



# Long, Hot Texas Summer

*Carolyn Brown*

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## **A sassy redhead with an axe to grind...**

After catching her husband kissing another woman in the barn, Loretta Sullivan Bailey left Lonesome Canyon Ranch and swore she'd never come back. But when her daughter threatens to drop out of college to become a rancher's wife, Loretta refuses to let her baby make the same mistake she did. She returns to the ranch, determined to get her daughter back in school by the summer's end...and resolute on ignoring her feelings for her ex-husband.

## **A bullheaded but oh so sexy cowboy...**

A cowboy from his hat to his boots, ruggedly handsome rancher Jackson Bailey is none too pleased that his feisty—and gorgeous—ex-wife has suddenly shown up seventeen years after their divorce. But despite all their fighting and fussing, the two stubborn former lovers soon discover that old flames burn the hottest. Can they finally put aside their differences and find happiness together...forever?

## **Long, Hot Texas Summer Details**

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# From Reader Review Long, Hot Texas Summer for online ebook

## Desere says

The ultimate of ultimate cowboy romance authors has done it again! This time Carolyn Brown tells us of the story of Loretta Sullivan Bailey.

She catches her husband kissing another woman in a barn and leaves the place of Lonesome Canyon Ranch as fast her boots can carry her, swearing to never return. But she has no choice when her daughter threatens to drop out of college and become a rancher's wife.

Which mother let's her daughter make the same mistake she did? Definitely not this one, so naturally she heads back to the ranch in a heartbeat, the past be damned! All she has to do is focus on getting her daughter back in school and to ignore her feelings for her ex-husband, easy, right ?

Jackson Bailey is a real boot scooting, tight jean wearing tougher than tough cowboy and nothing scares him. That is until the moment his ex wife comes back. It's been seventeen years since their divorce and her coming back is so not what he had on his list of things to happen. There 's bound to be a lot of fighting and fussing to come but what neither one counts on is the blazing attraction that's still in the air. Can they turn away from the past and look towards the future or will it once again blow up in spectacular Texas style.

Like all previous Carolyn Brown reads this book was fun, spunky, sassy and romance at it's best! I adored all of the characters and the story of a second chance love was exquisitely crafted !

Both main characters we so much fun to read about, they both have their issues and of course the conflict was electrifying and such excellent entertainment I nearly died laughing. And mad, I got so mad at them both at times I wished I could shove them into a stable, lock them in and tell them to just get over it , sort it out and and don't come before you have sorted it out.

I really liked the idea of both characters coming around to the same conclusion of the past failure was not just the fault of one person but both. So often the books go either the way of the hero saying sorry and it's his fault or the other way around, but very seldom of both characters being at fault and actually being able to admit it, really nice touch Carolyn!

The secondary characters were just as wonderful as the main ones, from the sassy and very determined Nona to the absolutely my new heroine of the year, housekeeper Rosie, she takes no lip from anyone and she makes darn sure things go her way, it was highly entertaining.

I am taking away a message of everyone wants a second chance at happiness , or to get back that one true love that someone slip through our fingers. We don't always get that chance but when life places us in the position or as in the case of Loretta guides us back to the past, it is not the time to start running. It 's the time to re-think our actions and try to get over the past, for as long as we hold onto the past we will truly never be happy.

I highly recommend this read for anyone and everyone that enjoy a good old fashioned second chance romance read full of spunk, crazy humor, lots of entertainment and sweet and sexy heat, written by one of the most remarkable authors ever. A book so hot it beats even the hottest of hot Texas summers!

5/5 star review

" They generate more heat than the summer sun, the question is can they handle it? "

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## **Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says**

One of my favorite books to date....

Books like LONG, HOT TEXAS SUMMER by Carolyn Brown are the very reason I read romance. They lift my spirit and make me run a gamut of emotions. In one word, LONG, HOT TEXAS SUMMER is perfection to me.

Divorced for seventeen years, after finding her husband in the arms of another woman in her own barn, Loretta Bailey returns to the Lonesome Canyon Ranch on a mission. Her twenty-one year old daughter Nona has told her parents that she no longer wishes to finish her last year of college. Nona would prefer to be a rancher and continue her budding relationship with her ranch hand boyfriend Travis, but Loretta will have none of it. Having not seen the ex-husband, Jackson Bailey, since Nona learned to drive herself to the ranch, Loretta is both out of her element and back home at the same time.

