



Clandestine Christmas

Elle James

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Sexy cowboy ropes in stunning secret agent!

A wickedly handsome billionaire rancher, Chase Marsden is past his dissolute playboy days. With Covert Cowboys' Kate Rivers posing as his fiancée, he's determined to find the culprits trying to murder an old—and notorious—friend many would kill to keep silent.

From the moment Chase eyes Kate—beautiful, tough, but vulnerable—he knows she's the one. Kate, a former Texas Ranger, fears nothing but Chase's reckless kisses. As they investigate together, each clue puts their lives further in jeopardy. Will Christmas find them under the mistletoe...or escaping kidnappers and dodging hit men?

Clandestine Christmas Details

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From Reader Review Clandestine Christmas for online ebook

Susan says

Terrific end to the Covert Cowboys series. Chase is a wealthy rancher who used to be quite the playboy. He was rescued from the consequences of that lifestyle by Sadie Lovely, a former madam, who helped him see the error of his ways. When Sadie comes to him, worried about strange accidents that have been happening to her, Chase is determined to protect her and her grandson. He asks for help from Covert Cowboys Inc.

Kate is a former Texas Ranger who came to work at CCI after injuries that forced her to leave the Rangers. She arrives in town just in time to see a car run down Chase and Sadie, leaving Sadie in the hospital, fighting for her life. Posing as Chase's fiancée, they are determined to find out who is trying to kill Sadie and why.

There is an immediate attraction between Kate and Chase. Kate tries hard to ignore it for two reasons. The first is that she is working for him and it would not be appropriate to get involved with him. Second, there are things about her that she feels make her all wrong for a man like Chase. He doesn't agree. He is drawn to her strength and her beauty, and also to the vulnerable woman he senses is under the tough exterior. I loved seeing the way that Kate was able to share her secret with him, and Chase's insistence that it makes no difference to his feelings.

I loved the changes that both went through. Chase's transformation from playboy to rancher was great. His growing appreciation for his legacy also showed him what he was missing in his life. I really liked the way that he saw Kate's place in his life so quickly. Kate had more to work through. The unhappiness and feelings of unworthiness caused by her injuries left her feeling that all her dreams for her future were dead. It hit her especially hard when she first saw Sadie's grandson Jake. I loved seeing the effect that being around him had on her, and how he helped with her healing. I loved the ending with the Christmas wishes coming true.

The suspense part of the story was great. The action started right off with the attack on Chase and Sadie, and continued at a good pace throughout. Each clue that they uncovered seemed to be countered with another attack as they tried to piece together who was behind it all. There were several possible suspects and I loved the way each was dealt with. There was one scene that gave me an idea of who it was, but I wasn't sure until the end. The intensity of the kidnapping scene made the final confrontation a little bit anti-climactic, but satisfying nonetheless.

Harlequin Books says

"James unequivocally nails the mystery, suspense and action elements. This well-written read will have you on the edge of your seat" (RT Book Reviews, 4 stars).

Miniseries: Covert Cowboys, Inc.

Lynn Brooks says

A great end to the Covert Cowboys, Inc. series! This one is filled with intrigue from the very first chapter until the last.

Billionaire rancher Chase Marsden is determined to help his old friend Sadie Lovely when she comes to him saying that she thinks someone is following her. He hires a bodyguard from Covert Cowboys, Inc. to come and protect her.

Kate Rivers is a former Texas Ranger, now taking on her first job as a private bodyguard. Just as she arrives into town, an attempt is made on Sadie's life. She and Chase team up to try to track down who is behind it. During their investigation, they find Sadie's notorious black book naming some high up political figures from when she was a Madam.

Will Chase & Kate decide to act on the attraction they are feeling for each other? Will they be able to track down the killer or killers before they make another attempt on Sadie?

Merle says

Last (?) of the Covert Cowboys series. Kate Rivers is a former Texas Ranger who has joined CCI after a medical retirement from the Rangers. Chase Marsden is a billionaire living close by Reggie and Angus in Colorado.

Chase's friend, Sadie Lovely, has been harassed and burned out of her home. She and her grandson have been staying with Chase until a frightening incident one evening. Chase's requested bodyguard is Kate and she arrives in time to help save Sadie's life. She is unsure about her ability to do her duty when she meets Sadie's grandson Jake, who brings up lots of emotional issues for Kate. She and Chase are also growing close and that also makes her uncomfortable. Another attempt, more threats and one big clue later, the many threads of mystery finally unravel. Good one.

