



Always a Cowboy

Linda Lael Miller

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He's the middle of the three Carson brothers and is as stubborn as they come—and he won't thank a beautiful stranger for getting in his way!

Drake Carson is the quintessential cowboy. In charge of the family ranch, he knows the realities of this life, its pleasures and heartbreaks. Lately, managing the wild stallions on his property is wearing him down. When an interfering so-called expert arrives and starts offering her opinion, Drake is wary, but he can't deny the longing—and the challenge—she stirs in him.

Luce Hale is researching how wild horses interact with ranch animals—and with ranchers. The Carson matriarch invites her to stay with the family, which guarantees frequent encounters with Drake, her ruggedly handsome and decidedly *unwelcoming* son. Luce and Drake are at odds from the very beginning, especially when it comes to the rogue stallion who's stealing the ranch mares. But when Drake believes Luce is in danger, that changes everything—for both of them.

Always a Cowboy Details

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From Reader Review Always a Cowboy for online ebook

Julie says

Always a Cowboy (The Carsons of Mustang Creek #2) is a HQN publication.

Let me count the ways I loved this story!

You know what they say about how still waters run deep. That is Drake Carson in a nutshell, so don't let his quiet nature fool you. He is very passionate, sweet, funny, and brave, with a high moral code, and Luce is one lucky gal. I liked Luce too, and I think this couple will make a great team.

Adding to the romantic backdrop is the beautiful Wyoming scenery, and the realistic, authentic portrayal of ranch living. The adventures Drake and Luce encounter make the story exciting, with both the awe of seeing wild stallions, and facing imminent danger.

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To read the full review click this link:

<https://www.nightowlreviews.com/v5/Re...>

Mary says

Drake Carson is the head of his family's ranch. All his life he's wanted to carry on the tradition of tending the ranch that's been in his family for several generations. He cares about the land and the animals who live there. That includes the cattle and the predators that threaten them.

Luce Hale cares about animals and the environment and plans to write her dissertation about the wild horses that roam the Carson ranch. Drake sees them as a nuisance and threat to his horses and land. She hopes to convince him to find a humane way to deal with the wild horses. Eventually these two find a mutual respect and even more.

The second book in the Carsons of Mustang Creek series was enjoyable and I learned a bit about wild horses – I've heard about them before but didn't know much about them. The novel ends a bit abruptly but I still liked it. The scenes with Drake's brothers and the rest of the family were fun and a bit exciting near the end. If you enjoyed the first book in the series I think you'll love Always a Cowboy.

*I received a galley from the publisher and NetGalley in exchange for my unbiased review.

Julie Barrett says

Always a cowboy by Linda Lael Miller

Have enjoyed the authors other works. Starts with listing of authors other works and series.

This book starts out with Drake Carson who's in WY runs the family herds and the middle son. He doesn't have the time to figure out why the herd is thinning...

Luce Hale is studying the herds to find a solution to their problem. Steamy sex scenes and few characters and most banter with one another to make the story very interesting.

Like views of what to do with wild animals. Predictable.

Author answers how it all started at the end of this story.

I received this book from National Library Service for my BARD (Braille Audio Reading Device).

Megan says

It was ok. Sorta blah. Forgettable. Everything was tied up in a nice little package. Little to absolutely no conflict of any type in the story. At times it seemed like reading the inner monologue of a girl's idea of an imaginary good man as she built him in her head. I've read a lot by LLM (According to my GRs account, 30 book, what can I say, I LOVE series and LOVE cowboys:)) and generally enjoy them, but this was just so blahhhh. And the whole conflict with the wild horses was sorted out on one page, the last page..... Oh yeah, that one thing....we better sorta address it. Almost like an after thought.

One word review: Blahhhhhhhhhh

Genesis Sheli (Latte Nights Reviews) says

This review was originally posted on Latte Nights Reviews.

This is my first time reading a book by this author and unfortunately, **it wasn't a success**. Drake is a stubborn man who's very old fashioned and loves to work at the ranch. He has his routines and doesn't like when people interrupt that. Luce arrives wanting to learn about the wild animals and learning about Drake as a rancher for her thesis.

