



Trespass

Meg Maguire

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"He opened his home. She stole his heart and his money. "

Many would envy veterinarian Russ Gray's life in rural Montana's wide-open spaces. Russ calls it lonely. In a country with more cattle than eligible females, he doesn't envision his seven years as a widower ending anytime soon. Until a mysterious woman lands at his door in the dead of night, riddled with buckshot.

Sarah Novak hates lying to such a kind, handsome man, but if an upstanding citizen like Russ finds out why she's been three weeks on the run, he'd surely turn her in. Yet she can't refuse his offer to let her stay until she heals, no questions asked.

From the start they fall into an easy companionship, then teasing flirtation flares into an unexpected intimate connection. But no matter how right it feels in his arms, guilt tugs at Sarah's heart. Russ doesn't deserve what she must do next.

When Russ wakes up with an empty bed and an empty wallet his first instinct isn't to call the cops it's to catch her and find out why his urge to protect her overshadows all reason. Because he's had a taste of real passion, and he's not letting it slip away without a fight. "

Trespass Details

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Author : Meg Maguire

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From Reader Review Trespass for online ebook

D says

*** OCTOBER 28, 2012 ***

low 4 stars.

meg maguire/cara mckenna really has an ear for dialogue and is one of those sadly rare authors who take the time to find authentic motivation for their characters. i may not always particularly *like* her protagonists' kinks or personalities, but she carefully and thoroughly maps them, creating satisfying reads that often are a real joy.

trespass is a rather straightforward romance -- no great kinks or crazy -- that is paced well and only has a very, very few moments where i wish the author had better massaged the material. the protagonists are not mere retreads of characters she's written before: they're whole and unique, and their interactions are not only compelling but believable.

definite win, cara. meg. mara magennit. whoever you are.

UPDATE: it occurs to me that her hero is one of the very few fully believable, gentle, beta men of integrity that i've encountered so far in romance.

*** UPDATE: OCTOBER 4, 2013 ***

since first reading this just about a year ago, this has proven itself to be probably my favorite mckenna/maguire long-form book. the protagonists' clash of characters and needs and humming chemistry (can chemistry hum?) make for a wonderfully satisfying read. quiet and of small scope, but immensely satisfying.

*** UPDATE: AUGUST 12, 2014 ***

i recently dinged mckenna for fumbling a plot in another title. but after rereading this one just now, i realize that, though incredibly character-focused, this had a perfectly respectable plot that she handled beautifully. it's just that here she put her time and effort into the small moments, which she excels at. and there is a FINE tradition of lady writers who excel at small, character-driven moments. (SEE: Austen, Jane) love you, cara.

Kristy says

HOLY SHITBALLS! I LOVED THIS BOOK SO MUCH THAT I HAVE TO TYPE IT IN ALL CAPS!!

-Review Coming Soon-

Stephanie says

This would have been a great full length book. A little more character development and then maybe a 5 star read. I like the concept and will be looking for more by this author.

Sans says

4.5 stars

Holly says

4 1/2 STARS

What a fantastic story, the moment I read The Reluctant Nude by this author she became an automatic buy for me!

Angela says

Again....LOVE this author! Great story!! I love the chemistry between Sarah & Russ! Even though they're story takes place in a short time span, their emotion & chemistry is unquestionable. From about middle to end, I couldn't put it down! Great read!!!

Lisa Kay says

★★★★½ stars! After I switched gears and realized it was an erotic novel, I loved it. Not your standard "hook-up" and nothing too kinky for me. Just lots of smoking words that burned up the screen on my computer. This one had an intriguing premise and a story with some punch when I least expected it. Favorite line:

She was the lump of chocolate and Russ was a warm radiator.

Man-oh-man! Juliana and Jill you've done it again. First time I've read anything by this author and it definitely won't be my last. I've heard The Reluctant Nude supposed to be even better.

Jen says

Sarah has been on the run for three weeks when she stumbles onto Russ' property in BFE Montana, hungry

and wounded. He invites her to stay for as long as she needs to and doesn't require any explanation for why she's in her current predicament. Sure, it seems a little stupid (okay, a lot), but the guy doesn't have a television or the internet. So there's the entertainment factor. Also, Russ has been celibate for 7 years (since his wife died) and he's immediately attracted to Sarah. Second, he's a vet so he has that whole nurturing thing going on. Third (or fourth? whatever), and most importantly, Russ is THE BEST.

