



# Toughest Cowboy in Texas

*Carolyn Brown*

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## **Toughest Cowboy in Texas Carolyn Brown The Spark of an Old Flame**

Last time Lila Harris was in Happy, Texas, she was actively earning her reputation as the resident wild child. Now, a little older and wiser, she's back to run her mother's café for the summer. Except something about this town has her itching to get a little reckless and rowdy, especially when she sees her old partner-in-crime, Brody Dawson. Their chemistry is just as hot as ever. But he's still the town's golden boy-and she's still the wrong kind of girl.

Brody hasn't had much time lately for anything other than ranching. Running the biggest spread in the county and taking care of his family more than keeps him busy. All that responsibility has him longing for the carefree days of high school-and Lila. She may have grown up, but he still sees that spark of mischief in her eyes. Now he's dreaming about late-night skinny dipping and wondering how he can possibly resist the one woman he can never forget...

## **Toughest Cowboy in Texas Details**

Date : Published May 30th 2017 by Forever

ISBN : 9781455597451

Author : Carolyn Brown

Format : ebook 352 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Westerns, Contemporary Romance

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# From Reader Review **Toughest Cowboy in Texas** for online ebook

## ♥Rachel♥ says

Brody Dawson and Lila Harris got up to all kinds of shenanigans growing up, having fun and falling in love. But Brody's mother and grandmother were dead set against him dating Lila the resident "wild child" of Happy, Texas and he never stood up for her. He even took another girl to the prom. When they were going to have their first date, on the night before Lila moved town, Brody stood her up and broke her heart. Lila's back in Happy, Texas, twelve years later, to help sell her mother's café, working the summer and living out in the attached apartment, but she's grown out of her wild child ways. Or has she? Staying away from Brody Dawson is also part of her plan, but that's not an easy thing to do when he's determined they should have another chance together.

Brody Dawson regrets that he never stood up for Lila, and when she left town she took his heart right along with her. He's never gotten over Lila and with her back in town he plans to correct all his mistakes and hold on tight.

Carolyn Brown writes the sweetest cowboys, and Brody was no exception. I loved that he realized where he went wrong and did everything to show Lila how proud he was to have her in his life again. I adored Lila and sympathized with her feelings. Lila's heart was shattered that night Brody stood her up, but his broke, too, something that she didn't really know. She couldn't resist the chemistry they had burning between them all over again, but Lila took a little more convincing about their future.

As usual with Carolyn Brown books there's a fun secondary cast, snappy lines, and laugh-out-loud moments. **Toughest Cowboy in Texas** is guaranteed to put a smile on your face! I can't wait for the next book in the series. My heart broke for Kasey Dawson, Brody's younger sister, and a widower with three small children. I'm thrilled her romance will be next in **Long, Tall Cowboy Christmas**.

*A copy was kindly provided by Forever via Netgalley books in exchange for an honest review.*

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## Sabrina says

### PRE-ORDER

Amazon \* B&N \* iBooks

Carolyn Brown used to be one of my most read authors and reading *Toughest Cowboy in Texas* made me realize that I should never have stopped reading her. I will definitely not be making the same mistake again and I'll be sure to keep up with her from now on.

I really loved getting back into her wonderful world full of sexy cowboys and their tight denim jeans. It was great to see Lila and Brody move on from their past and find their feelings for each other once again. When they first knew each other they were both young and made mistakes, now though they're older and have moved on from those mistakes. Seeing Brody chase after Lila was completely swoon worthy and I'm glad he was able to win, not only her heart, but mine as well.

Bottom line, this is a big recommend from me for anyone that loves a sweet cowboy romance. I will definitely not be ignoring this author anymore and I can't wait to see what else she has in store for this small town.

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### **Beth says**

Nothing brings the feeling of heart and home like one of Brown's novels. *TOUGHEST COWBOY IN TEXAS* makes you feel like one of the family with this sweet and endearing story about reuniting of left behind love. Feel good, leave you with a smile on your face but emotionally gripping and holding you invested in the outcome, what more could you ask for in a contemporary romance?

I received this ARC copy of *Toughest Cowboy in Texas* from Forever (Grand Central Publishing). This is my honest and voluntary review. *Toughest Cowboy in Texas* is set for publication May 30, 2017.

