



## Cowboy SEAL Homecoming

*Nicole Helm*

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# **Cowboy SEAL Homecoming**

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**Cowboy SEAL Homecoming** Nicole Helm

**Three former Navy SEALs**

**Injured in the line of duty**

**Desperate for a new beginning...**

**Searching for a place to call their own.**

Alex Maguire never thought he'd go home again. The perfect soldier, the perfect leader, he's spent his whole life running away from Blue Valley, Montana?but when a tragic accident bounces him and two of his men out of the SEALs, there's nowhere left to turn but the ranch he used to call his own...and the confusing, innocently beguiling woman who now lives there.

Becca Denton's like nothing he could have imagined. She's far too tempting for her own good, but when she offers to help turn the ranch into a haven for injured veterans, he can't exactly say no. He'll just need to keep his distance. But something in her big green eyes makes Alex want to set aside the mantle of the perfect soldier and discover the man he could have been...safe and whole within the shelter of her arms.

**The Prodigal SEAL has come home.**

## **Cowboy SEAL Homecoming Details**

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Author : Nicole Helm

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## **From Reader Review Cowboy SEAL Homecoming for online ebook**

### **Mandi Schreiner says**

A new series from Nicole Helm featuring Navy SEALs turned cowboys! I was a little unsure how this was all going to play out, but I actually really liked the set-up. Three guys who all served together overseas as SEALs, who all got injured in an explosion, come back to the states together to a ranch that Alex has inherited. Well, he inherited half a ranch. The other half was given to his step-sister, Becca.

Alex hasn't been home in a long time. When his father passed away (his father was married to Becca's mother) he took that hard and is still grieving. He isn't even sure how he will react to all of the memories that will flood him returning to the ranch, but he knows one thing for certain - he wants to turn it into a place where veterans can come for therapy and rehabilitation. He saw what happens to men and women in the military and trying to adjust with life back at home, and he wants to offer a place for them to cope. Becca is on board with this, even offering to oversee the horse therapist position.

Alex and Becca know each other, but haven't been around each other in a long time. Alex had forgotten how pretty she was, and head-strong, and Becca had forgotten how many muscles Alex has. Becca has grown up a very sheltered life. Sick as a child, her mother became extremely overprotective. Barely leaving the ranch, she doesn't have a lot of social skills. Having three SEALs coming to live on her ranch stretches her boundaries, but she is willing to see what happens. She wants to start living her own life and even though she feels a little overwhelmed, she would rather try something new, than sit inside her house alone, sheltered from the world.

Alex by nature is a protector, not just with Becca but with his guy friends too. He is extremely organized and is always planning. This annoys Becca and his SEAL buddies and pretty much everyone around him. He is a bit uptight. And broody. I liked his spreadsheets and how sweaty he would get when someone wanted to try something without planning it out extensively. I liked that he got offended if they made fun of how uptight he was.

The romance unfolds pretty predictably. In the past few Helm books I've found some of the character unlikable. I liked everyone in this one but it did have a bit of a gloomy tone. I'm not saying every character has to be bubbly and funny and silly. But these two are just a bit - dispirited, which dampened my enjoyment of the book.

Grade: C+

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### **1-Click Addict Support Group says**

A sweet and heartwarming coming home...

Well, not all sweet. Alex was haunted and driven while not losing any of his need to lead and look after. Becca was finally, finally, gaining some independence and wanted to revel in the ability to make her own decisions. That makes for butting heads, and eventually hearts....

Alex and the friends he brought with him were forging a new future, one far away from the battlefield that

still haunted them all. Building a refuge for soldiers to recover and regroup felt right to all of them. That didn't mean that all the wars were done. Memories, choices, they haunted them all and no more so than Alex who bore the responsibility for so much. Determined to make a difference, going home meant facing his past including a stepsister he didn't really know...

Becca was this wonderfully quirky character. Sheltered in so many ways but old age wise in others. Her need to help Alex in his new mission helped herself come out of her shell. She was shy and wary of the big men who had invaded her space but soon realized they were just what she needed. She found her voice, which was funny and smart-alecky, a perfect foil to the gruff military men she now tripped over.