Handsome forty year old, Jackson knows he did his first love, Loretta, wrong when he sneaked off to the barn to lip-lock with local diva Dina, but after it happened, he thought Loretta would fight for their relationship, not hightail it back to her parents and siblings, taking their only child, Nona with her. As soon as Jackson sets eyes on his ex, he knows those intense feelings he always had for her are still there, but his stubborn and outspoken ex, Loretta has a one track mind, which only includes taking Nona away from the ranch and making her finish out her college career. Jackson finds Loretta to be more beautiful than ever and even more alluring with age and he wouldn't mind exploring a new relationship with her.

After spending time in her old stomping ground and having the perspective of a mature forty year old woman, Loretta realizes that maybe she didn't give Jackson the second chance he deserved. Maybe there was more than what met the eye when she caught him in Dina's arms. The fact that Loretta has a career and a contented life, or so she believes, is what prompts her to get Nona away from the ranch. She wants her beloved daughter to have more choices with her life than she thinks she had. Nona is one headstrong young lady though, and her parents are to thank for that. Nothing can sway this lady in love from her path to Travis and the ranch, but can Loretta and Jackson move on from their painful past and renew those feelings that put them in each other's lives in the first place?

As much as I would love to continue to tell you about this amazing story, I think I need to quit before I give too much away. As you already know, I truly loved LONG, HOT TEXAS SUMMER by the indomitable Carolyn Brown. This book reflects the authors spunky personality, which I endlessly admire. Maybe because I'm of a certain age where romances between twenty-somethings now bore me that this story of two mature but lively forty year olds, just sang to me. The story between Loretta and Jackson is so real and the colorful cast of supporting characters just bring life to all in this Texas town and I wish I could throw myself right in there as well. I so highly recommend LONG, HOT TEXAS SUMMER by Carolyn Brown to all. It has definitely jumped to one of my all-time favorite reads to date.

~KIMBERLY~

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## Kathleen says

Another hit for Carolyn Brown.. She makes me want to sit a porch swing with a glass of ice cold sweet tea, and cuddlin up to a handsome sweet talkin cowboy...Can't wait to go back to Lonesome Canyon....

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## Laura says

I enjoyed this novel. It reminded me of the type of books I used to read before all of these erotic stories etc came into play! I liked the writing style and I loved the references to Country music as I'm a fan.

The storyline was paced well. I'm not always a fan of how long a couple let things fester before discussing it and in this case it was left 17 years however, Loretta has well and truly matured since and this time around she is no pushover and can stand up for herself where 'the other woman' is concerned.

I liked all the characters and the 'country' feel to the story. Loretta and Jackson made a good pairing. The story was of course predictable but it was a good read and well written.

ARC provided by Netgalley

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## sraxe says

I wish the book had had better explanations and more emotion. A lot of the time I felt that there just should've been...*more*.

I feel some important emotional scenes were missing. Stuff happened and words were said but there was little to no emotional impact in it (at least not that I saw). Sometimes I felt scenes were cut at points when there should've been more (since the awkwardness after some scenes is just as important--if not more--than the actual scene itself).

Also, Jackson is a straight ass for kissing Dina all those years ago. He puts a part of the blame on Loretta for not trying to work it out. However, I absolved her of any responsibility for walking out on his sorry ass when I saw that his reasoning was so dumb. His mother put doubt in his head and then he saw other guys looking at his girl so he decided to flirt with Dina to make her jealous? And then planned a rendezvous? Then felt she should've taken care of Dina when she saw them all over each other? Okay, I would've liked to see a real fight between them when Dina kept coming back (since it wasn't her fault either that Jackson was flirting back--Loretta said it right: takes two to tango). Oh and the best-- *the best* --part was that he had a paternity test done to see if Nona was his kid and that--surprise, surprise!--Loretta hadn't been cheating on him.

Oh. My. God. I would've loved to see Loretta find out about that paternity test. Once it was revealed to the reader I was waiting for her to find out so she could've knocked Jackson on his lame ass for it since he definitely deserves it.