My Rating: 4 Stars

Written by: Carolyn Brown

Series: Happy, Texas (Book 1)

Mass Market Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Forever

Publication Date: May 30, 2017

ISBN-10: 1455597449

ISBN-13: 978-1455597444

Genre: Contemporary Romance

Itunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/toug...>

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Toughest-Cowbo...>

Barnes & Noble: <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/tough...>

For Reviews :

<http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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### **Lisa Richards says**

Yeah! A new series of fabulous characters to discover and learn their hopes and fears thanks to CB.

I just love second chance romances! If there was ever a couple that deserved a second chance at love, it was Lila and Brody. As usual Brown had me falling for these two along with most of the hilarious characters of Happy, Texas. Brown uses an equal amount of laughter and tears that always makes one of her books a one night read. Once started, I'm often unable to stop reading until I've flipped that last page knowing that the new friends I met in the story will have their HEA.

This is the kind of read that is perfect for that day at the pool when you don't have to do anything but flip a page, sip a cold drink and wipe a tear from your eye. Heck, every day is a perfect day for a Carolyn Brown book!

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## **books are love says**

Brody and Lila's second chance at romance was passion filled, entertaining and sexy.

Brody screwed up when he was younger and let Lila go. When he realized his mistake it was too late. than life got in his way. He let go of some of his dreams to help at home. Now Lila is back in town to take care of the diner until it sells and she isn't making it easy on Brody to get in her good graces again. The attraction and chemistry is insane and their story is delicious.

Brody is a great guy. He made mistakes but owns up to them and is determined to get Lila back. He stands up to family and stays by her side. He is also very family oriented and the way he is with his niece and nephew swoon city. I loved watching his determination to get Lila back and to keep her in his life. I love how he was always there for his family and how they stuck by each other. I did especially love when he didn't let his family matriarchs change his mind when it came to Lila. His grandma is a firecracker of a lady and a hoot. She was the one that gave Lila a thorough third degree at first but than came to her side.

Lila was a restless soul. She had the motorcycle and the attitude to boot. she was fun, snarky when needed and strong. Very likeable. I loved her resistance at first to Brody. As she got to see who he is she started to melt and let him in.

their story is sexy and passionate. We see their hearts on their sleeves. They don't have a easy go at things but they let their feelings and respect for one another be their guide and it gives us a wonderful romance.

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## **Hannah says**

### **ARC REVIEW**

The first of a new series by Carolyn Brown, Happy Texas is a spin off of her Lucky Penny Ranch series which is a spin off of another series, Lucky. It's a typical Carolyn Brown western romance, funny and loveable characters with a heartwarming story and a steamy romance.

Happy, Texas isn't the place where you go to let the past die it's quite the opposite for Lila Harris. When Lila lived in Happy she was known as the wild child, there isn't anything she wouldn't do. She was also secretly dating Brody Dawson; it had to be done in secret because it was very obvious that his mother and grandmother didn't approve of her. It never mattered to them they were young, dumb, and in love until Brody broke her heart. Lila left Happy heart broken and changed she became studious and worked hard to leave the wild child reputation far away from her but Lila goes back to help her mother sell the diner and as soon as she crosses the city limit sign she itching to do something crazy as long as it has nothing to do with Brody.

Brody never left Happy like he was supposed to, he was all set up to go to college but both his father and grandfather died and Brody was left to take care of the ranch and keep the family afloat. Life went on and Brody stayed the same just older and wiser and a lot more cautious. Twelve years down the line Brody is still at the ranch and Lila has come back into town for the summer or less if the diner gets sold sooner. They try to avoid it but all the unresolved things left between them, the sexual charge, and all the people telling them

to stay away from each other just pulls them together. The romance is rekindled but Lila still plans on leaving and Brody wouldn't be happy any other place than his ranch can they survive another short lived romance or will they finally burn out the young love or let it grow into something so much more.

Overall, it's another fun and good read from Carolyn Brown. I can't wait for the other books. Brody has a sister with a brood of kids who lost the love of her life overseas and a younger brother and they need HEAs of their own.

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## **Lyka says**

Disclaimer: Maybe it's not the book, maybe it's me. Lol

So, I was 1 book short with my 2017 Reading Challenge. Guess what? Work finally won over my pleasure reading. -\_-

Now, that being said, I am pretty much more selective of what I read this year. AAAND the book's s.l.o.w. b.u.i.l.d.u.p is not helping. I am almost 50% finished but since I have too many books on my to-read shelf I decided, "That's it! I quit!" (Rhyme not intended).

