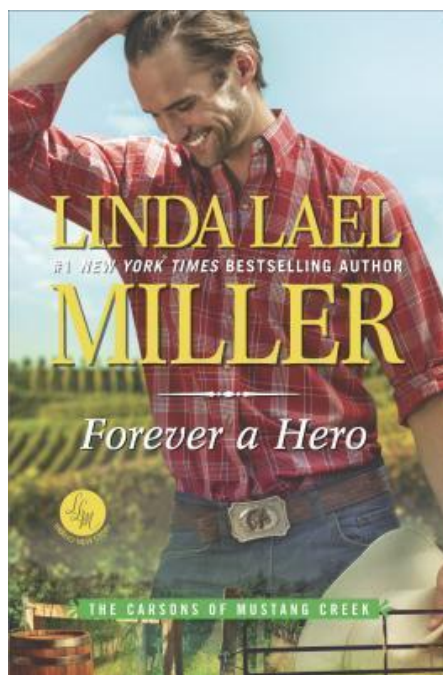




Forever a Hero

Linda Lael Miller

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For the youngest Carson brother, finding—and fixing—trouble seems to be all in a day's work

Mace Carson is no hero. Back in college, he came upon a woman in trouble and intervened—but he was just one irate Wyoming cowboy with his boots planted firmly on the side of right. Now a successful vintner, Mace is shocked to be reunited with the woman he saved. But it turns out she's in Wyoming on business...a corporate executive representing the company that wants to buy his winery. Only, he's not selling.

Kelly Wright has never forgotten that horrible night ten years ago when Mace came to her rescue, has never forgotten him. The surprising success of a winery in the middle of ranch country has brought her to Mustang Creek, and she's secretly thrilled to discover Mace at the helm. Reluctant to mix business with pleasure, Kelly vows to keep things professional, until her attacker is released from prison and comes for vengeance...against both of them.

Forever a Hero Details

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From Reader Review Forever a Hero for online ebook

Tricia Douglas says

Miller's stories always make me happy and give me a break from my more serious novels. This was the third of the Carsons to find true love and live happily ever after. Her books always have a happy ending!

Amy says

All of my reviews can be found on www.novलगossip.com

So back when I was in middle/high school I used to read a lot of romance novels, the cheesier the better. I know, so clichéd, right? As I got older my tastes matured and mysteries and thrillers took over and I tend to mostly grab a romantic comedy if I'm looking for something on the lighter side. When the lovely Claire at Little Bird Publicity asked if I wanted to review Forever a Hero I was immediately nostalgic and figured that reading a straightforward romance novel may be fun for a change.

This is definitely a good old fashioned romance complete with a cowboy. Admittedly I'm a sucker for a good looking man in a cowboy hat (has anyone else been watching the new season of DWTS? Bonner is swoon worthy) and though parts of this were pretty cheesy, Lael Miller is a talented writer even if the plot was pretty typical.

This is the third book in a series, each one follows one of the Carson brothers who live in the picturesque town of Mustang Creek, Wyoming. Mace Carson runs a winery, which is another point in the authors favor for me because I'm an even bigger sucker for a great bottle of wine. Kelly is a successful business woman and the company she works for sends her to visit Mace's winery because they want to purchase it. He saved her from an attacker ten years ago and I'm sure you can guess what I'm about to say next, but he's out of prison and out for revenge.

The plot itself was pretty predictable but the characters made up for it, plus everyone once and awhile it's nice to know what to expect. The Carson family is large, rowdy and friendly and the town they live in is the same. Kelly and Mace had an easy banter and this was a quick and fun read for me. I doubt I'll ever go back to reading straight up romance novels all the time anytime soon, but this was a nice change of pace and an enjoyable read.

Ann says

Loved this book love all of Linda lael miller books

Books and Spoons says

Sometimes the characters in a book series can become your friends, and they feel so familiar and comfortable like your own family. And when a new installments come out in a series like that, it feels like you are going, if not home, then visit with dear friends. So let me tell you about the visit I had in the

Mustang Creek and about the friends who lives there...

The Carson family is a delight to be around. The brothers with their quick wit and constant banter are fun and entertaining. They might rip each other as often as possible, but they also look out for each other and would do absolutely anything to help the others if needed. They love and respect their mom fiercely, and Harry, the cook is like a beloved aunt, Red the foreman of the ranch, like a father figure to all of them since their lost their own father years ago. There is love in the air that is palpable, and their unconventional family opens their hearts, minds, and arms to any of its members to embrace them and share their lives with them. Yes, there's such warm and fuzzy feelings around the ranch, mixed with family values, honesty, dignity, and respect. Who doesn't enjoy to hang around folks like that?!

