



Outlaw in Paradise

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A mysterious gunfighter rides into town, and may be the hope for a beautiful saloon owner attempting to keep her establishment and gold mine from the clutches of a greedy, unscrupulous bully. When her would-be hero turns out to be an impostor, that doesn't make him any less dangerous, because now rather than losing her assets, she's in danger of losing her heart!

Outlaw in Paradise Details

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From Reader Review Outlaw in Paradise for online ebook

Rosa says

This book was fantastic. I laughed pretty much the whole way through. Going into my "would read again" pile and want to try Gaffney's other books.

Julie says

Outlaw in Paradise by Patricia Gaffney is a 2011 Open Road Media publication. I was provided a copy of this book by the publisher and Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

This is a delightful historical western romance that will tickle the funny bone and warm your heart. Originally published in 1997, Open Road Integrated Media had re-issued the book in digital format.

Jesse Gault arrives in Paradise, Oregon looking every bit the quintessential outlaw gunslinger, dressed in black all the way down to his black cigarette. Looking for a saloon, Jesse discovers an establishment run by the beautiful Cady McGill, a woman he is instantly smitten with.

The town is full of folks believing Jesse has arrived in Paradise because of them and start making confessions to Jesse. This is hilarious because Jesse is not at all what he appears to be. Meanwhile, Jesse strikes up a friendship with some of the folks in Cady's saloon and soon begins trying to seduce the beautiful saloon owner. But, Cady is having a few problems with a rival who is hell bent on seeing her run out of business and getting his hands on her gold mine. The dangerous Jesse Gault should be able to help her with this problem... but as it turns out, Jesse may not be as fierce with a gun as people have presumed.

The only problem I had with this book was that it moved just a bit too slow. There were a few long periods with not much going on and the even the dialogue started to drag out just a little. However, once I got past the half way mark, things really picked up speed and all the elements came together to create a steamy hot romance, an action packed show down and a heartwarming story of community, friendship and happy ever afters.

There were some laugh out loud moments, witty dialogue , a clever and mistaken identity, plot twist, wonderful secondary characters and an authentic western atmosphere. Cady and Jesse were perfect for each other. Overall this one gets 4 stars!!

Charlie says

This was a very lighthearted story, though not likely or brilliant. The main characters are ok, I didn't *dislike* them. What reduced my enjoyment was how slow the story seemed to be going and how much of a caricature everyone and everything seemed. I didn't like how Gaffney handled race in the book. I realise that I'm reading this 20 years after it was first published, but that doesn't make me like it any more.

Wicked Incognito Now says

I suppose I expected a little more meat to a Patricia Gaffney historical. The story and writing are decent, just not noteworthy. The heroine doesn't pick up on some of the most obvious plot developments. I like my heroines to be more savvy than this. I don't know. I'm disappointed.

Ruth says

This one, provided by the publisher through netgalley, was a wonderful read. It has some of the usual tropes in a Western (the unscrupulous town "boss", the tavern owner/madam with the heart of gold, the philosophical barman etc), but it also has some very Gaffney touches, which I love, and even though not new, feel fresh and funny.

The hero. Well, is he a hero? I'm not so sure he actually is one. But better than that, I think he's an incredibly likeable man, something which isn't all that common in romances any more, it seems (if it ever were common).

The heroine. Doesn't pretend to be anything she isn't. Hard-working, focused, caring but not particularly maternal. She's a business woman.

The plot is kind of formulaic, but the twists and characters are what makes this such an enjoyable read. The ending felt a bit "off" for me. It almost could have ended without the HEA and I would have been smiling forever..

4 stars. I really liked it.

Fedora says

I'm enjoying this immensely so far--Cady McGill's running a saloon in Paradise, Oregon, and holding her own in a man's world. Jesse Gault is seemingly a gunslinger who arrives in town. Not all is as it seems :)

Updated now that I've finished--a very good read. Lovely to see Jesse and Cady's relationship develop and see them get to know each other; layer upon layer, like petals unfolding on an opening flower. This is going on the keeper shelf.

Nancy says

Where, other than Gunsmoke, is the lady saloon owner a kind-hearted, mostly well-respected businesswoman? Doesn't work well here either.

And the hired killer who never loads his guns and can't "hit the side of a barn"?

Actually started well but went down hill.

Olga Godim says

Although this book was published in 1997, this is my first Patricia Gaffney. It won't be my last though. I feel like I've found a new friend, someone to follow and enjoy and anticipate every new encounter. From cover to cover, I was enchanted by the story, by the characters, and by the language. A Wild West romance with a humorous touch – what could be better?

Warning – spoilers ahead!

The action takes place in a small town Paradise. The town's weekly is called *Paradise Reverberator*. Doesn't that name remind you of a sex toy? It did to me. I couldn't read the name of that newspaper without a grin.