I really like the premise and it somehow reminds me of Sweet Home Alabama, which I love, minus the lying about your real identity stuff and the love triangle (never been a fan). Yeah, expectation vs reality.

Bottom line, not for me. I dig slow build up but just not in this one. So, yeah, sorry! I'm on to the next book!

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## **Anna's Herding Cats says**

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup. (live 5/30)

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2pWoFXa>

Oh my sexy cowboy. I do love Carolyn Brown and her absolute cheek! Happy, Texas was a trip and I'm glad to have gone along for the ride as wild child Lila comes back to her home town and kicks up quite a stir.

Okay so Lila and Brody had a thing when they were teenagers but her family moved away and the night before he did a fool thing and they've not talked for over a decade...or ever gotten over their first brush with love. And now all these years later she's back for the summer. And he's there looking all sexy with his cowboy self and, well, they decide to see how things will go while she's in town.

Oh these two. They're both so stuck on each other it's ridiculous. And sweet. And a little frustrating when they can't seem to figure things out. And they're a little swoony now and again, too. I liked them both. They've done a lot of growing up over the years and turned into good respectable people. I did like seeing their mischievous sides come out with each other, though. There's a tiny bit of steam and a lot of healing and getting to know each other and it was just a make you smile romance.

Happy was small town USA. There's not a ton to do there other than ranching and gossiping and the folks there excel in both. And in holding a grudge. Whew boy. Both their mamas were a bit of a handful and sure didn't want these two together. It was nice seeing them overcome that, though.

A couple random things to note:

1) I LOVED that her mama called her kittens grandkittens. My mama does that and it just made me smile. They all talked to the animals, too. It was really adorable.

2) Seriously calling a motorcycle a 'cycle' is one of the weirdest things ever.

All in all, a cowboylicking good time. Brown is sure to leave you smiling. I'm looking forward to seeing his siblings find romance, now. Sure am. Mmhm.

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## **Ann Lorz says**

Reviewed for Romancing the Readers Blog:

<http://romancingthereaders.blogspot.c...>

What I really enjoy about reading a Carolyn Brown book is her characters. They are often funny, loving and just a bit flawed. What's not to like?

She's also one of those authors that are lucky enough to get really good covers.

Toughest Cowboy is the first in the Happy Texas series. The author does a wonderful job of setting up the series with its interesting characters. By the end of the book you'll feel like you've been in Happy Texas yourself.

In Toughest Cowboy you meet Lila Harris & Brody Dawson. For them this is a second chance romance. For us at times it's a frustrating time. I say that in a good way. I always love a story that can pull me in enough that I feel like I'm part of it, and being part of it is seeing what these two are doing and wanting to fix it.

Of course, it could also be that I'm a control freak and what things to happen when I say they should. Either way, I was there in the story with both Lila and Brody!

So I mentioned the second chance romance part earlier and it's there in the book but sometimes I did struggle with not having enough back story. That fact didn't take away from the present story at all, I guess I'm just nosy.

I really liked both Lila and Brody and thought they were really good people who both deserved love and happiness. You wanted them to be happy! Of course these two couldn't just jump into being happy, no they had to have a ton of crap happen before that. Sigh...all that made for a great story.

I was totally happy with reading this story based in Happy Texas. See what it did there? You get me! If you haven't yet read Carolyn Brown, I'm not sure why, but I'm not here to judge (I am a little, kidding) this would be the perfect series to start of hers. I really think you'll enjoy it.

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ARC received for a honest review

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## **Amy ~ Love At 1st Read says**

In a good small town romance, it's not just the main characters that are memorable. It's the relationships between families, neighbors, and communities. Quirky townspeople who all seem to know each other, good and bad. And the idea of love blossoming in such a town is delightful. In Carolyn Brown's *Toughest Cowboy In Texas*, Happy, Texas is a place you'll want to stay a while.

