



Cowboy SEAL Christmas

Nicole Helm

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Three former Navy SEALs
Injured in the line of duty
Desperate for a new beginning...
Searching for a place to call their own.

Single mom and Revival Ranch's on-site therapist Monica Finley has dedicated her life to helping brave servicemen and women, but former Navy SEAL Gabe Cortez is the one man whose shell she just can't crack. Yet with the holidays fast approaching, she may finally have a plan. In a bid to get Gabe to open up, she'll ask for as much help as possible?cutting down the Christmas tree, stringing lights, the whole nine yards.

Who could possibly be a Grinch with so much holiday cheer in the air?

Gabe has always hated Christmas?the holiday never fails to remind him just how alone he truly is. But the more time he spends with Monica and her young son, the more he finds himself drawn to their cozy little family...and the more he begins to realize his long-suppressed Christmas dreams may finally be coming true.

Cowboy SEAL Christmas Details

Date : Published September 4th 2018 by Sourcebooks Casablanca

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Author : Nicole Helm

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Genre : Holiday, Christmas, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review **Cowboy SEAL Christmas** for online ebook

Lindap says

4 Stars

This is the last book in the Navy SEAL Cowboys series. Alex, Jack and Gabe were wounded while serving and all were discharged from the Navy. They all move to Alex's farm and began putting together Revival, a place where other wounded soldiers can come and heal. The last 2 books were about Alex and Jack and the women they fell in love with. This book is about Gabe.

Monica moves to Revival with her son, Colin, to become the in-house therapist. She's been able to help Alex and Jack, but Gabe has no interest what-so-ever in therapy. He doesn't suffer from PTSD, what has scarred him is his childhood.

This is the second series by Nicole Helm that I've read. Liked them both. Looking forward to her new series in 2019.

Erin Lewis says

4 star review of **Cowboy SEAL Christmas** (Navy SEAL Cowboys #3) by Nicole Helm

Nicole Helm is a new author to me and when I signed up for this book I had no idea that it was the third book in the series.

Not having read the previous books in this series I was a little anxious going in that I would not be able to fully enjoy **Cowboy SEAL Christmas**. However, this was not the case.

There was romance, angst, heartbreak and issues of trust but throughout it all I was get invested in the story line as it unfolded.

The story was well written and the characters likeable and easy to relate too. I found myself hoping that Gabe could put is lack of trust aside to see what Monica and her son Colin could offer that would ease his loneliness.

Both Gabe and Monica have had a tough life but through it all they have become stronger than either of them realise. When they finally give in to their feelings and decided to go for it, I cheered.

The obvious "brotherhood" Gabe and his friends Alex and Jack had just

Can the magic of the Christmas season bring together two lost souls, emotionally drained from the loss of loved ones, each determined to survive but not really living and enjoying life?

I received a copy of this book through the publisher via Netgalley.

Beth says

Helm emotionally connected the reader, aka me, to her characters. **Cowboy SEAL Christmas** provided a heart hurting tale that had you routing for that HEA that we all just can't wait to find.

Well paced and engaging, **Cowboy SEAL Christmas** is one of those Christmas tales that pulls at your heart strings and keeps you hanging on till the last page.

I received this ARC copy of **Cowboy SEAL Christmas** from SOURCEBOOKS Casablanca. This is my honest and voluntary review. **Cowboy SEAL Christmas** is set for publication September 04, 2018.

My Rating: 4 stars

Written by: Nicole Helm

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Christine says

Even with a Christmas theme, friends getting married, and friends expecting a baby, this story felt very heavy and stifling. Monica and Gabe had so many personal demons and anxieties that I longed for Christmas carols just to lighten the mood. Or a shot of very alcoholic eggnog, just to get me though Gabe and Monica's sniping over her parenting and his disdain for therapy.

As a single mom and therapist, Monica seemed to symbolize every thing Gabe fears. This is a guy who had a glib smile or joke for everyone, that is except for Monica. He's down right cold and difficult with her, and I couldn't get past that. A few things stood out: when he's angry with her, Gabe picked up her sleeping son Colin and *threw Monica's coat at her*. So much for being a gentleman.

Then after Monica and Gabe agreed to their friends-with-benefits-until-Christmas-deal, Monica asked Gabe to stay in her cabin but he coldly refused, to the point of threatening to move her bodily from the door. Then he stomped away, leaving Monica alone in an isolated snowed-in cabin with no power. So much for that Navy SEAL protector mode.

