



Wild Secret, Wild Longing

Charlene Whitman

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A new story of love and danger in The Front Range Series set in Colorado 1876. A historical Western romance that will get your heart racing ...

LeRoy Banks has no time for love or romance—he's busy breaking in horses at Whitcomb's ranch. But on the afternoon of his brother's wedding, a grizzly attacks the herd of horses, and though Whitcomb's ranch hands shoot him, the bear lumbers off, injured and enraged. LeRoy, the only competent tracker around, heads out into the Rockies after the bear before it kills again. But not before his ma, a Cheyenne medicine woman, gives him a warning. The mountain holds secrets, she tells him, and LeRoy must not be afraid of what he'll find. Unsettled by her puzzling words, he sets out, unaware of the dangers he is about to face—not just to his life but to his heart.

Geneviève Champlain has spent long, lonely years in isolation in the mountains, her life a trail of broken dreams, loss, and heartache. Her supplies running out, she is teetering on the edge of despair and madness as a snowstorm blows in, signaling an early winter. Her hope is failing—she knows she cannot face another winter alone. Yet she sees no way out. She can never leave her cabin and live a normal life like other women. There is no place for a tainted woman like her in frontier society. Before the storm blows in, she learns the killer grizzly is close by. She has no choice but to head out and try to kill it before it reaches her cabin. Yet when she tracks the bear, she finds something she never expected—something even more threatening than a grizzly.

***Wild Secret, Wild Longing*, a companion novella to *Colorado Promise* and *Colorado Hope*, takes readers on a heart-wrenching journey into the wilds of the Rocky Mountains. Don't miss this next installment in The Front Range Series—a powerful, moving story that shows how love conquers all fears—if only you'll let it.**

Praise for Colorado Hope:

"I was so utterly thrilled to have a story hold my attention this completely...To me, this is the perfect story to 'cocoon' yourself in to your favorite reading spot, and try not to come out 'til you're done."
—FictionZeal.com

"This was one of the BEST books I've ever read! The heart-stopping adventures are believable and gripping,

but best of all is the empathy and understanding you'll feel for the heroes! You will fall in love with the two protagonists, whose hearts are good and kind. And you'll love to hate the antagonists, whose hearts are cold and calculating. Whitman's savvy and understanding of human nature is matched perfectly with her beautiful writing ability: her descriptions draw you in; her pacing keeps you hooked; and her emotional sensitivity will keep you turning pages long into the night!" —author Pamela Walls

Praise for Colorado Promise:

"A fresh new voice in Historical Romance, Charlene Whitman captured me from the beginning with characters I won't soon forget, a sizzling-sweet romance, a love triangle, spiteful villains, heart-throbbing heroes, and a plot full of intrigue that kept me guessing. Ms. Whitman's magnificent research transported me to the Colorado plains and left me longing to join the characters amidst the wildflower-dotted fields, rushing rivers, and panoramic Rocky Mountains. Fans of Historical Western Romance will not soon forget Colorado Promise.

Wild Secret, Wild Longing Details

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From Reader Review Wild Secret, Wild Longing for online ebook

Julie Morales says

FACING DOWN YOUR FEARS

Eli Banks is now married, and his brother Leroy is being hounded next. Eli says he needs to marry, his mother says he needs to marry, and for Pete's sake, even Eli's wife is now telling him he needs to marry. But Leroy isn't ready. When he marries, it's got to be a special woman for sure, and that kind of woman just hadn't come his way yet. If she was out there, he'd find her eventually, but he was in no hurry.

Genevieve has lived on the mountain for several years by herself now, and before that, she lived with an older man who instilled in her how worthless she was because of her past. She believed it, and spent her time around others living as a man, although she saw others as infrequently as possible. It was just her and her dog, and that's the way she wanted it. Or at least it had been. Living in isolation like that takes its toll eventually though, and Gennie was starting to realize she couldn't live like this much longer.

