



The Cowboy

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Margaret Lark knew all about cowboys in pin-striped suits: they were the heroes in her books. She'd never admit to fantasizing about that type of man — much less acknowledge that she'd walked out on one. And Rafe Cassidy — with all the powerful grit of a true cowboy — is fantasy material. He's just not her fantasy anymore!

But Rafe is shooting for a different ending to their story. One year after their explosive breakup — a breakup fueled by corporate intrigue, betrayal and bitter accusation — Rafe once again stakes his claim on her heart. As ruthless and determined as a gunslinger, he's not above blackmail to get her out to his Arizona ranch. For the final showdown.

The Cowboy Details

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Author : Jayne Ann Krentz

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Susan says

Good book. Rafe was definitely an alpha male. When he and Margaret split the year before, he spent the first six months being angry, then the next setting up a way to get her back. Margaret had been angered and hurt by what she saw as Rafe's using her as a pawn in a business deal. She did her best to forget about him. When he showed up at her apartment to lure her back, she had no intention of agreeing. Then he told her what was waiting at his ranch and she had to agree. She realized on her first day there that she still loved him, and he swore that he loved her and had changed from the business first jerk he had been. She wasn't sure she believed him but decided to give him a chance to prove it. I enjoyed watching Margaret and Rafe as they actually got to know each other. There was another great scene with Margaret and Rafe and his sister and her fiance that had me laughing at Rafe's reactions. I also really liked the final showdown with the original opponent from the beginning of the book.

Jo says

I did enjoy this book, everything just seemed to happen so fast though. Everything before Margaret landing to have Rafe waiting to pick her up from the airport seemed to go at a reasonable pace. After that it felt a little bam, bam, bam. It's not necessarily a bad thing for a book to be short, but if I didn't know that I were listening to the unabridged version of the book, I would've sworn I was listening to an abridged version, with pieces of the full story being sacrificed in the interest of time (sometimes abridgments are done well; other times, there seem to be a lot of holes; this book would be the latter category). I just feel like there could've been more story between some of the key happenings. Margaret goes from despising him to marrying him so fast that I feel like there should be more to it. Jayne Ann Krentz creates such tension between the protagonists at the beginning that it would seem appropriate to give a little more as to the way of things being smoothed out, so to speak, before jumping into marriage. I could be difficult to keep up with Rafe and Margaret as they progress throughout the story and it's such a huge leap in Margaret's feelings from the beginning to the end it seems somewhat unreasonable in such a short time (as in the length of the book). There was very little transition between scenes (if any at times) which made me constantly try to figure out how the heck we got there. So many times I was hoping Krentz would elaborate more to give the story more clarity and depth, to help ease the reader though so the shifts didn't seem so drastic and confusing. There was so much more that could've/should've been said before shifting so abruptly. I did enjoy this book, but I was definitely a bit disappointed by the brevity. I wouldn't be too likely to recommend this book.

Oana says

Neuronul meu s-a cam 'inervat'... :(

Jan says

It was horse manure.

The guy is arrogant, overbearing, and dismissive. The woman is indecisive and ineffective. The characters made me nuts, so I did not finish this reread.

I had bought the audio on sale hoping that it was the one where the hero kept quoting passages from an alleged western author named Twitchell.

Besides, the narrator had a basically annoying voice quality, and when portraying the guy, sounded like a drag queen.

Sarah Eiseman says

This book was written by Jayne Ann Krenz and is the third book in this particular series (series includes The Pirate, The Adventurer, and The Cowboy). This book was OK, but not nearly as funny or entertaining as The Pirate was. This book had more of the drama that I'm not really a big fan of; big gestures, doors slamming, that sort of thing. I'll still read the middle book in this series, and I'll still read other books by this author. This just wasn't a book I'd tell anyone to run out and get.

Alexis Lee says

Well, yuck.

Jayne Ann Krentz, Jayne Ann Krentz. I can't stop reading your books because they're like M&Ms and you just can't stop till the packet's done, but this was a DNF for me.