***"You deserve rain-soaked speeches and far better than me."***

Blending ex-military with cowboys is a favourite genre sandwich and this story – both light and dark, funny and emotional - was tasty indeed! ~Diane, 4 stars

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### **The Romance Book Disciple (Samantha) says**

Mix some wounded Navy SEALs with a woman who is finally trying to gain some independence, and have them build a sanctuary for veterans and you have Cowboy SEAL Homecoming. Alex left Montana after high school and joined the military. He came home VERY rarely and as a result, hardly knows his step sister at all. His father passes away and Alex is injured and discharged from the Navy precipitating his return to the ranch in Montana...that his father willed to both Alex and his step sister, Becca. Becca suffered from life threatening illness as a child and has a very sheltered, challenging upbringing. She loves the ranch and wants to provide a haven for people suffering. However, living with her step brother and his 2 SEAL buddies is a bit out of her comfort zone.

This story kind of throws all the tropes in there and it oddly works! Step siblings? Yep. Military men? Got those too! Cowboys? Sure! Becca is endearingly awkward. She is so uncomfortable with Alex and his SEAL friends, but she knows building this dream is something all of them need. Alex is struggling with his absence from his family home for so long. He is grieving his father's death, struggling with Becca's place in his father's life, and with his father's marriage to Becca's mom after his own mom passed away. Add to that his recent separation from the Navy and his injuries and you have a man desperate to control his life. He plans everything down to the minute in order to avoid surprises. Conversely, Becca never plans. She wasn't sure she would live, so long term plans were not part of her life. Cowboy SEAL Homecoming is emotional in a realistic way. Even if you haven't experienced the same life events these characters have, you will see feel their struggle. I am interested in getting Gabe and Jake's stories in the future.

The heavy emotions all the characters deal with is broken up with hilarious animal hijinks! A rooster named Rasputin and a goat named Ron Swanson will keep you giggling even when emotions are high! Cowboy SEAL Homecoming was a delightful read that gave me more than I ever expected!

POV: 3rd

Tears: a few!

Trope: step siblings, Navy SEALs, Cowboys

Triggers: (view spoiler)

Series/Standalone: stand alone

Cliffhanger: (view spoiler)

HEA: (view spoiler)

Books by Jennifer Ryan, Carolyn Brown, BJ Daniels...then you will probably like **Cowboy SEAL Homecoming!**

**Cowboy SEAL Homecoming**

See full review on [The Book Disciple](#)

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### **Avid Reader says**

**Cowboy SEAL Homecoming (Navy SEAL Cowboys #1)** by Nicole Helm

3 stars

M/F Romance

Triggers: PTSD, step-sibling romance

I was given this book for an honest review by Wicked Reads.

Becca is the step sister to Alex. They never truly knew each other growing up because Alex left when his father remarried to Becca's mom. When his father dies and leaves half of his ranch to Becca and half to Alex, that is when they both reconnect.

I found this story somewhat confusing. I liked the premise of the SEALS coming home and wanting to put a ranch together to help other veterans reintegrate back into society, however, I felt cheated because you never got to see the end result. Throughout the story they are all working their butts off for this end result, but I felt that despite the premise, the romance overtook the rest of the story.

Also the idea that the SEALS were the only characters needing therapy was not quite true. Becca was so sheltered that she didn't really know how to function outside of her ranch.

I do want to see what happens with Alex's friends, however, I also hope that their stories have more than just romance. The overall romance was just semi-successful for me. Becca was too sheltered and Alex was too timid too. It was just hard to believe.

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## **Anna's Herding Cats says**

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup.

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2DvdBv0>

A group of wounded SEALS, a sheltered cowgirl, a sassy goat and whole heap of 'what the fuck are we doing'. Yeah, Cowboy SEAL Homecoming was one dang fine read.

The Gist: When Alex's career as a SEAL came to an abrupt end he decided to return to the family ranch he and his step sister had inherited. The plan? Turn the ranch into a retreat for returning military members and, well, try like hell to ignore the damn pesky attraction zinging between them, too.

