



# Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep

*Victoria James*

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## **Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep** Victoria James

Connor O'Leary knows nothing about babies, families, or good women, yet he's up to his ears in all three. Coming to Shadow Creek, Montana was meant to be a new start for this former oil rigger, but he had no idea that fresh beginning would include a baby on his doorstep and a hot nanny he can't stop thinking about. Diapers, feedings, and late nights soothing his little bundle of surprise were definitely not on his itinerary.

The last thing Haley Thomson expected to see is the reclusive Connor with a baby in his arms. Before she knows it, she's volunteered as nanny—temporarily. Helping out with baby Rosie is a dream come true and fills a space in her heart she believed will never be filled. But falling for Rosie's hot and sexy bachelor daddy is not on her to-do list...but boy would she ever like it to be...

Each book in the Shadow Creek, Montana series is STANDALONE:

- \* Christmas with the Sheriff
- \* The Baby Bombshell
- \* The Doctor's Redemption
- \* Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep

## **Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep Details**

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# From Reader Review *Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep* for online ebook

## Becky says

Oh, I really wanted to like this one. And there were good things, like:

A strong start. The close relationships between the Baileys, the Thomsons, and the rest of their crowd is great; we're thrown right into their warm and wacky world right away, and it's a fun place to be. Then there's a surprise baby left on a doorstep? Yes, please! The single dad/nanny troupe can be so much fun, and Connor and Haley seem worthy of HEAs and are conveniently attracted to each other...so far, all good things.

But. I had. A. Few. Issues.

Baby Rosie, as adorable as she is, seems more like a plot element than a baby. Other than a few nights early on where she kept Connor and Hailey awake, she's pretty much an ideal baby, neatly sleeping through all kinds of events where a fussy infant would be an inconvenience. Connor spends the novel kicking himself over the fact that he's let his daughter down by 1) not knowing she existed until she was a month old (how? How would he know? Her mother kept her existence from him, so...) and 2) sleeping with her irresponsible mother (um, if you hadn't, Rosie wouldn't exist). His internal I'm-not-good-enough-for-Haley also got to be a bit much--he really isn't a bad boy, the title notwithstanding; yes, he dropped out of high school to help his mother pay the bills but he has since had a very successful life as an adult. Other than working a dangerous job for a few years (on an oil rig) and making at least one dubious relationship choice (which resulted in his daughter) he really hasn't done anything that even comes close to earning him that label.

Then there's Haley: I really wanted to like her, but her inner dialogue drove me a little nuts, and I'm surprised that Connor didn't get whiplash from her constant flip flopping over their relationship. Yes, some hesitancy about relationships is understandable given her past, but Connor is beyond patient with her and she spends the whole book jumping to conclusions and making up his mind for him without even letting him have a say in things. Fortunately she comes to her senses eventually, but...yikes.

So, sadly, *Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep* is not destined to be one of my favorites from Ms. James. I've got my fingers crossed that it's just a one-off, though, and her next book will be more like her earlier ones. The book is the fourth in the series and could work as a standalone--be warned, though, there's a lot of secondary characters here to keep track of; if you've read the first three books that will be a bit easier ;)

Rating: 3 stars / C

*I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book.*

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## BookLover says

*ARC requested through Netgalley, and kindly provided by Entangled Publishing in exchange for an honest review.*

There is just something about a Victoria James book that makes me smile. Her stories are full of great

characters and swoon-worth heroes. **Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep** was no exception. I have been anxious to read this ever since Haley landed on her brother, Luke's, doorstep in *The Doctor's Redemption*.

Haley Thomson, out of a very toxic marriage, wasn't looking for love. In fact, she didn't think she would ever be able to trust again. That didn't stop her mounting attraction for Connor O'Leary. Connor came with his own set of emotional baggage, along with a brand-new baby he didn't know existed.

Haley stepping in as a temporary live-in nanny for baby Rosie meant Haley and Connor could no longer avoid one another, as much as they tried. I loved the vulnerability Connor displayed at suddenly being a father and the way Haley supported him.

**"He took another sip of the damn fine coffee and tried to reconcile what he was feeling, what he was wishing for. He hated wishing. Wishing wasn't doing."**

The only thing that dropped this down from a 5-star read for me was the push/pull dynamic that was happening between Haley and Connor. It's one thing to have someone pursuing the other and a bit of push/pull because of personal issues, but both Haley and Connor were doing the push/pulling. It got a little frustrating at times because I never knew where the conflict was going to come from. That usually drives me crazy in a book, but luckily, Haley and Connor won me over, so I was able to get past it and still enjoy the story.

**"There's no going back after this," she whispered."**

**"Who would want to go back?" he said against her mouth. "I'd never want to go back to before you. There is no before you. Everything started with you, Haley."**

Really enjoyed my latest visit to Shadow Creek, Montana!

