



The Rancher's Christmas Song

RaeAnne Thayne

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Keep a song in your heart this holiday season...

Music teacher Ella Baker's plate is already full. But when single dad Beckett McKinley's wild twin boys need help preparing a Christmas song for their father, Ella agrees on one condition: they teach her to ride a horse. She's hoping that'll help mend her strained relationship with her rancher father; it certainly has nothing to do with the crush that's lingered since her one and only date with Beck.

It isn't disinterest spurring Beck to keep his distance—if anything, the spark is too strong, with Ella reminding him of his ex-wife. Soon what started as an innocent arrangement is beginning to feel a lot like family. But with the holidays approaching, Beck and Ella will have to overcome past hurts if they want to keep each other warm this Christmas...

The Rancher's Christmas Song Details

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From Reader Review The Rancher's Christmas Song for online ebook

Jacob Proffitt says

This is 16th(!) in the Cold Creek series, but it's the first of a new "set" so a decent place to start. You can see other happy couples and hints of past events, but they aren't important or intrusive, I don't think. As a bonus, this isn't obvious about being a new "set". You get a hint of Beck's brothers, but you don't see much of them and they don't seem to be setup as romantic interests in any way. Yet. I have no doubt it's coming as that's Thayne's pattern (and that isn't a bad thing) but it isn't at all obvious, is all I'm saying.

This was a pretty good romance, when all is told (though pretty short). Beck and Ella work as a couple and I found them engaging together. I particularly liked Ella's story and why she's so interested in overcoming her fear of horses and how much she loves the community and country of her forefathers. And I particularly loved how well Thayne incorporated her love of music, making her a great blend of cowboy and high culture in a way that felt harmonious and remarkably devoid of the internal conflict everybody expects (particularly her father).

Beck was a tougher sell, though he's all kinds of appealing as well. I love the competent guy who is kind and protective and so very devoted to his boys. I loved his care for his neighbors almost as much so it seems like I should have been more engaged with him than I was. Most of that is because he spent most of the story fighting his attraction for Ella for reasons that I have a hard time taking seriously. Yeah, there are some surface similarities with his late, unhappy wife, but it takes him forever to realize how very superficial those similarities are. I'm sorry, but I have a hard time taking seriously a man making such a bad misjudgment of someone he sees relatively frequently. Worse, he hangs onto those poor assumptions in the face of getting to know her better. So it takes some extraordinary circumstances to snap him out of it and I had a hard time respecting that.

His boys, on the other hand, were outstanding. I loved their energy and their plans and their cheer. Their deal with Ella stole my heart early and I never got it back. I cried when they gave their father their Christmas present. Man that was awesome.

So a good story and some outstanding characters make this a solid four-star read. I don't usually go so high when the main guy doesn't connect right, but those boys.... (the epilogue almost had me break it back lower as it was just so stereotypical. But I decided it didn't happen, so we're good)

A note about Chaste: There are a few kisses and an outstanding snuggle, but that's it. Thayne is extremely good at telling love-stories without the sex and without being awkward about it. I love that about her writing. She makes it look so effortless.

Ami says

RaeAnne Thayne returns to Pine Gulch for the story of Ella Baker -- whom we met in the previous book, The Holiday Gift when she was being set up with Chase by Faith. This time Ella gets her own man, in form of a rancher, Beckett McKinley.

I LOVED Ella's grit (Beck calls it right). She loves her father's ranch, considers it her legacy, and while her father seems to dismiss her outright to be the one taking care of the ranch, she never gives up. She also wrangles the "terrible terror" twins quite well. PLUS Ella fights her fear for horses -- she meets challenges right on. I can totally see why Beck falls for her. I would too.

Beck is a fine man -- but this is the kind of romance where I admire the heroine more than paying attention to the hero.

The romance, typical Thayne, is sweet.

Sherry Bohrmueller says

This book has to be on your list to read for Christmas. A very nice story that will have you chuckling at the adorable twin boys. (Who by the way made the whole book that much more entertaining). The story of Ella and Beck was complicated by Ella having to take care of her dad. But what a lovely romantic ending. I loved how characters from the other books were included in the story also. Definitely a must read for fans of RaeAnne Thayne.

