



Return to Me

Aimee Nicole Walker

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Does the heart have a memory?

Noah McKinney and Maverick Rodriguez met when they were seven years old. Maverick's family moved into the house next to Noah's aunt, where Noah spent every summer of his childhood. During those three months every year, the boys were inseparable as they swam in the waters of coastal North Carolina, rode bikes, told ghost stories, and dreamed of finding hidden pirate treasures. A sweet friendship developed into an even sweeter young love, but then Maverick disappeared out of Noah's life as suddenly as he appeared.

Twenty-two years later, Noah returns to Beaufort, North Carolina after he receives a call that his ancestral home has been vandalized. He is overwhelmed with a feeling that fate has something more up her sleeve than a simple home repair, but never in a million years would he have guessed what was waiting for him.

Maverick has returned to Beaufort in an attempt to stop running from his past and what better place than the source of his happiest memories. He quickly earns a reputation as the best in the business at restoring old homes to their former glory. No matter how successful his business has grown, he still feels there is something missing in his life. Or is it someone?

Noah and Maverick's reunion is nothing like either man has fantasized about for so many years, but beneath the strain is an undeniable attraction and a feeling of rightness that neither man can deny or resist. However, giving in to their desires doesn't erase their doubts and fears. Maverick knows that nothing of the boy Noah loved remains inside of him. He thinks he's better as a memory than the man he's become. Noah fears that Maverick will disappear again and doubts he could survive the heartbreak a second time.

The heart wants what the heart wants and it won't be denied.

Can the two men overcome their fears and doubts to take a chance on a love that promises to burn brighter than the sun? Or will they use the obstacles they face as excuses to spare themselves from potential heartbreak?

Return to Me is the fifth book in the Fated Hearts series. It can be read as part of the series or as a standalone novel.

*This book contains sexually explicit material and is intended for adults only.

Return to Me Details

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From Reader Review Return to Me for online ebook

Amanda says

I didn't expect to like this book better than Aimee's last release, Perfect Fit, but I do believe she outdid herself. As usual the character development was AMAZING! I always feel as if I truly know her characters. I can't wait for the next one!

Mary Kate Durett says

One of Aimee Nicole Walker's epic masterpieces

I'm not very good at reviews since I have so much to say but it never comes out right. But this book deserves more than 5 stars. I was addicted at page 3 & never looked back. I experienced so many different emotions reading about Noah and Maverick. Happiness was high on my list but there was crying, sadness, frustration and joy. Aimee brings us on a amazing journey and I never wanted it to end. I'm truly sad it's over but a re-read is next. The sex scenes and sexual tension was of the charts amazing. This is a MUST READ. Aimee has a genuine gift that should never be ignored. I am & will remain a devoted fangirl of all her books. LOVED THIS STORY from beginning to end

~◊~Doxi(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says

As in book 3, the second half took a bit of a nosedive. I didn't think Noah's accident was necessary to push the story along. It's almost like this author loses steam halfway through and starts throwing drama at the plot in hopes it will amp up the (non-existent) tension.

I still liked Noah's story, though. He deserved a HEA, and Mav was delicious.

Pure comfort read if you can get over the sugar rush.

There's a paranormal element to this story that plays a role in the relationship. I'm still not sure what to make of that epilogue.

K says

Within the very first few pages of **Return to Me** you will be connected to Noah and Maverick. I went through so many emotions reading this book and my nerves were giddy with anticipation. You want to read faster so you can see what is about to happen, but at the same time you don't want to read too fast because then it will be over. It's definitely worth savoring and slowing down just to stay in the moment with them.

Twenty-two years have passed since Noah and Maverick were teenagers sneaking around to kiss each other

and make love. Each one had a huge impact on the other one's life and their love, their passion, and connection would set the standard for the rest of their lives, and even though they both tried to fill that void, over the years to come, no one came close to supersede what they had together.

Noah only visited through the summers with his Aunt Minnie who lived in a small southern town in North Carolina. Because of this he really didn't know what Maverick's life was inside the four walls of his home. Maverick didn't share the stronghold his father had on him with Noah because he wanted to enjoy what they had together without a black cloud hanging over them. The summer Noah turned sixteen and returned to Elijah's Landing, the family home, he was devastated when he learned Maverick was gone. No trace of him or his family anywhere... just gone.

Now, twenty-two years later, Noah is about to get the surprise of his life when he returns to Elijah's Landing. He's been called to come back to his ancestral home because of vandalism that need repairs. The closer he gets the more vivid his memories become and thinking about Maverick, what happened to him, what was he like as an adult, was he happy, all of these thoughts threaten to smother him taking his breath away.

Return to Me is equivalent to having the gold-star package. It has everything that will make your heart go pitter-patter, keep your nerves on edge, and it will envelop you with comfort and contentment. Also, simmering in the background is a magical overlay that is hard to explain but you will understand what it is the moment you open the first page. The history of Elijah's Landing plays a huge part in the story and how it came to be and why it's so important to Noah and Maverick.

