one that take place in present day. This adds a lot of drama and suspense too the plot that really kept me intrigued. There are many twist and turns that I did not suspect but really enjoyed.

I would highly recommend this book to all my fellow small town romance fans out there. I think you will enjoy it, I know I sure did. I am most certainly going to be on the look out for more great stories by Hope Ramsay.

Toni says

My favorite so far in the Last Chance series! Hope Ramsay artfully concludes the "Sorrowful Angel" subplot validating the youngest Rhodes, Haley and her family "gift". A real tearjerker for me!

Arlena says

Author: Hope Ramsay

Published by: Forever

Age Recommended: Adult

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Book Blog For: GMTA

Rating: 4

Review:

"The Last Chance" by Hope Ramsay was my first read from this author and I found it a nice romantic 'Christmas Holiday' novel with a bit of paranormal. I did find this novel some what very interesting as it deals with 'racial issues' many years ago dealing with ...'black and white couples in the sixty's, teenage drinking, prejudiced of different faiths and the horrors of wars.' Now, if there is any doubt, this will be a good read. We find that is widower..Stone Rhodes is the sheriff of 'Last Chance, South Carolina' and has two daughters...one that sees angels. Next, we find Lark Chaikin has arrived in Last Chance to bring her fathers'(Abe) ashes to a 'Golfing for God' which was a mini golf course which were his last wishes. However, would this Chief of Police Stone allow this to happen? Then this is where this story really picks up where Stone tells Lark that she would have to get permission from the new ownership of this mini golf course. Little did Lark know that her father was not very popular in that town. Why was this? Now, this is where I say you must pick up "Last Chance Christmas" to see where, why, who and the how of it all in the well written novel. Be ready for a love story, with mystery and drama that will keep you moving quickly through the read to definitely put a touch in the holiday spirit.

Would I recommend "Last Chance Christmas?" YES!

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

Originally posted at: <http://www.longandshortreviews.com/bo...>

South Carolina and pine trees swaying in the wind.

Lark Chaikin's plan (er, challenge) is a bit quirky, but reflects her late father's desires. And, Sheriff Stone Rhodes is not unsympathetic, but the law is the law. The two are on opposite sides from the start. And lets face it: Stone Rhodes is about as unbending a lawman as one can imagine. However, both our main characters are complex and interesting people, and though they seem plainly at odds, both surprise us. Lark is sophisticated, but at heart, there's a country girl, with a genuine feeling for a people. She is also determined to solve what starts as a minor mystery. Stone has that tough exterior you'd expect of a lawman; but there is a lot going on inside. His own grief makes him both less sociable but more understanding.

Almost by accident, they find they have a common goal in discovering the truth about a specific important event in town.

The community is thoroughly involved from the start. Folks take sides, doubt one another, question the facts. Gossip takes off ... and though you want to believe in charming little southern communities, we find out pretty quickly that even at the holidays, you can't count on the clichéd charming community to help out overall.

Ms. Ramsey's writing style is straightforward and unobtrusive. Conversations are believable and move things right along. One or two changes in point-of-view were a tad abrupt, but (recognizing this is a personal bugaboo) I suspect this will not dismay most readers. The secondary characters also do certainly move things along – young David's romance with Lizzie is a whole entertaining side, and past loves come into it too. There is also that touch of 'magic' any good Christmas story needs – an angel to oversee them all. Although Last Chance Christmas is a series, you don't need to have read any of the previous novels to thoroughly enjoy this one.

Somehow, despite disagreements, expectations and whole-town angst, not to mention a troubling investigation, Ms. Ramsey will still make us feel the heartfelt charm of it all, and leave you happily in the spirit of Christmas. From the swaying pines through a myriad of decoration all the way to the pageant, this book has everything.

My recommendation: Curl up with this book and a nice batch of frosted cookies. On another note: Cover designer went over and above on this one: Colors and design are completely perfect; Last Chance Christmas will make a lovely gift — for Christmas or any time of the year.

Emi Lia says

I really liked this book! It was a sweet story. It's wasn't overly dramatic with the romance, it was set at a nice pace and with a little murder mystery to go with it as well. I couldn't put the book down, I had to keep reading to see what was going to happen next. The description of the town was amazing, I pictured it so clearly while reading the story, made me feel like I was part of Last Chance lol. I highly recommend it.
