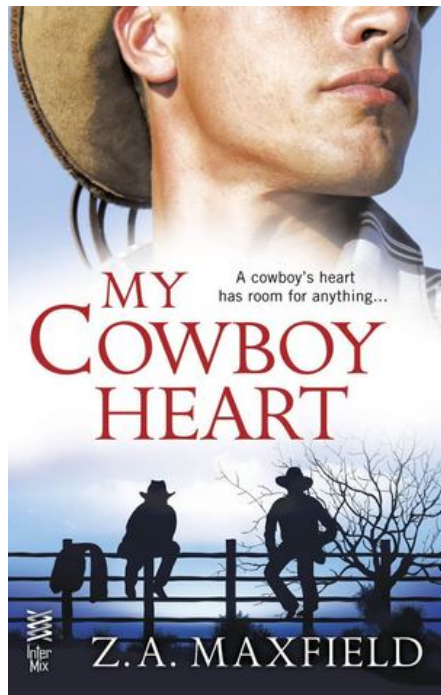




My Cowboy Heart

Z.A. Maxfield

Download now

Read Online ➔

My Cowboy Heart

Z.A. Maxfield

My Cowboy Heart Z.A. Maxfield

A cowboy's heart has room for anything...

J-Bar ranch foreman Malloy pretty much keeps to himself—slinking around the edges of everybody else like an old coyote, doing his job and staying private. That is until Crispin Carrasco shows up.

Lean, muscular, and with a motor mouth that won't quit, Crispin sparks something in Malloy—something the foreman didn't know was there. But how does a lone coyote approach the warmth of a fire? And more important, what would happen if that fire burned?

My Cowboy Heart Details

Date : Published August 20th 2013 by Intermix

ISBN :

Author : Z.A. Maxfield

Format : Kindle Edition 266 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Westerns, Contemporary

 [Download My Cowboy Heart ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online My Cowboy Heart ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online My Cowboy Heart Z.A. Maxfield

From Reader Review My Cowboy Heart for online ebook

Candice says

The beginning of this story was slow for me and it took a little bit to get interested in the characters. For me there was not an instant love with either of the main characters, but as the story progresses I began to enjoy them more and more. This is a very slow progressing romance and while Mallory may have never been with a man before, I wouldn't really consider it a gfy/ofy type book. It was more of a realization that gender didn't matter when it came to matters of the heart. The love that grows between these two is so sweet and was a great journey as it unfolded.

Simsala says

What's better than a cowboy with a heart of gold?

Two cowboys with a heart of gold!

Story/plot was nothing new and not overly exciting, but I fell in love with these wonderful, adorable characters. The five stars are for them.

Nic says

This is a beautiful romance that shows what love and family are all about. It is heartwarming and tender with some emotionally charged moments.

Malloy had a very sad upbringing with a drug addicted mother who was always looking for the next man or the next fix. He largely had to fend for himself until Crandall Jenkins and his wife Emma took him in. They provided him with a job and a home on their ranch but most importantly a place in their family. Malloy's life largely revolves around the Jenkin's family, his role as foreman of the ranch and his need to earn Crandall Jenkin's love and respect.

Crispin has been through a terrible trauma and still bears the scars of his experience. Mr Jenkins offers him a place on the ranch and asks Malloy to keep an eye on the openly gay Crispin. This is the turning point in his life as Malloy's eyes are finally opened to the true man he is inside.

The scenes where Malloy first admits his feelings for another man are wonderfully done, with Malloy first facing the loss of his dream **"I wasn't like Crandall Jenkins, and I'd never find an Emma. I'd never have what they had between them - not the home, not the kids, not the legacy, nor the love, nor the comfort of a lifelong partnership."** but then realising this wasn't the end **"It had only been moments since I'd thought about everything I'd lost, but now...now I could see what I'd gained."**

Crispin is truly a strong and inspiring man. He sees so much of the truth in people and I really warmed to his character. It was easy to see why Malloy felt so passionately about the man. I enjoyed the build of the relationship and the very emotional connection they had as well as the extremely passionate sex.