Mace Carson, the youngest son, the wine expert who seems to take nothing seriously, who has a big caring, protective heart, is sexy as all get out, and a kind and sweet man. There's absolutely nothing to dislike him about. He can take charge, yet is considerate to others. He jokes around to keep things light but has big shoulders to cry on if needed and willing to talk seriously when called for. He doesn't like to be seen as a hero, but would rather meet you as an equal, face to face, on the same level. A man to swoon after!

Kelly Wright is a workaholic, who has passion and drive, loves to make deals, and goes after what she wants. The drama from a decade ago shadows her mind, the role Mace had in it, saving her, still makes her look at him with awe. Her marriage left her skeptical about lasting love and kept promises, doubting herself as a partner in a relationship. The feelings between her and Mace are so easy to come by, so comfortable, so intimate she wonders if they are to be trusted.

The attraction between Kelly and Mace is palpable. They have the chemistry, they have the connection, it is beautiful and filled with fire from the passion they have for each other. The doubts and fears in Kelly's mind giving their relationship the waves, the pull and push go on maybe a bit too long.

I loved the slow pace of the story, it really gave me the time and an opportunity to enjoy each moment with the characters, and get a good look of their lives. The family connection, the friends in town, the romance, even the bit of a danger that arises from the tale, it all wrapped itself around my mind and played the scenes like on a movie screen. There's so much adoration, admiration, and all the good things still left in this world present and counted for in the tale, it left me smiling and sighing with a hopeful mind. A lovely, delightful tale with smooth, flowing writing set in a gorgeous scenery that might make you want to cork a bottle of wine and take a moment to enjoy the life. Cheers to the Carson family, I have enjoyed getting to know y'all!
~ Four Spoons with a teaspoon on the side

Catherine (The Sassy Bookster) says

4.5 Stars. This was a surprisingly fun and enjoyable read. Full review to come

Jennie says

This is the third book in the trilogy and I did not like it as much as the other two. Mace is the youngest brother who runs a vineyard. He meets Kelly who comes to make him an offer from her company to buy the vineyard. They fall in love. He had actually met Kelly ten years ago at college when he rescued her from an attacker. Shortly after Kelly comes to Wyoming, her attacker is released from prison and he comes to get even with Mace.

Nise' says

Mace and Kelly met 10 years ago when he interrupted her being assaulted on their college campus. Now she is in town for a meeting with the owner of Mountain Winery that happens to be Mace. When her car slips off the road she is rescued once again. At first Mace doesn't recognize her. He is intrigued by who she has become and finds himself interested in her, but not in selling his winery. She is just as determined to make the sale that will go far towards getting her the promotion she wants. Kelly has to work just as hard to keep their relationship professional when she really wants it to be so much more. Mace is ready and willing for it to be more. It was great to revisit Bliss County and this family for the final book in this series. Liked it from start to finish.

Judy says

Ten years ago Kelly Wright was attacked by a male on her college campus. It could have turned out so bad had it not been for her hero rescuing her....Mace Carson. Thanks to Mace her attacker went to jail. She'll never forget her hero and she'll never be in that position again. She's now on her way to Mustang Creek to negotiate a sale for her company. She slides off the wet road and her car is hanging by a thread before it goes over an embankment. Before panic has a chance to set in, she is rescued! Once again....Mace Carson. When he rescued her in college, him and her were both dating other people. What happens now when neither is dating anyone? He's such an amazing man, how can she not fall for him, but she's in his town to do a job. One that involves him and one that he has put his foot down and said absolutely it's not happening!

Mace Carson is a cowboy that owns/run a ranch and a winery. As he's traveling down the wet road; a car spins out in front of him. He rushes to help the driver since the car is about to topple over the embankment. He's surprised to see who the driver is...Kelly She's older and more beautiful than he remembered and she's also an executive after his winery. Oh hell no!! He's not willing to sell, but there's chemistry between them that neither can deny. But, what happens when Kelly's attacker gets out of jail and has a score to settle with her and Mace?