When Dina comes to Jackson and Loretta's ranch upon Loretta's return, I felt like there should've been more

reactions and emotions but there just wasn't. I feel Jackson should've been putting in more of an effort to get Dina out of his house rather than sitting back and watching it happen.

Son of a bitch! The catfight had arrived. Jackson wasn't sure whether he should sit still and hope the bullets didn't hit him or to run for the hills.

Hell, Nona was putting in more emotion and had more of a reaction to the whole thing than he and Loretta were having.

It also seemed weird to me that Loretta kept her lips shut about the reason for their separation for a good seventeen years but soon after her return she's spilling to everyone? Made no sense.

Also, she finds out from Rosie that Jackson came to Oklahoma at least once a month for a full year following their separation (before he granted her a divorce) but Loretta says she never saw him and Rosie said he never did say what he was doing. I was hoping there would be a follow-up to this and Jackson would fill us in on why he went to Mustang/what he did and why he didn't call her or show up to talk to her in that time. BUT, I don't recall it ever coming up.

“You had your reasons and I'm sure Jackson had his that next year when he signed those papers. I swear to God all those times he went to Oklahoma, I thought he'd bring you back with him one of them,” Rosie said.

“He came to Oklahoma?”

“At least once a month for that whole year. He didn't see you? He never did tell me why he finally let you have the divorce. Guess he had his reasons same as you had yours for leaving.”

She muses about this later when she's alone:

“I wonder what he did when he came to Mustang. Did he spy on me or watch Nona play in the yard? Why didn't he at least call me?”

Does she mean that he didn't call at all during that year? Then why does she feel guilty for "not returning any of his hundred calls" later on?

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## **Sony says**

I received an ARC copy of this book for an honest review, thank you.

This book is about second chances. I don't really like these types of books, but I really liked the way this book was written. Carolyn has such a great writing style, she knows how to draw you in and keep your attention. The love that Loretta and Jackson had shared is a hard love to kill. After Jackson got caught kissing another woman, Loretta left, as she should, with their daughter Nona. But even seventeen years apart, it goes to show that true love can and will concur all. All would be Loretta's family and the hussy who thought to kiss her cowboy. The characters Carolyn has in this story are sassy, mouthy and if I ever needed back up, I hope to have them in my corner. Nona is so much like her momma, which makes for a really funny read.

After being divorced for seventeen years, Loretta Bailey is going back. Going back to where she left everything she called home. Her daughter Nona has decided to drop out of college and work on her daddy's ranch. Loretta will not let her make the same mistakes she made at such a young age. So, Loretta is prepared for a fight; she's got Jackson, her ex-husband to face and to get their stubborn daughter to listen to reason, her reason. "Just finish out the last year of college", sounds fair to me. But, as Loretta drives down that dirt road to Lonesome Canyon Ranch, she is faced with the memories of why she left. Can she overcome her feelings that she may still have for the one cowboy that was her everything? Can she get her daughter to go back and finish college? Guess you better read to find out!

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### ♥Rachel♥ says

**Long, Hot Texas Summer** is my second Carolyn Brown story and this one did not disappoint. I love her take on romance. She writes smart, feisty heroines and sexy, sweet cowboys! Giddy up!

Loretta is on her way back to Lonesome Canyon Ranch after being gone for seventeen years. She married young and after four years of marriage she left with her daughter and a broken heart. Loretta hasn't looked back since, or at least that's what she tells herself, but necessity forces her to return. Her twenty-one year old daughter, Nona, has announced her plans to stay on at Lonesome Canyon, learn ranching so that she can take over someday when she inherits the ranch. Loretta is determined to convince her to come back to Oklahoma and finish college. She doesn't care if she has to face Jackson, her ex-husband, or the sparks he still ignites when she sees him. Loretta's not giving up on her daughter's future.

Both Jackson and Loretta have regrets with how things played out in the past. They married young when Loretta found out she was pregnant at eighteen, and they let the horrible influence of Jackson's mother put doubt in their minds which undermined their relationship. They both know they should've fought harder to save their marriage, but Loretta thinks that's water under the bridge and they can't go back. Jackson has other ideas:

**It was his fault that Loretta left; it was hers that she hadn't fought for their marriage. But this was a second chance, the only one he might ever get, and he damn sure wasn't going to blow it.**

Second chance romances are a favorite of mine, and Jackson and Loretta's was the kind of love that only comes once in a lifetime. No other person ever came close to igniting the same powerful feelings in either of them, and you could feel the tension crackling in the air every time they were together!

