



Free Agent

Mari Carr

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Tucker Riley had only one aspiration in high school. Get the hell out of Quinn the second that diploma was in his hands. Tucker was finished picking his drunk, worthless father off the floor night after night, sick of watching his mother work two jobs to keep food on their table because his dad couldn't support the family. An average student, Tucker saw only one way out—his talent as quarterback on the gridiron. And his plan worked. Problem was college was still school, so after his sophomore year he turned pro and never looked back, never had any regrets.

Except her. Lela and Tucker were childhood sweethearts. Along with Coach, Lela helped him forget about how bad things were at home. Tucker broke up with Lela right after graduation and hit the road. Once he cleared the outskirts of Quinn, he made a vow never to return. For twelve years, he kept that promise, unwilling to face the father he'd cut out of his life and unable to face the girl he never stopped loving.

When Tucker gets a call that Coach Carr has suffered a heart attack and needs help, Tucker is faced with a decision. Does he return with his teammates to help his beloved coach? Does he run the risk of running into the father he's left in the past? And if he does come home, what does he say to Lela? How can he make up for disappearing from her life so completely?

Free Agent Details

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Author : Mari Carr

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From Reader Review Free Agent for online ebook

Maddy's Reading says

This is a second-chance erotic romance. Tucker is a highly celebrated Quarterback and the Lela is his high-school sweetheart whom he has left behind to pursue his football career. Now Tucker is back in his hometown to help his high-school coach and the attraction sizzles between him and Lela.

The supporting characters were nice and their relationship is nicely written. This had glimpses of bondage and exhibitionism but it was subtle enough to make it interesting. I am personally not a big fan of erotica. Nice enough story. Short and sweet.

Sheryl says

3.5 stars

Book Reading Gals says

Thoughts: I have to say that I fell in love with this whole series – I devoured each book in no time at all. Tucker and Lela's story was that heart-clenching tale of love lost but never forgotten – that soul clenching, never fully recovered from, constant ache in your heart love. Tucker loved Lela, but he was eager to get the hell out of Dodge....er, Quinn. Lela, on the other hand, loved her hometown and couldn't imagine being anywhere else. Years later, that spark is still between them, perhaps stronger than ever.....but will the same things that tore them apart before rip them apart once again?

I hate to say it, but this was my first experience reading a Mari Carr book. I'm not really sure why – I know other "book friends" that have read her, I just haven't picked up her books before. However, when this chance presented itself, I was really excited to try her books out, and I was thrilled to discover an amazing new author! Lela and Tuck were perfect additions to the Boys of Fall series, and I can't wait to read more from this group of authors – as well as from Mari Carr herself!

Rate: A

Review by: Sarah

<http://www.thebookreadinggals.com>

MountainKat says

Steamy short(er) story, those are always nice - especially if they are good too! Mari Carr is especially good with those! Another second chance story, I seem to be on a string of those lately. Tucker goes back to his home town and his high school girl. They never stopped loving each and they tried to move on with their lives and dreams, but there was always something missing. So when they saw each other again, things clicked. And got hot! Can't wait to read more of the boys' stories!

Kim says

4.5 Sizzling Stars

Free Agent is one of three books in the new BOYS OF FALL series about former football players from Quinn, TX.

Tucker Riley blamed his alcoholic father for the tragic death of his mother. So after high school graduation he fled Quinn, all of his friends, and Lela Whitacre, his girlfriend since sophomore year. Working hard, he got his act together to become one of the NFL's star quarterbacks.

But football is hard on a body. Twelve years later, Tucker is faced with a crucial decision for himself and his team. When he receives a call from a buddy saying his old coach is ill and needs their help, Tucker doesn't hesitate to return home to Quinn.

At a crossroads in his career, coming face to face with his father, and being around Lela again- the only girl he'd ever loved- makes his return home an extremely emotional one. But Lela is right there for him. They've both grown and matured, but their love never died. It still burns strong and scorching hot, the resulting explosion putting you right in its path.

Mari Carr did a fabulous job of creating a hero, heroine, and well-developed secondary characters in a story that will tug at your heartstrings at the same time it speeds up your heart rate. I loved every minute and can't wait for her next trip back to the quaint town of Quinn.