Leroy is helping out at a neighboring ranch, helping with the herd of horses he and Eli had captured not long before. The wedding between Eli and Clare is just over and the guests are still mingling and celebrating when a grizzly attacks the herd, dragging off one mare, injuring two and killing three others. Leroy is devastated and knows he's got to find that bear. Other ranch hands were sent out separately, but Leroy was known for his tracking skills and would rather go alone anyway, so he sets off.

He doesn't count on meeting up with a wolf mix, preparing to shoot what he thought was a threat, and getting knocked in the head with the butt of a rifle by someone he hadn't even seen. No one snuck up on him like that, but Gennie did. Thing is, Gennie was dressed like a man and gave the name Dan.

Gennie was after that grizzly too, and it was while hunting him that she came upon Leroy. Their paths had now merged completely and forever. They would face together what both thought they were going to do alone, but both would eventually realize they couldn't have done it alone anyway, not with the way things had happened.

I love these books. The reviews that say they're page-turners and you lose sleep over them, determined to find out how things turned out, are absolutely true, and I've gotten emotionally involved in all of them so far. I'm kind of sad to know I'm about to start the last book. Each one has characters overlapping from previous books, so you get to see how things are going with characters you'd met before, and it's like visiting with friends. It takes a good writer to give you feelings like that.

Sarah Bierle says

I received a copy of this story in exchange for an honest review.

This historical romance novel was a real page-turner. Once I started reading, I couldn't put it down! There was lots of action, but it fit well into the story and was certainly believable in the historical setting. I really enjoyed the themes and symbolism woven into the story.

While there is a dark theme surrounding one of the character's experiences, it makes her secret and her life choices understandable and realistic. The semi-parallel, lonely pasts of the characters made a great conflict. I appreciated that the romance theme was thoughtfully crafted.

Overall, an easy-to-read story in a rugged Western setting and a tough, yet sweet romance.

Kathy Heare Watts says

DON'T JUST TRACK WITH YOUR EYES. TRACK WITH YOUR HEART

I loved this story, with the mystery and suspense that kept the pages turning. This is part of a series, but can read easily as a stand-alone. This story is full of delightful characters, witty dialogue, heartbreakening moments, death-defying feats, emotional breakdowns and two people who feel as an outcast, finding each other. I look forward to more in this series.

LeRoy Banks, half Cheyenne and half white, he lives in the white man's world but feels lost in either world. His father was a white man, trained horses and was killed when the boys were young. His mother, Sarah Banks, is a Cheyenne medicine woman, has great insight, can speak with animals, and loves her sons. What starts out as an enjoyable day, the wedding of Eli Banks and Clare, take a sudden turn when a grizzly bear attacks the horses, killing and maiming several of them. A danger to man and animals, LeRoy decides he must track and kill this dangerous bear. What he never expected was to encounter a wolf and its owner. Gennie Champlain, has lived on the mountain, away from people, after being taken in by a mountain man called Old Bill. After Bill's death, she had managed the rough mountain terrain on her own for three years. What happens when Dan and LeRoy together confront this deadly bear? It becomes a life and death struggle on the mountain. He'd tracked a bear and found her at the end of his trail, and at the end of his hope. Disclosure: I received an e-copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts, opinions, and ratings are my own.

Will Decker says

A nice quick romantic read about a man that sets out on a dangerous journey only to meet a strange and enticing woman that not only saves his life, but also his heart. Although the story was predictable from the beginning to the end, the characters were well developed and believable. The challenges along their journey could be metaphors for a modern day life. It didn't suck me in and take me for a ride like a 5 star story, but it did take me to another time and place far from reality and for that I give it 4 stars.

Sharon Paavola says

Wild Secret Wild Longing contains multiple elements that make a book worth reading; deep characters that grow, suspense and action, romance, history, tension, and a strong storyline that carries throughout.

