



Never Love a Cowboy

Lorraine Heath

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"I would not make a good husband. I do, however, make an excellent lover . . ." Harrison Bainbridge, the second son of an English earl, left his home seeking a scandal-free life away from society's stuffy restraints. Then he arrives in Texas, never expecting that a sassy saloon-keeper's daughter would capture his eye. With her outspoken ways and flashing eyes, Jessye Kane is more than tempting. But although she is willing to be his partner in a daring business venture, she is unwilling to take the passion he offers. Jessye knows that noble-born Harrison isn't for the likes of her, but beneath his devil-may-care exterior, she senses a deeper vulnerability. Then he's suddenly injured, risking his life to save her from mortal danger. And Jessye vows to do anything to make him whole again--forcing this rugged scoundrel who claims he has no heart to take the greatest risk of all . . . on love.

Never Love a Cowboy Details

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From Reader Review Never Love a Cowboy for online ebook

Julianna says

Reviewed for THC Reviews

I have no idea why I keep allowing so much time to pass between my reading of Lorraine Heath's novels. I was shocked to discover that four whole years have gone by since I last read one of her books, which happened to be the first in her *Rogues in Texas* series. My only excuse is that I keep getting distracted by other books and authors or I keep trying to read certain books that fit the various reading challenges in which I participate. But whatever the reasons, I really need to stop doing that, because I always enjoy her books – *a lot*. *Never Love a Cowboy* got off to a slightly slow start for me. I think that was owing to the hero and heroine both being emotionally damaged and afraid to allow themselves to love anyone. This seemed to place some distance between them for the first 2/3 of the story, during which it was registering about a 4.5 on my star meter. I was enjoying it but it wasn't quite hitting the amazing mark. But the last 100 pages or so were so awesome they really helped make up for it and compelled me to go ahead and give it the full five stars.

Harry is the second of the three Englishman friends in the series who came to Texas to find their fortunes. They had previously discussed combining their efforts into a cattle venture, but now that his friend, Gray, has settled down with a wife and kids, that leaves only Harry and Kit. They decide to go ahead with their idea of rounding up cattle and driving them to market, but they lack the funds to make it happen. That's where the heroine, Jessye, enters into the picture as their third investor. Harry has admired Jessye from afar for a while. He's a consummate gambler, who spends quite a bit of time at the saloon owned by her father, where she serves the drinks and occasionally plays poker with Harry. He keeps trying to sweet talk her into going upstairs to his room with him, but she keeps telling him she's not one of *those* girls. Being a master at games of chance, Harry often makes decisions on the turn of a card. In the beginning, he comes off as a roguish scoundrel, albeit a charming one. Harry may like Jessye, but he refuses to allow himself to love her. In fact, he constantly asserts that he doesn't even know what love is. He was deeply emotionally abused by his mother who would often force him to tell her he loved her, then in return, give him her hatred and lock him up in places that were frightening to a small child, including the dungeon of the family castle. By the time his father realized the extent of the abuse, the damage was already done. This was only one of the terrible things Harry had to endure, and his suffering continues in this book when he's seriously injured while trying to defend Jessye and their cattle venture. As the story unfolds, the reader discovers that Harry is like an onion with many unexpected layers to his personality, and I enjoyed watching each one of them peel away to reveal the real man inside. He holds his heart back from Jessye for a long time, but he shows her in unusual ways how much he cares. Gradually we come to see just how afraid he is of saying those three little words, but the moment when he finally gives in and does, it's like a dam bursting. Once he got it out and realized Jessye wasn't going to leave him or spurn his love, he just couldn't stop saying it, which was sweet.

