



# Ever Hopeful

*Lori Ryan*

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**Ever Hopeful** Lori Ryan

*Alternate cover edition of 978-1941149089*

Fate and second chances...

Laura Kensington knows it's now or never. If she doesn't leave her abusive husband, not only is her life in danger but the life of her unborn child is as well. But even after the monster she married dies suddenly, Laura realizes she can never escape his family, the ruthless and dangerous Kensington clan, who consider the baby she's carrying to be their own. Desperate and determined, she flees to Evers, Texas, with a new identity, taking refuge on the ranch of Cade Bishop, a man who firmly believes in second chances.

Drawn to the handsome, strong, but gentle man who has dedicated his life to the rescue of neglected animals, Laura finds comfort in his passion and his love, yet she fears he sees her as merely another needy case. But she will need more from Cade than his tender touch and understanding heart when her past resurfaces, bringing grave peril into her world once more. For relentless enemies, both anticipated and unexpected, are drawing closer by the day, ensnaring her in a deadly web of deception, betrayal, and murder. And her only hope of breaking free lies in Cade's powerful, loving heart.

The Evers, Texas Series is a sweetheart romance series. For Lori's steamier work, please see her Sutton Capital Series.

## Ever Hopeful Details

Date : Published January 25th 2014 by Cara Shannon

ISBN :

Author : Lori Ryan

Format : Kindle Edition 200 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Romantic Suspense, Western Romance

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# **From Reader Review Ever Hopeful for online ebook**

## **Donna Porter says**

Lori Ryan I loved this story and I went to sleep last night trying to finish the book, but I finished it this morning. There was so much going on in this story. Laura is going on the run from an abusive husband when she finds out he has died of an apparent heart attack. He and his partner Alec have been doing some shady business and Alec thinks he left some evidence behind. Laura has to go to the hospital to identify the body. She runs into a doctor who has treated her several times from her abuse. When the mother in law tries to take her from the hospital the doctor says he has to keep her overnight to make sure her baby is okay. When they leave he proceeds to help her flee. So this story centers on Evers, Texas where she goes to a ranch. She is welcomed there with open arms. There she meets Cade who works on their family farm and rescues abused animals. Cade has an attraction to Laura. You really have to read this if you like a good cowboy and a romance story with NO descriptive sex in it. Thank you Lori Ryan, this was great

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## **Tracy says**

There is no waiting for this book to draw you in, you're in from page 1. From an abused wife to a pregnant widow on the run from her husbands wealthy powerful and influential family- you are cheering for Laura from the very start. The plot with its twists and turns.turing page after page and not wanting to put the book down. You get to see the romance bud and bloom as you travel through the book. Once you reach the end , you are so in love with the characters you want it to keep it going. It's a good thing there are sequels so we can continue to follow the story.

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## **Sassy Moms Say Read Romance says**

### **Erin's Review**

Ever Hopeful has to be one of the most touching stories I have ever read. My heart ached for Laura knowing what she went through, and soared when she finally got away. You feel the trepidation she felt on her journey to the unknown and her fear of discovery. Trusting strangers is something that has to be done and the longer Laura is at the ranch, the more it starts to feel like home, but she knows she can't stay....or can she? Cade is the kindest, most gentle man there ever was. His patience with Laura melts you and his willingness to protect her shows his character. He sees what a beautiful woman she is, how fragile she is, how untrusting. Can he get her to open up, to trust him?

Laura is Cade's journey is slow and gentle. You get the feeling she is going to flee at any moment but Cade won't let her go. He devises an escape plan for her if things ever go awry and even begins to plan for her future on the ranch. Laura has dreams of her own she could never do when she was married, but now, they are not only attainable, but she has wonderful people to assist her every step of the way.

But the past is never too far behind. She knows it was only a matter of time. And the truth is worse than she ever imagined and puts her new life in danger.

The emotions you get from reading this story are very real. Anger, sadness, joy, and more importantly...Hope. A beautiful story with beautiful characters that weaves it's way in to your heart after the first sentence.

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## Jane Stewart says

A few parts charmed me, but the last third felt like formulaic TV show bad guy writing, kind of meh.

The parts I liked: I was intrigued with her knowledge and dreams about organic seed breeding. I loved how she set up an email account at the library and sent pictures of her abused self.