Don't miss the other two great books in the BOYS OF FALL series: Out of Bounds by Erin Nicholas and Going Long by Cari Quinn. The books run concurrently so can be read in any order.

Rebecca from Cover to Cover Book Blog says

WOW! Where can I find me a Tucker Riley? Tucker is a NFL football player, he has loved the game since he was a little boy. Coach set him straight in high school when he was being stubborn. He was injured in a game and now has a decision to make. He is torn between the decision also. He got a tragic call about Coach and he didn't think twice about going back to Quinn to help. He lost his mom his senior year of school and it killed him, his dad is an alcoholic and is worthless. He has only had two things he loved in his life, football and Lela. Twelve years ago he left one of the most important things in his life. Lela has grown up in Quinn all her life, she is now a teacher there. Carl and Lela were together but something was never just right with them. She was always thinking she was missing something. Lela broke it off with him because she realized she still loved Tucker. She was very surprised when she saw him at the café. Tucker was mesmerized by Lela when he saw her at the bar. He feels at home with Lela but their past has always been in the back of his mind. One day they went for a drive and cleared the air. But will the past reveal its ugly head or will Tucker stick to his plan and stay around Quinn for good?

1-Click Addict Support Group says

Tucker had one goal for after high school—get out of the small town of Quinn, Texas where he grew up. He'd had a horrible childhood caused by the death of his mother, and his alcoholic father. He wanted to get out and never look back. Football helped Tucker do that—he went pro in college and hadn't returned to Quinn for twelve years. His only regret was the girl he left behind, his first love, Lela.

Tucker receives a call from his old buddy Joel telling him that his beloved high school coach, Coach Carr has had a heart attack needs help managing his ranch. Tucker needs to decide if he'll return to Quinn for the first time since he left. How much of himself will he have to reveal?

Tucker's life isn't quite so idyllic. Football is taking its toll. And he's never forgotten Lela and what they had together. When he returns to Quinn, Tucker can't hide his feelings and neither can Lela.

Tucker and Lela are panty-melting hot together. I loved them together and separately. Tucker trying to be the big, bad quarterback while trying to figure out his future. And Lela is so fun, spunky and feisty.

I love this interwoven *Boys of Fall* series and can't wait to read more! ~ Missy, 5 stars

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I am falling *so* hard for the *Boys of Fall*. This is only my second experience with the band of former high school football champions from Quinn, Texas, who return home to help their beloved Coach Carr, and I am HOOKED.

Tucker left Quinn, turned pro and never looked back. Until a phone call from his former teammate, Joel, brings him back to his small town—and the girl he'd never really forgotten. Lela, his high school sweetheart, and okay, maybe the one thing he regretted about leaving town. Now he's headed back to Quinn, but not to stay. So, nothing can happen between them...even if he can convince her to forgive him for leaving all those years ago. Right?

Oh, Tucker. He's got more on his plate than you'd expect, between his career, his regrets over Lela, his heart-breaking past with his less-than-stellar (that's being polite) father, and his fear over the health of Coach Carr—the man that helped him as boy, and whose opinion he respects above all else. I ached for this delicious quarterback, and oh, I SO wanted him to make the right decision, because I just loved seeing him with Lela—their chemistry was electric and combustible. And the lake...well, just read it and see what I mean!

Mari Carr knows how to tell a sexy, erotic story with heart, of that there is no doubt (\*ahem\* did I mention the lake?) While it might have ended a little too soon for my liking—WHY DO GOOD BOOKS HAVE TO END?—I couldn't help but get sucked into Lela and Tucker's second chance romance. I devoured this book in one sitting, because I just had to know for sure that this couple would make the right choices for themselves, and each other. And also because I was enjoying the little snippets given of the other relationships brewing in this small town—which are explored in the other *Boys of Fall* books. And since I am HOOKED on this series, you'd better believe I'm going to be reading them all ASAP. ~ Beth, 4.5 stars

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## **Rejane says**

Regret for time wasted. And this brings an old question: where are the editors?