Jessye is a tough, tomboyish young lady, who's been through a lot of heartache of her own. Her first love got her pregnant and then walked out, leaving her to deal with everything alone. She had only her father on whom to lean, but she couldn't even bring herself to tell him what happened. Instead she walked that path by herself and had to make some heart-breaking decisions. She's sworn never to allow a man to do that to her again, and so she's eager to invest in the cattle venture, thinking that if it succeeds, it will afford her security and most of all independence. Jessye likes spending time with Harry, but she doesn't trust him. She's convinced he cheats at cards all the time, but she can't figure out how. As she begins to uncover those layers of his I mentioned earlier and see things in him she didn't expect, she slowly comes to realize that he may not be quite as much of a scoundrel as she originally thought. Eventually she can no longer resist his charms, and although she realizes she's fallen in love with him, she refuses to give him her heart unless he can give her his love in return. Jessye is a very caring woman. She looks out for Harry and tries everything she can think

of to bring him back after the life-altering injuries he suffers. She's also a very strong, stubborn woman who knows what she wants and won't relent until she gets it. Yet at the same time, she can be very sweet and gentle. I love how she doesn't care about the changes wrought in Harry's body after the injuries and that she's always sympathetic when he reveals the secrets of his past. She keeps soldiering on and persisting in trying to get Harry to let her into his heart and to take a chance on her so that she can show him the true depth of her love.

In *Never Love a Cowboy*, we also get to catch up with Gray and Abbie and their growing family. They're still incredibly happy, and they play a part in helping Harry recover from his injuries as well. The third friend and hero of the final book in the trilogy is Kit. He takes part in the cattle drive with Harry and Jessye. In fact, at first, he's the only one Jessye will officially do business with. Kit is a very organized person who keeps things running smoothly, and I look forward to seeing what he does next with his life. What I really liked, though, are the little glimpses we get of Kit's past and his personality. He's suffering from a badly broken heart and has a very touching scene in the book where we see the depth of his pain. I really look forward to finding out more about him in the next book, *Never Marry a Cowboy*, where he's paired with Ashton as his heroine. We get an introduction to her in this book when Kit, Harry, and Jessye take a little detour to Dallas to meet with Ashton's brother in an attempt to get him to invest in their venture too. What little I saw of her she seems like a sweet, lovely person, who I think will make a good match for Kit. I also just discovered that the *Daughters of Fortune* series is a spin-off of *Rogues in Texas*, featuring the next generation. Harry and Jessye's daughter, Angela, is the heroine of the first book of that series, *The Outlaw and the Lady*.

Overall, I really enjoyed *Never Love a Cowboy*. The relationship may have been slow-building for me, but the denouement made it more than worth the wait. I also loved the second love scene of the book that went from a moment where Jessye is fuming mad at Harry to one of the sweetest moments I've read in a romance. I think that's when I came to completely understand Harry and really begin to respect him. He might have been an unrepentant rogue, but deep down, he was a kind, caring man who had a lot of love to share. He just didn't know it until a woman with a big heart offered him her love in return. This was a sweet and emotional story, and I can't wait to read Kit's book and the spin-off series. I'm just going to have to try harder to remind myself how much I love Lorraine Heath's writing, so I don't wait so long next time.

Tonya Lucas says

Lorraine Heath's *Never Love a Cowboy* was wonderful. The story picks up where the 1st book left off, *A Rogue in Texas*. But this book went in a different direction than I had thought. It is very well written and Ms. Heath's ability to write with so much emotion is outstanding.

Jessye and Harry are two head strong, stubborn individuals that truly need each other. Hardship for different reasons had been laid upon them years ago, but the reminder of those hardships are front and center everyday as they are on the trail. Love can conquer all, if they would just give into it.

Then tragedy struck and Jessye and Harry are both left with what life has dealt them. Can they conquer this together or will it destroy them for eternity?

Just as Jonah, Jessye's dad, told Harry, when he needed life lessons drilled into his stubborn head, "Winning ain't in holding a good hand, but playing a poor one well"

Ally says

Nearly dnf'd it. Then something magical happened.

I just ate this sh!t up. This wasn't like rock your world right off the bat ate it up. It was slow in coming, don't suck you and then it just happens.

Read this for the 2017 year long challenge with the Historical Romance group, western category

Setting / Time / Genre: Texas, mid 1800s

Series: Yes

Sexy times: Yep. A wee bit naughty for Heath's earlier work. Caught me by surprise.

Plan on reading more by the author: Duh....always.

SynopsisHero is Brit sent to Texas by dad. Second son. Dad is tired of his shenanigans.

Heroine's dad owns a saloon where she works.