At first glance, the protagonists of the novel seem standard for a western. Cady is a saloon owner, smart and saucy, determined to survive in a man's world. Jesse Gault is a gunslinger, a legendary contract killer with an eye patch. His hoarse whisper brings fear into men's hearts. His spurs' jingling inspires terror, and his evil, one-eyed gaze is pure menace.

As soon as the news of his arrival spreads through town, everybody with a guilty conscience quakes, convinced that his enemies commissioned Gault to kill him. To escape certain death, people are willing to pay big bucks, sometimes all they have, and Gault accepts their bribes, although he keeps looking sinister and dangerous.

Juxtaposed with his inner musings, the situation is nothing short of hilarious, because in reality, Jesse is a conman ... posing as a gunman. Must be the best con in the world, at least until his sham goes askew, calling for actual gunslinger's skills. Then Jesse would be in a pickle.

The writing sparkles like cut crystal, witty and luminous, even when the tale turns gritty. As Jesse's and Cady's mutual affection deepens, despite Cady's aversion to murderers for hire, their flirting and bantering become more and more magical. I don't think I've ever read such a profound depiction of the beginning of love.

It would've been an uncomplicated farce, with the underpinning of a love story, if the real villain didn't threaten everything dear to Cady, including Jesse's life. While the lovers explore their passions, the said villain schemes, and the tension mounts. Something is going to explode – and it does. Now both heroes must employ as much ingenuity as they can to find solutions to their unsolvable problems.

The ending is a happy one – a requirement in a romance novel – but it's also utterly surprising and unexpectedly simple, fitting the tale. On the whole, one of the best books I've read recently.

Misfit says

Ugh, this was just too much sex with no chemistry and not much story. I felt thoroughly lost at the end when the author finally realized she needed to wrap things up and tossed in all but the kitchen sink.

Diane K. Peterson says

Wonderful story! This RITA finalist is sweet, funny, and charming. But it is not a "sweet" book -- there are some very cute sexy bits as well. Jesse Gault wanders into the town of Paradise in the persona of a known gunslinger. He looks the part, but is he what he appears to be? If not, who is he? In little and big ways he becomes attached to the town, especially saloon owner, Cady McGill.

I love these clever, humorous Western stories. This one is just terrific. It charmed me from the first page to the last. Great writing!

Sedoo Ashivor says

Honestly? The story is a little unbelievable, how Jesse Gault/Vaughn managed to trick everyone for as long as he did without having to draw his weapons even once! Still, it was one entertaining, hilarious ride! The characters were also engaging and well presented. Patricia Gaffney won with this one! Highly recommended!

Natalya says

One of the best romance novels ever, characters lovable, plot realistic and fast, impossible to stop reading, the drama grabs you deep.

Henrietta Higginbottom says

As another reviewer said, I was completely enchanted by this novel. I truly cannot think of another word to describe my experience, and believe me, I tried!

The characters behaved in believable ways (no TSTL heroine was Cady, no sir!), and seeing inside their heads made me love them. The writing was lovely, lyrical, and witty. I chuckled and smiled all the way to the last page.

I'm glad I picked up several other Gaffney titles recently, if this book is any indication of what I have ahead of me. Happy reading!

Mary Kate says

I really like Patricia Gaffney. This is just one of those moments when you realize you're not going to like everything an author writes.

I'm not a huge fan of westerns to begin with but I thought I'd give it a try. Now most westerns have a puritanical background. The women are the homemakers and the men work out in the fields. My surprise was that usually a woman with the heroine's background would be considered "fallen" and treated as a social pariah. But then maybe the other books I've been reading are wrong. Needless to say she was a very well respected member of the community. She even attended church regardless of the fact that she was a woman saloon owner.

Anyways I was really confused as to how everyone was buying Jesse's character. He might have looked like a "bad guy" but the more he spoke the more people would have caught on. Maybe it's because the narration was in his head so I knew more about him. It just didn't seem to fit. His persona and his character were so at odds. People would have cottoned on long before they actually did in the book.

The book just seemed a little far fetched but I went with it. And then it just got too cheesy for me and I started skimming. Give me a good fight, a good break up, where the characters get back together. I just can't stand when the characters are forever "I love you"ing each other. It just ruins the whole climax of the book.

Water says

SPOILERS: If this was sold as a comedy instead of a romance, it would receive 5 stars from me. Gaffney is a great writer, and this book is HILARIOUS. There are several laugh-out-loud scenes. Both Jesse and Cady are likable. It's made clear early on that Jesse is a con man, not a real gunslinger. That's fine and all. However, this is ROMANCE and Jesse can't even shoot a gun! I wanted him to show that he had some secret skills or toughness, but alas he didn't. Oh well. Still a good read.
