



Against Her Rules

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Thriving business? Check. Sexual exploits with a rockstar? Check. Complete independence? Check. Elsie Walsh had it all. Or so she thought. Until Scottish hunk Campbell Scott showed up on the doorstep of her bed and breakfast. He's making it pretty hard for her to stand by her one rule: No sleeping with the guests. She's denied some of the world's hottest actors, musicians, and even royals... but how can she keep Cam out of her bed, when he's invaded her head and her heart? Campbell Scott went to the wilds of Newfoundland with one thing on his mind: sketch some birds, and then get back to his playboy lifestyle in London. But one look at his sexy hostess and there's a whole lot more in the air than sea birds. Rejection isn't part of his vocabulary, and Cam sets out to not only convince Elsie that he belongs in her bed, but by her side at the Heart's Ease Inn.

Against Her Rules Details

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From Reader Review Against Her Rules for online ebook

Eirene says

This review is a part of my Canada Day Week Review-A-Thon. [Click here](#) to learn more about it!

Rating: 4.5-5/5

Steam: 4/5

Against Her Rules by Victoria Barbour is a witty, breezy and fun summer read that doesn't skip on the romance and certainly makes you want to visit Newfoundland! (Hint, pronounce it something along the lines of NuFin-land, with the emphasis on the last syllable. It's tricky, I often forget how to pronounce it correctly haha.)

Summary:

Elsie Walsh is a reluctantly lonely B&B owner in the small town of Heart's Ease, Newfoundland. She is by all means a successful businesswoman having renovated a large mansion and converting into a swanky B&B for the famous and the not-so-famous.

Campbell Scott is reluctantly taking a trip across the Atlantic to sketch birds for his little sister. He's immediately taken by Elsie and tries to alleviate some of his lustful problems. Unfortunately for him (and way fortunately for us because his blunders are kind of hilarious), he has the tendency to say the wrong things to Elsie. To add to that, Elsie has a rule never to sleep with any of her guests. What's a man to do? Well, I'd tell you, but reading the book is more fun than reading my review.

What I Liked:

Elsie, Campbell and everyone were hilarious characters. I especially liked Aunt Ida! Everyone was unique and distinct and added their own charm to this lovely book. I am also quite vertically-challenged so I tend to like stories with a bigger man and a petite woman because you know, why not, so that was definite point for this book ;). Personal biases aside, I thought *Against Her Rules* was hilarious! I liked its quicker pace and the way Ms. Barbour handled this pace alongside their whirlwind romance is genius and so fun to read!

And Campbell Scott, you lovely man. He was definitely hot, but he wasn't flawless. He had a few blunders with Elsie and that was refreshing. It's probably because I've been reading a lot of historical romances lately, but it's really nice to see a male protagonist not be as smooth as they normally are. And more importantly, the chemistry between Campbell Scott and Elsie Walsh was wonderful. I liked how they got over their reluctance and I loved how they came together.

This is a bizarre thing to like, but another point for the book was its winter setting. It is scorching hot today and I appreciate the reminder that hot Canadian summers don't last as long as winter does.

What I Didn't Like:

I fell asleep halfway through the novel because I was tired and it was hot, and I hate myself a little for that lol. But I don't think I disliked anything while reading *Against Her Rules*. I was pretty sure I was enjoying myself quite thoroughly.

As Miss Barbour is a relatively new author, I will be awaiting to see more from her! If you like picturesque settings, hilarious characters and are looking for a quick but enjoyable read, I definitely recommend Against Her Rules!

Lesleyanne Ryan says

This is the first romance I've read and I was pleasantly surprised. Witty story, great characters and a wonderful setting in a Newfoundland B&B. Aunt Ida, an endearing 96 year old woman (who has just decided it was time she started travelling the world...LOL) always brought a smile to my face. A fun read on the patio under the summer sun.

Ruby Johnson says

First line: "The one thing no one ever tells you about royalty either of the Hollywood or aristocratic variety is that they all leave a hell of a mess behind them."

So begins the story of Elsie Walsh who runs a remote high-end B&B in Newfoundland. She caters to celebrities who want to get away from paparazzi. Elsie's one mistake is she has had an affair with one of her clients and decides she won't repeat the mistake in the future. In walks Scotsman Campbell Scot, a professor of art who has been asked to study and paint birds in the area. Elsie and Campbell embark on an affair with lots of family and friend encouragement.

On the plus side, I learned a lot about Newfoundland and the author really does a great job in describing the setting.

On the negative side, I felt the plot lacked depth and the characters needed a little more fleshing out.

If you like light romance, then this book would be a good beach read or a book for a quiet afternoon.

ARC from NetGalley for an honest review

Kristy says

Loved the story!

Jo-Anne says

This takes place in a very, very small town in Newfoundland, Canada. Elsie owns an upscale Bed and Breakfast here where many of her guests are not only rich but quite famous. They know they can get the best accommodations there as well as privacy which they crave.

Elise's business is her life and it is thriving. She is very proud of her business and wants it to continue to be successful so makes sure her guests have everything they want. Because she is so wrapped up in her business she doesn't have a private life. There aren't many men in the town and she will not fraternize with the guests. She did that once but never again.

She has second thoughts about this rule when Cam shows up for his reservation. He is a gorgeous artist from Scotland whose sister reserved the room for him in this remote spot so he could draw for his next book without interruption.

The characters were extremely well developed and likable. It was nice to see Elise think about something other than her business. What a change in Cam as the book progressed! I liked getting to know him as he was getting to know himself. Auntie Ida was the best though. She was so funny in her busybody sort of way but so loving and kind.