Christine~justlovemybooks.com blog~ says

5 Stars to *The Rancher's Christmas Song* by RaeAnne Thayne.

I loved this book so much! Each and every book I have read by this author has left me with a lighthearted feeling. Her books are so sweet and the characters are very well developed. In this book, as with most of this series, there are a whole cast of lovable, quirky, and caring secondary characters. A big shout out to Colter and Trever McKinley, the most adorable seven-year-old twins! In addition, there is just enough, but not too much, angst to give the story some complexity.

Beck and Ella.....

Ella moved to Idaho to care for her ailing father. Unfortunately, Ella's parents were separated and then later divorced during her childhood. Her mom lived in Boston and that was where Ella primarily grew up. But part of her heart was in Idaho with her father. Ella loved visiting her dad for long summers. She especially loved riding horses on his ranch. But unfortunately, something happens that causes a huge divide between her and her father. Now years later, Ella is determined to show her dad she is a strong, capable woman. Not the delicate, fragile, eastern city girl he thinks she is.

Beck runs and lives on the neighboring ranch. He has a bond with Ella's father that stirs a bit of jealousy in Ella. And maybe even a bit of resentment too.

Ella and Beck are attracted to each other from the start but neither knows the other is attracted. In fact, they are both under the impression that neither like each other.

When Ella begins to spend time with Beck's twin boys, there is a whole lot of enlightenment going on. Not

to mention a whole lot of adorable! Beck and Ella were slow to get together but I will say there was great tension between them and I was more than ok with their pace. I could feel their chemistry crackling on the pages as I read. I knew it was only a matter of time before Beck stopped being stubborn. I don't want to give any details away of this lovely Christmas story. I can say that as always, I look forward to the next book in this series. And there are a lot, this book being 16 of **The Cowboys of Cold Creek series**.

While this is a fairly clean story, there were a few poignant steamy moments. Beck and Ella made the perfect couple.

If you're in the mood for a sweet and satisfying Christmas romance, I recommend this author. She has several wonderful Christmas novels available.

This is my honest and unbiased review. Thank you for taking time to read it.

Terri Wino says

A heart-warming story that's a perfect length for a holiday read. Christmas time, a plucky heroine, and a handsome cowboy. What more could a gal ask for?

♥Rachel♥ says

Music teacher Ella Baker may have been a Boston city girl, but her heart never left the family ranch in Idaho. When her father becomes too sick to manage on his own, Ella comes back home to help, and cherish time with her father. A strained past between them sometimes makes it hard, but Ella hopes to convince her father she's tough and capable, eager to meet the challenges of ranching life. In the meantime, Ella has her hands full as the town's music teacher, organizing the holiday program, and volunteering at the senior center. Another distraction is Beckett McKinley, the rancher next door, and father of two energetic, but sweet, twins. Twin boys who happen to be in her music class. Beck is a heap of confusion. On one hand she's a little jealous of the admiration and closeness shared between her father and Beck, and on the other she can't help the sparks of attraction she feels anytime he gets close. Doesn't matter though, because Beck treats Ella with nothing but cold indifference.

Indifference is not the problem Beck has with Ella. He struggles with overwhelming attraction every time she's near. Beck's under the impression that Ella is a city girl just like his ex-wife who couldn't stand ranch life, leaving him and their (toddler!) twin boys to fend for themselves. Beck doesn't want a repeat of that mistake. But, when his boys offer riding lessons to Ella there's no way to avoid her, and he finds their time together changing his initial impressions. He knew she was smart, and beautiful, but discovering her sweet, and brave side makes him wonder if Ella just might be his dream girl after all.

The Rancher's Christmas Song was a heartwarming delight! Ella and Beck's back story was sad and touching, showing the great strength each had to have to overcome the past. As they get to know each other, the powerful attraction they've felt for each other blossoms into something deeper, and far more irresistible!