**I'm as attracted to you as I was in the fifth grade, Loretta, and ever' bit as much as I was in high school. I've measured every woman I've gone out with by your yardstick and they came up lacking.**

I yearned for them to fight out the past and patch things up. I was happy that Loretta and Jackson weren't childish in their interactions and yet still managed to speak their mind and be honest.

The heat of the summer, the smell of hay, the beauty of a Texas sunset, and the hard, satisfying work on a ranch came to life through Ms. Brown's writing. I felt I was living and breathing it, as well!

I can tell Carolyn Brown is a smart cookie when it comes to relationships and love, it shows in her romance writing. I love her portrayal of ranch life and sexy cowboys, and I can't wait to dive into another of her cowboy stories!

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## **K says**

I received an ARC copy of this book and it was awesome! I loved Loretta and Jackson's story. Loretta is one sassy lady and as they say the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Nona her daughter is just as sassy! It's hard to write a review for an author as great as Carolyn brown is without giving away the story. So I'll leave it with this: if you want a story about true life and the ups and downs that go with it, you add some sugar and spice, then shake it up. That's how I feel about this book! I love a woman that's not afraid to speak her mind and a cowboy that's man enough to take it. This book was my favorite summer read. Thank you Carolyn for giving me the book to read. I will cherish it forever.

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## **Christa says**

Long, Hot Texas Summer was a great romance, and a fun one to read! I loved both of the main characters, Loretta and Jackson Bailey, and there was a wonderful cast of secondary ones as well. The storyline of this couple's second chance romance was a good one, and I enjoyed each second spent reading this book.

Loretta Bailey returns to Texas and Lonesome Canyon Ranch after seventeen years, determined to bring her twenty-one year old daughter, Nona, back to Oklahoma so that she will finish her last year of college. Nona is set on staying on her daddy's ranch, where she intends to join him in his business and wait for her ranch hand boyfriend's proposal.

As a an 18 year old bride, Loretta loved the ranch, but that changed a few years later when she found her husband Jackson kissing another woman in the barn. Loretta took 4 year old Nona, and went to live with her parents in Oklahoma, where she has since remained. Now that Loretta is back on the ranch, she has to make peace with her feelings for Jackson.

This was an entertaining book, and a very quick one to read. The ranch setting provided a scenic backdrop to the story, as did the country music that was mentioned, and the interesting secondary characters. I liked the banter between Loretta and Jackson almost as much as the chemistry they shared. It was touching to watch them find their way back to one another. This was a very satisfying story!

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## Heidi says

Four stars: A sizzling, hot summer you won't soon forget.

Loretta turns up the radio. The local country station is keeping her company and taking her down memory lane as she heads back to the place she swore she wouldn't return: Lonesome Canyon Ranch. Loretta hasn't set foot on the ranch for seventeen years, since the night she caught her husband, Jackson, kissing that hussy Dina in the barn. Loretta grabbed their four year old daughter, Nona, and left. Now, Nona is twenty one and refusing to finish her final year in college because she is in love with a cowboy and determined to be a rancher. So in order to convince her daughter to return home and finish college, Loretta is going to stay at the ranch until Nona relents. What she doesn't expect is for her traitorous heart to keep her there. Will Loretta survive the long, hot summer on Lonesome Canyon Ranch?

What I Liked:

\*Once again, Carolyn Brown has delivered another hot, spicy cowboy book with lots of humor sprinkled in. This is a book perfect for end of summer. It has everything you love in a good cowboy romance. Hot cowboys, Texas ranches, headstrong women, and a sizzling romance. If you need something fun and spicy for a hot afternoon, grab this book.