I'm always prepared for alpha-asshole syndrome when I dive into one of your books, but this was really a bit too much for me. I hate Rafe (well, as much of him that I *did* manage to read, anyway) and I hate...oh, what's her name? Margaret.

Yep. Loathe and despise, the whole enchilada. This was bad, bad, bad. That's really saying something, because I've managed to finish lots of books that are bad, but this was *so* bad that I couldn't stomach another page and I rage!quit the darn thing.

I haven't even read the other books in the series, and now I don't want to.

Hristina Tserovska says

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nurmawati says

3.5 stars fot margaret and rafe

Sharon says

Sorry but I really, really disliked Rafe. Every name that Maggie called him, I called him worse. Of course it is an older book so it probably reflected the social norms of the time.

TINNG says

This is the sort of theme I have a hard time getting behind.

The H - corporate shark - spotted, pursued and appeared to snag the attentions of the h - employee of another corporate shark and competition. Besides marginalizing the h, he didn't tell her he was the competition until after she'd talked about work, etc...for 2 months. She did what any person with integrity would do - went to her employer and told him everything. Cost the H the deal. He went off on her and left.

Apparently he expected her to come crawling to him on hands and knees.

So now, he and her father have manipulated her into coming to his ranch where he intends to win her back, although he gives the impression that it's less a winning her over than a railroading.

In the meantime, his PA, unhappy that he's seemingly lost his edge over the h, is selling him out..and trying to frame the h.

Yeah I don't know. The feeling of being used would be a hard one to ever get past, no matter how much he assured me otherwise. Perhaps if there wasn't the lie by omission (failure to disclose that he's in competition with her boss), or his blowing up on her for her doing the right thing...

♥ WishfulMiss ♥ says

The Cowboy is the story of Margaret aka Maggie, who had her heart broken a year ago when she fell in love with a suit wearing, smooth talking cowboy who "used" her for inside knowledge against her than boss.

I didn't really enjoy this one, although I read to the very end, there just was nothing memorable about it. For our h to be a career romance writer I was expecting JAK's usual heroine who is a bit naive but charming in her romantic views of life. Sadly Maggie was too cold and plain old distrustful of the H to ever be considered romantic, and she writes romance for pete's sake!

Rafe was the typical broody H with one goal in mind, and that was getting his woman. Although he isn't much better than Maggie I did end of liking him just a tad bit more. He at least isn't wishy washy with his feelings and he explained Maggie's misconceptions about what really happened in their past that led to their explosive break up.

Overall for a romance this one was luke warm at best.

Maria says

The last in the series, this one is about a failed relationship from the past that comes back to resurrect itself in the present. The author friend fights hard to prevent it, but the modern business cowboy has other plans. This one is my second favorite of the three in the series, in spite of the fact that Rafe is a bit pushy and Maggie a bit repetitive for my tastes. I also have a firm belief in timing. A romance will occur at the correct time and not at any other, so usually I don't like a failed relationship to come back and work at a later time when it didn't work at the earlier time. But this one was close enough in time that it worked for me, and I can't deny that real life has plenty of instances of people who divorce and later remarry. I just don't understand them. I've also seen plenty of instances where one person falls for another who doesn't reciprocate, the first person gets over it, only to have the second fall at a later date when it's too late. Timing is definitely important.

Sarah says

Old skool.

Jacob Proffitt says

This is third in a series, but they're only related as a frame story and the characters from previous books don't play any role in this one. So you can read this one and not the others if you like, though I have no idea why you'd want to.

This was much more problematic than the other two. Rafe is arrogant and manipulative and more than a little mean. He isn't kind to anyone, ever, and that includes Margaret. And while we're assured that Margaret is a strong and modern woman we mostly see her backing down, making excuses, and ignoring bad behavior (and not just Rafe's). Worse than that, though, is that Rafe's behavior is explicitly labeled "masculine" and Margaret's weaknesses are implicitly labeled "feminine" and that just pissed me off.