Honestly it just worked for me. Even with the initial lies, the stealing, and the whirlwind romance thing (less than a week, for true?), I just believed. I went with it: "Yep, that's exactly what a person would do in your predicament!" I would justify. Maybe I was just so tired of reading about 6'3" thick-necked muscle men who growl their words that Russ in all of his beta glory left me dazed? It's possible. If you couldn't tell by now, I really dug Russ. He's just wonderful. He's sensitive without being emo, and he could be jealous and possessive, too, but oddly enough it didn't bother me.

Sarah, on Russ: *So handsome. Not movie-star handsome—the kind of looks that conked a girl over the head—but the sort that if a woman were attracted to the type of man Russ was, she couldn't help but melt. And he wasn't Sarah's type, even, but she melted all the same. She was a lump of chocolate and Russ was a warm radiator.*

I love how Sarah makes the first move with Russ, how she reaches out and takes what she wants. I mean, she shouldn't have taken his watch and his money ((view spoiler). That wasn't cool. Much like Russ, though, I was a big ole pushover when it came to Sarah.

"I'm gonna say something real stupid now," Russ announced, going perfectly still.

"Oh. Alright."

"I'm pretty sure I'm in love with you."

I hope they live happily ever after.

Mandi Schreiner says

After reading *The Reluctant Nude* earlier this year, I became very excited to try something else by Meg Maguire. *Trespass* didn't quite live up to my expectations, but it still offers quite a different story, which I've come to expect from Meg Maguire aka Cara McKenna.

Sarah is on the run. From Buffalo, New York you know she is running from something serious she was involved in, but as the reader you don't know exactly what. After hitchhiking west, she finds herself in Montana, hungry and injured. One hitchhiker put a knife to her throat. Another time she was shot with a buckshot after she trespassed on property. That is how she finds herself on a farm, hoping to bunk down in a barn. But before she can get there, dogs start charging at her, and she finds herself face to face with a man in boxers holding a gun.

Russ is a vet, and owns this farm that Sarah has wandered onto in the middle of the night. He sees her holding her side and invites her in to take a look at her injuries. After assessing that nothing is life threatening, he patches her up, offers her food and a shower. She refuses to tell him how she ended up hurt in his front yard. Russ has been widowed for seven years, and hasn't come across any type of woman like Sarah in all this time. Sarah comes from a bad neighborhood in Buffalo and the sight of a "cowboy" is new to her as well.

Even though Russ doesn't know what crime she committed, he lets her stay in his house. She offers to help out with farm and household chores for food and shelter. They quickly develop friendly banter, and find it very cozy to eat dinner by the fire at night. But Sarah soon feels the urge to flee again, but getting away from Russ is going to be harder than she thought.

I finished Trespass and stared at the Goodreads rating for awhile unable to decide what to rate it. And I think my confusion all comes down to Russ. He is more of a beta hero. Quiet, not really demanding, (although in bed – he knows what he wants.). Although his wife has been dead for seven years, and he has moved on, her ghost still weighs him down at times. At least I think she does – as this is part of the problem. How much is he actually affected by his dead wife? He is just plain lonely, so when Sarah shows up, he clings to her. At times, I felt he clings to her in a very desperate, almost creepy way. He has no idea what kind of criminal she is, but he just lets her into his house. Why? Why does he fall for her so hard? Is it just loneliness and a warm body? He really doesn't know anything about her so I struggled with his hard and fast feelings for her. I will admit in real life not believing in love at first sight. I don't think these two experience this, but I think Russ must have had deeper feelings for Sarah than what is shown.

What I did like, is that after a very short amount of time, Sarah gets nervous and tries to run off. Russ catches up to her quick. He is so hurt that she tried to leave. That she had given him a false name. Although they didn't have intercourse, they pretty much had sex before she ran off. Then the doubts start to form in Russ's mind- did she use me for sex? Is she not who he thought she was?