I was charmed with the lipstick scene in the store. She picked up a lipstick. Cade said “Why do you need that? You’re beautiful. You shouldn’t cover your face with that stuff.” His words were so reminiscent of her abusive husband’s criticism and control that Laura hurriedly replaced the makeup on the shelf. Both of them recognized what happened, and an uncomfortable silence froze the air between them. Cade said “Laura, I’m so sorry. I didn’t mean it that way. I’d never try to tell you what to do. I just meant that you look beautiful without makeup.” He then immediately began shoving as much makeup as he could into the basket on his arm saying “You should definitely get some makeup. It’ll look great on you. Here.” She starts laughing.

Some women need to hear this: “The man was a monster. But you, you’re an amazing woman to have survived that.”

I did not like: She was on the run and staying with people on a ranch. It was a great place to stay. They wanted to take care of her and let her live there forever. She would not have to worry about a job or paying the rent. Yet Laura kept thinking she had to leave. She had to go to a city find a job so she could pay the rent. I wasn’t buying the logic. It felt contrived to create conflict.

Bottom line: it had some good parts and some not-so-good parts. Maybe being inside the bad guys’ heads with something interesting would have made it better.

There are three sex scenes. They are vaguely done with no body parts mentioned. The first one is a paragraph long. The others are one to two sentences long.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 208 pages. Swearing language: moderate but not often used.

Sexual language: mild to none. Number of sex scenes: 3. Setting: current day mostly Texas with some Connecticut and Kansas. Copyright: 2013. Genre: contemporary romance.

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## Victoria says

A well written, woman on the run story. Characters that I liked and a story that was sweet. **Very low level of steam (no sex!)** but still an enjoyable read. As i was reading this I kept thinking this would have made a great Lifetime movie.

I have several other books by this author on my kindle that I haven't had a chance to read yet but plan to check out soon. (Her other series has a higher heat level).

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## **Alex (HEABookNerd) says**

I was given this book at a convention a few months ago. It was an enjoyable read, and I finished it in one day. A very easy and quick read and good if you want a sweet story with some light suspense. Cade was a wonderful character; so understanding, sweet and patient. Laura was likable and I felt they fit together nicely. The author definitely set things up for future books by presenting the small town of Evers, Texas that looks out for its own. I would have liked to know more Laura's personal life/past in regards to her brother and upbringing. But the book was more about her future than her past. Alec presented an interesting villain as he became more unhinged. The two PI's he hired were completely lacking in morals (view spoiler) but I guess this was just their characterization.

The only things that bothered me were a few issues with realism:

1. For someone who has been so badly abused, Laura is very trusting of strangers when she first makes her escape. (view spoiler)
2. Even though the book spans about a month, Laura and Cade's relationship was a little too perfect considering her past. (view spoiler)

However, these were small issues and didn't really detract too much from the story if you're willing to just sit back and read a simple story about a woman escaping a bad situation and finding love again. I hope one of the future books in the series will be about Shane.

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## **Jeanie Jackson says**

OH, Wow, YES!

Fans of Kathleen Brooks will be drawn to the characters, love, and suspense in this beautiful novel. Once Laura learns she is pregnant, she knows she must find a way to leave her wealthy and abusive husband, but before she is ready to leave, he dies of a heart attack. Rather than feeling that life will be better now, she realizes that she still needs to get away from his controlling mother before the woman who raised a monster finds a way to steal her grandson away from Laura.

When a kind and insightful doctor helps her leave town she never imagines the warm welcome and good people she will meet in Evers, Texas. But she also never imagines that there is more to her husband's death than a heart attack.

I read it under the title Ever Hopeful in the collection, Love on the Edge. I bought the next the next one ASAP and am so glad that the third one will be coming out under the new SilverHart label.

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## **Sharon says**

Ever Hopeful by Lori Ryan is book one the Evers, Texas Series. This story is about Laura Kensington who decided after a lifetime of abuse from her father and now her husband she must leave her life behind and start fresh and new to protect her unborn child. Before she can leave her husband dies. His death can't stop her plan especially since she knows that her husband's family is ruthless and dangerous. Laura doesn't want

to risk losing her baby to this powerful family. She knows her only choice is to continue with her plan. This leads Laura to a small town in Texas called Evers. Here she will have a second chance and where she should will meet Cade Bishop a man who firmly believes in those second chances.