Finally, when Monica played her favorite holiday movie for him, Gabe's inner thoughts revealed that he thought *It's A Wonderful Life* was "absolutely, horrendously horrible". I was pretty much done with Gabe by then.

I get that Gabe had a lot of personal demons to deal with but I still couldn't find many redeeming qualities about him otherwise. Even with a Christmas llama thrown in. Poor Monica was struggling with her military father's PTSD history, losing her husband at a young age, raising a young child by herself, and trying to be a competent, objective therapist - I didn't understand why she wanted to saddle herself with that self-pitying, scared, stubborn guy who, despite his declarations, could really use some therapy.

I wanted to like this much more than I did. Nicole Helm writes such introspective stories about people who have such great thoughts and emotions; unfortunately, I really couldn't enjoy these. Even with the Christmas llama thrown in.

2.5 stars

Note: I voluntarily read and reviewed this eARC generously provided by Netgalley and the publisher.

Marsha Spohn says

Reviewed at Keeper Bookshelf

Monica and Gabe have been doing quite a dance around each other in the two earlier books in this series as secondary characters and completely come into their own in Cowboy SEAL Christmas. Both have deep inner strengths and convictions, different but strong nonetheless. Each knows loss and the pain that never quite goes away completely as life moves on once again. And now the magic of Christmas will meet one determined Grinch during a blizzard that will finally allow two people who obviously are attracted to each other bring their full selves into play and see where the cards fall.

I hurt for Monica and Gabe in different ways as their slow burn romance goes through some serious bumps and curves. Funny at times, heartbreak at others their story will touch your heart and remain with you long after the final page. And that epilogue was stunning and a perfect ending to this series. We'll meet up with earlier couples, see familiar faces around Revival Ranch as it comes together as a place that will do a lot of good for some amazingly brave people. I do wish we'd gotten to see Revival Ranch in action, but... there is always the possibility of spin-off stories that might take us back, and I'm certainly hoping for that. I laughed, I cried, I certainly got annoyed and I had a wonderful time with the former Grinch Gabe and Monica. Look for some heartwarming moments, the magic that the Christmas spirit can bring to anyone and a really good story. This is the third and final story in the Navy SEAL Cowboys series yet it's not completely necessary to have read them all. I would recommend the entire series though because they are all such unique, enjoyable stories.

I received an e-ARC of this novel from the publisher via NetGalley. That does not change what I think of this story. It is my choice to leave a review giving my personal opinion about this book.

Anna's Herding Cats says

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup. (posting 12/10)
Amazon: <https://amzn.to/2Kv64jm>

Sometimes the ones with the biggest smiles are the ones hiding the most hurt and pain. Cowboy SEAL Christmas tugged at the heart, yall. Whew boy!

The Gist: Gabe is not fond of therapists. That the foundation he's co-building to help military veterans has an

on site therapist..irksome to say the least. That she's got a cool kid and is a great mom and is scorching hot...yeah. Color him real annoyed. And, dammit, tempted. Even if she's all about Christmas cheer and he's got a whole Grinch thing going on. lol

Gabe and Monica were something. Attracted to each other and incredibly annoyed by one another. They've snipe and driven each other crazy for months but dang that pesky attraction. I loved watching them finally give in and have a go of things. They both have such inner strength and so much pain and damage they're trying to get through. They both kind of break your heart a little while you watch them battle their inner demons. Make you want to cheer when they overcome things.

"I mean I care. About you. About this." She waved her hands up in the air. "I have an obnoxiously big and uncomfortable amount of care."

Aaaaand it had one of my favorite set ups! A blizzard and getting snowed in and stuck with one another until everything melted. I love that intimacy. There was a lot of light and sexy and fun as they start breaking down each other's defenses.

My only complaints-- Not capitalizing Marines (come on!) and that we never really see the ranch in full swing. It's been 3 books of them settling in and building the retreat and I would have loved to see a little of it in action with military arriving and getting help.

All in all, Cowboy SEAL Christmas was a heartbreakingly sweet romance that had me in a swoon. These are good people who give there all for everyone around them and it was lovely seeing them get a bit of happiness, too.

Anita says

Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) provided by the Author and Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an fair and honest review.

For me, romance is a tough genre. I look for a book to take me away and make me believe that true love can conquer all. I want that to be done with a minimum of angst and with a plot that intrigues me. I didn't find that here, although some very real issues were dealt with.