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### **Alima Livzletlivz says**

Gosh!!! I love Victoria James and her Montana romances. Her Shadow Creek series is just filled with so much warmth, friendship and love, they are a treat to read. And if they have protagonists like Conner O'Leary and Haley Thompson, more the pleasure of reading a sweet romance.

Instant Dad Conner and self-appointed nanny Leah rock this sweet love story with a wonderful group of friends and family.

Received an ARC from Montlake Romance via NetGalley for an honest review.

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## **Elaine says**

Returning home from an evening out with friends, Connor O'Leary never dreamt of finding a baby on his doorstep! The note with the baby indicates that the child is the result of a casual hook-up he had and that the mother is abandoning the child with him. He doesn't know what to do so calls his best friend, Jack Bailey, who immediately comes to help, along with his wife and his sister, Hayley Thomson.

Hayley has escaped an emotional and physically abusive marriage and is staying with her brother and sister-in-law until she can make a fresh start teaching in just a few months time. She offers to be the baby's nanny and, as they begin to care for Connor's daughter, so starts a time of healing and development of love for all of them.

Connor also has issues in his past, including never finishing school, which make him reticent to trust in love and relationships. There are barriers to be overcome as well as conflicts and danger ahead for this couple, making this a real page turner. This is a story of healing and growth with great characters and lots of love to help them on their journey to their HEA. I particularly liked that this story helped to show that, regardless of what has happened to you in the past at the behest of others, don't undervalue yourself, you're still deserving of love and a family, your own HEA!

I requested and received a copy of this novel, via NetGalley. This is my honest review after choosing to read it.

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## **Sharon Mariampillai says**

This was an alright read. The story was good, but there were moments when I got bored. The characters were good. I really loved Rosie, she was adorable. I really liked Connor and learning more about him. However, I thought Haley was a bit annoying. She made stupid decisions because of her past relationship. It made me mad at times. The ending was sweet. I am glad that Connor and Haley got their happily ever after. I do wish the story was longer. Overall, an okay read.

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## **Felicia says**

This was a cute read. There wasn't much to it. A very short read of only like 180 pages.

I've never read a book about a baby being left on some unsuspecting person's doorstep. And had my wonder twin, Alaina, not asked me to read this I don't know if I'd have read it. However, I did end up enjoying the story.

Connor and Haley were cute. And even though this was just a normal vanilla romance, I felt like there was such sexual tension between them all the way up until the very first kiss.

Haley, she was annoying. And like I know she had a past that she ran from that was the cause of most of her decisions. But damn, she was annoying. I couldn't help but cringe when she made stupid decisions.

Anywho, that's all I got... This was just cute.

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## Bernie says

Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep is the fourth romance in the Shadow Creek, Montana series written by author Victoria James. Excellent story. Thanks to NetGalley and Entangled Publishing, LLC-Bliss for the advance copy.

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## Claire Robinson says

1.5 - "There's no going back after this..." Stars.

I am going to keep this review brief, because I don't really have anything good to say. Weak story-line, weak characters, and generally lackluster all over.

I suppose I don't really ascribe to the belief that just because a man has tattoos he is a *Bad Boy* anymore, but what really pissed me off was the fact that the lack of a formal education was the other descriptor used. What utter bullshit, especially in this day and age where most wealthy people are self-made and have gotten to where they are through hard work and determination. We then add to this clichéd judgement by him then actually proving his worth and intelligence by taking an IQ test, and being outed as an anonymous donor of large sums of cash.

Pretty sure you can tell, I wasn't a fan, and to add a cherry to the top of it, most of the judgement came from a woman who was on the run (essentially) from a man who had money and treated her like crap through their marriage, so hardly one to be making snappy judgements about someone when your own life choices haven't turned out that well.

This book also needs to offer contact details for those who have issues with or have suffered from spousal abuse, because although it was another weak thread in the story-line, it would still be the responsible thing to do.

ARC provided via Netgalley, I am sorry I cannot give a more positive review on this occasion.

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## Jonetta says

Connor O'Leary had a tough upbringing and it took him some time to find his path. He followed his friend, Jack Bailey, to Shadow Creek but now his past has somewhat caught up to him. A casual relationship has produced a baby girl whose mother abandoned her, literally, on his doorstep. Hayley Thomson is at a crossroads after surviving an abusive marriage. She wants to continue teaching but her only full time opportunity will take her away to another town in a few months. When Connor reaches out to her friends for help with the baby, Hayley steps up and volunteers to be the live-in nanny.