Oh, there's a bit of angst in this one! Not too much, mind you, I'd hate that! Just a little bit to make the longing palpable, and real! To make Beck and Ella's giving in so much sweeter!

RaeAnne Thayne is a new to me writer, and I'm catching onto her appeal! **The Rancher's Christmas Song** was a heated romance filled with touching family moments that brought a tear or two to my eyes!

A copy was kindly provided by Harlequin via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Carrie Sprys says

Music teacher, Ella Baker, has moved to her father's Idaho ranch to help out after his diagnoses of Parkinson's disease. She takes a job as the local school's music teacher and is in charge of the Christmas programs. When twin boys in her class request her help to prepare a special Christmas song for her father as a gift, she agrees in exchange for riding lessons. A childhood horseback riding accident left her terrified of horses, but when the twins' father offers to help with her riding skills, she develops a new feelings related to the ruggedly handsome Beckett McKinley. As sparks begin to fly, several complications arise, such as Ella's similarities to Beckett's first wife and the issue of Ella's father selling the family ranch to Beckett. This in turn creates enough heat and tension to makes this a warm and cozy holiday read as Ella and Beckett, along with obvious prodding from the twin boys, seek to combine their hearts, lives and ranches just in time for Christmas.

This sixteenth book in the Cowboy's of Cold Creek series is just as warm and inviting as the previous fifteen. Author RaeAnne Thayne has a gift for bringing to life everyday characters who learn the meaning of the holidays as well as the love of family. Her holiday books always meet and exceed my expectations and I enjoy reading and recommending her work.

Didi says

Reviewed for Night Owl Reviews.

RaeAnne Thayne brings the holiday early with "The Rancher's Christmas Song". Music teacher Ella Baker helps her neighbor rancher Becket McKinley's twin sons prepare a surprise performance for their father in this installment to the "Cowboys of Cold Creek" series. It's another heartwarming tale of courage, healing, and second chance, in a blend of intense and lively sequences.

What I like from Ms. Thayne's books are the strong female characters, just like what we have in this book. Ella's relationship with her father has not been the same since the accident she had when she was little. She manages to chip away not only her father's defenses, but also Beck's, and proves that she is not a fragile city girl that don't belong in Pine Gulch, Idaho. And it is done in not an overly dramatic way; Ella's handling of any (difficult) situations felt natural.

Sure, it helps to have two adorable cute twins in the story that will melt your heart with their shenanigans. Not to mention their father, the strong and loyal rancher who's always flustered whenever they're in close proximity. His personal baggage built Beck's false impression of Ella, but I love that it doesn't take him too long to have a change of heart.

As I come to recognize - and really appreciate - of RaeAnne Thayne's works is the sweet and subtle romance between the characters. The alternate POVs between Beck and Ella help to bridge the transition of their association from nearly stranger that develop into more. But more than their romance, "The Rancher's Christmas Song" also unfolds familial love between father and daughter and father and sons. In a crazy world we live in today, this sort of story serves as a balm to my weary soul.

Debbie Oxier says

This was a quick holiday read and very enjoyable. Music teacher Ella Baker, had her hands full with twins, Trevor and Colter McKinley, in her class. It didn't help that she was attracted to their dad, Beckett, a successful rancher who just happened to be single and available. Ella had returned to her father's ranch to help him since Curt had been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. She was hoping to learn everything she could about the day to day operation of the ranch so she could one day be a co-manager with her father. In order to do so, however, she was going to have to overcome her almost crippling fear of horses. She'd had a bad accident on a horse when she was younger and had spent weeks in the hospital recovering from her injuries. This leads her to make a deal with the twins. In exchange for helping her learn to ride again, she would help them rehearse for a very special song they wanted to sing to their father during the annual Christmas program. Of course Beckett gets involved in Ella's riding lessons which means them spending time together, and their mutual attraction grows.