On Sarah's end – Russ is nice to her. He offers her protection and comfort. His lifestyle of living in very small, rural town is completely foreign to her. It offers her a chance to stop and catch her breath. She is definitely physically attracted to him, but his demeanor appeals to her as well. Deep down she is a good person, and her trying to run from him really has nothing to do with him. If anything, she wants to protect him from the possibility of helping a fugitive out. After she comes back to his house, I like how he has lost all trust in her. It takes awhile for their friendship to return. Again, I questioned why Russ wants her to stay with him. He gets so nervous at the thought of her leaving again, but getting past that, I like that their relationship is not an easy one.

But like I said, I like their new foundation for a relationship and then when the big reveal comes as to why she is running, that presents an entire new set of problems for them. I was very satisfied by the ending, although this book only takes place within about a span of a week.

So yes, I had a few problems, but I also like how different these characters are. Russ is not your typical hero – he is just an average dude and on the surface nothing super grand stands out about him, but Meg Maguire writes him so he is not boring. He really intrigued me although baffled me too. And Sarah has this secret, and comes from a hard life. I love how that part of her integrates into this new, calm, "easy" life on the farm with Russ.

Rating: B-

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

originally posted at <http://longandshortreviews.blogspot.com>...

On the run from a crime of self-defense, Sarah Novak arrives in the dead of night at Russ Gray's remote Montana property, riddled with buckshot and short on answers. Despite his misgivings, the kind, hunky vet treats her wounds and allows to let her stay until she heals. But will the attraction that flares between them be enough to allow trust to build? Russ hopes so, but when he awakens to find "Nicole" and his money gone, anger drives his emotions.

Sarah has been on the run from her home in Buffalo for three weeks—a harrowing time when she's hitchhiked, been threatened at knifepoint and shot at by a rancher. Exhausted, she arrives on veterinarian Russ Gray's doorstep in need of medical attention, rest and food. Using the assumed name Nicole, Sarah isn't about to give out many answers. Nevertheless, the lonely widower takes her in and provides the assistance she needs.

Over the course of a few days, they share a sort of camaraderie, and later an attraction that moves into full-blown lust. Russ wants answers but won't push her, and "Nicole" hates lying to this good man, but she has to save herself. After three days of passionate lovemaking initiated by "Nicole", she steals away with a gold watch and some money.

Ms. Maguire has crafted a strong story with truly likable characters, and she has a knack for plumbing the depths of their souls. I'm not a fan of gratuitous sex, but the sex scenes in *Trespass* were appropriate to the characters and the story, and if you like them spicy, then this is the book for you!

Russ has been a widower seven years, and he's lonely but never expected to find a woman in the remote Montana ranch country. He's locked in the past, living in a seventies house with now prospects for a future other than treating farm animals in the community. Enter Sarah, a big city girl, and almost his exact opposite. Yet the attraction between them sizzles, and Sarah, who has escaped from a bad environment and a bad childhood, recognizes the decency in Russ. She wants to stay for as long as he will have her.

I felt both Sarah's and Russ' motivations were in keeping with their characters. Ms. Maguire did an excellent job of reeling me in and keeping me interested in the outcome.

Trespass is beautifully written, a powerful drama that will stay with you. I won't reveal the ending, but be ready to shed some happy tears.

Judi says

3.5 Stars

I wasn't sure what to expect when starting *Trespass*, but I've enjoyed all of Meg Maguire (Cara McKenna's) books that I've read in the past so *Trespass* was an auto-buy for me. I will admit to being intrigued in

Nicole/Sarah's story right from the start. Why was she on the run, injured, so far away from home with no clothes, little money and basically at the end of her rope when she landed on country vet Russ's doorstep? I needed to know and I was fully prepared to feel empathy for whatever she had gone through to cause her all this grief and forgive her whatever she planned on doing to Russ. It must have been epic. Well not so much. Her reasons for being on the run were flimsy (at least in my opinion) at best. Certainly not reason enough for someone to uproot their entire life and go on the run.