She finances hero's cattle drive.

She doesn't trust him because he seems careless and is a gambler

Off the go cattle driving.

Secrets are shared.

Booties are knocked at least one time.

A bad thing happens. Some of the folks continue on driving said cattle, some go home to heal.

Healing sucks. Healing is awesome. Healing breaks hearts. Healing mends hearts.

Heroine Jessye. At first, I'm all what is her deal. Like Dr. Doolittle's PushmePullyou or whatever that thing was called. She's a brat and then she's not. And what she's asking him to do at the end, I'm all "oh no you are not." But she does. With reason. And it's her tenacity that saves the day.

Hero Harry, Harrison. Again, at first you're all "Who is this dude?" and then you start to read between the lines and you see just how giving and caring he is but that he just doesn't have the emotional IQ to display it.

Why it did or didn't work for me: It worked. It took time, but it worked. These people are both so fricking damaged and they find a way to heal each other which is totally how this a romance should be. Right? Now, let's get something straight. This book may not make sense at first and it's also not just about a cattle drive where people fall in love. It's way messier and it spans much more of a life. Neither of these characters are people I ever fell in love with. But what I did love was their story. How they got from a to b and who they affected on that journey.

Signed,

Thanks for another good one, Ms Heath.

Glenda Kinard says

Another wonderful book by Lorraine Heath this was my 4th book so far by this talented author and each book I read just makes me a bigger fan of her awesome work. Harry had me hating and despising him on one page and then cheering him on another. I loved strong willed Jessye from the first time she crossed the page

back in a Rogue in Texas. Can Harry a scoundrel and obsessive gambler become the man He wants to be and the man Jessye loves even though she fights against him as much as she can?? Lorraine Heath definitely knows how to pull on all of a readers emotions. Loved loved this book!!!

Veda says

This book continues the story that was started in "A Rogue in Texas"; with Harrison Bainbridge getting to tell his story.

Harrison Bainbridge has entered into a business venture with his friend Kit and with Jessye Kane, that if successful will bring all involved a lot of money.

I was hooked on Harrison the first time I met him as a secondary character in "A Rogue in Texas", and his story went in a direction that I wasn't expecting. Jessye, also turned out to be a person of strength that was hinted at; but you don't really see until they are placed into a dangerous situation, that shows her true nature; you think. The path to love is never smooth and this story proved that.

I was taken on a journey, that I wasn't expecting. I laughed, and I cried while I read this book. And I was left with wanting a little bit more and thinking how will Lorraine Heath top that one.

Candace Nagy says

Not much to say really... there wasn't anything about this book I did not like. I absolutely loved this story and I adored the characters. Harrison is the ultimate dream book boyfriend. The writing was fantastic. The easiest 5 stars I've ever given, this story completely captivated me.

Bark says

Jessye works in her father's saloon serving drinks. When she was sixteen she fell in love with a handsome, smooth-talking dude who promised her the world and instead left her heart and reputation in tatters. Jessye believes that she is unworthy of a husband and a family of her own because of her past. She dreams of becoming independent from men and making her way on her own. This is why she agrees to finance a half-cooked idea thought up by two Englishmen to round up cattle and deliver them eastward. They guarantee she'll make a fortune and since she knows more about cattle rustling than the Englishmen she goes along with them on the cattle drive.

Harrison (Harry) is the second son of an earl sent by his father to Texas to clean up his act. Because of his past Harry believes he is incapable of love and spent his youth drinking, gambling, and driving up huge debts. Harry believes he is indeed the scoundrel he presents to the world but deep down lurks a kind, generous and even insecure man. Because Harry doesn't enjoy working any harder than he has to he intends to make this cattle venture a success.

Harry is strongly attracted to the outspoken Jessye and turns on the charm full-blast in order to get her into his bed. Although Harry tempts Jessye (he is gorgeous after all) she turns him down and tells him flat out that he will never get her in his bed until he can offer her his heart - the one thing that Harry knows he can never do.