Monica Finley came to Revival Ranch to be the on-site therapist, she also came seeking a new chapter in her life. As a widow with a 10 year-old son, she is looking for a place she can make a difference and Revival Ranch with its' outreach to recovering veterans sounds like a good fit for her. Of the three vets that have founded the Ranch, former Navy SEAL Gabe Cortez is the one most resistant to her as a therapist, and the one who intrigues her the most. Personally, Monica has no idea how to be anything other than a mother or a therapist. Relating to people in any other way is just not something she does well, but will need to learn fast to fit in at Revival Ranch.

Gabe Cortez is not interested in having his head shrunk and he sure doesn't need a mother. He has shut down Monica's attempts to "therapy" him, but he is more than open to something more, personal, if she were willing. He sure likes her kid, too. Perhaps, to much. Due to a lousy childhood, Gabe has problems relating to all the family stuff that the holidays bring and when you throw Alex and Becca's wedding into the mix, Gabe just wants to be anywhere else. But, there is just no escaping the wanting to belong he has. Alone is

how he has lived for the past 15 years and it's tough to see his SEAL brothers with their new families at Christmas time and not want something more, something he tells himself he doesn't deserve.

Kay (aka) Miss Bates says

After nearly a month of reading Harari's 21 Lessons, I sure needed a heavy romance dose. Who better than Nicole Helm to provide an antidote to Harari's intellectual harshness? Why Helm? There are romance writers who love romance and that comes through in their writing, say Mary Balogh, the romance classicist, or the contemporary Lucy Parker. Then, there are romance writers who believe in romance and one of those is Helm. Another is her sister-in-writing, Maisey Yates. There's a genuine belief in their stories as being tangible, possible, and attainable outside the pages of a book, no matter how idealized their characters. Though I'd recently read and reviewed a Helm romance, I knew she was going to cleanse the reading palate: Harari was nice, like having an exotic meal once in a while, or eating on vacay what you wouldn't at home. But I was ready for my usual fare and enjoyed every but five minutes of it (more of that later).

I don't know that you can really trust my review: maybe it's too coloured by my relief and happiness at reading a hopeful book? I wanted the whole deal, a romance, yes, and one set during Christmas, with a Christmas "deal" of friends-with-benefits between what have been two antagonists through the first two books in Helm's Navy SEAL Cowboys series – WOW, bring it on.

Some context for those unfamiliar with the series. Helm's Navy SEAL Cowboys centres around three physically and soul-wounded SEAL vets, one of whom's dream is to turn a Montana ranch into a therapeutic centre for hurt vets. Alex McGuire, Jack Armstrong, and Gabe Cortez are respectively the heroes of the trilogy. By book three, it's Gabe's turn, the charming rogue, whose devil-may-care smile hides a world of hurt, none of which has to do with his experiences in Afghanistan. Unlike Alex and Jack, Gabe doesn't suffer from PTSD: his war was fought in the family home and its lingering pain, unfortunately, he carries to Revival Ranch.

His heroine is none other than the ranch's therapist, widowed, single mother Monica Finlay, who comes to Revival, after ten years with her parents, getting her degree and bringing up her son, Colin. Colin and Gabe, throughout the first two books, share a great relationship. They bond, Colin with some hero worship and Gabe with an opportunity to do manly things (they chop down a Christmas tree in the first chapter, a great scene) and enjoy Colin's companionship, one of the few relationships he seems to have, outside of his Navy SEAL buddies. Monica and Gabe spend the first two books verbally sparring and needling each other. It's apropos that Gabe doesn't suffer from PTSD, otherwise Helm would be in a world of COI when Monica and Gabe resist their attraction – until they don't.

Helm is good at opening her books with a dose of humour, in this case, Gabe's shudders over anything Christmas-related (beautifully contrasted with Monica's Hallmark-Christmas-movie-themed home, down to gingerbread-men sheets): "Gabe Cortez liked to think of Christmas as a ritualized torture simulation that would ultimately prepare him for any horrible war zone he found himself in. If I can survive Christmas, I can survive anything." This opposites-attract opening serves Helm and her protagonists well: Grinch meet Cindy Lou. How the Grinch Stole Christmas is key to Gabe's emotional awakening and a lovely running joke between him and Monica. When the novel opens, just as Gabe is being a grump about Christmas as well as Alex and Becca's wedding, he's in turn peeved by Monica. Gabe is of the scared of feels and abandonment ilk of hero: "Gabe had learned a long time ago that people didn't stick ... " Famous last words: Gabe's attraction to Monica, his affection for Colin and the onslaught of their care, as well as his buddies' and their

wives', will break him down enough to make him both run from and then run towards love and commitment.