Honestly, this had it all for me to like and I was enjoying the banter between Drake and Luce. What led me to stop enjoying the story was the very quick romance that blossomed. **It was only 2 weeks of "knowing" each other that Drake started falling for Luce**. Keep in mind that **part of those two weeks, the couple had avoided each other**. I couldn't believe the romance because most of the time, they would argue instead of getting to know each other. **It basically went like this: first meeting, arguments, avoidance, falling in love. This happened in the first 88 pages**. The rest of the story kept going worse with the fast romance.

In addition to that, **the story was boring** and a few things were left unresolved, which irked me. **What got me to somewhat like this story were the side characters**, such as Drake's brothers and all their brotherly banter, Drake's mother, his friends, and Luce's sister. I was far more interested in their lives than Drake's and Luce's.

Overall, **Always a Cowboy didn't hold my interest. There wasn't depth to the main characters and their romance was way too fast-paced**.

I received a finished copy from the publisher for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. This review was originally posted on Latte Nights Reviews.

Jonel Boyko says

Miller brings the West to life in her usual, stunningly picturesque manner that will have you walking alongside the characters and falling head over heels in love. The intimately intricate plot drew me in, allowing me to live this fantastically romantic story rather than simply read it.

Miller definitely had me in tears with this one. Tears of laughter that is. Her unforgettable characters came together in such remarkable ways, allowing me to experience all aspects of what makes them who they are. The dynamics between them were so real that I couldn't help but laugh at the antics that arose between them. I loved the different aspects of Drake's character. He is the ultimate cowboy. The perfect mix of modern and old fashioned. Luce was a great addition to this family. She was the fun and act 1st, think later that made a fantastic counterpoint to Drake's steadfastness.

Miller has once again created a novel that will be loved by readers time and time again. She has definitely proven that she writes the book on western romance.

Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this work in exchange for an honest review.

Books and Spoons says

A lovely look at the life at the Mustang Creek where family matters, where the townsfolk take care of each other, and where the Carson brothers are finding love while living life to the fullest.

I enjoyed Luce and Drake, the way they interacted together, the way they respected each other and had only honesty and straight talk between them. From the first moment they are real with each other, and talk about issues that rise between them, without any drama and angst in the tale.

And even though the nature around them gives them challenges and fright, the affection between Luce and Drake grow and flourish. The story follows the couple's whirlwind romance from the meet-cute to the married life without any conflict or strife between them. From the big issues of Luce's future education and career, to the smaller ones they find a tune between them, and the normally silent cowboy is sharing ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

The family and life at the ranch are as important part of the story as it is in Carson's lives. The brothers constant bickering, and the housekeeper Harry's tight rules all tells of the love in-between the family members.

The story took me in, and I enjoyed the flow and life at the ranch, with the vivid images the author paints into the reader's mind. And even though many things were told in great detail, the growing of the relationship wasn't one of them. I was left wanting more details, fine points in their lives, more development as characters and as a couple.

So overall a smooth and mellow tale of the Carson family of the Mustang Creek, the rugged life on the ranch in Wyoming, and Drake and Luce finding the right person to do life with.

~ Four Spoons

Susan says

Good book. Second in the Carson series, this book is about Drake, the middle brother. Older brother, Slater (Once a Rancher), is the producer of documentaries, and younger brother, Mace, is in charge of the family winery. Drake runs the family ranch, which is just right for him. The land and its traditions are his life's blood. Not to say there aren't challenges to go along with it. For the past year they have been losing calves to a mountain lion, and there's a herd of wild horses whose stallion has been stealing Drake's mares. As icing on the cake, he finds a beautiful woman trespassing on his land.

Luce is a graduate student working on a paper about how wild horses interact with ranch animals and humans. Drake's mom, an old friend of Luce's mom, has invited Luce to stay at the ranch while she does her research. This puts her into Drake's path far too often for either's comfort, at least at the beginning.

