



Coyote Sky

Gerri Hill

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Kate Winters, author of the popular mystery series *The Masters*, finds herself in a bit of a predicament—she doesn't seem to be able to write any longer. So when her old friend and wealthy widow Brenda invites Kate to spend the summer in Coyote, New Mexico, Kate decides that a summer in Coyote might be just what she needs to clear her writer's block.

Leaving behind the Dallas heat—and her girlfriend Robin—Kate retreats to the high mountain desert and soon finds herself surrounded by Brenda's eccentric friends and artists. But it's the local sheriff, Lee Foxx, who soon grabs her attention. It doesn't take long for Kate to discover that Lee has a penchant for dating the young tourists that flock to the river canyon each summer—and that Lee has no intention of ever settling down.

Then an unexpected visit by Kate's girlfriend sends everyone scrambling. Torn between safety and desire, Kate has no idea which way to turn. And as for Lee—she can't quite believe that she's actually fallen in love... for the very first time in her life.

Coyote Sky Details

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From Reader Review Coyote Sky for online ebook

Alealea says

Trauma, trauma, trauma. Double, Triple argh.

Miserable story without true depths are not fun and there are not interesting.

And there are sad.

P. Industry says

Alas, this book was a disappointment.

Kate Winters is a hack mystery writer suffering from writers block; Lee Foxx is the womanising local Sheriff in the two-bit town of Coyote. Kate heads up that way for a change of pace and to perhaps find her creativity again, but instead she finds Lee. The two ladies first loathe and then lust after the other in approved fashion. Once the scene is set, thereafter the book is filled mostly with angsting over the ways in which they have nothing in common and about the fact Kate is already in a relationship.

Perhaps I am not the target audience; to be sure I much prefer Hill's cop mysteries to pure romance. And the cop stories are excellent - those are the books where Hill has real tension to push the plot forward, and the challenges thrown up from that show the reader the characters in all their flawed glory. The action and adventure of those books pull readers through the stories, and it's fun.

Hill's pure romances, on the other hand (among which is Coyote Sky) are "character driven"... if that means ridiculously strained and painfully manufactured drama within a situation that actually contains no inherent potential for said drama. The plot of Coyote Sky is so flat that each of the characters must be given not traits but lifestyle choices - like vegetarianism, womanising, etc - as a kind of substitute for any actual depth. I suspect we are supposed to infer from these lifestyle choices broader things about their values, which I promptly failed to do. So we're both lazy then.

Kate, who is the main character, I wanted to punch in the face. At first I had sympathy for many of her more abrasive moments - after all, Hill mentions, Kate has just quit smoking and so a little grump might be expected. But after three-quarters of a fair-sized book, I had suffered her quite enough and lapsed into outright loathing. Kate is aggressively bitchy to pretty much everyone, she mocks Lee's womanising and then *cheats on her own girlfriend multiple times*, and she generally takes her 'holier than thou' attitude to bold new heights of poor taste. And I am supposed to barrack for this character?

At least Lee was cute and honest about her intentions. Apart from inexplicably falling in love with a huge tosser, the banality of being the local sheriff was actually pretty fun to read about.

Which reminds me; the secondary characters. I also wanted to punch them in the face. I think Hill was going for quirky and in touch with the spirits. She hit Madame Trelawney annoying crack-pot instead. The mystic bullshit maxed out my scale early on and the three ladies in the supporting cast never manifested enough pragmatism or common sense to drag that back down. That, and their constant pronouncements that Lee and Kate were destined for each other made me want to claw out my own eyes.

Speaking of Sunshine and Moonbeam (or whatever their names were), they get massive points for having their hearts in the right place. This does not, however, excuse Hill's decision to have said Moonshine and Sunbright call the remainder of the cast by totally different names to their given ones. This was a terrible editorial decision. Seriously, the characters were bland enough as it was without a whole set of characters confusing the issue.

The plot is so papery thin I could have used it as an old-fashioned window. Essentially, Kate cheats on her SO while on holiday. Somehow the reader should forgive this because actually Kate doesn't love her SO.

WTF seriously?

One of the more outrageous bits of sophistry in the whole book is at the end, where we the reader are supposed to let Kate off the hook for this cheating because actually it's the SO's fault; she "never realised that they were exclusive and had also been dating around". Wait; we're supposed to believe that they lived together for 2 years and never talked about that? That Kate never noticed her partner screwing around, esp if said partner believed the relationship was open? What codswallop.

Laying that particular piece of bullshit aside, it STILL doesn't excuse the fact that Kate fully believed she was cheating on her long-term SO when she had all the sex. Yet Kate has the gall to be *outraged* when her SO tells her she believed the relationship is open, because Kate thought they were exclusive. This made me want to throttle her; she can ignore her own amazing athletic cheating (which is somehow okay because Kate's in luuuuuuv), while being angry that her SO is doing the same. I believe Hill threw this point in there to let Kate off the moral hook, but if so, it fails epically; in fact it just makes Kate more repulsive. As far as I am concerned, if it oinks like a pig and smells like a pig, it's definitely a pig

So in conclusion then, Coyote Sky is complete drivel. Don't waste your time. **Go read Hunter's Way! Hill deserves your money there.**

M says

Excellent formula romance.