If Gabe is closed-off, then Monica is lifting her head from grief, work, and parenting to look at the mountains, the sky, and herself, and rediscover a desire to be a woman again. Her little boy is ten, her career is exactly where she wants it to be, she has a home and meaningful work. She's safe and content, but she hasn't had a lover in ten years. Oh, she has a few emotional weaknesses, like her insecurity about her womanhood and over-protectiveness for Colin. She lost his dad ten years ago and she's still uneasy about letting him take on too many risks. But Gabe lets him grow up, even while keeping him safe, and she appreciates that. She appreciates Gabe's shoulders, his smile, and the way he makes her feel: brave, sexy, and daring. When Colin goes to visit his grandparents for a week before Christmas, Monica and Gabe make a deal:

"You're proposing a Christmas sex deal." She lifted her chin, [CHIN!!] and though her expression was serious, there was a certain mocking curve to her mouth.

"I am. Are you accepting the Christmas sex deal?"

"On one condition."

"What's that?"

"We stop saying 'Christmas sex deal.' "

chortle, no? Though there are dark undercurrents, Helm draws you in with humour and banter. It's all fluff and fun and Christmas lights twinkling – until it isn't. Until a blizzard strands Monica and Gabe and we get closed-cabin romance, which I love!

The fluff becomes tempest-tossed and Helm uses the bedroom's intimacy (even with the gingerbread and candy cane sheets) to crack Gabe open. Physical intimacy, posits romance, implicates you in emotional intimacy. Maybe this isn't necessarily true of "real life," but it is one of the most basic and important of the genre's tenets. Helm knows how to do this well: making the love scenes organic to Gabe and Monica's emotional revelations. Unfortunately, one of those revelations, revealed when Gabe tells Monica about his childhood, was distasteful, a bad writing decision on Helm's part and it near ruined the romance novel for me. Except Helm got me with: "Love isn't a thunderstorm. It's the way a river cuts through rock over time ... he'd found love in the failures. Losing a man, losing the SEALS. Admitting things to Monica. In all of those horrible, dark places, all the good in this life had sprouted ... Love was the river and love was the rock, and somehow, she had to be both." I don't know if I can wholeheartedly tell my readers to read *Cowboy SEAL Christmas*, but I can say I loved every moment of it (minus the five BAD minutes) and it restored my faith in hope, love, and a happy ending. For that, with Miss Austen, I say it offered "real comfort," Emma.

Nicole Helm's *Cowboy SEAL Christmas* is published by Sourcebooks Casablanca. It was released on September 4th and may be found at your preferred vendor. I received an e-ARC from Sourcebooks via Netgalley.

Jackie says

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Three former Navy SEALs

Injured in the line of duty

Desperate for a new beginning...

Searching for a place to call their own.

Single mom and Revival Ranch's on-site therapist Monica Finley has dedicated her life to helping brave servicemen and women, but former Navy SEAL Gabe Cortez is the one man whose shell she just can't crack. Yet with the holidays fast approaching, she may finally have a plan. In a bid to get Gabe to open up, she'll ask for as much help as possible?cutting down the Christmas tree, stringing lights, the whole nine yards.

Who could possibly be a Grinch with so much holiday cheer in the air?

Gabe has always hated Christmas?the holiday never fails to remind him just how alone he truly is. But the more time he spends with Monica and her young son, the more he finds himself drawn to their cozy little family...and the more he begins to realize his long-suppressed Christmas dreams may finally be coming true.

My Thoughts

Returning back to the Revival Ranch and dead of winter in Montana was exhilarating as it is so hot in Central Texas these days reading about somewhere with snow/blizzard conditions was a relief for a day at least.

Plus it always feels like returning to visit old friends when I crack up over the rooster/goat combo that are still featured characters in this 3rd story in the series, along with the newest member of the *animal kind* at the end.

Prior to this readers had the chance to fall in love with former Navy SEALs Alex and Jack. This time Gabe takes a turn and the story is one that will be sure to win points for him as he at long last gets the chance to heal just like his 2 friends have done before him.

Gabe Cortez never talked to anyone about his family. Gabe never wanted them to know that his external scars were no match for the internal ones he carried long before he became a Navy Seal.