The story follows the romance but also has a strong focus on family as Crandall gets sick and the family need to deal with the ramifications. We also get some insight into the other ranch hands, Eddie and Jim who have their own issues. (I can't wait to read their story in My Heartache Cowboy which is due Jan 2014). I

guess Malloy's doctor had it right when he said "**Are you living on a ranch or a telenovela?**"

A lovely balance of deep emotional issues with moments of love and happiness! 4.5 stars

I now publish all my m/m reviews on my blog so if you want to see all my m/m reviews in one place come visit at Because Two Men Are Better Than One!

Debra says

This was a nice, understated romance of two men finding love and finding themselves. Malloy, the ranch foreman, is pretty much a loner. As a teenager he was saved by the Jenkins family and has since lived and devoted his life to them and the ranch. He has no real other relationships to speak of and as foreman, keeps his distance from the others he bunks with.

When out and proud Crispin shows up on the ranch as the new hand (and friend of the Jenkins family), Malloy is tasked by Mr. Jenkins with making sure he not only acclimates to working on the ranch, but making sure nobody gives him trouble. Crispin's arrival seems to throw the other hands, Eddie and Jim off-kilter and Malloy soon finds himself reacting to the man in ways he never before considered.

The two men had difficult past issues to deal with, but neither of them is broken by it. I loved Crispin's nervous babbling and caring nature. He has a heart of gold, especially when it comes to working with the animals. Malloy's quiet discovery and acceptance of his feelings for Crispin and what it means for his future was a pleasure to read. The differences in the dynamic of the work vs. private relationship they have was really enjoyable as well.

There is some humor in with the drama and there is room for the story to continue, although there is a happy ending for the two men. The supporting characters all had dimension and reasons to be there. Looking forward to Eddie and Jim's story next.

Eli Easton says

This is definitely a 5+ star read for me and I'm surprised to see so many 4 star reviews! The writing in this is just beautiful and the characterizations so rich and true and I actually found myself slowing down to savor every word.

Some of the things I loved:

- * the soap opera that ensued when a gorgeous young cowboy was dropped into an isolated bunk house with 3 supposedly straight ranch hands -- ay carumba!
- * the first person voice of Speed. His internal thoughts as he realized he had feelings for a man and was likely gay despite years of who-knew were so spot on and rich with honesty. So often in stories where one MC is undergoing a change like this it's glossed over or unrealistic -- not here
- * the Crandall character
- * loads of great dialogue/banter -- no "we talked for hours and he was so clever" here. Z.A. delivers the goods and then piles more goods on top of that.
- * the ranch, the animals.
- * threep

There isn't much I didn't like about this book other than the plotline got pretty sad when a major character is lost and the future is uncertain. It was all well-done and, well, was the plot of the book, but I really found all that very secondary to the actual language of the book and the characters.

Thank you, Z.A. for a wonderful read. I look forward to the next book in the series.

Gina says

This was a winner of a story! And It was not what I had expected, like most people who have already read and reviewed this book. This story was deeper and more emotionally charged than I had assumed. Malloy and Crispin's relationship was a slow burn and more emotionally satisfying than some of my previous cowboy reads. Crispin was talkative and funny, and Malloy was reserved and thoughtful. I enjoyed the way these two grew closer. I loved that their backgrounds were similar and that quiet loner Malloy was never embarrassed to be around talkative, animated Crispin. While this story did not have me jumping up and down with excitement and/or swooning all over the place, it did keep a steady satisfying smile on my face throughout the entire story. I never once had a slow moment, or a part that dragged a bit. This story was a snuggly blanket keeping me warm.

I loved the writing, the flow, and the characters. I could see myself sitting down and having a cup of coffee with these characters. I will be waiting for the next installment in this series.

5 quiet satisfying stars!

Kaje Harper says

This is a lovely, quiet romance about a lonely man finding out that his world and his heart are bigger and more complicated than he ever imagined.

Malloy has been on the J-Bar ranch ever since he arrived as a foster kid with no possessions, a neglected and painful childhood, and a deep need for some adult whom he could believe in and trust. He found that adult in ranch owner Crandall Jenkins, and to a lesser degree in his wife Emma. For the first time, Malloy was around people who kept their word, who cared more for others than themselves, who loved. They became his foster parents but Crandall was more - his model, his lodestar, almost his god. Malloy's life goal is to be the man Crandall would want him to be, to meet not just Crandall's loving standards but the ideal of integrity and strength that Crandall represents. So as he grew, became a ranch hand, went to college, and returned to become ranch foreman, Malloy has molded himself into a person Mr. Jenkins can be proud of knowing.