The two spend most of the book doing all they can to avoid falling in love. Harry because he believes he simply can't love and Jessye because she refuses to give her love again. These two characters are very wounded souls and have multiple layers to their character which is exactly what I've come to expect from a Lorraine Heath novel. But because Harry's reasons for holding out were not explained fully or early enough his refusal to admit that he was falling in love exhausted and frustrated me. I guess I've just burned out on the stubborn "I don't have a heart" hero. A terrible accident occurs about half way through which adds more fuel to Harry's refusal to love Jessye but it also makes him a much stronger man. This section was written believably and with much compassion.

Jessye is an admirable heroine who has had to make a heartbreaking choice and her reasons to avoid love were much more understandable than Harry's. There is a subplot involving a little girl that was just way too coincidental for me to believe but I was able to overlook it because it did create some painfully emotional scenes and added much to Jessye's characterization.

"Never Love A Cowboy" has a good mix of action and emotion and is definitely worth a read. It managed to move me to tears and made me smile in quite a few places but it is not my favorite Lorraine Heath novel. I reserve that spot for TEXAS DESTINY.

Mara Rose says

I've enjoyed most of the Western historical romances that Heath has written. Her heroes and heroines are intense, rugged, and as enduring as I imagine the frontier was back then.

Her romances are *Intense* with all the angst and yearning and the reasons for not having. Be prepared for any Heath novel to involve a roller coaster of emotions. I should know by now, after reading romances for the past decade or two, that you really should mix them up and not read the same type or from the same author back to back. Because then you either stay comparing them or start getting tired of the genre. This is my 4th Western historical, and I've already started the next in this series! Oh well, guess I love the wildness of the West compared to what I'm usually reading in stuffy, proper England.

Harry and Jessye seemed perfect for each other in the hints we get of them in the first book. I liked Harry, though he seemed a shade too much of a gambling scoundrel than I'd like, mainly because I know someone who is a gambling addict, so those tropes always put me on edge. Jessye on the other hand was my favorite part. I liked that she was tough, smart, capable, and resilient in ways that seem to be a theme in Western heroines. This may be weird, but I love reading books where there is past trauma (more like family problems rather than sex assault, though) because I feel we all come to relationships with baggage. I like reading romances where the relationship is used as a cathartic balm in the healing process. This book does not disappoint.

The Prologue was odd - it made the book seem more sinister and dangerous than it was. I feel like that was mishandled and kinda unnecessary. I read it twice to figure out if he really was some sort of sex slave!

Overall, this was an angsty and sentimental book that was right up Heath's alley! 4 ?

Barbara says

I recommend that you read this series in order. I did not, as they weren't readily available. This gave away some of the plot.

I still think Ms. Heath's writing is terrific!

Dawn says

Another great story from Lorraine Heath. She's one of those you can always count on for a captivating, emotional read. The title, however, had nothing to do with the story. This one is about Harrison, second son of an earl, and Jessye, a saloon owner's daughter. She is spunky and has had a broken heart that led to the illegitimate birth of her daughter whom she gave away. She has no tolerance for scoundrels which is what she believes Harry to be.

Harry and his friend, Kit, want to run cattle north. All they need is an investor. They approach Jessye. She is looking for an investment and agrees to a partnership with Kit, not Harry. She also insists on going along on the drive. Thus the adventure begins.

Of course, Jessye falls in love with Harry realizing he isn't at all the scoundrel she suspected him to be. He falls in love with her too but can't admit it to himself. He was raised by a mother who was cruel and torturous to him. So he has never known love. It's an emotional journey for them both.

Nice HEA even though Harry ends up badly injured on the trail by Jessye's ex. He requires a lengthy rehad and will never walk the same again. Nevertheless, his hidden gambling talents are put to use when he wins the saloon from her father. All turns out well in the end. And they end up with a very happy and satisfying life.

The Lusty Literate says

2.5/3 Stars | Hot Steam

Liked Jessye. Harrison, not so much.
Borrow only.

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

Well, same old same old. Very formulaic and pretty reminiscent of the first book, but an enjoyable read if you're looking for Western romance.