Poor Russ. A widower, on his own for the past seven years with only his animals for company. He's such a good guy and all together too trusting. He was practically smitten with the female trespassing on his property in the middle of the night with him dressed in his boxers and pointing a loaded gun at her. I'm still not sure how Nicole/Sarah ended up on Russ's property since he lived in the middle of nowhere.

I guess I could kind of understand Russ's fascination with Nicole since she's practically the only female he's been in close contact with since his wife died. "Little Russ" sure took notice in a hurray and Russ just seemed to accept Nicole taking up residence in his home and life no questions asked. Well at least he never pushed her to find out what her real deal was. Until she betrayed him, but even then it didn't take him long to forgive her for trying to take advantage of his good nature and forgiving heart.

Maguire is great at telling an emotional story with only two people as the centerpiece with not a lot of outside distractions.

Trespass was an ok read, I just wish the reasons why Nicole/Sarah had been on the run had been more believable for me.

Christina says

Another "sex on paper." AWESOME almost sex, and then BAM they finally get to, well, penetration. I know that sounds clinical, but it's part of the story. I thought the dialogue was superb for being an erotic story. I wish there would have been an epilogue or a part two or something, though.

-y.a says

There were two issues that kind of triggered my dislike of the story line and I couldn't bring myself to root for this couple.

1. Insta-love: The hero fell half in love with the heroine in two days. Not to mention she stole his money and drugged his dogs.
2. His wife died years ago, but he still kept her belongings untouched in one of his bedrooms. Then he let this woman whom he just met in such a short time clean out the room. This is something I can't comprehend. Sorry.

The story in here just didn't work for me. Still, I like the author's style of writing and may try her books again.

Ridley says

I think this book is a "put up, or shut up" for anyone who's called for flawed characters, physical imperfection or morally ambiguous heroines. It defies a whole host of genre conventions in a way I found refreshing, but anyone looking for a placeholder heroine to indulge in female fantasy would be completely put off. It's not a perfect book, but Maguire is taking romance somewhere new with her books, and I'm totally on board with this.

After a driver held a knife to her throat and a territorial property owner sprayed her with buckshot, being frozen on a rural driveway by two protective German Shepherds is hardly the worst thing that's happened to Sarah Novak. Clutching her bloody side and tired from running from the law for the past two weeks, she's at the mercy of a shotgun-wielding man standing before her in his boxers at one in the morning. Luckily for her, Russ Grey is a veterinarian willing to pick the buckshot out of her side and give her a place to stay, no questions asked. Unluckily for him, she plans to leave just as soon as she can, with whatever cash she can find in his house.

Widowed seven long years ago, Russ is a lonely, kind man. So eager for company and starved for excitement, he can't resist the urge to let this mysterious woman stay with him. She reacquaints him with things he thought he buried with his wife--easy companionship, shared work around his property and simple sexual desire. When she surprises him one night by preempting him and making the first move, he thinks he's hit the lottery. When the woman he thinks he's falling for drugs his dogs and runs off with his money, his anger is intensified by his hurt.

So, like I've said, this is an object lesson in realistic heroes and heroines. The characters look and act like normal people, fucking up and making bad decisions along the way. This premise isn't groundbreaking in of itself, but the heroine actually following through? Amazing. And when you think of it, her behavior makes a hell of a lot of sense. The hero's doing the conventional romance thing in unquestionably helping a pretty woman and falling for her, but who the hell would do that in real life? Now, a fugitive putting herself first and seizing every advantage, that's more like it.

If you've ever wanted imperfect characters behaving believably, this book has them. Like real life, it isn't always pretty. They don't follow the rules. Russ isn't an alpha or a beta, or gamma, or any of those. He's Russ. He's nice, but not a pushover, handsome, but with a little paunch, lonely, a little desperate, but far from pathetic. Sarah's selfish, but regrets hurting people, afraid, but gutsy, pretty, but hates how scrawny she is. They are average people with an even mix of awesome and bonehead. Along the way they make idiot decisions I'd never make, but they're screw ups they come by honestly. Since these decisions are rooted in their personalities they ring true, rather than come across as cheap plot vehicles.

