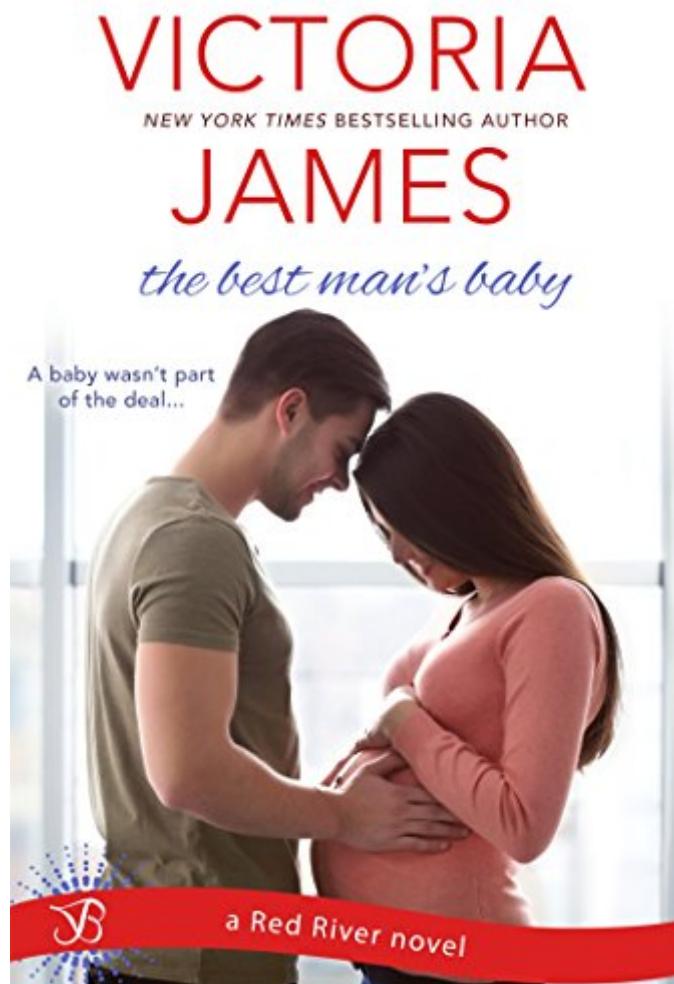


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# The Best Man's Baby: A Red River Novel



## **Synopsis**

Florist Claire Holbrook has always played by the rules her entire life, but breaks them to spend one night with sexy lone wolf Jake Manning, a man she's adored since she was a teenager. Six weeks later things get complicated when she discovers they created a bond that will last a lifetime...Jake has never played by the rules. Getting Minister Holbrook's daughter pregnant wasn't part of any life plan, but he won't run from his responsibilities. He'll step up and be the best man he can, even if he doesn't have a clue where to begin. The more time he spends with Claire, though, the more he wants her, and the harder it is to get close because that would mean sharing the one thing he hasn't with anyone--the truth and his heart. The Red River series can be read out of order. Series Order: Book #1: A Risk Worth Taking Book #2: The Best Man's Baby Book #3: The Doctor's Fake Fiancee Book #4: The Rebel's Return

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I have not read book 1 in the series...yet (I just purchased it from ) but I found that I really didn't need to in order to enjoy The Best Man's Baby. Claire Holbrook is the daughter of a Reverend, who has had a mad crush on Jake Manning, a man with a reputation, since grade school. When her best

friend, Holly marries Jake's brother, Quinn, Claire throws caution to the wind and, with the help of some whiskey, ends up in bed with Jake. Her first, and only, tryst results in pregnancy but Jake up and disappeared right after their hook up six week prior. When Jake comes back after being out of town for a construction job, he doesn't realize just what happened that night. He knows that he took Claire's virginity, left her alone afterwards, didn't call, and, above all else ~ had the single best time he'd ever had in bed with a woman. Feeling guilty and unsure of how to handle everything, Jake did what he always does ~ he ran away from the problem. When Claire jams a positive pregnancy test into his hamburger at the family get-together, everything comes crashing down around him. Not because she's pregnant but because of the secret he harbors and the shame he feels in taking advantage of the daughter of the man that kept Jake grounded and somewhat steady during his entire childhood and teen years. He can't nurture a family of his own until he releases the secret that has kept him at arm's length from almost everyone. Claire can't believe that, at the age of 30, her very first sexual encounter results in her getting pregnant. And the father is the man of her dreams....or rather was the man of her dreams until he had sex with her and then abandoned her right after.

Reviewed by Kimfor Read Your Writes Book Reviews The Best Man's Baby is my first Victoria James book. I can say without a DOUBT, it will not be my last. I was sucked into the book immediately. I couldn't wait to find out the secret Jake was carrying around and the outcome for this couple. Claire Holbrook is the best friend of Jake's new sister-in-law, Holly. Holly and Quinn Manning's story is told in A RISK WORTH TAKING. The Best Man's Baby starts out at the wedding reception of Holly and Quinn. Claire decides to be wild for one night and comes on to Jake. Jake decides that he's tired of fighting his attraction to Claire and the two take things to a hotel room upstairs. Afterwards, Jake leaves a heartbroken Claire and disappears for six weeks. When these two come face to face again, things get a little heated and embarrassing to say the least. Let's just say some things do not go well with a burger. But this is a confrontation that will change their lives forever. Claire has always has been the good girl trying to do the right thing. She has issues from her childhood that she thinks she's overcome but hasn't. She's a successful florist and has a killer personality. When pushed to the limit, she has a backbone that's to be admired. Jake Manning is a tortured soul who doesn't really know where he fits in. At a young age, he learned something about himself and still fifteen years later is trying to overcome it. It's a secret he has kept from everyone, except for one person. Jake has a history of running when things appear to be too serious, but his running is really only just a cover. When Jake learns he's going to be a father, he immediately steps

up and is willing to do whatever is necessary to be the ONLY father in his child's life.

Jake is the Best Man at his brother's wedding, but is he really the best man? And that is this hero's problem. At first, I didn't know if I was going to like him. I mean, he's out the door before the sheets are even cold. Never calls the heroine, never looks back, only to come face to face with her weeks later to find out that their one night of seduction now means a baby is on the way. But as I read the story, I grew to like him more and more. He's always wanted the heroine but just never thought he was good enough for her. This is a man with a lot of emotional pain from his past, pain and guilt that still affect how he lives his life today. And once you find out his secret, you'll feel for him, too, and understand why he ran away the morning after. I wanted this couple to be together and have this baby. There are a couple of sexy scenes, nothing overly erotic or graphic, but still loving and steamy. I was also surprised at how funny this story was at times. Some really cute and sweet moments, funny moments, and then those tender, emotional moments that made me like and forgive the hero and want him to have a second chance with his Claire. And having said that, I really liked how she just didn't fall at his feet when she saw him again. That was refreshing. She served notice and he took notice; this woman was going to be fine on her own, with or without him. This is book 2 of 3, but I had no problem starting the series here. Once I saw the cover, I knew I wanted to read it. For personal reasons, I'm sometimes drawn to 'baby' books. Sometimes they hurt and I avoid the longing, but then other times, I'm in that mood to enjoy a baby book and pretend to be in that place with the mom-to-be. And I enjoyed this one, this book and this mom.

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