Monica Farley is a single mother whose life is dedicated to helping others heal. This time around the person in question does not feel like he needs, nor does he want, her help.

When circumstances force these two people from different walks of life to spend time alone together both their walls come down. Trouble is will it be enough to give Gabe the incentive to see he needs her or will Monica lose him forever.

This one is just as heartwarming as the first two books before it and a little boy named Colin may just have the best Christmas of his life if together his mother Monica, along with Gabe can make it happen.

I loved Jack's story in book 2 and now Gabe's story was enjoyed just as much or more.

[EArc from Netgalley]

Maria says

"Received an Advance Reader Copy in exchange for a fair review"

I loved this story: the plot, the characters, the writing were really enthralling. Having read the previous stories, I felt a familiarity with all the characters, and I liked them even more.

Gabe is an awesome hero, the most broken psychologically of the three friends.

I loved the way Nicole Helm wrote the hero, as a huge enigma, all obstinate, hard, bitter and suffering, but always showing a façade of indifference and in good spirits. He's a mess, full of secrets, but his armor has these tiniest cracks that will be broken by the heroine, Monica, but also by her son, Colin.

The gap between Gabe's self-image and the way his friends and Monica view him is huge and it will take a lot a love and perseverance for Monica to convince him of his worth.

It was also endearing to watch Monica flourish from the reserved mom and therapist to a bolder woman.

The deep affection within this group - the three SEAL friends – Alex, Jack, Gabe – the women and their friends - is exquisitely written.

I'm grateful to the publisher, SOURCEBOOKS Casablanca, and NetGalley for providing a free copy.

BookAddict says

Having read the other two books in this series, it felt like I waited forever to read an early copy of Gabe and Monica's story. The other two books were phenomenal, so I anticipated this story would be amazing, and this author exceeded my expectations! I knew Gabe and Monica's story would be epic, but wow! What really makes this book are the subtleties, nuances and undercurrents, and Helm got it absolutely, perfectly right with these two.

Gabe, Jack and Alex are retired SEALs who go to Alex's ranch in Montana to heal from their career ending injuries, as well as start the Revival Ranch for other brothers in arms in need of healing. Gabe doesn't seem

to have the same PTSD issues as Alex and Jack, but he was deeply wounded before he ever joined the military, and either way, he has no use for a therapist of any kind. Monica has grieved the loss of her Air Force husband and spends all her time being a single mother and therapist to soldiers returning from active duty. So much so that she has no idea who she is apart from those two identities. Despite the sparks that fly between them, Monica won't have a relationship with someone who could be a potential client, and a shrink is the last person Gabe would get close to.

Gabe hides behind a wall of charm and easy-going smiles, something he's spent a long time perfecting. His past has taught him that good things never last and those you care about will always abandon you. For Gabe, hope is a terrifying thing, when it's something he's gone most of his life without, then it finds a way to sneak through a chink in his painstakingly crafted armor, and Monica causes Gabe to hope. Monica has been doing her own hiding behind the shield of therapist and mother, but she and Gabe both see greater depths in the other, if they can only survive letting down their guard, facing their fear and being authentic.

This is one of those books that immediately drags you in and fills you up, investing you fully, heart and soul, so you lap up every word, thought and emotion like a person in the desert who finds an oasis. It charms, it captivates, it tickles the funny bone, it overwhelms the heart and feeds the soul. I was nowhere near ready to let go of these characters at the last page and wish the series would continue because I'm desperate for more. This book (as well as the others in the series) is one I'll return to again and again, especially when my heart is feeling a little parched. With a little humor, a little heat and a big pile of heart, you'll truly be missing out if you don't read this uplifting, heartwarming, phenomenal book!

*I reviewed this book freely and voluntarily, having made no commitment to provide a review and receiving no compensation of any kind from any source for this review.

Dianne says

As rewarding as helping others is, therapist Monica Finley's heart needed help to fight the loneliness she refused to acknowledge. With Christmas fast approaching, Monica will make it her mission to uncover the real former Navy SEAL, Gabe Cortez, who she has decided has too much Grinch in him to let go and feel again.

Gabe Cortez gave up on his long ago fantasies of Christmas love and cheer, but there is something about Monica and her young son that threatens to melt his frozen façade, but will it lead to more heartache for him or will his Christmas wishes finally come true?