Lila Harris had grown up in Happy, Texas known as the resident wild child. The girl with the worst reputation in Happy for all her crazy, daredevil antics. She'd had her heart broken there years ago. She'd had a crush on Brody Dawson since kindergarten. Had spent her youth trying to impress him, hoping someday he'd go against his family and the whole town and just ask her out. When he finally had, he never showed and Lila had cried for weeks. Now, she was a teacher who worked hard to subdue that inner wild child, trying to change who she was so the heartache wouldn't hurt so bad. She'd moved around a lot in the last 12 years, but was never happy anywhere. She'd left a part of her heart in Happy and found she couldn't get it back anywhere else. Now at 30, she was returning to Happy to work in her mom's café for the summer. As soon as she crossed that county line though, she could hear her inner wild child screaming to come out. Brody Dawson had grown up as Happy's golden boy. His family owned the biggest spread in the whole county. Lila had been his best friend and secret girlfriend, but Brody's family didn't approve. They thought Lila was a bad influence. So Brody and Lila had snuck around. He'd gotten the courage to ask her out once before she moved. But the fear of facing her tears and his parents' wrath led to him standing her up. Now memories and regrets haunted him. He was ashamed he hadn't stood up for her back then. She'd never left his mind. It wasn't easy to shake the memories or the yearnings he still felt, so he tried to bury them and focus on his responsibilities to his family and the ranch. That would be suitable punishment for not recognizing the best thing in the world when she was standing right in front of him. It only took one look at each other for Brody and Lila to know the chemistry was still there. So much for time, distance, and a broken heart erasing all the old feelings. Lila's inner wild child wanted to grab Brody and kiss him but she wasn't that girl anymore. She was responsible now. This wasn't high school. She wanted something lasting. Something real. But Brody wasn't that high school kid anymore either. He means business this time and he doesn't care what anyone thinks. He's doing what he should've done years ago. He knows they can't go back to the way it was before, but they can go forward.

What an awesome introduction for me to a new author. Living in a small town myself, I could identify so much with Happy. I even found myself visualizing people I know in some of the characters. Lila and Brody were wonderful characters with great chemistry. Part of me hated that they'd been apart for 12 years but I think they needed the time to grow and mature. Brody had to learn to stand up to his family, and Lila had to learn that she could still be responsible but hold on to the wild child too. They needed the opportunity to grow.

The secondary characters were delightful as well. I loved both Brody and Lila's families. I'm intrigued by the family histories there and hope some of these characters get their own stories. The people of Happy were hysterical. Everybody knows everybody's business. Rumors were nurtured and fed at the diner, and I found it hilarious that the men were every bit the gossips that the women were. I think my favorite scenes occurred



at the church though. I can tell Carolyn Brown has spent some time in small town churches because she portrayed them perfectly. I'm so excited to get in on the start of this new series. It's the perfect blend of teary eyed moments and chuckles. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Happy, Texas and can't wait to visit again. I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Readers Copy of this book.

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## **Laura says**

\*\*\*ARC Provided by the Publisher via NetGalley\*\*\*

### **3.5 Stars**

This was an enjoyable, well paced, small town romance, with a bit of the 2nd chance element tossed in. I say a bit, as while there was a relationship with the characters in the past, it was never one that was allowed to grow and neither of them saw it as something with a future, so while this was a second chance, it really was more of their first chance to explore what they had without it having an automatic expiration date. But, at the same time, she was only there for the summer...so it was like a do-over of their history, but as adults.

Lila and Brody have chemistry, but they also like one another, and appreciate one another for who they each are. There is a bit at the end that is so perfect, so perfect, that you just get to really see how they each feel about the other. Don't worry, I am not going to spoil it, you will know it when you get there, and it is perfect.

The parts with the supporting characters, in my opinion, were a little long in places, so I did feel that this was a draw away from the central characters at times. Not enough for me to dislike the story, but enough for me to wish that a little more time had been spent with Brody and Lila. They still worked well, and there was a lot of them that was present in the book, but I think I wanted just a bit more.

That said, I enjoyed this book.

I recommend this book and I am looking forward to the next in the series.

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## **Caitlyn Lynch says**

Carolyn Brown's cowboy novels are so country you can almost taste the grits. *Toughest Cowboy In Texas* is the first in a new series set in the small town of Happy, Texas, following the three siblings of the Dawson family.

I'm not even American, but Carolyn Brown sets the scene so well I can almost see the big Texas skies, hear the country music on the radio - country songs are sprinkled throughout the book and often used as metaphors to express the characters' emotions, so if you're not a fan of country music a few things might go over your head. I had to look a few songs up to have a listen!

The country theme could feel overdone, with the cowboy boots and hats, bull wrangling and even an actual

barn dance (disguised as a 'family reunion') making their appearance in the story, but it doesn't; it feels like a natural part of the story, of the characters' lives. And speaking of the characters...

