



Take Me Home

Lorelie Brown

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Thanksgiving arrives in one week and one day. Feeling hemmed in by parental expectations? Are they disappointed by your sapphic proclivities? I can help! The only pay I want is the holiday meal!

I didn't know what I was looking for until I saw her Craigslist ad.

I love my family. I'm lucky to have them — well, most of them. But my aunt? I'm so tired of her giving my mom crap because I happen to be a lesbian. So one pink-haired tattoo artist pretending to be my girlfriend will annoy my Christian fundamentalist aunt right back and make my Thanksgiving perfect.

Only . . . Brooke turns out to be cuter and more complicated than I expected. And before you can say "yorkiepoo," we kiss . . . and abduct a dog together. I want to keep them both — but Brooke isn't the kind to be kept. Lucky for me, I'm the kind to chase what I want.

Take Me Home Details

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Author : Lorelie Brown

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From Reader Review Take Me Home for online ebook

Lexxi Kitty says

I received this book from NetGalley and Riptide Publishing in return for a fair review.

We ask that reviews be posted no more than 30 days prior to the book's publication date

- publication date is November 7, 2016, 30 days prior to that is October 8 2016. Today is October 8 2016

Keighley and Brooke, sitting in a tree, kissing. Wait, there were not trees. hmms.

Keighley is 23 and an accountant. Brooke is somewhere around the same age and a tattoo artist. Book is from POV of Keighley.

A week and one day before Thanksgiving, Keighley is both looking forward to and cringing from the family gathering that will occur on Thanksgiving day. Because it is the all family party day. And while she loves her father, mother, and sister (17 year old Sierra), she doesn't particularly like her cousin Trisha, and especially doesn't like her fundamentalist aunt Daphne.

After asking her mother if they could just not invite Daphne and her side of the family, and becoming resigned to the idea that they will be joining the party, Keighley decides to get a ringer. Well, that's the word that would be used in a sporting context, not sure what to use here. Using a ringer is like having a 'friendly' amateur competition between two companies, and one brings in a professional athlete and pretend that athlete is an employee. In this specific situation, Keighley decides on bringing a date to the party - a fake lesbian girlfriend. To thrust in the face of Daphne.

An advertisement on Craigslist is spotted. Pink haired tattoo artist ad - 'Feeling hemmed in by parental expectations? Are they disappointed by your sapphic proclivities? I can help! The only pay I want is the holiday meal!' Keighley contacts said artist, who goes by the name of 'Brooke', and a deal is struck.

There's some family events, dogs, angst/drama, meals and drinks, and lots of sex.

Kept on the edge of the seat I was. I couldn't stop reading. I gave the first book I read by Brown 6 stars. I want to give this one the same, though I can't really. While we learn a ton of information about the two main contestants in this game of pigeon (okay, I couldn't think of what to put there), but still, book is super short. Still, I'm on the edge of putting it on the six star shelf anyway.

I've decided to reserve the six star shelf for those works that I've read more than once and 'deserve' to be on the highest shelf. And no, that doesn't mean that every reread gets up there - I've read plenty that I've given as little as 3 stars to.

October 8 2016

Stephanie says

I enjoyed this short read. I didn't realize it was second in a series...but honestly you couldn't tell. Definitely a stand alone story. Interesting premise...one that I wouldn't be surprised if people have actually used! Hiring someone to take home for a Holiday dinner. In this case it was Thanksgiving.

I thought the author did a pretty good job of developing the story line quickly including a whole host of secondary characters. The romance is extremely quick but it's a short book so I tried to overlook!!

Solid 3 stars

ARC via publisher through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Danni Mladenovic says

[There is the scene where Keighley sees a tattoo

Dee says

4.5 brilliant stars

This story was so much fun. I adored the heroine's right off the bat. In a short amount of page time I got to know them both well, despite the story being told completely from Keighley's point-of-view. It's also told in first person present tense, something I normally struggle with, but Lorelie does it so well. The dialogue is engaging and flows effortlessly.

Thanksgiving dinner was a blast, the witty banter certainly kept me entertained. With that said it wasn't without some heartfelt moments as well. Kaleigh's immediate family were a wonderful bunch of people, more so her mom, dad and sister. Her extended family... not so much.

The conversation on the rooftop between Brooke, Keighley, and her little sister, Sierra, was classic. It made me giggle like a school girl high on pot, perhaps because all three girls were partaking in said drug at the time.

Snow white/Snowy/Bennet was an unexpected part of the plot, one I enjoyed very much. Brooke's background was heartbreaking, although I was a little confused about what actually happened to her father because the plot contradicted itself.