While the title of this book implies a level of frivolity, this story addresses some very serious issues. Hayley suffered emotional and physical abuse from her ex-husband and hasn't fully recovered. Connor was abused

as a child and had to leave high school to help his mother make ends close to being met, stunting his formal education and severely impacting his self worth. As these two come together to care for Connor's daughter, they're forced to confront their individual issues that are barriers to deepening a relationship between them. The conflicts are real, substantive and relevant, which made for a much more compelling story. I liked both of them and loved their path to healing. It wasn't always pretty but it was honest.

I loved this book and am hooked on the series because of the weighty topics undertaken in each story. It's one of misery and exultant triumph despite obstacles that feel insurmountable. Connor and Hayley didn't always make the right choices in the moment but there weren't any cliched behaviors either. I didn't want the story to end and embraced those feel-good moments.

(I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an unbiased review)

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### **Debbie Oxier says**

Haley Thompson was divorced and looking for a new start in Shadow Creek where her brother, Luke, and his wife, Gwen, reside. Haley's ex was extremely controlling and very verbally abusive. Once free of him, Haley vows to never again let herself be placed in that position. She doesn't need a man to complete her life and isn't looking for a relationship of any kind. She's settling in, getting to know Luke's close friends and extended family. Which includes Connor O'Leary, whom she finds herself attracted to. Ridiculous, given her circumstances. Besides, Connor has never so much as given her the time of day. He's quiet, tends to keep to himself, and usually hangs out with his friend, Jack. The two of them used to work on an oil rig together and now are partners in a business in Shadow Creek. So why in the world did Haley open her big mouth and volunteer to become nanny to Connor's month old baby girl?

Connor came home late one night to find a tiny bundle waiting on his doorstep. A note attached stated the baby was his daughter and the mother, Tess, didn't want her. Connor remembered Tess. They'd only been together a couple of times. Tess wasn't really the type of woman one would want to be with on a regular basis. Now, thanks to poor judgment on Connor's part, he was a father. Connor wasn't without baggage of his own. His dad had been physically abusive to both Connor and his mom until Connor was ten. That was the year his mom was diagnosed with cancer and his dad walked out on them. When his mom died Connor went into the foster system. He knew nothing about home and family, about raising a child and being a dad. So naturally, when he finds a baby on his porch, he panics and calls Jack. Not only does Jack arrive a few minutes later, but so do the rest of his friends, including Haley. After they all offer advice, which uppermost is finding someone to watch his daughter while he works, Connor can't believe it when Haley steps up and tells him she'll be his nanny.

This was a delightful story, so heartwarming it left me sighing at the end. The author did a wonderful job of developing the bond between Connor and his baby girl and Connor and Haley. Even though he's always been made to feel worthless and stupid, Haley knows differently. She convinces him to test his IQ and finds he's a genius. Then she convinces him to get his GED. This goes a long way towards building Connor's confidence, proving he's more than qualified to be a dad. And his kind heart and loving generosity also play a large part in Haley's attraction to him. If she can just put the past behind her and recognize that what she and Connor have together is good, she'll have everything she's ever wanted at her fingertips. Loved this story. Big thumbs up for me!

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## **Kim Reads (Read Your Writes Book Reviews) says**

Domestic violence in life and in books is an extremely touchy topic for me. I hate the fact that authors and publishers put the subject in their books but don't mention ways for people to get help. It's like the topic is put in the book to make a story in order to make money and they don't care that this stuff is really happening to real people on a daily basis. I feel that it is insensitive and irresponsible to put domestic violence (verbal, physical, psychological) into a book and not give numbers or websites to get help. That said, I like the fact that *Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep* shows that while a woman or man can go through some very bad things, they're still deserving of love, happiness, and a family.

*Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep* is why I love Victoria James as a writer. She has written a touching story of two people attempting to move on with their lives and overcome their painful dark pasts.

The characters of Connor O'Leary and Haley Thomson drew me into the story. Connor is a man who has been beaten and put down by his family and society. He views himself as an okay guy, but not a good guy. He doesn't think he's worthy of love or a woman as good and nice as Haley. Haley is finally finding her footing after divorcing her abusive husband. She wants to focus on rebuilding her teaching career. What she doesn't want is a man in her life. When Connor finds his daughter Rosie on his doorstep, the entire Bailey family shows up. When it's suggested that Connor needs a nanny, Haley quickly volunteers and moves into his cabin. I loved watching Connor and Haley come together to take care of Rosie. For a time, they were able to live in a dream world and be the family they both desired.

Maybe a small portion of the story was predictable. However, I don't think the predictability took away from the story. Connor and Haley may seem like an unlikely couple but they have similar pasts, hopes, and goals. Haley is one of the few people Connor allows to see who he is. And yet he still doesn't fully reveal himself. Connor sees Haley's inner strength which she doesn't even know she has. These two are really good for each other.