This is the first story I read by Lori Ryan and it is a great story. I had hard time putting down. There is suspense and romance throughout this touching story.

Laura is sweet, loving, and strong character. You can easily fall in love with Cade who is patience and kindhearted. I enjoyed watching these characters build their relationship. They both want a second chance at new beginnings.

I am big fan of small towns and I loved each of the towns people that Laura comes to meet. Just to name a few there is: May Bishop is true matriarch of her family who protects those she cares about. Cade's brother Shane is the town lawyer who has the best interest for his family.

I would highly recommend this book.

I can't wait to read the next books in the series.

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## **BooksandBeyondFiftyShades says**

Lori Ryan

I cannot say enough good things about this wonderful, sweet-heart, small-town romance!

Laura Kensington has a plan to get out of her impossible situation and then a knock at her door changes those plans for good. After finding out her abusive husband is dead, she finds herself running from his family instead who she thought she would be running from: him. For not only is her life in danger but so is that of her unborn child who the infamous Kensingtons would love to get ahold of. Landing in Evers, Texas at the Bishop Ranch Laura doesn't know what to expect but it sure wasn't Cade Bishop.

Cade Bishop spends his days giving second chances to animals who need them and finds himself wanting to give Laura that second chance as well. A kind and patient man, Laura finds herself drawn to him. But danger is on its way. Will they be able to find a HEA among fate and second chances?

I felt for Laura right from the beginning and loved her determination to escape and make a better life for herself and her child even while the odds were stacked against her. Cade warmed my heart immediately. A man who is both patient and kind and spends his days rescuing abused animals just made my heart go "awwww".

While on the sweeter side of romance, Ever Hopeful still has plenty of passion and will keep you turning the pages wondering what will happen next! Lori Ryan has a great start to her new series and I can't wait to hear more!

\*\*\*Review has been done in conjunction with BooksandBeyondFiftyShades.

For more information regarding our reviews please visit our Fansite:

## **Gwen Popen says**

This was one of those easy reads for me. The story addressed some real life topics and ugliness that is in the real world. Laura is a strong female character. She has suffered abuse throughout her life and finally she has enough. She begins to live not only for herself but for her unborn child. And Cade, what's not to love? He an easy going guy who wants to protect her. It's romance, it's fairytale but it was good. Lori Ryan I look forward to the rest in the series!

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## **Sue says**

In Ever Hopeful by Lori Ryan, Laura is desperate to escape her abusive husband Patrick. Just as she is about to set her plans in motion...her salvation comes unexpectedly when Patrick dies. Laura soon realizes she is not free though, especially since she is pregnant with Patrick's child. Now it is not Patrick she fears, but his mother and brother. Patrick's rich and powerful mother and brother who will do everything

Frightened but determined, Laura finds help from an unexpected source. Josh, a Doctor who has treated Laura in the past, and tried to help her in the past, steps in when Laura feels trapped and becomes her savior. He sends Laura to May, a family friend and the ranch she runs with her sons in Ever, Texas. Laura is scared and emotionally scarred from an unhappy childhood and even worse marriage. She has a hard time settling in, feeling safe, and trusting anyone. She is scared to stay, the longer she stays the more she feels like part of Ever, Texas, and she doesn't want the wrath of her past hurting anyone else...especially May and her sons. But she is also scared to run.

Cade, May's son who works the ranch and also rescues animals, feels more for Laura the more he gets to know her. He knows she has secrets, but he is drawn to her anyway. Patient and caring, he makes Laura start to feel safe. Laura is feeling things she's never felt before either...and while it feels good, it also feels wrong. Definitely the wrong time in her life for any kind of attraction. Can she even think of taking a risk with Cade?

Patrick's rich and powerful mother will do everything she can to find Laura and the unborn child...Laura's past is haunting her. Will she try to outrun it before it catches up to her? Can she?

