



A Creed Country Christmas

Linda Lael Miller

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Celebrate the holidays with the Creed forefathers—Montana men who built the family homestead and established a legacy of love...

In the unforgiving Montana wilderness of 1910, widowed rancher Lincoln Creed is up against more than rustlers, wolves and the coming winter storms. His young daughter has needs beyond the beans and bacon he can barely cook. Lincoln must find little Gracie a governess, a lady who can teach and cook—yet won't set her sights on him.

Disowned for her refusal to marry, twenty-five-year-old Juliana Mitchell shares the love in her heart with her young students at the underfunded Indian school. When she meets Lincoln and Gracie, her response to the handsome rancher makes her realize she's not against marriage after all.

She longs to help, yet the two orphaned brothers in her care need her. But in the season for miracles, Providence just might find a way to bring Juliana, the boys and the Creed family together for Christmas Eve....

A Creed Country Christmas Details

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From Reader Review A Creed Country Christmas for online ebook

Jeanne Adamek says

3.5 stars

TinaMarie says

Lincoln is a widower who takes in Juliana and her charges when they are stranded with no place to go. Lincoln had been looking for a housekeeper or governess or last resort a wife. Jjuliana is perfect for him and his daughter. Simple, sweet love story.

Clare says

This was one of a stack of books my mom gave me to read. It was a good novel to read in between longer, more complex books but I have no interest in pursuing more in the series. I liked the "historical" part but not particularly the "romance" part.

Sara Vazquez says

wow I haven't read a novel from another time era and I gotta say it was a little weird. it was a cute story, but no my kind of story

MelissaB says

This was a nice little historical Christmas story. The romance could have been more detailed but it was still a sweet holiday story.

elliereads says

I grabbed this book from a Christmas display at the library without knowing it was part of a series. It was like a Lifetime movie, but the acting bug was better. Not sure I'll look for any others.

Julie Morales says

After reading the first three books in the Montana Creeds series, we finally get to read about the ones who

started it all. What about that Creed pride and honor Logan wanted to restore so the Creeds could have their good reputation back? We find out about that with Lincoln Creed.

Juliana Mitchell grew up in the lap of luxury, attending a finishing school paid for by her grandmother and having all the finest things Denver had to offer. On the side, though, she was studying to become a teacher. That was what she really wanted to do. She didn't want to spend her life curtsying to men and pouring tea to guests. Her grandmother died and Juliana graduated and became a teacher.

She had an older brother who, being older, was in charge of their grandmother's estate and refused to give Juliana her share if she was going to waste her life by being a teacher, and when she became a teacher at an Indian school in Montana, that was just unforgivable. Clay had been her older, fun-loving brother, but now he was self-righteous and cruel.

When the government closed the Indian school, she was in charge of four children. Two had family in the Dakotas but the younger two were orphans. She wrote to her brother, asking for at least some of her money so she could get Joseph and Teresa back to their people and care for Daisy and Billy until homes could be found for them. He refused, of course, and it was while Juliana was reading this letter of refusal at the mercantile where she'd gone to pick it up that she met Lincoln Creed.

A storm was brewing and Lincoln had agreed to take her and the children to wherever they were going...but where was that? They had nowhere to go, now that the school was closed, and she knew the children were going to be bounced around from institution to institution if she couldn't get the older two back to their family and find homes for the younger orphans. That said nothing about Juliana herself. She had no money, now no job and nowhere to go.

Lincoln had his own problems. He'd been advertising for a governess or housekeeper to help care for his young daughter and the house, and failing that, a wife would do. His daughter needed a mother, since his wife had died several years back. He'd come to the mercantile also looking for mail. Maybe there was an answer to his advertisement finally. He'd been looking for a year, but no, all he found was Juliana and four children, Juliana obviously upset by the letter she'd just read and the mercantile owner ready to throw them all out on their ears because he didn't trust the Indian children in his shop.

Lincoln took Juliana and the children back to his ranch. Christmas was coming, and when Gracie saw Juliana, she'd just known she'd come to be Gracie's new mama. Juliana was going to marry her papa, even if she didn't know it yet.

Reading about the preparations for Christmas, with the worry about the children always just below the surface, gave me a feeling of actually being there. I could feel the festive atmosphere of the holidays but the worry too. This book has all the markings of a nice, cozy romance where everything ends happily ever after, but I shed a few tears along the way, reading about the children, how they were going to find a home, the racism they faced just because they were Indians and in trusted by most of the whites in the area. Even the wife of one of Lincoln's ranch hands didn't want an Indian helping to deliver her baby just because he was Indian, but they were in the middle of a snowstorm, the roads were impassable and there would be no doctor, so the choice was taken out of her hands...and wonder of wonders, the Indian managed to deliver the baby and didn't kill anyone in the process, or whatever the woman was afraid might happen if he cared for her didn't happen. Lincoln ended up being the perfect gentleman and Juliana's life changed in ways she could have never imagined. And what about the children? Well, of course, since this was a happily ever after book, things turn out well for them too.

Overall, a nice, warm and fuzzy read, and it was kind of nice to read about the descendants of the three Creed brothers we read about in the beginning of the series. They had that stubborn streak that Lincoln was obviously well acquainted with, and Logan brought them all together again to make the ranch a working, profitable place again, as it was when Lincoln brought Juliana there for that Christmas so long ago. A wonderful read.