\*I adore Carolyn's female characters. She never fails to write a female that makes me laugh. In this book, there are three feisty, stubborn, cussing gals who will make you giggle. First there is Loretta. At forty, she is divorced and settled in to her real estate career. Seventeen years ago, she packed up her daughter and left her husband when she caught him kissing the town floozy in the barn. She refused to look back and never gave him the chance to explain. The years have gone by, but her heart refused to heal and find someone else. As much as she hates to admit it, her heart still goes pitter patter when she sees her ex husband. Her stubbornness might keep her from forgiving. Nona, her daughter, at twenty one, is just as head strong as her mother. She is determined to be a rancher and marry the cowboy who stole her heart. She has no desire to go back to Oklahoma and finish her last year of college, her mother will have to drag her off the ranch. Finally, there is the sharp tongued Rosie, the eighty year old house keeper. Rosie can whip up something delicious in no time and give you a good dressing down if you don't toe the line and follow her rules. These three gals make sure that there is plenty of sparks and hilarity throughout with their feisty comments and actions. Not one of them is afraid of a few cuss words. This trio made me laugh.

\*The romance is sizzling hot. I loved that this was a romance born when the couple was ten years old and rekindled after the two realize the error of their ways and admit their mistakes. Jackson and Loretta have a long history and their chemistry is amazing. It was sad to see that they were torn apart due to their own insecurities and bull headedness, but thankfully, a second chance is in the stars for them. I thoroughly enjoyed watching them try to deny their attraction. This is a hot, hot romance and so fun. Loved it! Sometimes you can go back.

\*The Texas setting was fantastic. Ms. Brown always manages to make her Texas ranches come alive in her books. I could almost feel the dry, dusty heat while reading this. I not only liked the Texas setting, but I also enjoyed the small town setting. There is just something so cozy about a small town where everyone knows everyone and they all have long memories. It was fun to watch Loretta walk down memory lane and see how little things had changed since she was a teenager. The folks in the town are memorable, my favorite being Ezra, the eccentric old man. I get the feeling that book two is going to be all about Ezra and his kin, and it is set up to be hilarious.

\*I appreciated the way that Ms. Brown wove in lots of well known country songs current and past into the book. It gave it more flavor, and I liked the way the music seemed to reflect the characters' lives.

I love that with Ms. Brown's books, I get a complete story, a fantastic romance and a happy ending with no loose ends. \*Even though this is the first in the series, there aren't any lingering questions. I love that about Ms. Brown's books.

And The Not So Much:

\*There was one scene that I wished was in the book. Loretta is feeling rather blue, so her high school best friends proceed to get her drunk at eight in the morning, and Loretta does some drunk dialing. I think this scene would have been hilarious, so I am not sure why it wasn't in the book. Instead the reader gets a brief recount of what went down.

\*Both Jackson and Loretta make some immature decisions and their stubbornness causes them to split up. I was curious as to why Jackson didn't fight harder to win Loretta back. Why didn't he ever talk to her afterwards, especially on all those trips he took to Oklahoma? Was he too embarrassed? Worried of rejection? It wasn't clear as to why he gave up so easily.

\*Ezra was a fascinating character. I wanted to know him better. I am hoping that the next book is going to be about Ezra and his kin. There were some tantalizing threads laid down for what I hope is going to be an entertaining companion novel.

Long, Hot Texas Summer is my favorite Carolyn Brown book to date. This book is all kinds of fun with its head strong, feisty females, sizzling romance and entertaining story. Loretta proves that sometimes you can go back and get a second chance. There is never a dull moment in this one. If you are looking for a light, breezy romance to enjoy on a hot summer afternoon, grab this one. I assure you that you will laugh and smile.

Favorite Quotations:

"Loretta shot a mean look his way, but he reached up and pretended to catch the look and shove it in his pocket. "I'll keep that one for later when I need to remember how mean you are."

"History couldn't be changed no matter how much anger was applied. But that did not mean history had to be repeated---bot even if a physical attraction would die."

"If a sock falls in the forest and no one is there to pick it up, does it make a noise?"

"If a man throws his clothes toward the hamper and he doesn't have a wife, the next closest female will bitch about it," she said."

"They say that you can't believe anything a woman says when she's drinkin' or what a man says when he's having sex."

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own and I was not compensated for this review.

Posted@Rainy Day Ramblings.

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### **Alison Bliss says**

Loved this story! Descriptive writing, fun and totally relatable characters, believable storyline, and some great humor. I adore strong characters and am a huge fan of cowboys as well as second-chance love, so this story did not disappoint. This may have been the first book I've read by this author, but it definitely won't be the last! Carolyn Brown has a new fan!