And now at 32, he is that man - honest, hard-working, compassionate, loving the land and the ranch and all who live and work on it. He's content, but although he doesn't admit it to himself, a little lonely. And despite the way the Jenkins' treat him as almost one of their own, he's aware of a gulf between himself and their biological daughters - a gulf which keeps him from feeling truly secure, because one day the ranch may go to the girls, who don't love it, and who may sell it and take away this life he lives for. Malloy tries not to think about that, but that hint of insecurity, and its echoes of his unsafe childhood, underlies his life as he works so hard for a place that is not his own.

Malloy isn't the only man working the ranch. Eddie and Jim are the permanent ranch hands, two men whom Crandall has also given a job and a home. And as the book opens, with the Jenkins' on their way to Florida to

visit the grandchildren, Malloy is told there will be one more guy joining the crew. Crispin is the grandson of a friend of theirs, in need of a job, and a twenty-five-year-old out, gay cowboy.

Crispin is a startlement and a wonder to Malloy from the very first moment. He talks constantly, loves animals, makes odd dolls, cooks, laughs, and shakes up Malloy's life. Crispin flirts with him, at first in very subtle ways, which Malloy reacts to without understanding why. Then one day, Crispin kisses him. Or he kisses Crispin. Malloy is not sure which, but he is sure that the moment of need and discovery cracks open his world, showing him to be a man he hardly recognizes. Those passionless, fast experiences he had with women in the past were unsatisfying, not because he didn't find the right woman, but because he was looking in the wrong place.

Malloy is sweet and lovely in his efforts to figure out what it means to be gay, and to be falling for the mercurial and confusing Crispin. He retreats into simple-cowboy mode, into the words and patterns he learned from Crandall, when he needs room to think. At other times, the college-educated man he is shows through. But through it all, he is trying to be a stand-up guy about this, and always putting Crispin first. If he could only figure out what that meant.

Crispin is a great character, a young man who is brilliant and passionate, sometimes scared and a bit battered by life. He is cheerful and positive by nature, but has a well of anger inside from a childhood spent around actors and Hollywood glitter and shallow self-centered people, and from the untimely death of his parents which sent him to live with his grandmother. He blows hot and cold in ways sometimes as infuriating to the reader as they are confusing to Malloy, but it is his vulnerability that drives his changes of mood.

It is a real pleasure to watch these two come together. The book starts out light and sweet, but quickly becomes more emotional as the pasts of these two lonely men complicate their love story. And then the present adds its helping of pain. I really enjoyed this, a fast, smooth, beautifully-written story about two guys you can't help loving. At the end of the book, I felt that there was still more healing needed - the issues these men were dealing with ran deep, and there hadn't been enough time, introspection, or therapy to get them past it yet. But there is a solid happy ending that warmed me, and this book goes on my comfort-reread shelf, despite the emotional moments in it. I was also pleased to get a little taste of the sequel, about Jim and Eddie, two secondary characters I'd like to know more about. Looking forward to that one.

Ami says

Despite my seemingly complaint shown on my status update, I loved this book. It was definitely better when Malloy dropped the *kid* thing (though the dreaded "*baby*" did make an appearance, said by Crispin to Malloy. But I changed those when I read it).

The story didn't have overwhelming drama. While Malloy might be only involved with women before Crispin came into his life, but he didn't contemplate too long to realize that he *could* be happy with Crispin.

I loved the differences between the two guys. Malloy was the solid, quiet, and well rather stoic cowboy. I felt for him -- the way he tried to prove himself of worthy for Mr. Jenkins. While Crispin, who is more outgoing and flamboyant -- and despite having bad childhood, he came out stronger. I loved how Crispin has a bleeding heart and the animals just got attached to him quickly.

It was a quiet, sweet, lovely romance that just fit my taste. I got teary eyed in the end during the conversation between Malloy and Jenkin's wife, Emma.

Now I can't wait for Eddie and Jim's story coming in January. Those two had complicated relationship, that's for sure. With Jim being such an a**hole here, it would be worth to read how he can redeem himself and find the love with Eddie.