I liked the characters. They were both the kind of people you could easily relate to. Because Beckett's first wife had suffered from depression and ended up leaving Beck and the boy's and later dying of an accidental drug overdose, Beckett was reluctant to get involved with Ella. He was convinced she was just another city girl like his first wife. Ella, on the other hand, proved him wrong. She was tough, determined, and willing to do whatever it took to run her father's ranch. She adored Beck's boys and was more than willing to develop a relationship with the handsome rancher. The path to love isn't always easy and the two of them had a few obstacles to overcome but ultimately they made it to their happily ever after. A nice read.

Gail says

Love the cover of the book!

A heartwarming Christmas story that will melt your heart!

Amazing characters that all work so well together that they draw you into the story. Have a box of kleenex handy.

I loved every minute of the story and really hated to see it end!

A must read for the Christmas season!

Jane says

Sweet feel-good holiday romance. Always great to revisit the Cowboys of Cold Creek. If you are a RaeAnne

Thayne fan you will not be disappointed.

Marsha says

Ella Baker comes back to Pine Gulch, after living many years with her Mom and Step-Dad in the city. Her Father has Parkinson's disease so Ella comes back to help care for him. As a music teacher she is in charge of the Christmas show as a major fundraiser for the school's music programs. In doing so she deals with a set of 7 year old rambunctious twins, whose Dad is raising them alone since their Mother left them when they were about 2 years old. Ella makes a deal with the boys to help them learn and perform a song at the Christmas show, a favorite of their Dad's, as a gift to him. In return she overcomes her fear of horses due to an accident she had when she was about their age, by them teaching her to ride again. Beckett, the twins' Dad, helps with the lessons also and the two feel an attraction for each other. A feel good Christmas story you don't want to miss. RaeAnne Thayne develops the characters in such a way that the reader will feel them come alive through the pages.

Books and Spoons says

Adorable and heartwarming holiday romance story that captivated my mind and heart.

The twins with their horses and puppies certainly were a delightful addition to the story, their love towards their father was palpable and desire to please him with the Christmas gift so lovely.

Ella Baker is a strong female lead. I liked her strength, patience, and aim to go after what she wants. She has had a tough childhood, her relationship with her father is turbulent, yet she has clear goals in life and is willing to work towards them when needed.

Beckett McKinley is a family oriented man, his love for his twins is the driving force in his life. He has big heart, caring nature, he is generous and kind. But what he doesn't want is to fail in a relationship again, so acting upon his attraction towards Ella Baker is completely out of question.

Ella's father has a Parkinson's disease and needs constant care and help. Ella's struggle to accept her father's new challenges came close to my heart. I found that part of the story oddly comforting and consoling, my personal feelings and struggles coming into the play.

Beckett and Ella, as well as the twins, they all have challenges they are facing this holiday season. And while working on their fears, overcoming obstacles, and learning new skills they get to know each other in a new way. They find their hearts and minds are in tune, and there are new feelings taking root in their souls, feelings they cannot ignore for long. The attraction growing between Beckett and Ella is flaming, palpable force yet the story is sweet in nature leaving the passion to the reader's imagination.

With snow storms, ranch life, lots of Christmas caroling, cute kids, and alluring romance the story has all the ingredients that touch the emotions, and make you smile, sigh, and long for the season to start.

~ Four Spoons with a teaspoon on the side

Dana Wright says

The Ranchers Christmas Song

I love Christmas stories. RaeAnne Thayne is charming as ever in this story. The descriptions of the ranch are amazing makes you feel like you were riding the horse right along with her. A very romantic love story. I

missed my dad while reading this story as he passed away this year. Will be the first Christmas without my dad. All in all I felt like I was living the story along with the characters. I felt very much in the Christmas spirit.

Elaine Ford scott says

This is a "don't miss" Christmas Story by the talented New York Times Best Selling Author, RaeAnne Thayne! THE RANCHER'S CHRISTMAS SONG fills the reader with the love and joy brought by the magic of the Christmas season.

Be sure to read THE RANCHER'S CHRISTMAS SONG to find out how a near tragedy when returning from The Christmas Ranch during a blizzard, turned out to be a Christmas miracle and blessing.
