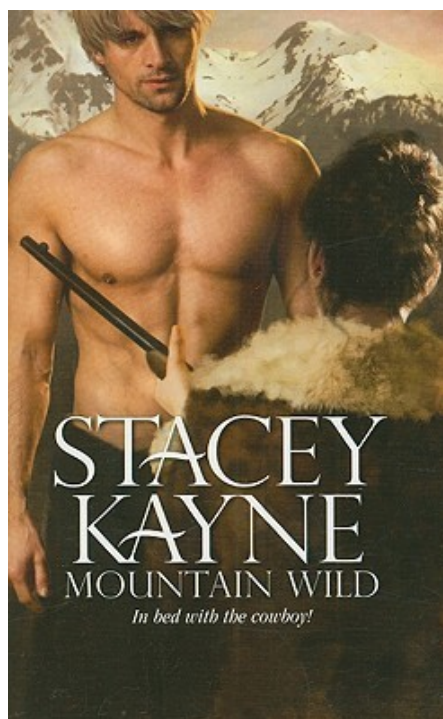




Mountain Wild

Stacey Kayne

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Fourteen years ago a terrified young Maggie Grace fled into the wilderness of the Wyoming mountains, where she has lived alone, fighting for survival, ever since. Until she finds cowboy Garret Daines lying unconscious in a blizzard.

Snowbound in Maggie's cabin, sharing the only bed with this beautiful, wild woman, brings Garret's body—and guarded heart—pulsing back to life.

Garret is the only man ever to show Maggie any kindness, and the walls around her heart begin to crumble. But this wildcat won't let herself be easily tamed....

Mountain Wild Details

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From Reader Review Mountain Wild for online ebook

ValerieC says

4.5 - 5.0 stars

Loved this small series and have them marked to read again in my Personal Notes.

I would recommend that readers start with book 1, 'Mustang Wild' and then read Book 2 'Maverick Wild' before reading 'Mountain Wild' because Garret is a sub-main character in each, and Maggie is also in each book. Those books are also very good. There is a greater insight to Garret as a person if you read all three books.

tess75 says

Plutôt bon pour un Harlequin collection historique, même très bon !

L'héroïne est atypique puisqu'elle vit seule et n'apprécie pas le contact humain. J'ai apprécié qu'elle garde cette caractéristique, c'est sa personnalité après tout, tout au long du récit (c'était très réaliste). Du coup, sa relation avec le héros était touchante puisqu'il arrive peu à peu à "l'apprivoiser".

L'intrigue n'était pas très originale mais elle a permis de montrer les évolutions des héros et de donner un peu de tension à l'histoire.

Brynnie says

4.5 stars! I absolutely loved this!

After reading the first couple books I was hoping for more of Maggie and I got it. I enjoyed hearing about her life and how she came to be known as "Mad Mag". I love her and Garrett together. I love the suspense with her brother and how it was resolved. My only complaint was with the epilogue. It was nice but I would've loved something longer, wrapping up the whole series.

Ally says

Nobody messes with Mad Mag

This woman will chop you up and feed you to the bears.

Setting / Time / Genre: Western

Length: Just right for novel length

Series: I think so???

Sexy times: Minimal and not terribly descriptive.

Plan on reading more by the author: I think so.

Synopsis: Mad Mag's god awful brother is trying to kill her as the book opens. Trapper Ira trades for her and Mag's off to live off the land. She finds Garret basically sticking outta the snow, rescues him and takes him back to her hideaway. Now, just prior to this, cue the evil music, her brother makes a reappearance as none other than the town's mayor. Now, say what now? You heard me. Mayor and he's a rustler and he's a killer and he's plain bad. Enter Leonardo D's character in Django Unchained.

Things happen. Spoilers abound if I go much further. And my battery is dying, so let's not. OK?

Heroine: Maggie. Tough little critter. She prefers to be alone. She's bossy. She's domineering. And she don't take sh!t off of no one.

Hero: Garret. Yea, yea. He's so not the important part of this book. He's your run of the mill white bread hero, except for the fact that he sees passed the Mad Mag disguise and adores Maggie for everything she is. That's a pretty big deal, so I will forgive his whitebreadness. In fact, he downright defends her. And plays the tough guy, especially near the end.

Why it did or didn't work for me: Enjoyable. A good western. A good adventure. A good story. Nothing to write home to mamma about. Just a damn well written book.

Side note: (view spoiler)

Speaking of Django.

Noelle says

This is really 3 1/2 ** read for me, it's the first of this author that I've read and I will look into more of her books.