While the plot is obvious from the start it never becomes boring as the main characters negotiate their way to the conclusion that everyone wants but they are unwilling to recognize.

The quality of the writing shines through and the descriptions of the setting really place the reader right amongst the mountains.

Definite re-read.

Celina says

Lee, my woman! Starlight and Sunshine hahahaha!!

Gaelle Cathy says

Once again another great read by Gerri Hill. I was hooked from the beginning. And what a wonderful scenery. I could picture them dancing under a red moon and to the sound of the coyotes. Loved it!

M.E. Tudor says

I just re-read this book for like the sixth time. It's one of my go to books when I just want a feel good love story read. Plus the descriptions of New Mexico make me want to go back there and visit again.

Mirtha Siblesz says

Very sweet book

Liked the sweet love story! The scenery was spectacular. I live in Santa Fe so I'm very biased to the way you described everything. Job well done!

Linda says

I always enjoy Gerri Hill's stories, both the romance and the crime/mystery. This story was was a warm and captivating romance filled with unusual personalities. The primary characters were interesting and well written. I especially liked the descriptions of New Mexico. Makes me want to go visit right away.

I would recommend this to anyone looking for a light romance to help pass away a lazy afternoon.

Betty BoomBa says

A nice easy read. Engaging enough, standard romance, the usual, nothing complex or too taxing. Read it whilst waiting for a train, plane, or whatever.

Characters are fine. Kate comes across as a wee bit uncertain, like a damp dishcloth. The sheriff is the player who can't grow up or say no. But for some reason falls in love with the dishcloth, I mean the other person, the writer person. Meh.

The strange group of artists sounded fascinating, in a weird I-can't-believe-these-are-real kind of way. Still, I would love to meet them even if they are away with the faeries. As is the secondary character Brenda. Very sweet, perhaps too sweet.

Megzz says

This is one of Gerri Hill's most uninspired and boring pieces of work.

Her novels are never that original and they always follow the typical lesbian romance formula, but even so, they usually are quite delightful to read. In *Coyote Sky*, the chemistry is there. But not much else.

Not only is there close to no plot at all, the story is also slow and repetitive. Kate is not at all likeable, she's stuck up, cynical, clueless and stubborn. Her and Lee go round in circles with endless bickering about the same things overrrr and over again. Seriously, I actually thought there had been problems with the editing the dialogues were always so similar.

But what shocked me the most in this story was how heteronormative it was. Gerri Hill gives the idea that butch only goes with femme. For real, at one point the sheriff actually tells Kate "you don't go well with Robin. She's too feminine for you. Who fixes stuff?". Does she also think that "a kid needs a mother AND a father?". Anyway....

Add to that the fact that Lee's playthings have names like Trudy, Brandy, Missy, that the weird hippie women (yeah, what the fuck with that, Gerri?) call themselves Starlight and Harmony and Sunshine, that butch women are called Jordan or Shane, and you have yourself the perfect picture of a really stereotypical 2-dimensional lesbian world.

This one should definitely not be at the top of your to-read list.

Julia_reads says

Really sweet, but too short. But maybe that's me.

Melissa Nestor says

This was a really quick read and only took me 2 days to finish. This is the second book I have read by Gerri Hill and I loved it just as much as the first. Very easy to read with a setting that makes you want to be there along side the characters. This reminded me a lot of the first Gerri Hill book I read which was *Snow Falls*.

Melinda says

I liked this story and I disliked this story. I really enjoyed that the characters were somewhat older. I definitely enjoyed the astrology, meditating, crystal loving community of lesbians in this little area of New Mexico. I liked that the main character, Kate, is a writer with issues. Everyone in this story has issues but the issues aren't overwhelming.

I didn't like that Lee seems to be Shane from the *L-Word* in disguise. It is not Hill's fault that I don't like this character. I can't figure out if this type of character is an issue for me because of the *L-Word* or if it is the actual character type that is the issue. I just think that so many lesbians are not that character. Lee has a good heart but it's buried under all of the sex she is having with young women instead of dealing with her issues.

Oh but Kate is not off the hook because she has hangups around fidelity and promiscuity which are obviously about her and not Lee.

A lot of the conflict of the story is based on Kate's assumptions about Lee and her inability to nip the attraction in the bud even though Lee is everything Kate never wanted. Lee on the other hand feels the same about Kate but she doesn't want to be with her because Kate is a forever type of woman and Lee doesn't do forever.

All in all, I liked the book. I would read it again. I liked the characterization of the town and the lesbian community. I also really liked Kate's friend Brenda. She seemed to be the only reasonable character in the book.

Angel says

Another beautiful story!

This definitely deserves more than five stars but that's all Amazon allows! I fell hard for Lee Foxx, at this moment I wish I was Kate! Gerri Hill certainly knows how to blend romance with the great outdoors. The scenery was so well described I felt as though I was actually there seeing the hills and that big Coyote moon.

Jeanette says

this is definitely my favorite of gerris hill's books. i wish the rest of her books were more like this and gulf breeze. they all have the same basic plot- two lesbians meet, hate each other, end up having a relationship.

this book had some really interesting characters and the relationships were a bit more complicated, which i enjoyed.

i had given up on gerri hill and thought this would be the last of her books that i'd read but i think i might try one or two more.