As with any story that mandates conflict, the two part ways for a while, which gives them both time to reflect on what they want in love and life. When Brooke turned up with Roxie my heart exploded with joy. The ending was wonderful.

Although this is book two in a series I feel it can be read as a standalone. The only connection I found was the fact Brooke works for Skyler, spelled as Skylar in book 1, at Belladonna Ink. Other than that these two lovely heroines don't feature in book 1! I highly recommend this story

Copy provided in exchange for an honest review

namericanwordcat says

3.5 Stars! There is a lot to love about this book. The cute meet and first date is epic. The chemistry explosive.

The heroines are funny. However, the love story stalls and ends just when I think there should at least 6 more chapters. We need more.

I love that Brooke goes to the UU church for example. It would be great that after the I love yous we got to see them as a real couple and this was an aspect of the plot. Brooke is really closed off and we are in Kayleigh's head so I really needed more to be content in the love story. Let's see the work life balance in action.

And so on until some other kind of HEA

I was given this book for my honest review. So, there you have it!

Pin says

Take Me Home is a novella of about 30,000 words, a second standalone piece in the Belladonna Ink universe (standalone stories linked by the female-centric tattoo parlor Belladonna Ink), written in first person present tense, from the point of view of the protagonist Keighley. I am aware that it is not always possible to put all elements required for a well-rounded story in this, much shorter form, but here it is done fairly well. The main characters, accountant Keighley and tattoo artist Brooke, are likable and interesting, each in her own way. Their relationship is (novella) short but believable, and there is a believable conflict which is derived from differences between them and their upbringing. For a novella, there is a bunch of nicely done secondary characters (including dogs), and the author showed a good sense of humor. The ending is short but sweet. I like the author's style of writing and am looking forward to more nice stories from the Belladonna Ink universe.

3.5 stars rounded up

Oct 8, 2016

ARC provided by publisher via NetGalley

Jessica Alcazar says

As I like to do first when this happens **#CoverWIN and #BlurbWIN** :)

The minute I discovered this series I wanted to devour it from start to finish. I haven't had a chance to pick

up *Far From Home*, but it is *on deck*.

These two ladies were a delight to read. The story is short but also packs a punch. It's sexy and witty and just a lot of fun. They felt very kismet to me and so opposite. It was fun to read them both getting what they least expected out of each other. However, the story should probably have been a bit longer. How long I don't know, but there is a lot of *insta* going on here that didn't quite ring true to me. I also think with this story, we might have benefited a bit with dual POV. It would have added depth to their journey, IMO.

Overall, I enjoyed this book very much and I would recommend it to anyone that asked. I love the series description and I hope to read even more!

Gaby LezReviewBooks says

Review of *Take me home* by Lorelie Brown

This is the second novella in the *Belladonna Ink* series by Lorelie Brown. I've loved the first one and gave it a 5 star rating. This novella is a sweet romance written in first person from the point of view of Keighley, an accountant that decides to bring a "rent a date" to her family Thanksgiving dinner. The date in question is Brooke, a cute tattoo artist with a troubled past and reluctance to get involved in relationships. As the plot develops, their compelling chemistry unfolds along with Brooke's fears and inclination to escape. The dialogues are witty, funny but also realistic in a romantic comedy way. The secondary characters, including a dog, complement the plot smartly.

Even though this book is part of a series, there is no need to read them in order as it stands alone without any problems.

Overall, an entertaining festive read. 4 stars

ARC provided by the publisher and Netgalley.

Rain says

[I requested/received a review copy from the publisher (via NetGalley)]

I really liked *Far from Home*, the first book in the *Belladonna Ink* series (where the only connection, as far as I'm aware, is the tattoo parlor of the same name), and after reading this one, I can say I once again enjoyed the author's writing style, the characters, and the story itself, which held my attention from the beginning.

It's about 23-year-old Keighley, who's not really looking forward to her family's Thanksgiving dinner and

dealing with her fundamental aunt Daphne. She wants nothing more than to show up with a date, so one thing leads to another and she's suddenly checking out Craigslist, where she finds an ad with a hard to resist offer: *"Thanksgiving arrives in one week and one day. Feeling hemmed in by parental expectations? Are they disappointed by your sapphic proclivities? I can help! The only pay I want is the holiday meal!"*

So she has now found her (fake) girlfriend, who's Brooke, a pink-haired tattoo artist with a great sense of humor and a 'surprisingly enticing smile' (Keighley's words), but also a much more complex character as we get to know her.

And despite being a novella, with the exception of one particular event (view spoiler), I didn't feel the story was rushed. For me, there was enough time to know the characters (and dog(s)!), care for them, and see the relationship develop.