Maggie, aka Mad Meg (h) is on the run and in hiding ever since her brother tried to kill her at age 13, when he sold her to trapper who happened along rather than beating her to death. Fast forward several years she's now 27, living on her own after the trapper had died and staying hidden in the mountains. On the rare occasions that she does have to go into town she goes in disguise. She makes sure she is dirty, smelly and looking old and the towns people call her Mad Meg. They also leave her alone which is just the way she wants it.

One day while she's in town she has a chance encounter with her brother, he thought she was dead and when he cornered her in an alley a blond cowboy came to her rescue. A few days later she runs across this same blond cowboy injured, freezing and a breath away from death. She couldn't just leave him there to die but bringing him back to her little hidden home would mean opening up a whole can of worms.....she would just

have to move again once he was better and out of her hair.

last thing he remembers is looking for his friend when he never returned to the ranch, now he's waking up in a cave with a very skiddish young woman taking care of him. He's as weak as a newborn but as soon as he's recovered he has to continue looking for his friend and check on his ranch. Bad things have been happening to the ranchers in this area and he needs to keep a look out and try and figure out who's behind all of this so he doesn't become the next victim.

I really did like the story of these two, but one thing really bothered me and kept me from grading this higher. *****SMALL SPOILERS***** just before the H and Maggie have sex, she remembers back on her life with Ira (the trapper who bought her). She remembers asking him to give her a baby, after spending so much time with the Indians and seeing the Indian women with their babies she wanted one of her own to love, the author explains how Ira had gotten mad and left saying she didn't know what she was asking of him and later as he lay dying she apologises to her saying she would have made a great mother. She had no other contact with any other people yet when she sleeps with for the first time there is no mention of her being a virgin, nothing. In fact the love scenes read as though they are both very experienced in sex. This made no sense to me at all. Other than that though the story was pretty good. =)

Elle says

Despite the cover, this was an amazing read. The book had a couple of different parts, a bit of mistaken identity/identity deception, and ornery woman down on her luck, a great guy who is slightly bitter about his life so far, and of course someone who is trying to murder people.

I especially loved Maggie's character. She is full of cute contradictions, so strong but she is a little weak too (we notice because she does hide out a lot), and she's so primitive but when she first takes in Garrit she tries to spiff up (it's so cute!).

This is a great little story about a couple that fights against all odds. I loved it.

Saly says

I really liked this series. Nice characters.

Luli says

4.5 stars.

Que romance más romántico!!!! (Valga la redundancia!)

Me han encantado los personajes y me ha encantado la historia (un romance super tierno)

Aunque es el tercer libro de la serie se puede leer como uno solo. Yo no he leído los anteriores y no he sentido que faltase nada.

Los personajes son consecuentes y coherentes, una vez que se nos presentan no empiezan a hacer tonterías y lo que hacen o no hacen tiene su explicación y es sincera, o al menos creíble, eso es muy importante para que la historia me enganche y ésta me ha enganchado.

Además del romance hay más historias en paralelo, no tan previsibles como parecían en un principio (otra

cosa que me ha gustado un montón) y la “explicación” de porqué el malo es tan malo (o lo que yo considero que es la razón) me ha parecido interesante, original y refrescante.

Sólo por poner una pega y por ello no lo doy las 5 stars, es el epílogo...entiendo que a la mayoría le va a encantar, para mí, en esas últimas páginas, los personajes pierden su identidad envueltos en tanto azúcar, pero claro, es una opinión muuuuy personal.

Me ha encantado!

Hannah says

I didn't dislike it and some parts were sweet, but for all of its dark tones and serious drama this book was pretty ridiculous. The bad guys were cardboard cut-outs and evil for no reason, the characters had very little depth and often made decisions for whatever reason, and each conflict was cleaned up nice and tidy, wrapped up like nothing ever happened.

So again, it's not that I disliked the book but I personally feel like it wasn't very well written. The characters kept me reading but I definitely found myself skimming after a while.

Mei says

As soon as I finished Maverick Wild, I jumped on Mountain Wild! :D

I loved Jamie in the previous books and was anxious to read his story!
And I was very, very happy!

Jamie is awesome! He's hot, gentle, tender... Mmmmmm... Wonderful!

Maggie was great too! She was tough, capable. I felt sorry for her too: how awful to have a brother who hate her so much to want to kill her!!! Poor girl...

I would have loved to know Ira's story. Why did he helped Maggie? Who was he? I liked him and was sad that he was not developed more in the story.

Anyhow, the love story is great. There's no doubt that Maggie a Jamie are perfect for each other. Magie doesn't fight her attraction and enjoys Jamies adavances fully, but she's rightly convinced that her awful brother will do everything to kill her, even if it means killing Jamie to get to her. So she tries to protect him; not very successfully. Here's her TSTL moment: (view spoiler)

That said, I loved this book! ... and this whole series! :D

SheLove2Read says

Terrific western romance. Maggie Grace is a character you can't help but love and root for. Garrett is the consummate equal to her stubbornness and pride. Solid A read.