Becca and Alex. Yall. They're such a neurotic fucked up mess and I adored them. It was hard not to love them or root for them to overcome their personal issues--Alex dealing with PTSD and not being in total control, Becca breaking free of a very sheltered life after severe childhood illness. They're good people. Determined, hard working, fiercely loyal and caring. But so damn fucked up. lol I loved watching them slowly start to heal and venture out of their comfort zones.

And the romance. Yes, they're step-siblings. But really they didn't grow up together and he was out of the house already when their parents married. So not a big deal. I had a good time watching them as they felt each other out. Things weren't smooth sailing especially at the start and trying to resist. They had great chemistry and a sweet yet frustrating romance. I loved it.

There was a lot of awkward happening in the series. Between Becca and Alex, with the retired SEALS that came with him to get the non profit up and running, etc. But it was intentional and man it packed a punch watching these two-- well, four if you include his buddies-- try to figure out their new lives and circumstances. They all really stole my heart.

All in all, a bang up read. I had a great time with Cowboy SEAL Homecoming. It was a stellar combination of hilarious encounters, heart touching moments and the overcoming of serious life struggles. Helm writes the most wonderful perfectly imperfect characters. They may drive you crazy now and again but it's impossible not to fall for them completely.

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## **Bookgasms Book Blog says**

Alex is returning home to his family ranch—ownership of said ranch is now shared with his stepsister, Becca. Alex and his two friends, Jack and Gabe, want to turn part of the ranch into a place where wounded soldiers can come and work their way back into society again, heal their wounds and their heads—figure out their place in the world now that they're no longer active duty members.

Becca's lived a sheltered life—one exacerbated by an over protective mother. But Becca's dream is to open a therapeutic horse operation. Her dream meshes with Alex's plans on paper, but can they make it a reality.

I love a good *prodigal son returns home* story! Add in a military homecoming and I'm all in!! And while I did really enjoy the romance between Alex and Becca, I struggled a bit to get through their story. *Cowboy SEAL Homecoming* dragged a bit for me. Yes, I understood the need to set up the series with Alex, Jack and Gabe. And to learn about Becca's childhood. But much of the story was told to us. Alex and Becca lived much of the story in their own heads, and my reading would have been greatly enhanced if more of the story was shown to me through dialogue and character interactions. And while I struggled with *Cowboy SEAL Homecoming*, I am looking forward to Jack's book, *Cowboy SEAL Redemption* this summer. ~ Missy, 3.5 stars

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### **Amy Vida says**

I was grateful to receive a free copy of *Cowboy SEAL Homecoming* in exchange for an honest review. I am always hesitate to write a less then steller review, because I know how much time and effort goes into writing a story. However, to be fair to potential readers, I wanted to give an honest review.

This book was well written, but the story just didn't do it for me. I like the concept of three SEALS returning from combat and dealing with their issues. I also like the story of Alex and Becca being associated as step siblings. However, that is where my interest in the story ended.

I had a really difficult time liking Becca. In fact, out of all of the characters she seemed to be the most dysfunctional, and most in need of "therapy" which seemed to be the main focus of this book. Becca just annoyed me, which is why I wouldn't recommend this book to friends or family.

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### **Anita says**

I loved the plot and the characters were wonderful, but it was sometimes confusing and had a lot of repetitious narrative. Nothing I hate more than being hit over the head repeatedly by the author who doesn't think you got her point, or her characters feelings, the first time around.

Alex Maguire loved being a SEAL and never thought he'd go home to Blue Valley, Montana again. His father had remarried and the ranch house just wasn't a place he wanted to be. But "life changes" and Alex finds himself retired at age 34 along with two of his best buddies, recovering physically and mentally from a horrible tragedy. His father has died suddenly and he finds that he was left with 1/2 of the ranch that was his childhood home. Alex, Gabe and Jack plan to turn to ranch into a foundation to help injured veterans reintegrate into society, but they have a lot of work ahead of them, personally, to make that happen.

Becca Denton's life was turned upside down when her stepfather died. Her overprotective mother had finally moved to town and she finally has some measure of independence. When Alex approaches her about using the ranch to help veterans, she is excited to finally have a goal. Having three men with the issues they bring is a challenge for the very sheltered Becca. The attraction between Alex and Becca is a thing that neither of them can ignore for long. But, issues from their past have a nasty way of intruding on what could be their perfect future.