What can be expected: Family drama, dog drama, relationship drama, likable main and secondary characters, and a few steamy scenes, all wrapped in an ultimately sweet and fun story.

anna (readingpeaches) says

the fake dating is actually only used as a meet-cute so don't get too excited abt that. but the story is honestly so cute anyway!! i love reading abt lesbians figuring their shit out & being in love :>>>

Tara says

A very cute holiday romance. I didn't like it as much as I liked Far from Home, but I enjoyed it nonetheless and I look forward to seeing more in this series.

Ami says

3.75 stars rounded up

I fell in love with Brown's writing when I read Far from Home so I decided to also give this one a try.

It's shorter than the previous book, clocked in around 30,000 words. In that sense, I felt this one was rushed in terms of the relationship progress. Plus I couldn't help it, I still squeaked when I read the sex scenes! There were pretty long scenes, considering that this was only a novella-length. I wasn't comfortable with some of the words used, and I guess I prefer reading sex involving men rather than two women *sheepish smile*

However, I was still entranced with Brown's words -- simply put: they were charming. Her characters were wonderful to read, and I enjoyed her humor. The disaster at the Thanksgiving dinner was funny, and I loved the dialog exchanges between Keighley and Brooke.

"There's something about girls. About women. We're amazing. Beautiful and special and different and something altogether made of miracles."

“I like that. Lesbians, made of miracles.”

“Like girl juices are the Gatorade of the sex world.”

Plus there was a CUTE dog here that just took my heart away (I am so easy *lol*). So despite the rushed story, despite my skimming the sex scenes altogether ... I guess I still loved this novella for the writing and the characters. It made me smile a lot, it made me happy, and I guess that was all that matters ^^

The ARC is provided by the publisher via Netgalley for an exchange of fair and honest review. No high rating is required for any ARC received.

Kara says

This was an enjoyable book. The first 45% or so is my favorite. Lots of humor (bringing a lesbian stranger home to Thanksgiving, posing as your girlfriend just to drive your fundamentalist Christian aunt crazy? Brilliant!!!!), and Keighley and Brooke are both likable MCs.

Then the MCs spend much of the next month enjoying each other (and I enjoyed reading of their enjoyment!). And then....sigh....Keighley realizes she's in love with Brooke and when Brooke doesn't immediately express reciprocal love, "the fight and breakup" (tropes should have file numbers, so we can easily footnote them in reviews) ensues. Anger at your love-interest because she hasn't revealed much, if anything, about herself – before you decided you are in love with her anyway! – never makes sense, and certainly feels manufactured here.

Surprise of surprises, Brooke realizes she wants Keighley in her life, and they reunite to live HEA.

So the first part of the book is 5*, and the second half is 3*. Overall, and I'm not sure if I'm rounding up a bit or down a bit, but "Take Me Home" is 4*.

M. Hollis says

“There’s something about girls. About women. We’re amazing. Beautiful and special and different and something altogether made of miracles.”

This short novella is a funny and exciting story. I loved reading this. The smut is just the kind I love reading in books.

The only thing that made me confused was that there wasn't enough background about the main character. I don't know if maybe I couldn't understand because this is part of a series, tbh. But overall I really enjoyed and recommend just for the nice smut and witty lines.

Luce says

3.5 stars

This is the second book (or novella) in Brown's Belladonna Ink series. So far the books are only connected by a tattoo parlor, Belladonna Ink which if I remember correctly it was only just mentioned in the first book.

To start off, I should say I absolutely LOVED the first book in this series, Far From Home. A 5+ Star book for me. So although I enjoyed this book, it didn't meet my expectations. Maybe it's unfair, but oh, well. What I did love - great family Thanksgiving! It was great fun and humor and Brooke got her Turkey and sweet potatoes covered with marshmallows. Which is also my favorite and essential dish. Only my sister and I like it so we get it all to ourselves. So I could completely relate. I liked Keighley and Brooke, probably Brooke a little more because her backstory and issues was more interesting and probably still more to tell. I had a couple of quibbles that prevents me from giving this 4 stars. Brooke's stories about her past didn't always add up. But then Keighley was fine with that. I guess I should too. What also bothered me was the use of cu*t during the sex scenes. I'm not that much of a prude, but I don't care for the word and it also seemed out of place in this book. So it bothered me every time Keighley said it.

I did like this book. I will probably re-read it and I may change the rating to 4 stars. I'm looking forward to the next book in this series - I predict it will be about the tattoo artist Callista. Or rather I hope it will be.