Rane says

Maggie known by the locals as Mad Mag the recluse trapper has been running all her life from a past that almost had her killed. When that past comes up against her, she finds herself helped by a local rancher. Never did she think she be helping that rancher again by saving his life after he's attacked and left for dead in the snow. Garret Daines life hasn't been a bed of roses, but he's worked his way up building his ranch and cattle herd, but on a dark winter night, he's attack suddenly and when he wakes, finds himself snowbound inside the cabin of a beautiful woman he's never seen before.

As the snow-covered days go by and the attraction builds between the couple, Garret and Maggie both feel a deeper feeling and draw between them grow even as Maggie's past finally catches up with her.

It's been a few years since I sat down to read a western, and really lost my taste for the genre awhile back. Picking up Stacey Kayne's *Mountain Wild*, I was a little leery, but my doubts quickly vanished as I was pulled into the story. I really enjoyed the book and it's characters with its remote setting in the beginning, snow bound, you could really feel the fire start to build between Maggie and Garret. Both leads were easy to understand and you knew where they were coming from, both upfront with their feelings and emotions, never misleading each other ("to much" in Maggie's case) making the story run smoothly without the misunderstandings that sometimes seem to litter romance novels.

Maggie lived in the wilderness, taken in by an old trapper whom not only saved her life one cold night but also, taught her all he knew on how to survive. Being anit-social didn't mean Maggie was without feelings, far from it, she cared for Garret and falls in love with him after his many acts of kindness toward her and even his attempts of "wooing" her. Garret was great; he was kind and funny, and very brave (got beat up a lot in this book!) He adored Maggie and never held it against her that she withheld her past, understanding about being hurt in the past after being hurt deeply him self.

Garret loved to have Maggie fuss over him and give him sass knowing it was just her way of caring for him. They both really even each other out, with Garret coming off carefree most of the time and Maggie being the serious one.

While I sometimes seem to pity the villain in the story, I felt the villain kinda got off easy in the end, after everything he put Maggie and Garret trough I wanted him to get his just desserts! (Bloodthirsty, I know) Even though this is part of a series, it can be a stand-alone book all on it's own. With it's only fault being for me: IT WAS TO SHORT! I wanted more! It was that good!

Overall: a great western that will pull you in, with the action not letting up till the very last page as your drawn toward Maggie and Garret as they fight side by side and in the end find their happiness and love in each other.

Naksed says

If you are looking for a meticulous, painstakingly researched, dense historical fiction that is going to transplant you into the harsh world of 19th century Wyoming, then *Mountain Wild*, by Stacey Kayne, is not the book you should be picking up. If, however, you are looking for a deeply romantic, old-fashioned kind of cowboy romance with crisp writing, fast pace, excellent characterization (including one of the most kick-ass heroines I have had the pleasure to meet) and hilarious dialogue that will remind you of the great comedic

writing of those 1930s Hollywood screwball classics, then you won't be disappointed.

Mountain Wild is the story of Mad Mag, a mysterious recluse who lives a hermit-like life up in the freezing mountains of Wyoming and only comes down her fortress of ice to barter the furs she has trapped, scowling at any man, woman, or child who would dare accost her, and keeping one hand on her knife, the other on her ever-ready to shoot rifle.

When she comes across a half-frozen-to-death man in the middle of a blizzard miles away from civilization, deep into the Northern Country where she is the only human inhabitant, she reluctantly rescues him, bringing him with her back to her cave.

As the man, a local rancher named Garrett Daines, regains consciousness, the relationship between the two begins as an uneasy truce between rescuer and rescuee before evolving, slowly but surely, into something more. This situation offers a veritable treasure trove of funny, quick-witted dialogue between the prickly Mag and the bemused Garrett, who, despite Mag's best efforts, is drawn rather than repelled by the fire in her.

At his wonder that a young woman can take care of herself all alone in the harshest setting:

"You were out hunting in that storm?" he asked.

"That deer meat didn't jump into my stewpot on its own."

Trying to solve the puzzle of how and why she came to be in her hermit-like existence:

"How long have you lived up here, Grace?"

"Long enough to know you can't fight the weather."

"I'm not trying to pry," he hedged.

"Uh-huh," she countered, her disbelieving eyes briefly meeting his gaze. "Must be why you ask so many questions."

In the throes of cabin fever, she shows him, to his great amusement, how to sew:

"Do you really think anyone will want to buy a dish towel with my brand on it?"

"Well, no. But I'm hoping it will keep you quiet for a while."