Unlike most romances, this isn't really a journey so much as a snapshot. Much of the emotional turmoil centers on her fugitive status. It was a great story of trust gained, lost and regained and of two wildly different people discovering in each other all sorts of things they didn't know they wanted. Buffalo native Sarah, raised by a drug-addicted single mother and living her whole life in a hard neighborhood, is enthralled with Russ' seemingly endless goodness. Good, kind, straitlaced Russ is drawn to the lawless, exotic, ballsy Sarah. It's a look at a couple going through it's most tumultuous, emotional period rather than a chronicling of the evolution of a romance and the growth of its protagonists. I think that's the best way to describe it, anyway.

While I enjoyed the story, and found it more consistent in pace and plotting than The Reluctant Nude, it wasn't quite as emotional a story as I expect from this author. I think I wanted a little bit more time with them and a few more insights into who they were. As much as they were unique characters, they didn't really stick with me the way her characters usually do. The external conflict of her fugitive status overwhelmed the characters a bit more than I liked. And, frankly, her reason for running wasn't quite water-tight: (view spoiler)

In the end, this was a different sort of romance, and I liked that about it. This author has a lot of potential, I think, and once she nails a balance of prose, voice, emotion and plot, that book's gonna be amazing. She's my new auto-buy author, I think.

Lisarenee says

In the middle of the night, Russ Gray finds an injured woman wandering outside his home. In an attempt to help her, he invites her in so he can treat her gun shot wounds. Being a vet he knows a little something about treating injuries. Russ realizes right away she's probably in some sort of trouble, but offers her food and shelter while she recuperates. When she steals away in the middle of the night several days later, she takes more than just his money, she takes a piece of his heart.

I was three chapters in when I first realized this was an erotic romance. This one was a member's choice book of the month in my Goodreads group, Nothing but Reading Challenges. There are a few erotic romance authors whose books I'll read, but I am usually hesitant about reading books labeled erotic. I kind of see erotic romances like (and yes I'm totally stealing this analogy from Forrest Gump) a box of chocolates. When you pick one up you never know what you're going to get. That said, I was pleasantly surprised that this was one I liked. For an erotic romance to work for me, it needs to have a decent story line, be well written, and have nothing I'd categorize as kinky or shocking between the two main characters.

Now, *blush* I'm not a big fan of self pleasuring (to term it kindly) in a romance and you will probably **NEVER** hear this from me again, but the author did a brilliant job with the scene. Both characters simultaneously have their "moment" and the scene takes on more a phone sex air less the humor. It made it easier to focus on their feelings for one another rather than what they were doing. *end of blushing*

The author used a lot of symbolism throughout the book which is something I love. There is a discussion of putting together a jig-saw puzzle which I felt perfectly symbolized the developing relationship between Russ and Sarah. They talk of assembling a puzzle without knowing what the image on the pieces look like, basically putting one together when it's pieces have been spray painted black. You don't get a clear view of what the individual pieces looks like or what the final picture on the puzzle will be. In a way, that's what happening with Russ and Sarah - their building a relationship without knowing much about each others background or what the relationship will be when they're complete. While such a task may take more time and be more difficult cultivating/piecing together, it is ultimately more satisfying. Also, Russ' wife's wedding dress seemed to represent Russ' feelings for his wife who died. When Sarah took it out of the closet, aired it out, and suggested he give it to his sister-in-law, I felt it symbolized what he was doing with his feelings for his former wife. In a way, he was airing out his feelings, letting go of the past, and moving on like the dress.

I admit I didn't like Sarah and Russ as much to begin with as I did towards the end of the book. Initially, Russ seemed a bit too needy. In fact, I asked in our Goodreads discussion if the roles were reversed and Sarah acted like Russ would the male character be turned off by her actions? We all agreed he would.

Eventually, however, Russ seemed to come up to snuff and let his inner alpha out. Sarah was hard to read at first and it wasn't until later that I really got to know her and find out what happened. I originally felt she was a bit cold, and while some of the initial things she did were not totally forgivable, they were understandable.

On the Lisarenee Romance Rating Scale, this one gets a SHOWER rating - a cold shower may be necessary after reading this book. Need I say more? I believe some books should come with a warning - make sure your significant other is handy or your shower is in working order. Overall, I gave this one 4 out of 5 roses.

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