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## **Ellen Anderson says**

### **HOT Read!**

Tucker and Lela were teenage sweethearts who hadn't seen or spoken to each other since the day Tucker left Quinn to go to college. Now twelve years later he comes back to help Coach after his heart attack, but Tucker has a tough decision of his own to make. The only thing that hasn't seemed to change, are Tucker and Lela's feelings for each other. Really good book, lots of hot sex scenes, which don't bother me, but I know some that like to be warned. This was the third in the Boys of Fall series and I look forward to these authors getting together again and giving us more great romances to read!

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## **Heather in FL says**

So this was an entertaining read, though probably not too memorable. We have Tucker, who is an NFL quarterback. He's suffered several concussions, and the last game of last season, he really got hit hard. He's not recovering as quickly, and he's been told one more hard hit could cause permanent brain damage, but he still has the decision whether to go back and play one more season or retire. While he's trying to recover, he gets a call from a friend back home about Coach, who had a heart attack. Coach was more of a father to Tucker than his own father was, so Tucker goes home to help out wherever he can. But he hasn't been home in twelve years, since he walked away from his high school sweetheart, Lena, and didn't look back.

For Lena's part, when we meet her, she's been dating Carl for about a year, but really only because he's "safe". He doesn't really do anything for her, and she's already about to break up with him when Tucker breezes back into town. And it's obvious their attraction hasn't waned a bit over all that time. Plus, Tucker now has certain proclivities that Lena shares, which is a surprise to them both.

As she always did, Lena sort of grounds Tucker, and eventually, he discloses his health issues and his uncertainty about going back to the NFL. And Lena's prepared to support him however he needs her to. It was really sweet to watch them sort of relearn each other and build up the trust again. And (view spoiler).

Like I said, it was an enjoyable story, but I'm probably going to have trouble remembering details after a few more books.

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## **Billie J Flowers says**

### **A good read**

A good story about young love lost and regained. It makes you laugh, smile, cry and add some sex--what more can you ask for!

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**shms says**

2.5\*

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**Roksana says**

It took me a long time to write a review, as I read this book some time ago and maybe because there was not much to say about it!

I felt no connection to both Tucker and Lana...it was a case of BAM! and every action was rushed without really giving any deeper analysis and emotional depth...he basically left her for 12 years without so much as a glance..Lana tried to reach him with calls, letters and emails, but he did not reply to any of them and he intended to never set foot in that town and seeing her again, so I did not really believe in his reinstated love for her! If his coach had not had a heart attack and his friend informing him of it, he would not have come to that town and lets face it..."Lena was not even his primary reason" to come back to his hometown! It was the coach and Tuckers sickness caused by previous head injuries that threatened his Career..it was never Lana, so I never believed in his love for her and the whole second chance romance...what second chance? he would not have come to her if his circumstances were different and he was not complaining about his life with beautiful women at his beck and call! There was also that first meeting of them and I felt no real emotions and frankly Tuckers reaction was not "earth shattering" as i would expect after 12 years of loving her? They met shortly after the same day and jumped their bones in front of his car without not even discussing the past and their break up and I was like WHAT? So Lana was so heartbroken and her love life was ruined for any men and she just allowed him to sexually jumped on her without any conversation or even an apology like the past 12 years and him ignoring her never happened? She gave in so easily and he had to just touch her and she would submit to him without any groveling! This is what I said this book just lacked deeper examination of their feelings..it felt superficial and not real!

Also for the safety gang: I did not like them both sleeping with other during separation and the Heroes sexual preferences in your face!

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**Tami says**

3.75 stars

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**J says**

3.5 stars rounded up to 4 stars. A good, basic romance with a little BDSM Dominance kink thrown in. The H is a NFL star quarterback who is returning home after many years to reassess his career now that he has suffered another debilitating concussion and the next hit could leave him permanently injured. He's also coming back to help his old high school football coach who has had a heart attack and needs help running his ranch.

Our quarterback didn't leave his hometown in a good way. His drunk, abusive father had just killed his mother in a car accident and he couldn't put his dad, the memories of his mother and his hometown in the rear view mirror fast enough. Unfortunately that also meant leaving our h (his high school sweetheart) whose family and life were woven deep into the hometown.

This was a very nice second chance love story with two strong lead characters who had both needed to grow up a little which they did while they were apart.

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