The description of the area was so vivid that I felt like I was there. This is a beautiful part of the country this often missed. After reading about Hearts Ease, I don't know why it's not a more popular destination.

I really enjoyed this story but did think the ending seemed a bit abrupt. It may have felt that way because there was a sneak peek for book 2 immediately following this story and when I saw it, I thought it was the continuation of the story so I was surprised when it was over. Don't get me wrong, it did end well. I had just decided the story had more to it and was surprised when it didn't.

Please note I received a complementary copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

Mary says

Sometimes you just need a romantic sexy insta-love story. And if it happens to involve a wolfish Scotsman and the owner of B&B in Newfoundland? Than so be it. I imagine I'll read the rest of the series. I picked up the second today while only half way through this one. A good find while browsing the shelves for work.

Kate Robbins says

Elsie owns an elite B&B in a remote outport on the island of Newfoundland on Canada's east coast. Completely self reliant, she is proud of her success, even if it has come with a price. There's not too many 'fellers' kicking about the small town of Heart's Ease and Elsie has sworn to never fraternize with the guests...ever again.

Smoking hot Scottish artist Cam needs inspiration and the busy streets of London are just not cutting it. When his sister books the remote location overseas, he reluctantly agrees. Finding the place proves challenging, though not so much as keeping his hands off the deliciously rigid owner.

Against Her Rules is the witty contemporary debut novel from Victoria Barbour. The author has created rich characters that charm the reader on every page. Barbour's setting is vivid and her storytelling is tight. I look forward to many more charming and fresh stories from this wonderful new author. I think she has a very bright future as a romance novelist.

InD'tale Magazine says

“Against Her Rules”, with its vivid descriptions of the serenity and beauty of Newfoundland captures the reader as it follows Elsie and Campbell’s romantic journey.

Read full review in the 2014 May issue of InD’tale Magazine.

Max says

I've read more romance novels than I would ever admit to, and this one is less satisfying than most, mostly because of its ending. The setting, a B&B in rural Newfoundland, feels very genuine, and in fact is a genuine portrayal of this kind of place. Lots of details contribute to this feeling, my favourite being the last-minute hire of a Captain of the Salvation Army to perform the marriage ceremony. But it seems to me that the plot didn't follow any of the traditional story arcs of a romance; it was pretty much love at first sight, sex and marriage, with little tension and conflict along the way. And it was unrealistic in the beginning, and downright fantastical at the end. I also wonder how it is possible that "she took his entire length into her mouth," given how big he supposedly was, and how little practice she supposedly had.

Annemarie says

I really enjoyed this. I had a bit of trouble in the beginning with how Elsie and Cam were supposed to have rocked one another's world on sight because I didn't really feel that, but the slow burn into their relationship more than made up for it. Some real heart-melting scenes here.

It's only got a couple of sex scenes so it's clean enough for folks who want a more traditional romance. It reminded me a lot of an old-fashioned category romance, which was an absolute thrill for me since I do love those.

Plus, it was set in Atlantic Canada and I don't see enough of those.

Will definitely be reading more of this series and this author.

Jill-Ann says

I picked up this book(and the next 3 in the series) at a rest stop while home in Newfoundland on family vacation. I figured what could hurt, it's a love story based in Newfoundland. So glad I made this purchase!! Barbour writes this laugh out loud, heart racing, full of fears book that makes me need to pick up the second book(so glad I have it on hand). The way she writes about the small town and the people in it. How she incorporates some of my favorite (and over used) Newfoundland terms/slang ('me Duckie') just makes me feel like I'm sitting down with a cup of tea in mudder's kitchen.

If you haven't read this book, now's the time.

I'm happy to be able to support a local author from the Rock, money well spent!

Dorel says

This is the 1st book I read by Victora Barbour. This book's story line was boring. The characters could have been better & this story needed chemistry.

SandyL says

Elsie Walsh transformed an old ruin in Newfoundland into an exclusive bed and breakfast for the rich and famous. It's been her policy to not sleep with the guest, except for one that she now regrets. Campbell Scott is a Scottish wildlife artist whose sister books him a stay at the B&B to work on his latest book. He's immediately attracted to Elsie, and she's attracted to him as well, but she can't break her rules! The sh*t hits the fan when the one guest she did have a fling with shows up - and it turns out he's friend with Cam! This was a short and cute insta-love story.

Janet says

What a delightful romance. It was refreshing to spend the afternoon in a B&B in Canada with a sweet couple that made the journey to happily ever after quite entertaining. Victoria Barbour takes a strong premise and adds in just the right levels of humor and romance. her characters were fully faceted and engaging, the settings beautifully detailed, the story well plotted and the dialogue quite clever. I would read more from Ms. Barbour. A sweet gentle read.

*I received my copy from NetGalley.com in exchange for an honest review.

Caffenero says

Apple pie! Apple pie! Everybody likes Apple pie!

This a perfect reading for a lazy afternoon recovering from whatever you want ;) I had to recover from book delusion so this was one perfect reading indeed!

I call Robin Carr's books Apple pie because they are comforting and can make feel you better. Victoria Barbour is just like Robin Carr, she can comfort with her story and keep you wanting more.

Hey, you know there are more than an apple pie recipe so here I'm not telling this book is old story!

Because AGAINST HER RULES is very good and has the spectacular bonus of a charming settling: Northumberland ;) Cool isn't it?