And later, after he kissed her while in the throes of a fever and tries to apologize:

"I must have shocked you, waking you up the way I did."

"You did."

Her slow smile filled him with the urge to relearn the textures of her mouth.

"But I've had worse surprises. Like coons in the pantry, a skunk in my cabin—"

Garret couldn't fight his laughter. She tensed and tried to push away from him—not appreciating his humor. He grabbed her hands.

“Don’t get mad,” he said, brushing his lips over her fingertips. She trembled against him. “I’m just happy to hear kissing me ranked above skunks in your cabin.”

And it goes on and on, quite wonderfully, throughout the rest of their story.

Now, *Mountain Wild* is not just a barrel of laughs. There are several scenes of graphic violence and suspense, as well as passages of real poignancy as the reader discovers bit by bit a little more about each protagonist's background story, inner insecurities, painful memories, and doubts and uncertainties about the future. But it is not one of those epic historical novels that really flesh out these themes, which is too bad, because this author is extremely talented, with an expressive, visual style that stays away from the corniness or flowery language that many historical romances get bogged down with. The whole conflict with the mustache-twirling villains in particular is so ridiculous, in no small part due to the ease with which they fall like a stack of dominoes instead of offering any plausible resistance to the protags' well-being. But overall, I found this book extremely charming and I would like to read the other volumes in this series as well.

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

I thoroughly enjoyed this latest addition to the Wild series by an author who has definitely impressed me in the historical western romance genre. I can heartily say that Garret grew up to be a wonderful man. Not only is he devastatingly gorgeous, he is strong, intelligent, and independent, but despite having a divorce under his belt, when it comes down to it, he's not afraid to give his heart.

It's clear that growing up with an unusual and strong sister like Skylar really had an effect on him, for he can easily admire the strength and the unique appeal of a woman like Maggie. Even when he sees her at her worst, smelling from her bear coat, with tangled hair, about to kill a man, he still steps in to protect her. His generosity is rewarded, because his life is later saved by her, and he finds the love of his life.

This book was rather like *Beauty and the Beast* with the genders reversed. In this case, Mad Mag, as she is called, is the Beast. In reality, she is a beautiful woman who has been forced by circumstances to live her life in the mountains, away from most humans, due to a nefarious brother who tries to kill her at the age of thirteen. When mountain man Ira Dawkins steps in to buy her for six beaver pelts, she gets the opportunity to survive that she takes full advantage of.

Maggie is just as admirable as Garret. She has her reasons for hating most people. After all, her brother tried to kill her for her inheritance, and any time she ventures out of her mountains, she is ridiculed and poorly treated by the townsfolk. Despite that, she still takes in Garret when he is left for dead during a blizzard.

That is where the *Beauty and the Beast* allegory comes in. Garret spends days snowbound with Mad Mag, only she is incredibly beautiful and sweet-smelling. At first, he doesn't even know it's her. Poor Garret falls head over heels, despite his spoiled wife having cut out on him after eight months of marriage and still having a wary heart from that.

I really appreciated how willing Garret was to love Maggie, despite the obstacles in their way. He looks past what her reputation is to the sweet, kind woman she is. Maggie is survivor and is used to having no one stand up for her, so possessing Garret's devotion is a wondrous thing. She doesn't know quite what to make of it.

In addition to having Maggie be the mountain woman, instead of the hero being the mountain man, Ms. Kayne also did things a little differently in that Maggie is the skittish one in this story. She has no faith in human nature, probably for good reason. The only person who was ever nice to her was Ira, and at the same

time, he kept her at arm's length as well. She's lived in the mountains so long, she just wants to escape back, although Garret is an almost irresistible allure. She is attracted to him physically and emotionally, and really surprised that he could want her as well. Garret tries very hard not to pressure his "Magpie" so she won't run away back to the mountains. When he is brutally assaulted again, he gets the opportunity to woo her as she nurses him back to health.

I really do appreciate Ms. Kayne's writing. Each book in this series has been different. It's hard to say which is my favorite, because they are all so good. But it's easy to say that Garret is my favorite hero in this series. He's neither alpha nor beta, but a divine mix of the two. He's fearless in giving his heart despite having had it broken. He's also fearless in protecting the woman he's come to love, but at the same time very gentle, kind and understanding with her.

Again, Ms. Kayne really hits pay dirt with the excellent mix of romance and western action. Pick this one up if you want to read a really good western.

Jacqueline says

I read this on recommendation of amazon lists. I liked it really well. The story was very well told, with a clear and cohesive plot. I liked the younger man. I need to go back and read the rest of the series now. Author did use the word okay a lot and that would throw me out of the story every time as I had to stop and wonder if the word was in common use then and what she could have used instead. Still a pretty good western feel.