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## **Beth says**

A wounded SEAL, Alex, and his comrades team up with his step-sister, Becca, on a property they inherited from Alex's father. They are opening a short of camp/sanctuary for veterans.

Truly a collaboration of so many plot plans we seen before: we've got the step-sibs, the wounded military men, the returning hometown heroes, and cowboys all mixed up with a woman striving for independence after suffering from a life threatening illness and being sheltered her entire life...and it completely works!

Lots of strong emotions scars bring some heavy reading but Helm's ability to add fun and flare to some difficult life situations makes for a marvelously entertaining and heartfelt reading.

I received this ARC copy of *Cowboy SEAL Homecoming* from SOURCEBOOKS Casablanca. This is my honest and voluntary review. *Cowboy SEAL Homecoming* is set for publication Jan. 2, 2018.

My Rating: 4 Stars

written by: Nicole Helm

Series: Navy SEAL Cowboys (Book 1)

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iTunes: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/cowb...>

Reviewed for: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

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## **Kay (aka) Miss Bates says**

Nicole Helm's *Cowboy Seal Homecoming* gave me exactly what I was looking for: Helm's brand of emotional honesty, quirky animals, uber-masculine heroes whose mission is to set the world aright, heroines who call them on their bullshit and yet don't shame them for their vulnerabilities, and a beautifully -rendered rural setting, in this case, rancher-country Montana. Honorably discharged wounded warrior hero Alex Maguire comes home to his deceased father's ranch. He comes to claim his inheritance, an inheritance he shares with heroine Becca Denton, who found in Burt Maguire's ranch, the home and father she never thought she would. Now, she's invited her stranger stepbrother to share in a joint project, creating a therapeutic ranch for war veterans like Alex and the two buddies (sequel-bait!) he brings along on his and Becca's venture, Jack Armstrong and Gabe Cortez. As far as the romance's outer trappings are concerned, originality isn't what makes them up. But then, what romance's tropes, trappings, and narrative structure does that? The attraction lies in all the ways the story can be told of how two alone become one united and fulfilled.

Becca and Alex come from places of vulnerability. Becca was a sickly, fragile child, with an overprotective single mom. Alex lost his mother in a car accident when he was eight and the memory of being a passenger in the death-car left him with an unconscious desire to fix things, to put them right, to save and protect everyone. Though his dad was loving, supportive, and a safe anchor, Alex left home to fix on his country's behalf and rarely returned home. But a grenade brought his and his friends' military careers to an end, and an end to one of his team's lives. He brings all that home with him and a determination to see through his project to help former soldiers. But Alex finds much that he denies, or doesn't expect: his attraction to and affection for Becca, grief for his parents, and symptoms of PTSD. Becca too has to contend with much: the realization that her illness and mother's sheltering left her without life experience, or being-with-people savvy. Becca, however, is in a better place than Alex. She's at the take-life-by-the-horns stage of recovery and confidence.

Helm does a lot right in *Cowboy Seal Homecoming* and much of it nice twists on romance conventions. Though it is often women who are plagued by a need to be perfect, Helm makes her heroine sanguine, open, and accepting of life's vagaries. Alex, on the other hand, is a fixer, a "neat freak," a man who must bring order out of chaos, a commander who expects much, but gives more than anyone around him. As Becca grows in strength, in understanding herself and others, in joining in on the world that Alex & co. bring to the ranch, Alex weakens and ebbs, at the mercy of memories, nightmares, and blackouts. Together, however, Alex and Becca are marvelous: funny, sexy, affectionate, and tender. They're incredibly decent, caring people and they treat each other and everyone around them with respect, integrity, and love. I hope I haven't made them sound stuffy because they're not. One of my favourite scenes is the one and only love scene, when Becca decides Alex will be her first lover: it's a realistic "loss of virginity" scene (I've always hated the term "deflowering") and yet, it's still sexy and fun to read.