Lila Harris left Happy, Texas, when she was seventeen years old. She was a wild child back then, and while the phrase 'the wrong side of the tracks' is never used in the book, it is certainly implied. Going back again, even though she has made a success of her life since then, Lila finds out the hard way that in the eyes of the townsfolk, she's still that wild child who was never good enough for Brody Dawson.

Brody comes from a wealthy ranching family, and back when he was seventeen, he didn't have the guts to stand up to his family and publicly lay claim to Lila as his girlfriend. He hurt her in doing so, and when she left down, she took a big piece of his heart with her. Now she's back, he's not going to let anyone stand in between them, not his family or hers. Now, his only problem is winning over Lila herself.

I absolutely loved this book. Lila was spirited, full of sass and not about to let anyone put her down, and Brody was self-aware enough to recognize how badly he let her down the first time around and let her know in every way he could that this time around she could count on him. In turn, Lila realized that Brody was only seventeen back then and under enormous pressure, and she didn't hold that against him. *Toughest Cowboy In Texas* was a really great story about two people recognizing the mistakes of their past and moving on together.

I also loved Kasey and Jace, Brody's siblings who will get their own stories in the series, and I'll be eagerly looking forward to more books set in Happy, Texas.

Five stars.

*Toughest Cowboy In Texas* is available now, and THIS is where I get mad, because the Kindle edition is \$6.99. ARE YOU KIDDING ME? The paperback is only 20 cents more! Ugh. Hachette need to get their act together.

THIS is why Big Publishing are reporting a decline in ebook sales; because they are overcharging for them. Readers know what an ebook costs to produce compared to a paperback; yes, editing costs etc are equal, but the printing costs comprise over 70% of the cost of producing a paperback. You CAN'T charge more than 50% of the paperback price for an ebook, because buyers KNOW that they're being ripped off.

Do better, Hachette!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book for review from NetGalley

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### **Isha Coleman says**

Teenaged Lila lost her heart to Brody. Her wild child reputation and his family's social standing, put an end to her dreams of happily ever after before they had even begun. Now, an older and wiser Lila is returning to the town that she left behind and the boy she could never forget. *Toughest Cowboy In Texas* has sentimental written all over it. From star crossed romance to nostalgic memories and busybody neighbors, the small town of Happy, Texas is the perfect destination for LOVE.

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## **Dixie-Lee Campbell says**

4.5 Stars . Toughest Cowboy in Texas - (check) .... but not really t0ugh ... but a r e a l l y Great heart !!  
Enjoyed the cowboy ranch lifestyle combined with second chance love story !  
This was a great book to read. The couple led us on quite a journey .

Looking forward to reading more about the folks living in this small town of Happy, Texas.

(last update 17 March 2017)

Thanks to Publisher via NetGalley for this opportunity to read and review this book. Look forward to the next book in the series. by Carolyn Brown.

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## **Sophia says**

A small Texas town, a bit of feudin' and fussin', a cowboy who fills out his denims well, and what heroine wouldn't go weak at the knees and give him a second chance... well it was a near thing and it was a delight following along as it all went down.

A new series... sigh with happiness over the quirky folks of Happy, TX. This one has loose ties to the series that came before it, The Lucky Penny Ranch when the Dawson family were first introduced. Now that said, this new series can be started without reading the other.

The premise of this one had me a tad uneasy when it got rolling because I'm not one of those who enjoys reading about a person still fussing over something that happened when people were teens and made a youthful mistake and now the trouble is still rumbling years later.

But I really shouldn't have worried because Carolyn Brown wrote a situation where the heroine holding Brody's broken date with her close made sense. She had so much on her plate back then, as did he, and they were so young and they both had mature adults around them feeding them lines and attitudes that pretty much sabotaged the pair.

I loved that this book was about Brody and Lila learning to look back and see the past more clearly, understand where they are at and what they want in the present, and decide whether a future is worth fighting for. The interference is still there and interfering, but they are older and ready to face it.

I do think Lila dinked around longer than necessary near the end trying to wait Brody out for something clearer than his very clear actions and words had already been. I really don't know how 'don't go, I want us together, I want a second chance etc' can be misinterpreted, but I guess it made for a good romantic conflict and build of suspense.

The humor and down home vibe were very present. The surrounding cast of characters were as colorful and quirky as ever. Now I'm eager for more Dawson romance with Brody's sister and brother needing their shots at Happy. Another fun, light, and warm-hearted contemporary cowboy romance I can recommend here.

My thanks to Forever for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