I loved the first meeting between Drake and Luce. He sees that wild stallion close and is determined to catch him and move him away from the ranch and his mares. He doesn't catch him, but he does scare them off, bringing on the wrath of Luce, who has been observing them all day. I loved seeing her stand up to Drake and fuss at him. At the same time, he listened but wasn't overly receptive to her rants. But underneath the confrontation is a different kind of spark, the spark of attraction, which disturbs them both. They go head to head a few times over his resistance to cooperating with his research, and her insistence that she's well able to take care of herself out on the range. They eventually work out a compromise that has them spending time together, time that brings their simmering attraction to a full boil.

I really liked seeing the two of them get to know each other and learn to respect what the other does. Once they get past their initial antagonism, Drake's true personality really begins to shine. He is funny, charming, passionate, and just a bit old-fashioned. He was very protective, especially when the mountain lion got bolder. He pretty quickly realizes what it is he feels for Luce, and is determined in his pursuit of her. Luce knows what she's feeling, too, but she has her life planned out, and staying in rural Wyoming isn't part of it. I enjoyed the realism of seeing two people who loved each other work to figure out how to make things work between them. The wedding scene was sweet, and his honeymoon plans were super romantic.

As always, the secondary characters added extra depth to the story. My favorite was ranch foreman Red. He had some great cowboy sayings, and seems pretty ordinary, until you get to see a bit of his private life. I also loved Drake's mom and her not always subtle attempts to get him and Luce together. I liked seeing more of Slater, Grace and Ryder, and how they are settling in to life together. Ryder has a couple of good scenes with Drake and Luce, too. I enjoyed the teasing that Mace inflicts on his brothers, and that they aren't slow about returning the favor. Though they bicker and snipe, they are always first in line to support each other. I also liked seeing Lettie get involved in their wild horse problem. She is a force to be reckoned with. I'm looking forward to reading Mace's story.

Aly says

Going for a ride on his horse, thinking about the calves that goes missing for a year now, Drake Carson meet a furious and wet from the rain woman. She angrily inform him that he just scared off the stallion she took so much time to track.

Lucinda "Luce" Hale was gathering information for her thesis about wild horses and how they interact with

ranch life, the impact it has on it. Blythe Carson is a friend to her mother, so she invited Luce to study at the ranch and stay with them for a while.

Drake is the rancher, so he's the one Luce have to interview and follow around to get the info and data she need. The cowboy is not happy about it. He first think about her as a nuisance, misjudge her for a worthless city woman, and he's probably annoyed to be aware of her and not indifferent to her presence. He'll soon realize he was wrong about her, because Luce is a strong woman who's not afraid to say what's on her mind, and she's not spoiled nor lazy. In fact, she's as hard-working as he is. I think the real reason he's not happy about her being here is because he recognized right from the start that it's gonna make his life change. Drake know who he is and what he wants, and he enjoy his life like it is. He may be bullheaded and less talkative than his brothers, but he's not without charm. You doesn't get more authentic than him, he's got a kind and generous soul and his commitment to animal rights is so sweet. You can feel his love for his ranch, his land, his critters. And how about the fact he named his dogs after his two favorite elementary school teachers. It's easy to understand why Luce will soon become more fascinated by the man than by the wild horse.

"You do realize that the reason you aren't married is because you may be the most exasperating person on earth?"

"I'm not married because I hadn't met you yet."

Luce and Drake will have to deal with matchmaking families and the danger the back cover talk about may not come in the form you expect.

I wished to see Luce doing more research, and her and Drake bicker a little more before falling in love. I think some people may find it hard to believe in Drake and Luce's relationship because it all happened so fast, but probably because I like the writing style and by now I'm used to the way the Carson men fall hard and there's no second guessing when it happen, it just make me smile :) And the honeymoon, rural style, was so cute :p

This series embody everything that I love in cowboy romance. Lovable heroines, hero with a big heart and a romantic soul, no drama or they're light, small town setting where everything know your business but you can always count on them when you need help.

I read a couple of books by this author before, but it's really this series that made me become a fan.

JoAnne says

Read my review on Romancing-the-Book.com by clicking on the link below:

<http://romancing-the-book.com/2016/10...>

Becky Burciaga says

In the style true to this author, this HEA western romance was delightfully with charming characters, witty banter and smart dialog which smoothly carries you from opening paragraph to the very last page.