Helm's romance splits in two. In the first half, the tone is lighter, with quite a few funny scenes, usually involving Becca's roof-climbing goat and a cat who throws baleful glances at Alex once he and Becca are lovers. Becca and Alex fall in love. They're monogamous types and careful with others' feelings. They obviously have affection for the other. I really like that Helm doesn't make a big deal of her heroes and heroines denying feelings for the other. I especially liked that Alex makes a point of asking Becca for a date. Too many romances consist of antagonistic banter and sheet-thrashing, but no one woos, or dates. I'm glad they date. The second half of the romance is darker. Alex's PTSD intensifies and Becca recognizes that as long as Alex denies it, they cannot fulfill their relationship's promise. The novel intensifies and maybe Helm's resolution comes a little too quickly, but the darkens keeps our lovers apart. It's to Helm's credit that I was invested in them and suffered their tearing asunder acutely. Alex and Becca's reconciliation is awesome: Alex orchestrates a beautifully awkward, gently humorous, tender, and moving proposal scene. Also, it takes place in the rain and those are my favourite kind, ever since watching *Breakfast At Tiffany's*.

With Miss Austen's readerly assistance, I would say that Helm's *Cowboy Seal Homecoming* offers "a mind lively and at ease," Emma.

Nicole Helm's *Cowboy Seal Homecoming* is published by Sourcebooks Casablanca. It was released on January 2nd and may be found at your preferred vendor. I received an e-ARC from Sourcebooks Casablanca, via Netgalley.

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### **Susan says**

Fantastic, emotional start to a new series. Alex is a former SEAL, retired from the service because of his

injuries. He joined the Navy right out of high school, and in the sixteen years since then has rarely been home. With the recent death of his father, Alex and his step-sister, Becca, have inherited the ranch. With the loss of their careers, Alex and his two friends, Jack and Gabe, have come to the ranch to heal and to make it a place for other wounded vets to heal. Each of them needs a new focus for their lives and a way to deal with the unexpected changes. This is Alex's story.

Becca is also dealing with major changes in her life. Her stepfather was the only father she had known, and his loss has left her reeling. She barely knows Alex, as he had already left home for the navy by the time her mother married Burt. Thanks to a life-threatening illness as a child, her life has been very sheltered. Her mother homeschooled her and kept her away from most social events, afraid that she would become sick again. This has left her socially awkward and very nervous around strangers. She is also determined to do something about it, and with a lot of effort has finally established some independence. The men's plans for the ranch dovetail nicely with her desire to start an equine therapy program.

The contrasts between Alex and Becca are pretty significant. Alex is a leader, a planner (overly so), and keeps his emotions under strict control. He is haunted by the events that caused his injuries and the death of a friend, but insists that he is "fine." He is certain that with enough hard work and time, the nightmares will fade. Becca is quiet but determined to become more outgoing. She wants to live her life to the fullest, and because she was sick for so long, lives each day as it comes. She has goals, but she doesn't do much planning because she knows that those plans can change in an instant.

I enjoyed the development of Alex and Becca's relationship. Because they are technically step-siblings, their initial attraction to each other freaks them both out - especially Alex. Becca gets over it much faster because she realizes that they spent no time together growing up as siblings. Alex is protective of Becca from the start, and it's fun to see him pretend it's brotherly, while Jack and Gabe insist it's anything but. Becca is quiet, but she is no pushover, and I loved how she stood up to Alex from the start when it came to the therapy side of the ranch. I liked that they became friends first, bonding and sharing their grief over Burt's death, and working together on getting the ranch set up. All during that time, the sparks between them continued to build. I liked the way that Alex wanted to take things slowly and loved the whole date scene. Becca was in a bit more of a hurry, and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing her take charge of her wants and needs. Once they took that final step, the feelings between them grew quickly. But it was not all unicorns and rainbows. Alex's PTSD symptoms get worse instead of better the more he tries to deny them. His refusal to admit he needs help, or even to share what is happening with Becca, drives a wedge between them. I loved the way that Becca refused to allow him to shut her out if they were going to have a relationship. I ached for them both as Becca made it clear that something had to give. The intervention by Jack and Gabe was heart-wrenching as they tried desperately to get through to Alex. I was moved to tears by the reconciliation of Becca and Alex and the emotion of his big moment at the end.