COWBOY SEAL CHRISTMAS by Nicole Helm has all the magic of the holidays, albeit with some prickly moments between Monica and Gabe. Get ready to feel some big feels for these two lonely souls as the magic of the season tries to ring true for love, once again!

I received a complimentary ARC edition from Sourcebooks Casablanca!

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For Reviews, Giveaways, Fabulous Book News, follow: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

♥ WishfulMiss ♥ says

This was a sweet christmas-y romance, it was warm and cozy to reconnect with Revival and the other couples, especially catching up with Jake and Rose from the previous book. Monica and Gabe's romance was heartwarming and definitely a slow burn with a gradual build up. Their story is a bumpy one and deals with a lot of delicate situations but it's also emotionally gripping and honest.

Monica and Gabe have been circling each other since book one. These two are like oil and water and it was funny to see everyone around them could see what they both adamantly refused to acknowledge - crazy hot attraction. When they both get snowed in and the proximity tempts them into finally giving in to their mutual desire, the tension they've been denying reaches the breaking point.

Memorable Moments:

This love story couldn't be complete without a cute gesture and Macaroni the baby llama was definitely a memorable. Not only for the cute factor but also the sweet significance of what she represented.

Honorary mention to the Grinch references. Gabe's heart definitely grew a few sizes :0)

Would I recommend? Yes, although it is part of a series, this could be read as a stand alone.

*** * * ARC provided for an honest review * * ***

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

SAFETY INFO: (view spoiler)

Nicole R says

The cheesy Christmas romance novels just keep on rolling! And, I continue on in my cowboy theme this year as well.

Look, we all know the set up by now: guy, girl, a ranch, some friends, Christmas, some kind of obstacle to overcome. From there it is really just plug and play.

[Gabe] and [Monica] have started and live on [Revival Ranch], a therapy ranch for soldiers returning from war, with their friends [Jack and Rose] and [Alex and Becca]. [Christmas is approaching], and will the spirit of the season bring [Gabe and Monica] together to overcome [his lingering issues over his childhood] and her [overprotectiveness of her son following the death of her husband]? [Gabe, Alex, and Jack], after having served as SEAL's, help each other believe there are still reasons to hope, and love.

Seriously, I bet I can make that same write up work for my next cowboy Christmas read! lol. Challenge accepted.

*****Fair warning to our modest readers who prefer not to read about sex. You should stop reading my review now. For everyone else, read on*****

So, in my last couple of books, I ranted about the virgin trope. We had a female virgin, then a male virgin, and another book included people who had literally not had sex in a decade.

I have my issues with this. Not that there is anything wrong with saving yourself for marriage (though these people didn't do that, they just seemed to save themselves for hot sex with a totally ripped man. Actually, on reflection, nothing wrong with that either) or that there are not people out there who are virgins into their 30s, I just think it is not all that common. So, choosing it for a theme that appeals to a broad audience is just....off to me.

Maybe virgins are the target audience and I just tipped my hand that I am NOT a 36-year-old virgin.

Either way, this book (and the next book I am going to review) have waded into another confounding trope: women who are not virgins but have never experienced oral sex.

Now, I am sure this is also something that some women can relate to. I am sure that it is not unheard of for someone to have been previously married, but did not venture into this realm.

They have my sympathy.

But, aside from just this odd mentality that women should not want, ask for, or enjoy oral sex (you get yours, girl!), I think the part that really has me huffing out a feminist sigh is that this trope seems to be designed to appeal to MEN.

It seems like MEN would be the ones who would most want to be able to give a woman something that no other man had given her. And, if you eliminate the virgin trope, then oral sex it is. And, the double standard is just glaring. HE has gone down on women but wants to be the first to go down on this love of his life.

Yeah, okay.

Oh! And all of these women seemed to have performed oral sex on men in their past. Soooo, lots of giving and not receiving? I mean, I guess 'tis the season.

And, I already have my NEXT rant picked out for my next review (which I am writing as soon as I am done with this one).

So, the book was entertaining. I liked the greater cast of characters. But why can't we just have two characters who have a past sex life that they are not ashamed of/jealous of but still have great sex together?

That settles it: I am going to write a cheesy Christmas romance in my spare time. One that hurts my feminist heart a little less.

Ines says

[who had a fucked up childhood and that's why he can't love/thinks he doesn't deserve to be loved. He basically goes from 0 (*I can't love you, I'm fucked up, and I still hear my stepdad saying me I'm a loser*) to