From the first page to the last, Lori Ryan pulls you right into Laura's story. You will feel Laura's emotions right along with her - from the heart bounding fear to the hope of safety and love at last. Laura has been through a lot in her young life, and she comes across as older and much more mature than her stated age. For all she has gone through between growing up and then marrying Patrick, she has come out surprisingly strong and determined. I love that in Laura! She does not dwell on what has happened, but what she can do to change things. She's scared, but she's not going to bow to pressure to do the wrong thing for her or her unborn baby. Laura is a very strong heroine in Ever Hopeful! Cade is easy to fall in love with. He seems to be able to read Laura right from the start. Even with the strong feelings he's developing for her, there's no pressure just patience and silent strength as he shows his support in numerous ways. He has a strong relationship with his family (and his animals!) and he is honest.

Lori's writing is so smooth and well paced that you will find Ever Hopeful a really enthralling, suspenseful, emotional and Hope-ful read. She sets the tone for Ever Hopeful early on and it all just flows from there! There are a few secondary characters that are quite dominant and some not so much...I felt like the character development was steady throughout Ever Hopeful, and some of them were surprising!

Ever Hopeful is a small town romance, one of those small towns that sticks together and protects their own...a place you'd really want to be. With suspense, romance and hope, Lori gives us a 5 star romance that I'd recommend to any romance reader! Ever Hopeful was a great, complete story, and I can't wait for what comes next in Ever, Texas!

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### **Pat says**

This is the first novel I have read by this author, and I enjoyed it very much. I'm looking forward to the next in the series.

Laura Kensington is getting ready to run from her physically abusive husband, and his dominating mother. Laura has recently found out she is pregnant, and can't risk her baby's life in this hopeless situation. She has hidden money, in contact with a person to help her get a false identity, and just waiting for her husband to go out of town on business. But to her shock, she is informed by the police her husband has died suddenly of a heart attack. All she felt was relief! Going to identify the body, she is confronted by his overbearing, alcoholic mother, insisting she go home with her so she can be taken care of. Laura knows it would be replacing one bully, with another. She is saved by a passing Dr. who she has seen on occasion in the ER for various injuries. He remembers her and steps in. He tells Martha Kensington Laura is being admitted overnight for observation because of shock. He secretly picks her up a block from the hospital makes a phone call, and she is reluctantly on her way to a family he knows will care for her. She has no other choice, and disappears.

Evers, Texas is a perfect example of life in a small town. Everyone know's each other's business, discusses it, but would never dream of talking about one of their own to strangers. The Bishop family is well known, the father was an amateur inventor, and stumbled upon a glue that was snapped up for use in industrial products, and made his family very wealthy. He passed away, and his wife May and sons Cade and Shane try to help all in the community they can. It is to the Bishop's that Laura is sent for safety.

This is a beautiful love story between Cade an animal rescuer, and Laura a women abused pregnant and on the run. Their is suspense, danger, and fear, but through it all Cade's protection keeps her close. I would highly recommend this contemporary romance for readers who enjoy a sweet love story, small towns, and the sizzle behind close doors. No cliffhangers, a major plus for me.

Pat Fordyce

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### **Pj Nusbaum says**

I loved this story. I had a very hard time putting it down. It is a tale of learning to love and trust again. Laura has lived the last 3 years of her life in fear. After years of abuse she has to find the strength to stand and take her life back. Just when she thinks her life is safe the rug is pulled out from under her again. You will have to



read and find out what all happens. I recommend this story. I look forward to the next book.

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### **Shari says**

This was my first book by Lori Ryan and will not be my last. This book had me hooked from the very first pages. I could not put it down. It is packed full of emotions, I was crying and laughing during my time in Ever, Texas. Laura and Cade are both coming off bad relationships, but are both such tender and caring people that deserve so much more in the future. The built up suspense in the book was very powerful. I can not wait to read the next book in the Ever Texas series.

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### **Melonie Merritt says**

\*\*\*\*\* I was gifted a copy of this book for an honest review\*\*\*\*\*

This was my introduction to Lori Ryan and I was really impressed. I enjoyed this book. Once I started reading I could not stop before I knew the book was over. I was sucked into Laura and Cade's world right from the start. I felt like I was living Laura's life with her. Reading her struggles with her husband and then following her through her struggle to find herself and realize that she is stronger than she ever thought was simply amazing. Cade is just a sweetheart! I would give anything to find someone like him. \*SIGH\* I was connected with the characters from the start. Lori knows how to write to bring the emotions straight out of you. I would highly recommend this book to readers!

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