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

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## **Negar Arvanaghi says**

As usual, this book was great. It's McIntock! meets Sweet Home Alabama. I expect nothing less from Carolyn Brown. She makes you want to move to Texas, or wherever her current book is set. And if you are like me, you have to listen to every song she mentions, plus any other country songs that pop in your head. I like that she actually goes into detail about what being a rancher is like. And the cussing is always hilarious!

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

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## **Rachel Vieira says**

### **Ended up all right**

This book was ok but not a favorite for one reason. The couple divorced 17 years earlier and throughout the story all blame was placed on her. She caught him making out with someone else and because she didn't stay and 'fight for what was hers' by literally scratching the other woman hardheaded it was her fault their marriage ended. Even her ex accused her of not fighting. News flash: a husband should never put his wife in the position that he expects her to fight for him and frankly i found that whole storyline disgusting. And fighting is meant in the literal term as in fists flying and hair pulling. Not my idea of a loving relationship.

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## **Andrea says**

**\*\* 3.5 stars \*\***

Oh boy, how I love a good second chance romance. The familiarity between characters, the tension that comes with whatever drove them apart, the will they/won't they of making another go of it. Now add in that the ex lovers in question are ex spouses, and you can imagine how much I was looking forward to Long, Hot Texas Summer.

Long, Hot Texas Summer was such a fun read! Jackson and Loretta were both firecrackers, with big personalities and a big history. When their daughter's decides to stay with her dad and learn to run his ranch, even falling in love with one of the ranch hands, Loretta is afraid it will begin to parallel her own, with a young marriage and a young divorce. Loretta decides to stay with her daughter and ex in an effort to talk her out of staying, putting her and Jackson in close proximity for the first time in seventeen years. And wow, the chemistry is still there!

The chemistry was never a problem for Jackson and Loretta, it was his wandering hands. Along with insecurities on both parts (stemming from issues with their shotgun wedding), Loretta caught Jackson in the barn with a woman who'd wanted him for years. She took off, refusing to hear anything he'd had to say. Now, I personally would've had much the same reaction, but would eventually at least listen to what he had to say, then I would kick ass. Jackson wasn't completely blameless, but sometimes things aren't what they seem (he's not a big fat cheater!). All these years later, Loretta and Jackson still share a chemistry, history, and love. The question is, will they reclaim it?

Okay, I really did like this book. I do have a couple of things to note. For starters, I didn't like how others expected Loretta to help share the blame for the divorce. Several times it's mentioned that Loretta should've kicked the other woman's ass. Why? I mean sure, she deserved it, but why not kick her husband's ass for getting himself in that situation? In no way, should she take half the blame. Another thing is, the tone of the story is super country and pretty old fashioned. Now this isn't a detraction to the story, and shouldn't be taken as such. It's the kind of writing my dad and his siblings would like. You know, they love to watch Gunsmoke and Bonanza, RFDTV and older country music. Again, not a detraction, just an observation. And I would imagine Ms. Brown's fans are going to be happy with this.

Long, Hot Texas Summer was a fun story. I really liked the characters, their history, and believed in their happily ever after.

### **Favorite Quote**

*It was going to be one long, hot summer. If they named tornadoes like they did hurricanes, this one would be named Hurrican Loretta, and there wasn't a shelter in the world that could protect anyone or anything from that storm.*

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### **Cindi says**

Young love, betrayal and 17 years apart would seem like a sure fire end to ever making up and getting back together but what if you were given a second chance? Loretta and Jackson were kids when they fell in love, married and had a baby girl then one fateful day the floor drops out from under them. Fast forward almost two decades and they reunite for their daughters sake but come face to face with the reality they both played a part in how things turned out how they had. Through love that never really died and hope for righting all the wrongs and moving forward this couple will make you laugh, get mad and root for them to make it work. Throw in a sassy, determined to be a rancher daughter Nona and a feisty, don't give her any lip housekeeper Rosie and you'll be cracking up in no time with their no-nonsense approach to almost everything. There is a good story here and great characters with a lot of spunk, love and opinions that all together make for a great book. I think everyone can agree that somewhere in our lives we have all wished for a second chance now you can sit back and read about Loretta and Jackson's. Enjoy!

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