If you haven't read the *Shadow Creek, Montana* series you're in luck. *Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep* is a standalone read. But be warned, Victoria will tug on your heartstrings as she shows Connor, Haley, and Rosie coming together as a family and overcoming their pasts.

**\*\*Received a copy of the book courtesy of Entangled Publishing and voluntarily reviewed.\*\***

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## **Beth says**

Both Connor and Haley are looking for a new beginning in *Shadow Creek, Montana*. Connor came with the only man that he considered a true friend and in him he found a family that he never had. Haley came to escape a horribly abusive marriage and to her only living family, her brother. It just so happens that her brother is married in to the same family that took Connor in.

After a family dinner night, Connor O'Leary returns home to find a baby left out in the cold on his doorstep. He knows nothing about babies, so he calls his friend and gets the entire family including Haley. Haley volunteers to be the nanny while she is waiting for the next school year to start.

Both Haley and Connor are emotionally scarred, but they soon discover they share a love for Rosie, the baby

left on Connor's door step and each other. The biggest obstacle in finding true happiness is themselves.

Baby on a Bad Boy's Doorstep had a cute baby and romance but touches on difficult subject matter, verbal, physical and mental abuse. I applaud James for tackling such a difficult but prevalent topic that needs exposure.

That being said, there was nothing "bad boy" about Connor, he might of been hard on himself but overall he was a complete sweetie. Tattoos, a lack of formal education and a rough upbringing does not make one a "bad boy".

There were points I wanted to yell, pull your head out of your out of your butt to both Connor and Haley and in the end it kept me from loving it.

Quick, easy and entertaining.

I received this ARC copy of **Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep** from Entangled Publishing, LLC - Bliss. This is my honest and voluntary review. **Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep** is set for publication Feb. 12, 2018.

My Rating: 3.5 stars

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Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Baby-Doorstep-...>

Barnes & Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/baby...>

Reviewed for: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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## Irene says

3.5 stars

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## Lauren says

\*3.5\*

Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep is the forth (standalone) book in the Shadow Creek, Montana series. I've only read the first one, Christmas with the Sheriff, and I really enjoyed it so I was looking forward to catching up with old characters while meeting new ones.

Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep was emotional as well as heartwarming - the perfect book to pair with a snowy afternoon and a hot cup of coffee/tea! It features two POVs - Connor O'Leary and Haley Thompson. Connor and Haley are both dealing with their own respective demons. Haley's trying to find herself again after an abusive marriage while Connor is coming to terms with being an unexpected single father. I found both to be likable but I will admit that I liked Connor a lot more than I liked Haley. Connor was tough on the outside, but deep down he was the ultimate sweetheart. I loved reading from his POV. At the start of the book, Connor is terrified; however, as the book progressed Connor became such an amazing father. I also liked seeing him come to terms with past while also learning to open up again. On the other hand, Haley was kind as well as compassionate, but sometimes I felt that she was a bit naive. I couldn't believe she was so willing to move in with a guy she barely knew - one that also didn't seem to like her all that much. It felt risky, but the more I got to know Haley, the more I realized she acted with her heart - she wanted to put love and happiness back into the world, especially for people who didn't seem to have it, and I appreciated that. The plot of Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep focused primarily on Baby Rosie, the developing feelings between Connor and Haley, and the variety of other issues they encountered along the way. I loved any scene having to deal with little Rosie - she was ADORABLE and slightly feisty. I also liked that Victoria spent time developing Connor and Haley's pasts. It brought a greater level of understanding to their actions, and I also appreciated seeing how far they've truly come.

Overall, Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep was a quick, charming read. I'm curious to see if Victoria will continue this series. The turn of events at the end has me thinking yes.

\*ARC was provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review\*

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## Alaina Meserole says

### Cute and predictable.

*Baby on the Bad Boy's Doorstep* was definitely a book I wouldn't read on my free time. This isn't my first series or book from Victoria James but it wasn't one I would originally pick up either. It's about Connor and Haley's chance at first love. A true and genuine love.

Connor was simply adorable. I loved his character and how he quickly just took on the parent role. Oh yes, he came home one day and saw a baby on his doorstep. Hence the title people! Yet, Rosie was freaking adorable and I quickly fell in love with their bond.

Then there's Haley who has honestly just gotten out of a terrible relationship. Or should I say marriage? Either way her ex husband, David, was douche and I hated him the entire time.

Now the relationship between Haley and Connor was a slow burn. I honestly forgot their names from time to time. I will also admit that I was kind of bored throughout the book too just because I kept waiting for the smut to happen. Just one little scene please!!

Overall, it was cute. I'm not going to lie about that. Then there's a happy ending for these three as well. I should also thank my BR and twin, Felicia, for suffering through this BR with me.