LeRoy is a man's man, one who can stand on his own yet willing to open his heart. Discover what happens the night his brother weds and he leaves to hunt down a horse killing bear. Will the words of his Indian mother lead him to the longing of his soul? How does the rough kid Dan open a new door for LeRoy?

I recommend reading Wild Secret Wild Longing. Only cooking Thanksgiving dinner stopped me from completing it.

The gracious author gave me a copy and I have written an honest review of her book. Thank you, Charlene!

Margaret McGovern says

4.5 stars Well worth reading!! This is a sweet western novella dating back to the 1860-1870's. Many struggled for survival and this story about LeRoy & Dan is great. Dan was taken at the age of about 12 years old and abused by a nasty mountain man. Dan didn't trust that any mountain men were much better than the Indians that killed the entire family. Dan lived for many years alone & surviving due to the skills learned throughout the last several years. LeRoy was tracking the grizzly that killed several horses he was training. Once he was hurt and Dan took care of him and started to trust him. It took him a while to realize the entire situation. He was kind and taught that not all men are like those she'd previously encountered. I really enjoyed this book and look forward to reading more of Ms Whitman's books in the future. I received a free copy of this book from the author solely in exchange for an honest review.z

Willadale Meeks-Smid says

After just a few pages I realized that I had read this book a while back, but I continued reading because I remembered enjoying it a lot the first time. I was not disappointed.

Jo-Anne says

I just loved this book! It lets us take a look at life in the mountains in the 1870s. Sure makes me glad not to be living in that time. We follow LeRoy Banks when a grizzly bear attacks some horses on the ranch during his brother's wedding.

Two cowboys are sent out to kill the bear but LeRoy doesn't have much faith in their ability to handle the job so he sets out tracking the bear on his own. LeRoy has had problems being accepted his entire life because he is half white and half Cheyenne Indian. He has learned to be tough and not let the names he is called bother him. LeRoy is a very skilled tracker so is on the trail of the grizzly in no time. That is until a blizzard hits.

Before leaving, LeRoy's mother (a Cheyenne medicine woman) gave him a pouch filled with medicines she said he would need. She also gave him some wise words about not being afraid to accept love when he found it. She knew falling in love was his biggest fear. She tells him to be receptive to the secrets he finds in the mountain and accept them.

LeRoy runs into someone else who is after the grizzly and they work together to get the bear. It was a good thing there were two of them going after the bear because it was hard enough to take down a grizzly at all but this one was massively huge and then they had the blizzard to make matters worse.

Charlene Whitman is a very illustrative writer who creates an entire world for her audience to get lost in. Every aspect of this story is fully developed in a manner that you can't help but picture. I could easily envision LeRoy tracking the grizzly bear. I was on the edge of my seat wondering who was going to kill who - LeRoy or the bear. She presents her readers with a novel that is simultaneously exciting, suspenseful, and emotional. The author did a remarkable job of illustrating just how hard life was in those times.

I absolutely love this author. I don't think that I've read a single piece of her work that hasn't held me captive. This story definitely holds up to that standard. This novella may be short and sweet, but it definitely packs a punch.

It was very hard for me to put down. The writing was fantastic and the characters! The characters were wonderfully written. I highly recommend Wild Secret, Wild Longing to anyone who likes historical romance.

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

Penny says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for a fair and honest review. For my complete review, visit <http://bit.ly/1cA1ye9>

Simply put, this book is everything I have come to expect from this author, if a little shorter than I had hoped. Her world creation is authentic without being intrusive, her characters complex and heartfelt, her plot intriguing and engrossing without challenging the credulity of the reader. Whitman does a superb job of taking the reader to the time and place. She captures the era perfectly not only with the external trappings but with the attitudes and actions of her characters. That said, if and when they act contrary to the prevailing attitudes of the day, she creates a rich and satisfying read.

In style and substance, this novella fits well with her catalog of fantasy and literary fiction, although not quite as polished as her other works I've read. I did find that her denouement lagged a little, and some of her tertiary characters felt a little too pat/flat in their responses to the situation, particularly at the end. It just seemed a bit too easy.