There's a decent storyline with Rafe's mother and another with his sister that I liked a bit. And Krentz is a good enough writer that I wanted to see what came next, even though I didn't like either lead very much. So I'm going to go with two stars, even though it probably doesn't deserve them.

A note about Steamy: There are two explicit sex scenes, so this would probably be nearing the middle of my steam tolerance if I had bothered to read them both. The sex is at the juncture where his arrogance and her weakness are at their worst so I didn't find them interesting or compelling. I skimmed the second ruthlessly and the first had me so disgusted I did my best to ignore that it happened.

Aurian Booklover says

Her two best friends are both married now and Margaret is left alone in Seattle. Like them, she is a very successful author, and she enjoys her life and career. What she does not expect is to find Rafe Cassidy

waiting for her in her own apartment when she gets back from Sarah and Gideon's wedding. She really does not want to see him again after the way he broke her heart last year and used her in a business deal against her boss. But Rafe refuses to leave until she hears him out and gives them both a second chance. He wants her back in his life and he will do whatever it takes. Like setting her father up with his mother, and making a deal with her father to buy his company. If Maggie wants to talk to her father about this all, she will have to come to his ranch in Tucson, Arizona for a few weeks.

Maggie feels blackmailed, but she is concerned about her father and wants to know what is going on. At least Rafe's mother dislikes her so she won't be happy to see her again. That Rafe assures her his mother has changed her opinion does not make her believe it.

Rafe also swears that he has changed, that he does not spend all his time working anymore, but Maggie finds that hard to believe as well. The man she dated for two months barely had any time for her, and most of that time he wanted to spend in bed. And only at his convenience. Like his mother said, she was more suited to be his mistress than his wife. And Margaret refuses to be the kind of wife that Rafe will need or want. A woman who makes her husband and his career the single important thing in her life, to be his hostess and arm candy when he needs her. Margaret is proud of her own career, and she likes writing. She will not give that up.

But Rafe keeps pressuring her, and kissing her, and it is so hard to keep him at a distance. Especially as her father seems to be genuinely happy with Bev, and they want to get married. He also wants Rafe as her husband, as he thinks they belong together.

Still, Margaret does not give in easily to Rafe's demands to get engaged; she never accepted his proposals last year either. She just knows she will be miserable with him. But a short affair might be doable.

Then there is Rafe's younger sister who is in love with an artist, something Rafe is dead set against. Of course Margaret reams him out for that, no career is ever safe so he should not look down at an artist. After all, she is an artist as well, and her former career as a businesswoman went down the drain because of Rafe last year as well. So there is no job security anywhere. I enjoyed how she made him go to the gallery with her, and how she persuaded him to see things differently. She is not a pushover, Margaret. But she is a woman in love, and she will not have her heart broken by Rafe again. So when he distrusts her loyalty again, she won't stand for it!

I know this is a '90's book, but I really dislike Rafe's heavy handedness. He never takes no for an answer, he keeps pushing and demanding, and he keeps calling her Maggie instead of Margaret even though she despises it truly. He just never listens to her. So in my opinion, he has not really changed his ways, especially as he is plotting a deadly revenge against her former employer.

I liked Maggie, but I would not have stayed at the ranch when I had found out my father was fine and not being coerced or anything. Let Rafe work a bit harder for it, and do things on her turf and prove that he is changed. When his assistant shows up with work, he just goes at it and sends Maggie away to take a swim or something like that.

I liked Maggie, but I liked the previous two heroes more than Rafe. Rafe is a cowboy and multi million dollar businessman. He is just too dictatorial for my tastes. Too much used to giving orders and being obeyed immediately. Still Margaret did not give in too easily, but she did give in eventually and they got married very hastily.

Jayne Ann Krentz is one of my favourite authors. I discovered her books over 25 years ago and still can't get enough of them. And lucky for me, I have not read all of them yet.

7 stars.

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