Juliana Philippa says

Never Love a Cowboy was a great follow up to *A Rogue in Texas*; both books have very big obstacles in the stories and much sadder undertones in some areas than most other historical romances. This wasn't a bad thing though, just something I'm remarking on. I absolutely loved Jessye and Harry and thought they were absolutely wonderful together. I wanted to read more of their story and have certain sections lengthened, which is always a good sign. Definitely recommend.

Buggy says

"I would not make a good husband. I do, however, make an excellent lover"

This was a great read that kind of snuck up on me, especially once I started picturing Johnny Depp as our roguish hero. Yes indeed, he would make a fine British cowboy, ala Jack Sparrow on a cattle drive, attempting to woo the heroine into bed with his clever, wicked tongue and laughing eyes. Anyways that's what gets me through the day.

Harrison Bainbridge is a scoundrel and I absolutely adored him. The second son of an English earl "Harry" has been banished by his father for his substantial gambling debts and womanizing and sent to the wilds of 1865 Texas to clean up his act. Partnering up in a cattle muster isn't really his idea of a good time, (it is actual work after all) however Harry can't resist the opportunity to spend time with the saloon keepers outspoken daughter. Her daring business venture is a gamble and that is of course what Harry lives for.

Jessye Kane has dreams of wealth and independence after having her heart and reputation destroyed by her first love. She doesn't trust men, doesn't want or need a husband and certainly isn't going to fall for the smooth talking Harry. He's just heartache waiting to happen. However during the long months on the dusty trail the two get to know each other and Jessye realizes that there's more to Harry than the devil-may-care attitude he portrays to the world. In fact Harry may just have a conscience and he might also be just as damaged and vulnerable as she is. Isn't that a scary thought, because that's a man she could love...

The flirty back and forth banter between our couple here as they try not to fall for each other is really fun; in fact I enjoyed most of the dialogue and definitely chuckled through Harry's one liners. I also loved how we never really knew for sure if he was cheating at cards or not. I swear that man would wager his very soul.

It was towards the end of the book though that Lorraine Heath managed to capture my heart with this story too. After Harry is horribly injured, Jessye attempts to nurse the now stubborn, bitter man back to health. He can't stand her pity or the way she looks at him these days and may just break her heart to recapture the outspoken sassy girl he used to know.

This is part 2 from the Rogues in Texas trilogy. And while I read this as a stand alone I wouldn't recommend it as there were holes in the story that were never completely filled in and the beginning chapters were a bit confusing. Besides from what I can tell Harry's brother's story (*A Rogue in Texas*) which continues on here, looks super good.

Beanbag Love says

Aaaaah. That hits the spot. I should have gotten more work done yesterday, but I was obsessed with what would happen next for Harrison and Jessye.

Harrison is a second son of an earl whose father sent him to Texas to keep him from getting into enough gambling trouble that he'd be thrown in the Thames. His childhood was very harsh, thanks to an insane mother who did plenty of damage by the time she was caught and that harshness has twisted Harry's emotions to a point where he's pretty certain there's no such thing as love for him.

Jessye's been damaged by a heartless person, as well. Her heart was shattered a few years back and, while she dreams of potentially finding love, she fears it can never happen for someone like her.

Harrison and Jessye have been trading barbs for a while when we start this book. Number 2 in a trilogy, I've read these out of order. I'm completely tangled up in overlapping series, it seems. In any case, Harrison and his best friend, Kit, have cooked up a cattle drive scheme and brought Jessye in as an investor. Jessye puts up the money but demands to be part of the drive. She doesn't trust them.

The majority of the story takes place on the cattle drive. Suffice to say, Jessye and Harry never stood a chance. But, at the same time, new challenges are huge threats to their future happiness. This was an emotional roller coaster for me.

There are times when Harrison comes off as a true jerk. Times when Jessye comes off as childish and petty. But there's always something behind such behaviors. Their pleasant scenes together evince strong chemistry and let us read through those tough exchanges, knowing there's more to it than just that.

I'm not sure why some of Heath's books just turn me around. Now I want to go back and read Gray and Abby's story. And all this because I accidentally started reading "Promise Me Forever" about a week ago. I probably won't get to that book for another two installments now. Such sweet torture. ;^)

This is #2 in the Rogues in Texas series which, I believe, starts with A Rogue in Texas.