I loved Alex's friends and partners, Jack and Gabe. The bond among the three men is tight, thanks to everything they have been through together. I loved how they have no problem reminding Alex that he is no longer responsible for them. Both Gabe and Jack also have issues stemming from the same attack that injured Alex, and each deals with them differently. I also liked how they were loyal to each other, always having each other's backs. There were a couple of times that created issues with Becca, but they were understandable and easily dealt with. I had fun watching both Jack and Gabe adjust to ranch life. The development of the friendship between them and Becca was pretty sweet. They were all awkward at the beginning, but it didn't take long for them to grow to like and respect each other. I loved the scene at the bar when Jack and Gabe so clearly saw the sparks between Becca and Alex. I loved their part in bringing Alex and Becca back together.

Becca's mom was a character I had a little more trouble with. I understood why she had been so protective when Becca was younger. But her attitude now, when Becca has been well for so long, was too much. I really hated her attitude toward the guys, especially Alex. The dinner scene was awful, and I ached for Becca and the stress she was under. I was definitely rooting for her as she gained confidence, and I loved seeing her finally confront her mom.

Though the book was emotional and frequently gut-wrenching, there were also some lighter moments to break it up. I laughed out loud during the scenes with the goat. Jack and Gabe were especially hysterical as they dealt with the roof-climbing animal. Having to get help from a rooster named Rasputin made it even better.

I've already read Jack's book (Cowboy SEAL Redemption), which got me hooked on this series. I can't wait to read Gabe's story, as it will pair him with the therapist, Monica. It should be a fantastic read.

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## **Romancing the Book says**

Reviewed by JoAnne

Book provided by NetGalley

Originally posted at Romancing the Book

Ex-Navy SEALs playing at cowboys along with a ranch in Montana, animals and a sweet love interest were all that were needed to keep my interest. *Cowboy SEAL Homecoming* was a fast paced read with multiple story lines that were seamlessly woven together to make the story gel. There are three wounded and hurting ex-SEALs and the stepsister of one of them who is a shy, naive, half owner of the ranch that will be transformed into their new business. Alex hasn't been home to the ranch in a long time but now that he's injured and needs a new focus he's home for this new business venture along with his two buddies. His dad has passed away and he finds himself the co-owner of the ranch with his stepsister, Becca, who he didn't have much contact with growing up. He and his friends, Gabe and Jack, add a realism to the story in their actions as well as being there for each other.

Becca is trying to stand on her own two feet and not have her mother swoop in and fix things. How's that working out? She's an animal whisperer since growing up that's all she had to talk to. Her stepfather gave her the strength she needed to get out a little from under her mother's wings and protectiveness. Now that he's gone will she be able to continue to do so?

There are family and friends, life stories, the military, their experiences and brotherhood, chores, hard work, anger, sadness, hurt, fear, nightmares, therapy, loving and love. There is a nice flow to the story but there were times I didn't realize how much time had passed in the story. The characters all had a depth to them and stories that were theirs to tell. There is a happily ever after in the offing but enough loose ends to take us to the next stories and whose will it be? The epilogue gave me the closure I needed.

Helm is a new to me author having read only one of her books previously, *All I Have*, the first book in the Farmer's Market series. I will be back for more in this new series plus I will be adding other books she's written to my always growing TBR pile!

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## **Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says**

**Cowboy SEAL Homecoming** is a sweet and adorable romance.

I picked this one up; because of a teaser Anna @ Herding Cats & Burning Soup shared. It's the first night/morning the guys are at the ranch and that morning a goat gets in the house. That scene was so funny. I had to just smile and laugh. It reminded me of farm life. I didn't have any goats, but I sure did have several other farm animals. You can check out her review and see the teaser; here. Their was also another goat scene that made me smile as well. Goats, they are just too funny!

Becca reminded me a lot of myself. She has been sheltered her whole life; because she was a very sick child and her mother worried, so as a result she's made animal friends on the farm. I wasn't sheltered, but I didn't have many friends and preferred to spend my time outside with my animals then with people. I had a great time watching Becca come out of her shell and stand up for herself and her needs and wants. I like that she wants to open an equine therapy ranch for wounded veterans and her stepbrother is all in to help, now that he is out of the service.