Macky says

I have to say that this was probably one of my most favourite cowboy stories up to now. Not because this is an all out Ride 'em cowboy/ yeehaw! m/m ranch romance full of Dallas style sex and drama, or hot rodeo star rivals falling in love on the circuit or the ranch owner who can't keep his hands off the cocky young ranch hand, incurring the wrath of the homophobic small town they live in.

No, I loved this because even though its far more understated and subtle than that, I still felt it was a strong and heartwarming, sexy yet delightfully quirky story with its underlying humour and snappy dialogue between Malloy and Crispin whilst at the same time wringing a constant emotional response from the beautiful and tender romance that grows between them and also the poignant storyline that drives the book towards the end.

" I LOVED CRISPIN CARRASCO. NERVOUS TALKER, DOLL MAKER, DOG RESCUER, DAMAGED GOODS, COWBOY WHISPERER "

Every character felt real to me and that made it even more enjoyable. I almost felt like I was inside the story watching it all play out and I have to say this was classy and beautifully put together without being florid, wordy or terribly worthy.

There's no doubt that even though he's off page for most of the book, Crandall Jenkins is the heart of this story but the soul belongs to Malloy and Crispin. It was a joy to read and for me it totally deserves a full 5 stars.

" I CLUNG TO CRISPIN. I WRAPPED MYSELF AROUND HIM BODY AND SOUL, AND LET HIS BREATHING BE MY NIGHT SONG. HIS HEAD RESTED ON MY CHEST. " YOU ALL RIGHT? " I ASKED. " WARM ENOUGH? " SAFE NOW? " SHH, " HE WHISPERED. " I'M LISTENING TO YOUR HEART BEAT. "

Now Im itching to read Eddie and Jim's story and if the excerpt at the end is anything to go by its going to be another winner. Gorgeous!

Tina says

I love it when books take me on a journey I haven't expected. When I saw the „fluffy“ title and the cover I thought it would be another nice read about cowboys, horses, finding love and hot sex. Yada yada yada...

What I got was much much more. Speed 'Jefe' Malloy and Crispin Carrasco pulled all my heartstrings, ripped my heart apart, put it back together and ripped it apart all over again.

Malloy is the quiet and lonely foreman of the J-Bar Ranch. He has lived and worked there since the owners Crandall and Emma took him in at the age of 14. Now with 32 he works the land and supports the family who's given him a chance after a bad childhood. He cares deeply about Eddie and Jim, the other two full time ranch hands and he is devoted to his foster family but he finds it difficult to express his emotions. He keeps to himself, he thinks he doesn't belong to anyone/anything.

Crandall and Emma, these kind and warm-hearted people just blew me away. Their love for each other was wonderful to watch.

...when I saw Crandall and Emma two-stepping around the living room. Crandall was holding her closer than I thought he ought. Emma's face had looked flushed and pretty. I sat on the stairs and watched through the railing as they danced to a Randy Travis song I later found out was "their" song. It was sentimental and sweet, with "I'm going to love you forever," in the lyrics.

When I read this part a photo from Elliot Erwitt came into my mind. I love the message of unlimited love behind the picture:

Malloy doesn't have any illusions regarding his future. He isn't like Crandall Jenkins, and he'd never find an Emma. He'd never have what they have between them - not the home, not the kids, not the legacy, nor the love, nor the comfort of a lifelong partnership...

When Crandall and Emma take a vacation to visit their daughter in Florida, they tell Malloy they hired Crispin, a young man who needs a place to stay. For Malloy, who's never had any desires to have more than one-night stands with women, Crispin is like a shock to his system. He is openly gay, somewhat flamboyant and has a motor mouth that doesn't quit. Ever!

This kid's thoughts seemed to gallop along like a herd of wild horses. I could maybe get close enough to catch one every other minute or so..."

„I can actually picture it: Letters like snowflakes, swirling in the air around Crispin and littering the wooden porch deck where—thankfully—his feet were encased in a good, insulated pair of ropers. At least he wouldn't get frostbite and lose toes.“

I loved Crispin. Tough and manly, caring and honest. He is a strong and inspiring man. It was easy to see why Malloy falls in love with him. He cares for Malloy and the ranch and the animals. He even loves Malloy's crazy horse 'Teddy' Roosevelt.

"I was going to say call him Theodore. He likes that best."