The secondary characters are amazing, as well, with each one adding depth and relevance to the story. Aunt Minnie is a real firecracker and an important person in Noah's life. She's eccentric and strong willed and the cornerstone that Noah needed as a teenager and now, as an adult. Then there is Madge, Noah's golden lab, his best friend and companion.

I guarantee that you will have a smile on your face through the biggest part of this book. The author has her own magical qualities of pulling the reader inside and you feel like your reading about real life friends. When they hurt, you hurt. When they are happy and ecstatic, so are you.

Maverick, Oh....my....gosh! I love him so much. He has struggled for a long time and even more so after leaving Noah behind. Of course, none of it could have been helped at the time, but as soon as Mav was able to set out on his own, he did so and he never looked back. His heartache and loneliness will swallow you whole as his despair is uncovered.

Noah was always a shining beacon in the distance keeping him centered and grounded when life became too overwhelming. If two people ever deserved being together, it's these two. They complete each other and when they meet face to face, years later, the jubilation you feel will be all over your face and you will have goosebumps breaking out everywhere.

Maverick worked hard and made a good life for himself. He surrounded himself with loving and caring friends who became the family he never had. He built his own business from the ground up and loved his most prized possessions like his car, Lola, his Harley and Ozzy, his bearded dragon. However, he still lacked that one thing that completed him and that was Noah.

I have always connected to Aimee Nicole Walker's writing and the Fated Heart Series is one of my top, all-time favorites. Each story has the capability of pulling you in and keeping your full attention from start to finish. Usually, in a series, each new book gets better and better as the author evolves, but I don't think that's

true here. The author broke out of the gate with the first story leaving a huge impact on me and I knew she would always be one of my most favorite authors.

The love and compassion, heartache or joy, will engulf you as you read Return to Me. You will be giddy with anticipation, enamored with Noah and Maverick, and whether they are running on the beach, holding hands, or making mad intense love in the bedroom... the feels...OMG, the feels you will have.

Return to Me is an incredible story of finding your soulmate and never giving up on that connection. No matter how hard you try, and Noah and Maverick both tried over the years, the love they have for each other could not be matched. Beautiful, beautiful story that will be a re-read many times. A 5 Star read and worthy of many more.

Elizabeth says

Unrealistically magical and romantic. I liked it but I'm still coming off the sugar induced comma I fell into. I love an emotional book but this was more on the side of super romantical. Good though if you are into loving looks, eye batting, gazing, and back forth super sweet dialogue.

Amanda says

From prologue to epilogue this book was fantastic. Maverick and Noah were separated 22 years ago but never forgot each other. When Noah's family home is vandalized, he drives back to find that Maverick is the owner of the Second Chance Restoration company hired to restore his home. It was beautiful to watch them fall in love all over again as adults. Issues arise and they need to overcome some obstacles but even after, what seems like the worst thing that could possibly happen, they never give up. They never stop loving each other with all they have. And I loved when you get to why the title is what it is, in more ways than one. I adored the back story of Octavius and Elijah too. Altogether a wonderful story. Definitely on my favorites shelf.

Denise H. says

***** Yes, Yes, Yes, it's "fairytales-ish", magical, unrealistic, and totally fabulous !**

***** Completely captivating !**

Psychiatrist Noah has come home to assess the

vandal's damages to the homestead.

Maverick, Restoration specialist, and childhood love,

will do the work. The two men are still having the emotions they had as teens, before Mav was whisked away one night, leaving Noah to wonder.

Much time has past; he still has the key...

Noah and Mav rekindle their love, rehash the past, explain themselves, and the now grown men can really say and do what they feel. We see what happened to dear Maverick all those years ago. We have a few

bumps in the road to happiness, with Noah's ex hanging on, the ghost of Elijah's Landing, and each man's fears of not being enough for the other. We get strong, fierce loving guys, hell bent on making this work. Noah needs to settle up his business in DC and move "home". There is super hot sexiness, and lots of it !

They need to figure out how to free the ghost, help the local kids, and make each other complete again. Terrific side characters, two from the previous books, and with everything here, it is for our entertainment, our fun, our romantic fluttering's, our need for happy endings and the loose ends tied in a bundle of love !

Highly recommended as is every book in this delicious series !! (It can stand alone).
ENJOY !!!

Viv says

I really enjoyed this book a lot. It was so romantic!

Tj says

This book was sweet and the MCs were easy to like.

1. A love born from a childhood friendship
2. Finding each other after a 22 year separation
3. Falling in love as grown men
4. A ghost that haunts Noah's childhood home set free

Drawback: These two deserved to have a HEA after loosing each other as teenagers. They came together and rebuilt on the trust and friendship they had shared as boys. The accident at the end was manufactured drama that the book did not need.

Claudia says

Nice story

Diverse says

This is book 5 in Aimee Nicole Walker's Fated Hearts Series. These books have always been amazing to me. I feel them deep in my heart and soul. There's a warmth to this series like no other. You know when you read her books that everything will be okay but to get there you're going to have a to suffer a little bit.

