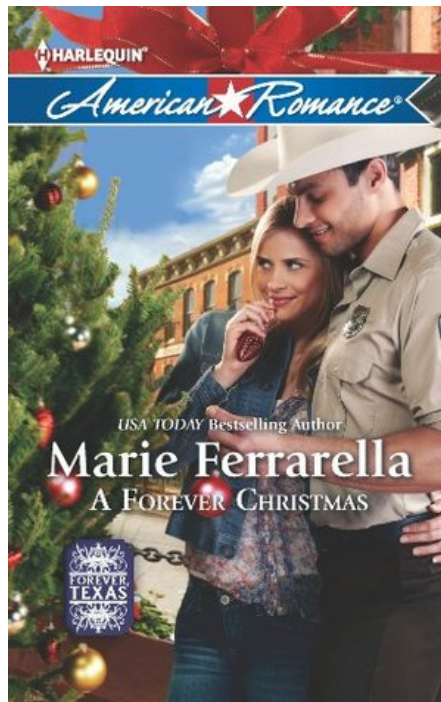




A Forever Christmas

Marie Ferrarella

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When Gabe Rodriguez took the job of deputy sheriff in the small town of Forever, Texas, he thought he'd be bored. So he's shocked the morning he discovers a car teetering on the edge of a deep ravine with an unconscious woman at the wheel. Gabe makes a daring rescue, but when the woman awakes, her memory is wiped clean.

Gabe may call her his Christmas "Angel," but in her eyes, he's the one who is truly heaven-sent. Gabe's given her a whole new life, and she is haunted by the feeling that this is the happiest she's ever been. Though Gabe is trying to help Angel recover her memory, she's willing to leave it all behind her and start fresh with him at her side. But when her past finally catches up to her, Angel could lose everything, including Gabe.

A Forever Christmas Details

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From Reader Review A Forever Christmas for online ebook

Melinda says

So this was basically a cute story of a woman who crashes and has amnesia. She's scared but she doesn't remember why and the town's people take her in and she becomes a member of the town and the danger eventually finds her. It reads like a lifetime movie. That's not an insult because I love Lifetime holiday movies! But it's a feel good movie where love and goodness prevails. Never happens in real life but works in a book. Also Forever, TX is a weird place. Awkward things seem to happen but Angel is well loved and crazy about Gabe.

Carmen says

She was asking a lot of him, but he wasn't going to fail her, he silently swore.

This book could have been SO good. We have an amazing premise here. (I seriously feel like I should rewrite all the books in this series.) Gabriel Rodríguez is new to his job as Sheriff's Deputy when he sees a car tottering on the edge of a ravine, an unconscious blonde inside.

He saves her, but when she awakens, she remembers nothing - not even her own name.

Dubbed "Angel" by an honorable Gabriel, he takes the amnesiac in and she tries to recover her memory as Christmas approaches in Forever, Texas.

...

Okay.

THE GOOD:

There are some seriously great romantic tropes and scenes in here.

Gabriel saving the heroine's life.

She's an amnesiac.

She falls asleep in his car and he carries her into the house.

He puts her to bed (the RIGHT way! Leaving her clothes ON!) and nobly takes the couch.

She wakes up screaming from a nightmare and he rushes to comfort her. Than stays with her until she falls asleep. <3

He buys her surprise flowers.

All this is heart-melting goodness.

And the villain is a doozy: Angel's ex, a rapist/woman-beating police detective. This kind of evil has the

potential to be gold, just look at the stunning, earth-shattering, mind-blowing Rose Madder by Stephen King.
...

THE BAD

Even though we have all this potential for greatness, I'm sorry to inform you that this series is still toothless. Ferrarella either CAN'T write sexual tension/sexy scenes or she WON'T because of a clause in the contract of writing for this line of Harlequin, but either way it's a miss. Add some sexy scenes to this book - some kissing, some sexual tension - and it could have skyrocketed onto my "five-star romance" shelf.

But no.

And not only is the sex bland, but Ferrarella seems unable to really ramp up the emotions in the way she needs to - in re: Angel's dark and mysterious past, her chilling nightmares, her struggles to remember who she is (having amnesia is very scary!). This should have been a roller coaster ride of emotion, but instead it was a flatline.