I checked Crispin's face to see if he was kidding. He looked dead serious. "You're shitting me."

Crispin shook his head. "Try it. See what happens."

"You some kind of horse whisperer or something?"

"No." He looked up, surprised....

"You'll just have to trust me, Jefe. Names are sacred."

Malloy has always considered himself straight but the more he's in Crispin's presence the more he begins to question his feelings for him. The scenes where Malloy first admits his feelings for another man are awesome done.

I don't want to spoil anything so I won't give away more details. There's a bit of melodrama and angst, yes, but overall My Cowboy Heart is a beautiful romance and moving story of self discovery. It's a message that family is more than just blood relations and a heartwarming novel about friendship. I am looking forward to the next book in the series. Can't wait to read about Jim and Eddie. :)

Highly recommended! :)

Trisha Harrington says

This was a really emotional book. It started off funny enough and I really got into it. But I hadn't expected a book as emotional as this one. It was a book that had great characters, an interesting plot, and something that showed the kindness in people's hearts. I loved the fact that Mallory and Crispin had somewhat similar pasts. It was nice to see those similarities as both men had lost people in their lives.

The book is told in Mallory's POV and I found it wonderful. I'm a huge fan of 1st person stories and Mallory was such a complex character, that it made sense his story would be told like this. His story was sad. He was a lonely man in a room full of people for so long. What Crispin said was true, you can be alone in a crowd of people. And for Mallory, that really was the truth.

Normally, I hate it when a character dies and it's just to make things easier or more convenient. But sometimes it really does help a story or a character. And in reality, people die, so the way death was handled here was so well done and emotional. I hate to say it, but I was glad it happened the way it did. It added that raw emotion to it, and in some ways, I believe it's what made Mallory less alone in the long run. Strange as it may be, it's kinda how I feel.

Crispin was just a great character. He was out, really out, and at the same time, he had his own issues. It showed a great complexity. The man who acts like an excitable child, had so much pain in his past. And he suffered. I mean he really suffered. And like Mallory, he was probably a tiny bit alone himself. I was glad he was Mallory's opposite and at the same time, he was so like Mallory. His past did shape him.

I really enjoyed reading this book. I have a thing for cowboys and this author told the story really well. I fell in love with the MC's and have found a new book that I love.

Lisa says

3.5 stars. Very enjoyable story. Both MC's were adorable.

Heller says

I really enjoyed this read.

Crispin starts working at the J-Bar and shakes everything and everyone up, the ranch foreman Malloy most of all.

There were a lot of things that I liked about this story: the MC's, the build of their relationship and that they connected on a lot of different levels and they understood each other's quirks. Definitely more than just sex here. Some great descriptions of ranch life as well and living in a pretty isolated area.

Susan says

3.5 stars

Well, well, well...this book was lovely. Lovely in the sense that 2 men grow to love each other and they fight to be together. And I can read that story all day, every day.

I have to admit, I wasn't feeling this as the book started. The characters are not the type that you just "take" to right away. Crispin is overly talkative, a bit flamboyant, kinda emo, and unsettles things at the J-Ranch. Malloy is the steady (read: boring) ranch foreman who is surprised to find himself attracted to Crispin.

But, ZAM, the master at writing the broken character with a painful past, starts to draw you in as you get to know more about both Crispin and Malloy and the deep hurts and fears that come along with them. I found myself rooting for this couple, to be able to get past their histories, to drop their baggage, and to allow themselves to be loved. And once that love grew, *sigh*...it was tender and loyal and well, HOT! (very HOT!)

I also loved the side story of the ranch's owner, Crandall Jenkins, and his family and Malloy's place in their hearts. Tear jerker...

This could easily be seen as a gay-for-you story, but it's actually a very subtle out-for-you one instead. ZAM takes the reader on the journey along with Malloy as he comes to the realization he's gay and then, well, embraces it because of his deep love for Crispin. By the end, I was such a fan of both of their characters.

ZAM is sometimes a hit or miss for me. But, I really enjoyed this one...

*Check out this interview with **ZA Maxfield** as we talk **cowboys**, **scary dolls**, and the significance of signing*

with ***Intermix/Penguin!*** <http://loveaffairwithanereader.blogspot...>

Bitchie says

[Speed Ball (hide spoiler)]
