



## The Long Road Home

*H.D. Thomson*

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Travel across the country with her old lover, John McDonnell--and his girlfriend? Impossible. But Clarisse Madison is desperate. Terrified of flying and unable to drive long stretches because of a knee surgery, she sees no other way to get from New York to San Diego and her sister's wedding.

Three years ago, a plane crash disfigured her leg and destroyed her career as a model. Self-esteem crushed and fearful of rejection, Clarisse severed her relationship with John. Now, forced to travel across the country with him and his girlfriend, Vivian, she is determined to hide her disfigurement. Driving through state after state and mile after mile, though, she begins to fall in love all over again.

But can anything come of it? Can she overcome her pride for the sake of love?

## **The Long Road Home Details**

Date : Published 2012 by Smashwords Edition

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Author : H.D. Thomson

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## From Reader Review The Long Road Home for online ebook

### Kendall {Book Crazy} says

I was really looking forward to seeing where this book went after I read the synopsis and I actually got this book for free off of Amazon which I loved! The plot of The Long Road Home was written very well! I really enjoyed it! It showed the effects of an experience and also the effects on someone who had went through this experience! I thought that the plane crash experience was a great one! You could really see how hard it had hit Clarisse! The characters were very good as well! Clarisse Madison was a good character and I really liked her! She was caring and I felt sorry for her that she had to give up her career because of a traumatic experience! John McDonnell was the love interest of Clarisse and he was hot but at times I found him a bit over dramatic or a bit nasty but apart from that I really liked him! I really liked Clarisse and John's relationship! When they were together sparks flew! Vivian was John's girlfriend and she was really nasty! I hated the way she treated Clarisse but I loved that John told her off when she was nasty! The ending was very cute and I was very happy with it! I also really like the cover!

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### Sarah says

Wow!!! Great book!

I love, love, *love* second-chance stories, and this didn't disappoint in my love for them. Clarisse ended her relationship with John three years ago after a plane crash disfigured her leg. Afraid that John would think her ugly, she leaves him and doesn't see him till she's forced to go on a road-trip with him to San Diego for her sister's wedding. But, then, surprise! John has a girlfriend! And she's traveling with them. Talk about *awkward*.

I loved the storyline. It's typical but still made me go *awwwwww..* in a lot of places. John and Clarisse obviously still like each other, but their past, and his girlfriend, keeps tearing them apart. I empathized for Clarisse greatly. Her career depended on her beauty, so now that she's disfigured somehow, she loses self-confidence, but she's also learned to see beauty from the inside rather than the outside. Her self-doubts and troubling and I wished that she could have enough faith in herself to let her pain out. The story was touching, and I was yearning for Clarisse to just tell John that she loves him, to tell him the reason she left him, so they could just be together already!

One thing that bothered me was the girlfriend, Vivian. She was written as the typical cruel bitch. But then, if a girl was moving in on my boyfriend, I'd be cruel to her too, so I kind of understood Vivian's attitude. But she was written to be more cruel than she should have been. Still, Vivian did many mean and unforgivable things to Clarisse, so I didn't really care what became of her in the end.

But, I still adored this book. It was dark and sensual with a deep sense of longing from our characters. The tension and love is easy to feel, and I enjoyed reading it all.

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## **Lindsay says**

Amazon Freebie 11/27/2012

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## **Debra says**

Clarisse must travel across the country with her ex, John, and his girlfriend. She hasn't been able to fly since the plane she was riding in crashed and this is the only way to get home for her sister's wedding. John is also going for the wedding since for his best friend. It is a long and angst ridden journey due to the fact his girlfriend is jealous of their past relationship. Will their past keep them from ever getting the closure that they need? Or will they be able to find out that the secrets she's keeping from him be enough for a "do over" in their lives? This was a different story that I have ever read so I enjoyed their journey. Will look forward to reading more works by H. D. Thomson.

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## **Mayas says**

I have been wanting to read this book for months. I am so happy I found it again and purchased it. I LOVED, the book and am happy Vivian got what she deserved. In all honesty I would have been weary too because at least in their last encounter she asked John and he confirmed her doubts. I am happy Claire got over her fear and listened to her sister. I want more from them though. a novella or something. GREAT story.

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## **Caroline says**

This was an ok read and an interesting premise. It's a difficult balancing act making the current girlfriend the horrible one that the guy has to leave so that he can re-fall in love with his old girlfriend. The author makes a good attempt but it still falls a little flat at times. The one thing that really annoyed me was the heroine's constant worry about her leg and her fascination with looks even though the author tried vainly to show that she was more than just her looks.

Despite this it was a fun read.

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## **ShaniceRhynd says**

I really liked this book, I felt the tension between John and Clarisse was good, he is quite mean to her at first with his cutting remarks but eventually the love he feels for her can no longer hide. Throughout the book I was hoping Clarisse and John would maybe get passed the kissing and groping, I feel the book needed a little bit more, even I began to get frustrated haha. Vivian....if that woman treated me like that, a swift smack in the face would have been my solution but I loved the vulnerability of Clarisse, desperate to hide her secret. Very good read :)

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## **PBnJ says**

### **Rating: ★★★½**

Thanks go out to Goodreads and H.D. Thomson for the chance at a First Read of this book.

The Long Road Home is a sweet, heart-felt story about a model whose life is drastically changed when a plane crash leaves her emotional shaken and physically scarred and limping. Forced to retire from the modeling industry, she does her best to reevaluate her life and discover what she now finds valuable, while trying to regain her once strong confidence.

Three long years, and numerous surgeries later, she comes face-to-face with her one-time photographer and former lover. Clarisse had broke things off after the plane crash never letting him know about the accident or why had she left him and modeling.

Forced together for a cross country road trip, with John's current girlfriend in tow at that, is the last thing that either of them wants. Circumstances being what they are, they try to make the best of it barring their continued attraction to each other and the wedge their lack of trust puts between them. And again, there's John's current girlfriend, Vivian.

I found this book to be excellently told from the perspective of Clarisse. Coming from an industry that leaves little room for imperfection she suffers from understandable bouts of self-doubt and dented self-esteem. She constantly worries about John discovering her secret, assuming that since he's a photographer and drawn to beautiful things and people that he'd be repulsed by her now. Rarely did she sink into true self-pity which I admired. Clarisse goes on to show herself as someone that has a deep well of pride and determination that neither her self-doubt or scars can hide.

You don't get to hear John's side of the story but what you do learn of him through Clarisse's perspective and his actions is that he's a "still waters run deep" kind of man. I would have loved to learn more about him! That's the nosy, busy-body in me though.

This is my first read from H. D. Thomson and I look forward to checking out her other works.

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## **Lu Bielefeld \*read.laugh.love\* says**

Gostei! Uma boa leitura lembrando os livrinhos da harlequin.

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## **Laurie Franco says**

Such an awesome story about a former model and what happens as she, her ex-boyfriend (who she still loves) and his current girlfriend travel cross country for her sisters wedding. As everything that could go wrong does, and his girlfriend Vivian gets suspicious of both Clarisse and John's feelings for each other as well as what Clarisse is hiding from them, the story is positively riveting! I sped through this book in about 3

hours while at work, and loved it from beginning to the fantastic end!

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### **Jessica says**

I loved it! I got so caught up in Clarisse's feelings and emotions, and all that she had to go through. Though it is not great to be in a plane crashed and permanently disfigured, it was almost a good thing because it helped to change her for the better. It also helped her to realize that someone can love her just for herself, and help her not to rely on just her looks.

The furthest that the physical stuff goes is some steamy kisses, and a bit of groping here and there.

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