In this book I felt more affected than in the others. I don't know if it was the unique specialness of it. When it

starts we are in the past like over a hundred years in the past. Elijah and Octavius are talking but I was like, "wait these aren't the MC's." Ahhhh but they sort of are... Then it jumps into the present and yes it stays there. It's not a time swap book. That prologue however is so very important. It not only sets a tone for the book but it makes sense about all that happens and the end goal.

Maverick... Aside from being gorgeous, smart, creative, and strong. He's devoted, loyal, and unbreakable! Seriously. His past is horrible but he doesn't let it define him. When he comes face to face with the best part of his past he wraps himself around him and never lets go.

Noah... OMG! Okay so he's hysterical! I adored him so much. He has the best personality ever. He's witty, funny, and yes smart. Handsome and loves animals! He pretty much rocked my socks off. His banter with Maverick was brilliant and I couldn't get enough.

The progression of their rediscovered love was so breathtaking. I laughed and cried. And when this book comes full circle it felt like a gust of fresh air hitting you on a hot and humid day. You needed it, wanted it, earned it!

I love this series so much but this one here is by far my favorite! Well done, Aimee!!

Jenn C says

WOW - the best of the series so far I think, definitely the sweetest. Noah and Maverick were each others first everything - love, kiss sex. Then one day Maverick was gone - no goodbye, nothing. 20+ years later - fate intervenes and they meet up again. This time taking nothing for granted they get a second chance at falling in love. About 75% of the way in you wonder what when will the other shoe drop - yes there were a few minor misunderstandings - all laughable after explanations were given - but no major angst. Although not an original 'angst' definitely something different and just adds to the sweetness and patience of Mav. Also loved the Eli and Tav part - so cute. Looking forward to Hunter and perhaps Derrick??? This way we could get a bit more of Noah and Mav.

Susan says

Thanks Wendy, for recommending this when I needed a sugary read!

3.5 stars

I needed a fluffy read and this one sure delivered.

Noah and Maverick spent every summer together since they were 7 years old. They were each other's best friend, first kiss, and first boyfriend when they were 16. But one day Maverick disappeared.

Noah has tried to find the connection he once had with Maverick with someone else again, but he never succeeded. He is now 38 years old, and a successful psychiatrist, but his life still feels empty.

When he returns to his home town because the old family house has been vandalized, Noah never expected

to see Maverick. But it turns out Maverick owns the construction company who is renovating the house.

The two men haven't seen each other for 22 years, but it's immediately clear that they still have amazing chemistry. It's not long before they pick up where they left off 22 years ago...

I loved how there wasn't a lot of angst when these guys get reunited. There were no hard feelings, just confusion as to why Maverick left so many years ago. When Maverick explained what happened, Noah felt heartbroken and understood he had no choice. Noah always knew this, because he never thought Maverick would just leave him like that.

I did think the thing that happened at 60% was a bit too much for the story and I could have gone without the (view spoiler). But other than that this was a sweet story, with lots of hot sexy times.

Oh, and yes, there is a slight paranormal element in this, but it's very very small (the house is haunted by a friendly gay ghost).

Truuss says

Beautiful love story. Noah and Maverick. Two men finding each other after being separated for 22 years.

They became friends when they were seven and were lovers at sixteen.

They were devastated when they were separated.

After 22 years they finally reconnect and from there it became their beautiful love story.

In the house where Noah is living there is a friendly ghost. From young age Noah feels that the ghost has to be set free. That is a really good magical thread through the story.

Maverick was deliberately separated and had a heartbreakingly youth.

Noah was the only one who could heal the scars on his soul.

At one point in the story I thought I was done but luckily I did go on and it was so else then I thought it would go.

A lovely story drenched in strong love from two men to each other.

Smooth written and very appetizing <3

Heather Martin says

Book purchased by the reviewer

Return To Me is Book 5 in Aimee Nicole Walker's Fated Hearts series. Of all the books in the series, I think this one can be read as a standalone. BUT honestly, I love these characters and don't think you should skip out on any of them!

Noah returns to his hometown in North Carolina when he receives a call that his family home has been vandalized. When trying to find someone skilled to make the necessary repairs to the home, Noah is shocked to find his childhood best friend and first love, Maverick is back in town and just the person he needs to do the repairs.

Maverick came back to his childhood hometown because of all his good memories and he needed to stop running from his past. Both men have dreamed about a reunion and even though it's not what they expected, they are still attracted to the other.

There is a little paranormal element that I overlooked because it's not my thing so, if it's yours, you'll enjoy that portion; but if you're like me, it's still something you'll like!

I absolutely adore this series! I was worried when this book first released that it couldn't measure up to the previous book which was so highly anticipated and loved, but Maverick and Noah were strong characters that pulled me into their story.

I know everyone has different taste in reading material, and honestly, how boring would it be if we all wanted the same things! For me, I love the books that don't have angst just for angst sake. I don't need my characters to be miserable and the verge of crumbling before love pulls them up. I love the sweet romances of men fighting to become a beautiful, loving, sweet couple, and this is ALWAYS what Aimee delivers and it's exactly the reason I buy and read every book of hers on release day!

Rating: 5 stars!!