Teri Heyer says

I just finished reading Linda Lael Miller's 'A Creed Country Christmas.' This is a good holiday read. If you're a fan of the Montana Creeds Series, this won't disappoint. If you haven't read any of the series that's okay as it can be read as a stand-alone. I've been a fan of Linda Lael Miller's books for ages.

Ronda Tutt says

I loved it - this was such a smooth read. I was hooked just after reading two pages. The story takes place in Montana in 1910 a couple of weeks before christmas. A 35 year old widow rancher named Lincoln who lost his wife 2 years prior crosses paths with a young 28 year old teacher (Juliana) of Indian orphans in a store one morning.

Lincoln ends up taking Juliana and her 4 orphans in to his ranch home and the story gets good. All I can say is that I loved it and recommend the book. Evidently this is a series but I haven't read the first three books (Logan, Dylan, Tyler).

Jackie says

Read in the 2-in-one anthology that had this book as it's second offering.

This one follows Lincoln Creed and Juliana Mitchell. Two strangers thrown together by chance whose lives twine together for several reasons not least of which is a strong yearning from both for a warm hearth and a real home. One that is filled with the sound of childish laughter and where love has a chance to flourish as well.

Having his first wife pass away Lincoln has done the best job he can raising his 7-year-old daughter Grace, with help from his Mother Cora and best friend/ranch employee Tom.

The one thing this bereaved widower never planned on was finding another woman who made his heart swell and his body ache.

That is of course until Juliana Mitchell entered the picture. Lincoln had no defense when it came to the lovely redhead, or her Indian charges either.

The now closed Indian school, where Juliana was the sole teacher, left she and 4 of the students bereft of both a place to stay or any kind of income for Juliana to pave their way.

Finding herself at the train station with her purse empty Juliana is forced to rely on Lincoln's kind offer to allow she and the children to stay at his ranch until something could be worked out.

What started out as a chance meeting for these two lonely people soon turns into a Christmas *miracle* for all concerned.

The tale is engaging and a fine example of the author's works.

Lisa Kay says

★★★★☆ I checked this out at the library the other day as I was in the mood for an old fashioned Christmas. As soon as I started reading it I realized I had read it before, so not too many surprises. Not as charming as the first time I read it, but still holds up. And it is a nice, quick read in a busy season.

Abigail says

Nice Christmas read.

jenjn79 says

Another enjoyable, easy read from Linda Lael Miller. There's just something about her books that while I may not ABSOLUTELY LOVE them, I enjoy them a lot and zip right through. Miller has a very smooth writing style that makes her stories a pleasure to read.

Series Note:

This book is connected to LLM's Montana Creeds series. The first three books are contemporaries, but this one jumps back in time and tells the story of one of the Creed forefathers. It's not necessary to have read the first three books to read this one, and if you've read the first three, you don't have to read this one (though it was good).

Summary:

Juliana Mitchell is totally out of options. After being virtually disowned by her brother because she wouldn't marry the man he wanted and because she wanted to teach, Juliana takes a job with the Indian school. Then the school is shut down and Juliana is left with 4 charges who have no where else to go. She knows if she turns them back over to the Bureau for Indian affairs, they will just be shipped to another "school"...which is more like an institution in many cases. So she takes the four children and sets out on her own. But her request for funds to her brother is denied and now she and the children have no where left to go.

Until she meets Lincoln Creed and he offers them a place to stay until she figures out what to do. But Lincoln soon realizes that Juliana may just solve a big problem he is having...finding a cook/governess/housekeeper to help him and his young, motherless daughter. There's also the option of marrying her. But both are determined to protect their hearts. Love has a way of prevailing, though, and both have to decide if they want to grab happiness by the horns or let it slip away.

Review:

I can't say there was anything really spectacular about this book. I've read some others of hers that had more zing and drew me in more, but this was still a sweet, romantic read. I liked it a lot.

I liked that the story was set in 1910...often these historical westerns are set in the 1800's, so it was nice to get a little change of pace. I also liked that Miller gave some insight into the plight of Native American children during that period (even if it was only a small look).

I also enjoyed the fact that both the main characters were kind, good-hearted people. Often, one will be jaded, gruff and broody. But both Lincoln and Juliana were upbeat characters who were just a little wary of love. They had a sweet relationship and gave some fluffy bunny feelings when everything worked out.

I suspect this book could have easily been published as a paperback for the Harlequin Historical line, but HQN decided to make a few extra bucks by packaging it nice as a gift-sized hardcover (for the full price of \$16.95...which for a 250 page book is a bit too much...so I recommend looking for it somewhere that has book discounts).

Anyway, this was a nice, enjoyable historical western - which is my favorite historical romance genre. For any of you who are LLM fans, I think you'll like this one. It's a pretty typical LLM story.

Mareli says

Delicious! I loved to read more about Juliana and Lincoln and their wonderful family :)

Old western historicals are between my fav, this history is something very different from my idea of history because my country never had such a peculiar time! I'm looking between LLM's books searching for other stories like this one!

Teri-K says

If you've read many of this type of book you know exactly what to expect, and this book fulfilled those expectations without any surprises. I think it's strength lay in the heroine's unusual situation - she's the former teacher of a recently closed government school for Indian children and has four of the children still in her care. The rest of the book was just OK. 2.5 stars