That said, I did read an advanced reader's copy, rather than the final release, and the very format of a novella precludes the rich development of characters not central to the plot. In addition, this is the third novella in the series, of which previous works I have read none. My issues with the tertiary characters may well have been addressed in previous installments. I look forward to going back to the beginning and savoring each story.

Each genre comes with its own set of tropes, Westerns and sweet romances entirely different from literary fiction (thus the pseudonym). This issue and those above argue for negation of points docked, as does the rich delight that is her prose. However, based on the comparisons with her other works, I give Wild Heart, Wild longing 4/5 stars.

Jacky Faber says

There wasn't a lot of action in the novella. A lot of the story involved Gennie thinking about how miserable she was and LeRoy thinking about how wonderful Gennie was. I couldn't quite see why LeRoy thought Gennie was so incredible when Gennie spent the first half of the novella being a grouch and then a weepy woman. There wasn't a lot to recommend this story in my humble opinion. Although, I assume in earlier

books, LeRoy's character was more fleshed out. He seemed a very interesting character. Gennie I thought was just too much of a whiner, a real turn off for me.

Raelene Cowley says

Title is right for the book!

Loved the book. Enjoyed how these characters show so much compassion, heart and how they endured so much in their lives. Enjoyed the story and the characters, and also Charlene's other books. Defiantly worth reading!!!

~Raelene~

Dawn Fronjian says

Nice beginning of a story

Rosalie Bennett says

Love the Colorado Frontier Range series

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I have read the other good but this one was very exciting! It had a different storyline and I really enjoyed it.

Linda Walters says

This story starts moving pretty quickly as the first few pages start. I like that. It was moving without sacrificing the reader's ability to get to know the people. I really enjoyed this story, it had great MC's and a really good cast of supporting characters. The setting of the story had some really brutal circumstances and challenges to it. To my way of thinking the man-killing grizzly was also a main character as well. It always managed to do severe damage and then kept getting away. LeRoy's ma was quite the person who got your attention and as much as LeRoy loved her, she made him kind of nervous at times. LeRoy. Wow, LeRoy, what can I say about him? I just couldn't help but like him and hope that he would have a HEA. He was tough, skilled but also had a tender heart that he hid from many. He faced prejudices of course, being half white, half Indian. Geneviève or Gennie as she is called, really had a hard life and you could really feel her hopelessness and loneliness. This story had the ability to stir the emotions.

An excerpt of "Colorado Promise" is included in the back of this book. I always enjoy that kind of bonus.

"I was given a free copy of this book with the understanding I would leave an honest review and am under no obligation to post any reviews."

John W. says

WILD SECRET, WILD LONGING by Charlene Whitman focuses on life in Colorado in 1876. Whitman introduces her male protagonist, LeRoy Banks, who is half Cheyenne Indian and half white. A grizzly bear attacks at the Whitcomb ranch on his brother Eli's wedding day. LeRoy, the only experienced tracker, plans to track and kill the grizzly. Whitman's readers are LeRoy's shadow, listening to a conversation between Leroy and his mother Sarah, a Cheyenne medicine woman. Sarah tells LeRoy to be open to the secrets of the mountain and to what he finds.

Leroy begins tracking the grizzly into the mountains. At the same time, a lonely inhabitant living on the mountain is also tracking the grizzly. Whitman introduces her female protagonist, Gennie Champlain who has been living in isolation in her mountain cabin. Whitman details Gennie's backstory full of loss and heartache and the importance of her secrets to the storyline.

While tracking the grizzly in the mountains, LeRoy encounters something even more daunting. Something that forces him to face the deepest fear in his heart.

The pace of Whitman's storyline never slows down and builds on a message of how love can conquer all fears. WILD SECRET, WILD LONGING is a love story full of adventure and life experiences. A must read and earns a thumbs up.