Alex returns home after pretty much running away from home. The ranch and town hold difficult memories for him. Coming home he is forced to face his situation and all those memories in the past. My heart went out to him. I would have liked to see more time spent on Alex getting help and dealing with his issues.

Becca and Alex are step-siblings, but they didn't grow up together and barely have any type of a relationship, so the romance; between them didn't raise any issues that I usually would have with this type of set up. Their romance isn't steamy, it's a slow and sweet build. I think anything more wouldn't have been believable; especially with how sheltered Becca was and the issues Alex has.

*I had a delightful time with a Cowboy SEAL Homecoming. It had some wonderful touching moments and showcased life's struggles and overcoming them.*

**Rated: 3 Stars**

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## **Bambi Unbridled says**

*Cowboy SEAL Homecoming* is set on a horse and cattle ranch in a small town in Big Sky Country - Montana. Three wounded Navy SEALS have returned to the ranch with our hero to start an equine therapy center for wounded veterans, but must heal themselves in the process.

Rebecca Denton is an extremely sheltered young woman who was left half of the ranch by her recently deceased stepfather. After having meningitis as a child, Rebecca was coddled and sheltered by her smother, who still treats Becca as if she is naive and incapable of caring for herself and knowing her own mind. As a result, Becca has made friends on the farm and has a wide array of furry companions like Ron Swanson (the

goat) and Rasputin (the rooster), among others. Becca talks to the animals as if they were people, which gives you some insight into her life and loneliness. Deciding to open an equine therapy ranch for wounded veterans with her stepbrother and his comrades is a huge step for Becca, but one at which she is determined to succeed (and have her way). I liked watching Becca come out of her shell and start to stand up for herself, her wants and needs. She didn't back down from the military men, and she earned their respect in the process.

Alex Maguire is the prodigal son returned. The ranch seems to hold difficult memories for Alex, dating back to the death of his mother and the feelings of helplessness that ensued. Returning home after the death of his father, wounded and in denial, Alex will be forced to face that he can't control every situation. He was stoic and broody, and suffering the after effects of war-time tragedies. My heart went out to Alex and I hated his nightmares and dissociative states. I wish that more of the book was spent on Alex getting help, but I suspect future books in the series will focus more on that area.

Alex and Becca are step-siblings, but they did not grow up together and barely had a relationship. So the romance between the two didn't raise that ick factor that I have garnered from other step-romances. Becca's level of sheltering was a bit of a shocker, as I can't imagine someone today being in their 20s without being kissed or seeing a shirtless man. However, Alex's worldliness balanced out Becca's sheltering and they moved along at a believable pace for the duration of the story. This was not a steamy romance, but I don't think any higher level of heat would have been believable.

Unfortunately this book got lost in the narration for me. The narrator had a hard time holding my interest, and I didn't feel that her voice matched the story. The performance lacked enough depth to differentiate the characters, which made everyone sound the same. When you have military tough guys in your story, you want to be able to hear their voice independently of the female characters.

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this audiobook that I received from the publisher, Tantor Audio.

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### **Yvonne says**

Alex Maguire is heading home to Montana. His father passed away and left him the family ranch. He's not going home alone, though. He's bring along some of his buddies who served with him as SEALS. Each man is dealing with his own issues and Montana just might be the perfect place to do it.

Becca Denton is Alex's step-sister. Her step-father left half the ranch in Montana to her. When Alex returns home, she offers to help him set the ranch up as a sanctuary for injured veterans. It's not an easy task as Alex and his fellow SEALS have quite a bit to handle from emotional to physical problems. Becca is determined to help them.

Alex and Becca find themselves growing closer and closer. Even though they are step-siblings, they didn't grow up together and were never close. So, a romantic relationship between them works very well.

I enjoyed listening to this on audio. The narrator does a great job of storytelling and fits the characters very well. The story is filled with romance and drama. It was a good diversion to listen to while commuting.

I'm hoping the author revisits this setting with stories about Alex's friends. They each have a story to tell and

I want to read all about it.

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