Drake and Lucille (Luce) were heartwarmingly perfect for each other...his stoic, quiet strength complimented her outgoing calm intelligence perfectly. The surroundings in the story were described so perfectly, it was as if you could be standing right there experiencing the story as it unfolded. Simple descriptions were in such detail that I could almost feel an enormous wild stallion sniffing my hair from behind me.

I look forward to the next installment of the series, Mace's story, which should be a delightful read on par with the first two books.

This book was provided by the Publisher and Netgalley for my honest review.

Wendy'sThoughts says

3.5 It only Takes A Look Stars

*** * * 1/2**

Linda Lael Miller is the real deal...if you ever want to feel like you are living the reality of true Ranch Life...pick up one of her books. Me, I am a city gal who has had a little bit of experience with western riding... a little bit...Yet from all the times spent with those who handled horses, lived the life 24/7....all the words on the page by Miller rang true to me.

This is a second installment to The Carsons of Mustang Creek series. We have life as these men know it... one of the sons runs a winery, the other is involved in making documentaries....and then there is the middle son, Drake. He is stoic, focused and gets things done. He has loved the ranch from the start as a small child. Is fine working from dawn up to dusk...and does a damn fine job of it for the family. At 32, he is settled with his life and it is full with the beauty of Wyoming.

Honor has always loved the outdoors. It is where she has felt the most comfortable. She has kind of been the odd man out as she comes from a wealthy family with all of the perks. She did not inherit the shopping gene like her sister and she has taken a different path. Her degree is in ecology and she is now out on this ranch's land in the rain scoping out a herd of Wild Mustangs... she is standing quietly... observing them when a cowboy rides up and disturbs the whole thing.

Drake can't believe just what happened.... he had been hunting and looking for these wild mustangs for awhile now. It seems the powerful, randy Stallion has been taking mares from Drake's ranch and incorporating them into his herd. Now he has this trespassing, wet, angry woman yelling at him... when it is his land she is on without permission.

Forget that she has blazing eyes which dazzle.... or her feistiness made him want to smile.... Here it was pouring down hard and she was willing to continue to argue with him. Drake finally got out of her that his mother ok'd her being on the ranch and studying the mustangs. It seems she has a paper to do to get her doctorate.

La De Da.... oh and she wants to study him too....

This has Romance, Ranching and Realizing when two people are perfect for each other. If you love Western life and straight forward storytelling, then this series is for you.

A gifted copy was provided by Harlequin (US & Canada) via NetGalley for an honest review.

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Tricia Douglas says

Just a cute, quick romance to change the pace. I love Miller's writing - simple story, but great characters. Always a happy ending.

Robin Reynolds / October Woman says

I loved the first book in this series, ONCE A RANCHER, so when I came across this book at a library sale I snatched it up and started reading it almost as soon as I was back home.

Drake definitely appealed to me. Cowboy, cares about animals, stoic, stubborn. I liked Luce, but I understood completely why Drake was exasperated about her suddenly being on his ranch, interfering with his life. But I loved that when Luce wanted to wander around on her own, thinking she was immune to the every day dangers of ranch wilderness, Drake resigned himself, gritted his teeth and took time out of his day to be sure she was safe.

They both fell hard a little too fast, I would've liked the story drawn out a bit more so they could actually have time to get to know each other better before suddenly realizing they loved each other. But I loved the descriptions of the wild stallion and his herd, which included several mares stolen from Drake. And I loved how the tough cowboy was such a softie when it came to his dogs. As in the first book, the banter between Drake and his two brothers made me laugh, as did several other scenes.

Not quite as good as the first book, but still very enjoyable, and I look forward to the next two books in the series, both of which I've already ordered.

Review first posted on my blog.

Taylor Metcalfe says

I love a good cowboy romance. I can enjoy a modest love story.

But this book was very boring. Sweet story with some romantic scenes but overall there was absolutely no conflict. Nothing to really make it exciting to read.

I may or may not read the next book in the Carson brothers series depends on how well the blurb can snatch my attention.