Oh my, this was such a good series!! Those Carson men are a force to be reckoned with! Hot, alpha cowboys stuck in their ways. Reading each book of this series, was like rejoining friends around the kitchen table to catch up! A captivating series that I found hard to set each book down until I was finished!!

Reviewed on behalf of Once Upon An Alpha

L?ga V?tola says

They did it.

Susan says

Very good book. Mace is the youngest of the three Carsons and owns and runs a very successful winery on his family's ranch. The winery is his passion and his focus, besides his work on the ranch with his brothers. Driving home one rainy day, he witnesses a car spin out on the slick highway and rescues the driver from a perilous situation. It turns out that it isn't the first time he's come to the rescue of this person.

Kelly was a freshman in college when she was attacked on her way back to her dorm. Mace witnessed the

attack, saved her and held the attacker for the police. He was also instrumental in sending the man to jail. Kelly is now a top executive with a company who wants to buy Mace's winery, and it's her job to make the sale. Kelly is also happy to see Mace again.

I loved seeing the relationship develop between them. Mace is smitten from the start, though unwilling to admit it. Kelly is equally attracted, but has two things arguing against getting involved with him. First is the business relationship. She is there to get Mace to agree to sell his winery to her company. Mixing business and pleasure isn't a good idea. Second, she's wary of relationships now, her divorce wrecking her belief in love and happily ever after. They butt heads a bit at the beginning, first as Mace insists on a doctor after her accident and won't listen to her objections. Then, as she presents her business proposal and he flat out refuses to consider it. Kelly has a lot riding on this deal, and she really wants to convince him, but is pretty sure that he won't sell. I liked how Mace talked Kelly into leaving business behind and introduced her to life in Mustang Creek. When she receives distressing news about her job, it gives her the chance to reevaluate her life. Mace wants to keep Kelly around for a while and explore whatever it is that's happening between them. I loved seeing them get to know each other, exploring their similarities and their differences. There are some pretty sweet scenes as Mustang Creek and the whole Carson family begin to grow on Kelly. It was fun to see Mace dealing with his family's interference and advice as he accepts the truth of his feelings. He knows he has an uphill battle to get past Kelly's fears, but he is definitely up to the challenge. He comes up with the perfect solution for them. His big moment at the end was sweet, romantic, and fun.

There is a bit of suspense toward the end, as the man who attacked her gets out of jail and is bent on revenge. Kelly is worried, not just for herself but for Mace also. When his winery is vandalized, Mace's worry for Kelly increases. I loved seeing the whole family come together to do what is necessary to protect her. The resolution of this particular problem had me laughing out loud.

I loved visiting Mustang Creek and seeing so many familiar faces. The Carson family is wonderful with their obvious love and support for each other. The teasing among the brothers is great fun, but there's no question that they have each other's backs. I also enjoyed seeing Mace be on the receiving end of the same kind of advice he gave in the previous two books. Some of the quirkier members of the town add their own bit of magic to the story.

Robin Reynolds / October Woman says

This is the third book in The Carsons of Mustang Creek series, and while the first book (Once a Rancher) is still my favorite, I very much enjoyed the youngest brother's story. The banter between Mace and Kelly had me smiling constantly, and laughing out loud several times.

Kelly and Mace first met in college ten years ago, when Kelly was attacked while walking across campus one night, and Mace came to her rescue. They were both in relationships at the time, and other than the trial, didn't see each other again. Now the company Kelly works for wants to form a partnership with Mace's winery, and she's in town to present the proposal to him.

While Kelly is in Mustang Creek, trying not to fall for Mace, the man who attacked her is released from prison and begins stalking her. I expected that plot to be resolved in the usual cliched way, and was happily surprised when it took a completely different and unexpected turn.

Mace is the last of the Carson brothers to find the love of his life, but there is still one more book! Raine, Slater's ex-girlfriend and the mother of his daughter, has appeared in the first three books and is still close with the Carson family, and I've already bought her book and am looking forward to it.

Julie says

Forever a Hero by Linda Lael Miller is a 2017 HQN Books publication.

This is the third book in the Carsons of Mustang Creek series and because LLM is one of my favorite authors and I really liked the first two books in this series, I couldn't wait to dive into this one, especially after seeing the amazing response it was having on Goodreads.

But, for me personally, this one was a rare miss.

This story is centered around the youngest Carson brother, Mace, who runs a winery, and Kelly Wright, a woman from the big city, hoping to do business with Mace.