And another thing - it seems that no one in Forever, Texas is capable of using birth control in any shape or form. I realize that this is part of the genre (American Romance has a strong emphasis on "family and marriage and babies are EVERYTHING") so it is very tempting to just ignore the fact that condoms were invented so that the heroines can get pregnant in every book. But I'm a bit annoyed. I mean, you could at least MENTION it. If you WANT to get pregnant and are deliberately NOT using birth control, of course that's fine. But instead it's always like "Let's have a bunch of unprotected sex! Ooops, I'm pregnant!" I'm like o.O It's VERY ~~hard~~ difficult for me to believe that in this day and age people are just completely blasé and/or uninterested in using birth control.

If you want your heroine to become pregnant, that's fine. Just work with me here. Tell me they were using condoms and the condom broke. Or that she forgot to take The Pill. Or they were deliberately trying to start a family. Something. Give me something. I understand that Forever is a small little "throwback the the fifties" town or whatever, but the inhabitants aren't idiots. They should know how babies are made, ¿no es cierto? Just throw me a bone, here.

...

How's the sex, Carmen?

Vague, undescribed, and filled with meaningless terminology.

And when they reached it [orgasm is "it"], when a shower of lights and sound and feelings finally rained down on both of them, they clung to each other, each trusting the other to keep them safe and whole, and out of harm's way.

I mean, that's sweet - but it doesn't tell me jack shit.

Now, I realize I'm griping on the sex in this series all the time, but I want to reiterate that it is perfect for readers who don't want to read about described sex but DO want MCs who have sex. This is the happy medium for them.

...

Tl;dr - Fascinating premise with the potential for greatness that falls flat due to the author's inability to get your heart pumping with either her sex scenes or the emotional roller coaster you, as a reader, should be on.

This could have been great! Showing someone who is an amnesiac how to love and trust again in and out of

the bedroom?!?! That could be SUPER-SEXY and SUPER-ROMANTIC! Facing down a small town Sheriff's Deputy with a Big City police detective rapist/woman-beater?! That could be SUPER-EXCITING and full of nail-biting suspense. But no. Flatline.

Please see my "five-star romance" shelf for romances that are actually worth reading.

P.S. You can hate on Harlequin's covers all you want, but I like these modern ones. I feel like they tell a little story of their own.

TWO REAL STARS, TWO ROMANCE STARS

Not available in Spanish.

Harlequin American Romance November 2012

Harlequin Books says

Miniseries: Forever, Texas
Category: Heart & Home

Susan says

Very good book. Angel is on the run from a man who is trying to kill her. While fleeing she has an accident and is rescued by Gabe. When she regains consciousness she can't remember anything, but is healthy otherwise. I really liked both Gabe and Angel. Gabe is serving as a temporary deputy while coping with a broken heart. After rescuing Angel he feels responsible for her, so while the sheriff's department tries to find out who she is, Gabe takes her home with him. He is attracted to her but has no intention of taking advantage of her that way. He enjoys being with her and finds that her presence makes his house feel like a home. He soon realizes that he has fallen in love with her and wants to keep her in his life. Angel flees in terror from the man trying to kill her, but has fear of another type when she awakens with no memory. She feels that there is something she should be afraid of, but the memory isn't there. She quickly comes to trust Gabe and the other people of Forever and is happy working in Miss Joan's diner. She is attracted to Gabe and it isn't long before she is able to show him that he wouldn't be taking advantage of her, but making her happy. Despite her still missing memory she is very happy there. I really liked the way that she was such a people person and how much everyone liked her. I also loved the way she was able to stand up to the bad guy at the end and make her happy ending with Gabe possible.

Nancy Crocker says

This is the story of a woman on the run from a crazy obsessed Detective. She is involved in a car accident where she hits her head and loses her memory. Along comes Gabe, a Deputy in the town of Forever. Who not only risked his life to save her. But brings her back to his home, while she recovers. Of course they end up falling in love with each other.

Charming story, light read. Really would give 4.5 stars, nothing wrong with the story. Just did not make me want to re-read it like others do. Still a good novel to pass the day.

babyfishmouth says

I was intrigued by the amnesia plot but this book is so full of cliches and predictable plot points that it was almost a DNF. I think the only reason I kept reading was to see if I guessed correctly.

In the first chapter, the heroine is fleeing in her car from an abusive man when it crashes just before she's about to run out of gas. Inexplicably, though, the car eventually explodes right after the hero manages to pull her from the wreckage. How a car with virtually no gas can go up in a fiery ball of flames doesn't seem to have occurred to the author. It was at this point I knew I was in for some lazy plotting and my suspicions were confirmed with the passing of each chapter.

(view spoiler)