ButtonsMom2003 says

A standalone story and the final book in the Covert Cowboys Inc. series.

Chase Marsden, former playboy, now lives on the ranch he inherited from his grandfather. He had to spend 2 years there in order to inherit but now he loves living there. He's befriended Sadie Lovely, a woman with a past who is 15 years older, and credits her with helping him pull his life together. Sadie's daughter died recently and she is now raising her grandson, Jake. Strange "accidents" have been happening to Sadie and Jake so Chase has hired Covert Cowboys Inc. to help provide protection for Sadie and Jake until they can figure out what's going on.

Kate Rivers is a former Texas Ranger, hurt on the job and medically retired. Now working for CCI, she has been sent her to provide the protection Chase requested for Sadie. She arrives in town just in time to witness a car running down Chase and Sadie. Chase has Kate come stay at his ranch while Sadie is in the hospital so she can help protect Jake. Chase is unaware of what happened when Kate was injured and doesn't know why she can't be around kids.

This story held my interest right from the beginning. Kate and Chase are attracted to each other but things don't really escalate too quickly. As they learn more about each other Kate finally trusts Chase enough to tell him her secret and he opens up about his former playboy lifestyle.

There's a lot of mystery and suspense in this story and there are plenty of suspects to choose from. The mark

of a good mystery is not being able to figure out whodunit too early on and I didn't guess the right one at all – which was great! I thought the story unfolded at a nice pace, not too fast and not too slow.

Although this book is part of the Cover Cowboys Inc. series you don't need to have read any of the other ones to enjoy this book. If you've been reading the series you will be happy that characters from earlier books make brief appearances in this one.

Books by Elle James always provide me with an enjoyable escape and this one was a great way to spend a few hours away from my normal life. :-)

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for an honest review.

CD {Boulder Blvd} says

The description tells you a lot - it mentions the romance and doesn't touch much on the suspense element of the plot. The story line follows the book description. It focuses on the libido of the H/h and leaves gaps in the suspense. I really am not into insta-lust/love so them hitting the sack within almost a day of meeting didn't awe me. Also, I'm a reader who loves the suspense element and I found the story lacking what I like best. The really sad part is that the plot had so much potential if it didn't get interrupted with the typical element that his jeans were feeling a bit tight.

This left me not too inspired by the H/h. The whole book is them thinking with their libido and not watching out for the bad guys. After getting some potentially good information, instead of reviewing and passing information on to the support team, they decide to shower and have sex. Instead of watching traffic after already been attacked 3 times, he's thinking about the night ahead and they get rear-ended by another vehicle. Which also means our ex-Texas Ranger (our h) wasn't paying too much attention either. Some of the plot points felt contrived when with just a little more effort and depth to the plot it would have felt more real.

The book had a good set of characters, good writing and a potentially sound plot, but in the end it just fell short for me.

Jimnlori says

I love Christmas stories and this one by Elle James didn't disappoint.

Chase Marsden is a handsome rancher trying to help an old friend and her grandson when they find themselves in danger from these strange and very dangerous accidents.

Kate Rivers is called in to help with keeping them safe, but she gets more than she bargained for when she falls for not only Chase, but Jake also. This job isn't what she expected, but if it all works out for the best it could be a very Merry Christmas!

I was given an ARC for an honest review. All conclusions are mine and mine alone.

Lori Meehan says

This was a action packed love at first sight romantic suspense story. Chase is a good hearted former playboy who vows to protect to ones who he cares for even if it's with his life. Sadie Lovely and her grandson Jake have become his family and someone is out for Sadie. Chase hires a bodyguard to follow Sadie. When all hell breaks loose he's quite surprised to find Kate a former Texas Marshal as the bodyguard.

Anita says

Elle James has a way of drawing you into the story from the very first page. She can invoke danger and suspense that hook you in from the beginning all the way to the end.

Chase is making a return in the series with his own book. In High Country Hideout he was the friendly billionaire rancher next door. In Clandestine Christmas he is helping an old friend, Sadie, who is an aging lady of the evening set on a new life and raising her grandson. But her old life is stalking her and Chase contacts CCI for a bodyguard to protect Sadie and Jake. It seems that someone is after Sadie's Little Black Book and is willing to kill to get it. Chase is determined that that is not going to happen.