Mace finds himself coming to Kelly's rescue for a second time in her life after she has a near fatal car accident. Things quickly escalate from there as the pair discover a chemistry between them which cannot be denied. However, their business dealings are slightly more complicated, and to add even more tension into the mix, an old nemesis is out for revenge.

Naturally, I wanted to like this book, and of course I went into it with a very positive mindset. But, for some reason, the chemistry was flat, without much romantic build-up. The business conflicts were a little mundane, but I liked the way it all worked out in the end. The suspense element was okay, but because it became a primary storyline at one point, I thought it was too predictable.

Kelly's reluctance to commit to a relationship again was understandable, her concerns about beginning a family was realistic, but a tad generic, since times are always challenging no matter when or where you decide to raise children. However, I admired her willingness to try new things and go off script with her life and her business.

Mace was a little muted, sort of old fashioned, which is nice sometimes, but he rubbed me the wrong way on occasion. He was very good to Kelly, though, and gave her a chance to get away from an awkward career situation, and eased her troubled mind about some big key issues that had caused her to worry overmuch.

I liked the city gal falling in love with the country boy theme, and despite the lukewarm romantic buildup and predictable conflicts, the couple did compliment one another nicely.

I wish I could say I enjoyed this one as much as the first two books in the series, but it was just okay. I see I am in the minority, though, so if you have enjoyed this series so far, by all means, continue on. Linda Lael Miller is always worth the time, even though I can't say this one was her best effort.

2.5 rounded up.

Aly says

What are the chances of having the same man saving you not once but twice in your life ? Or is it fate ?

Mace witness an accident. A car slip on the rainslick pavement. Without hesitation, he goes to the rescue. Afterward, he realize it's not the first time he met this woman but can't recall where he saw her before. Kelly will never forget. It was at college, a decade ago, on the night she was assaulted by a stranger and Mace came to the rescue this time again.

But it doesn't take time before he remember or that she let him know what she's doing in Mustang Creek. The company she works for wants a partnership with his winery. Mace comes from a wealthy family, so rich the profits goes to various charities, so it's not like he needs the money. Kelly needs to convince him is she wants a promotion, but he's pretty stubborn about what he wants and what he doesn't. He doesn't want a wine's partnership, but what about a personal one with the woman he can't get out of his mind? What she doesn't want is to mix business with pleasure, but how can she resist his good ol' boy charm ?

Mace is everything you can dream of in a man if you're looking for stability and kindness. He's attentive, honorable, sensitive, perceptive and a true gentleman. But Kelly made mistake with love before and she's afraid to trust her feelings again, especially since her attraction to Mace is happening too fast. In Mustang Creek, she'll realize she gave too much time and importance to her work and it made her lonely.

The hero is happy with his work, you can feel his passion when he talks about it and the wine business, it's in his blood. But he thought he would be married with kids by now. He too realize that what's happening between him and Kelly is going fast, but unlike her, he trust his heart and knows that what he feels is real and that's all that matter. I liked the contrast between them, her analyzing her feelings and him not questioning it and just accept that's how it's gonna be.

I liked that when he talk about wine, it's not condescending nor snobbish. The heroine's way of thinking about children, her fear of not being brave or strong enough for them in such a dangerous world really resonated with me.

I haven't read the previous books in the series but I certainly intend too now because it was fun to learn about the other couples, I like the small town vibe and I want more of the ribblings between the brothers. I think this series may be a spin-off of the Bliss County's series because I saw characters from it in this one.

Priyanka says

Forever a Hero is my first read by Linda Lael Miller, and I definitely see myself reading more books by her. This book is a third and final installment in this series and I really liked this book so I am gonna go back to book 1 and read the other two books.

Mustang Creek is a small town in Wyoming and Carson brothers are a major part of the town as we follow their stories in this series. This is a story of the youngest brother, Mace Carson, the wine mogul and Kelly Wright, the not-so-damsel in distress.

Kelly is out to meet Mace and help him grow his business by offering him some deal, but little did she know she would be the one needing his help as soon as she reaches in the town. Her car goes hydroplaning nearly killing her but Mace our hero and a knight in shining armour, saves her. Just like he did once upon a time back in college when Kelly was in need of saving from an assailant.

Kelly is in town for business with Mace but soon both of them want things on a personal level too. Kelly is confused as she meets Mace's family, the town people, they're the kind of people she will never forget, the town itself has its own charm and most importantly Mace, they all make her want to stay and not return back to the life she has built for herself.