Kate is a former Texas Ranger who was medically retired after a busted meth lab raid left her with permanent injuries. She has joined Hank's CCI and is assigned to protect Sadie and her grandson, Jake. On her arrival in Fool's Fortune she is witness to a hit and run that send Sadie to the hospital and leaves Chase banged up. No one with knowledge of the book and close to Sadie is safe and Chase and Kate must uncover which name is Sadie's book wants her dead. For Chase it is love at first sight and it doesn't take Kate long to feel the same.

Peggy Clayton says

This book is part of the Covert Cowboys, Inc. and is so good. If you have read any of her previous books in this series be on the lookout for characters from previous books. I love this series and sure hope that it continues as I am hooked on the Cowboys!

I received this book from the author for an honest review!

Lexee Toste says

I loved the characters in this story. The last Covert Cowboys story introduces us to Chase so it was great to get to read his story next. You don't see a whole bunch of Chase in the last one though. Chase is helping out a friend that is in danger. Chase calls in help but has no idea how fast it is going to escalate. Kate comes into

town just in time to help save his friend Sadie and him. Chase has Kate pretend to be his fiancée as they try and figure out what is going on and who is trying to kill Sadie and if they are going to go after her grandson. There is an immediate connection and chemistry between Chase and Kate but Kate wants to ignore it. She doesn't think it's appropriate or that she deserves something like that. She is in the process of healing after a bad situation as a Texas Ranger. There are plenty of twists in this story as Kate and Chase try and figure out who is after Sadie and how to keep her safe. It will keep you wondering where it is going next. I enjoyed the story line and how they deal with what is going on between them as they figure out the case. The story flows very nicely and the chemistry between them is great. I liked the connections that we got to see from previous books but this definitely stands on its own without any problems.

Janet Overstreet says

Chase Marsden has given up his wild ways and settled in at the Lucky Lady ranch which he inherited. When bad things start happening to his good friend Sadie, he asks for help from Hank Derringer and Covert Cowboys Inc. Kate Rivers of CCI, former Texas Ranger, is sent. There is attraction between Chase & Kate right away, but they need to stay focused on the serious situation at hand. Both Chase and Kate have to work through things from their past that may complicate a future relationship. There is intrigue, action, and excitement from start to finish. I've thoroughly enjoyed reading all of the Covert Cowboy Inc. Series books.

Alicia says

I received an ARC in exchange for an honest review...

Fun, exciting, dangerous, and unexpected. We are back in Fool's Fortune, Colorado for another installment of Covert Cowboys Inc. books. This time we are getting to know the reclusive billionaire rancher Chase Marsden. Owner, for now, of the Lucky Lady Ranch and Saloon. He has called in CCI because his good friend Sadie Lovely is in danger and he needs help protecting her and her grandson Jake. Katherine Rivers is sent to help and pose as his fiancée Kate for short is ex Texas ranger was retired due to an injury that left her unable to carry children. Kate arrives in town just in time to see a car collide with Chase and Sadie's truck. the accident leaves Sadie in the ICU unable to communicate. Chase starts looking into her past to try to figure out who is targeting her. They uncover many secrets about her. As the case develops so does the fire between Chase and Kate. Can they solve the case in time to protect Sadie and Jake? Is this just a quick roll in the hay for Chase?

Michelle says

A really fun, quick, enjoyable read while sitting by the pool. Chase would do anything to protect his friend including hiring a bodyguard. Former Texas Ranger Kate thought she'd have an easy assignment but when her protectee is attacked her first night there she jumps right in. Acting as Chase's fiancée was not really part of her plan but she can't deny the attraction. As they work together to uncover the threat Chase and Kate grow closer. But she has plans to return to Texas once her assignment in Colorado is over. Can Chase prove to her that her happiness can be found where she least expected it? Fun read!

Belinda says

Chase is a rich cowboy..he used to be a playboy with an extensive past...He is trying to help his friend Sadie that was a madam once upon a time..but she is hurt and Chase is trying to find out who is trying to kill her to get to the little black book..Kate is the op that Hank sends from CCI this time..she doesn't think she can hack this job when she meets little Jake, Sadie's grandson..but she puts her life on the line to protect him and Chase...I was so surprised by the bad guy in this book..didn't see it coming..A great page turner