Kelly and Mace are just sorting their story, her nightmare, her assailant, Lance Vreeman arrives into town with vengeance on his mind. I really liked how they handled Lance Vreeman situation too. Because even though this is a spoiler I have to say it, he gets a very deserving and funny end, I loved it. It was really a sweet and kind of an insta love story. The whole family was charming. I loved seeing all the side characters and can't wait to back to read their stories.

ARC provided via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Check out <http://abooklionshideaway.blogspot.in/> for more reviews.

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

Forever a Hero is the third, but it looks like not quite final, book in the Carsons of Mustang Creek series. The series has followed the lives and romantic adventures of the Carson brothers, beginning with Slater, who was Once a Rancher but is now a documentary filmmaker. Second up was Drake, who is Always a Cowboy, and had a difficult time finding a wife until his mother secretly fixed him up.

This is youngest brother Mace's story. So far, the love of Mace's life has been the Mountain View Winery. It's his brainchild and his contribution both to the ranch and to the community. It's his personal vision, and he has a genius for blending new wines.

But there's a conglomerate out there who wants to change all that, and they've sent their best agent, Kelly Wright, to negotiate a distribution and management deal for GGI with Mountain View Winery. Her promotion to vice-president, with all the stock options and other fabulous perks, is riding on her successful completion of the deal.

On her way to Mustang Creek, her car goes hydroplaning and nearly off the road into a canyon. She's rescued from certain death by Mace Carson. But Mace has always been Kelly's hero. Once upon a time, ten years ago when they were both in college at UCLA, Mace rescued Kelly from an attacker. Mace testified at Lance Vreeman's trial, and he was sent to jail for a long and much deserved sentence.

Ms. Wright may have come to Mustang Creek to negotiate with his winery, but Kelly is there to see Mace again, even if she hasn't completely admitted that to herself. Back then was not the time for them to even think about a relationship, but now is much, much different.

The chemistry they had all those years ago is still very much there. And suddenly, so is Lance Vreeman.

Escape Rating B+: This series, and The Brides of Bliss County series that it spun off from (and the Parable, Montana series that IT spun off of), has been lovely all the way.

Each book features a hero who is a good man, but who is alone for reasons that seem right – not because he needs to be reformed or grow up. And they all come from a marvelously functional family – albeit one that gets bigger with each book!

The heroines in their turn are smart, independent and also alone for reasons that make sense. In Kelly's case, it's because she has spent her 20s having a career instead of a life. Whether a woman can do both is an open question, but Kelly hasn't even tried. Her trip to Mustang Creek provides her with the time, and changes at her work give her the motivation and the opportunity, to take a step back and decide what she really wants out of life.

There's also no misunderstandammit in this story, or the series. While both Mace and Kelly are initially reluctant to pursue a relationship, it's for reasons that, again, make sense. Their shared history is a bit traumatic, and Kelly is there to attempt to negotiate a deal that Mace has no intention of taking. It is difficult not to get the personal and the professional mixed together, or worry that they are too mixed together.

And they have the same problem that Drake and Luce (in *Always a Cowboy*) also had. Mace's life is tied to his Winery, the ranch, and his family. He can't leave Mustang Creek, and he doesn't want to. Kelly's life is in LA, and a long-term relationship with Mace means a lot more change for her than it does for him.

The way they negotiate this issue is one of the strengths of the book. It's about compromise, and two adults working out a way to be together, that makes allowances for what both of them want and need and doesn't make one feel like they are giving up something truly important to them. I liked the way they figured things out. A lot.

Remember what I said yesterday about stalkers? This is another book that looks like it might go into stalker territory, but again, marvelously doesn't. Lance Vreeman does get out of jail, and does come back, with, as the saying goes, a vengeance. And while he terrifies pretty much everyone, he's not after Kelly so much as he is after Mace. And everyone acts like a sensible adult, as they did in *Once a Rancher*. Kelly does not act stupidly, and she doesn't need to be rescued. She and Mace work together, along with Mace's brothers and friends, to keep everyone safe.

In the end, Lance gets the best serving of just desserts that I have ever seen. And possibly the funniest, courtesy of a stubborn, ornery and very protective bull. It's a perfect ending to the book.

But not to the series, we have one last trip to Mustang Creek to look forward to. There's still *A Snow Country Christmas* coming just in time for the holidays.
