



## Cowboy Christmas Blues

*Maisie Yates*

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*Maisey Yates*

**Cowboy Christmas Blues** Maisey Yates

**He didn't want to come home for the holidays—but can an unexpected reunion with a woman from his past make this cowboy's Christmas merry and bright in this sweet and sizzling novella?**

When Cooper Mason left Gold Valley, Oregon behind him eight years ago, he told himself he wouldn't be back. But when a Christmas promise sends him home to face his demons, he'll find that not everything is as he remembers—especially family friend Annabelle Preston, who's somehow morphed from childhood pest to full-grown, hot-blooded and oh-so-tempting woman.

Growing up, Annabelle had built a lot of dreams around the ruggedly gorgeous Cooper—dreams she's long ago learned to put behind her. Until a chance encounter with Cooper leads to a night neither can forget, and all the old feelings come blazing back to life. Now, Annabelle has a week to prove that they're more to each other than a no-strings holiday fling...and with a little Christmas luck, she just might encourage Gold Valley's favorite cowboy to come home for good.

## Cowboy Christmas Blues Details

Date : Published October 1st 2017 by HQN Books

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Author : Maisey Yates

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# From Reader Review Cowboy Christmas Blues for online ebook

## John says

Cowboy Christmas Blues 4/5 Stars!

This was a super cute Novella! I really enjoyed this glimpse into Gold Valley, I can't wait for the first book to come out next year!

Once again, Maisey Yates has made me fall in love with her characters and the town she's created. She's really becoming (if not already) my favorite Harlequin Romance author. Whenever I pick up one of her books, I know that I'm about to be thrown into a small town with lots of people to love. I'd highly recommend this book if you're looking for a quick and fun Holiday read!

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## Jennifer says

3.5 stars

Novellas aren't especially my jam, so that is probably part of my lower rating for this one, but it was a cute story with likeable characters.

Plus, this quote gave me all the feels! "Hope is what makes things possible...Otherwise you're just breathing until you die."

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## Stacee says

Okay, this was sort of adorable. Sure there were some sad parts because of Cooper's family history, but it was quite sweet. I loved the story and the ending.

This was a perfect introduction into a new series and I hope we see Annabelle and Cooper in future books.

**\*\*Huge thanks to Harlequin Books for including this in the back of another book\*\***

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## Becky says

A lovely, feel-good holiday themed novella and start of a new series!

Though both Cooper and Anabelle had enough issues going on to fill a full-sized novel (Cooper especially), this was a longer novella and their history (their fathers have been friends for years) made their rather fast-tracked relationship believable. Since Cooper's family's healing was looooong overdue, it didn't feel too overoptimistic that they could at least get going in the right direction during the December holiday--so even though I selfishly would have liked a longer book (mostly because I really loved both Annabelle and Cooper,

I'll admit), it did work okay in the shorter format.

Plus, my fingers are crossed that they'll make appearances in later series books :)

(And please tell me Grant will get a story eventually? Pleasepleasepleaseplease...)

Can't wait for more from this series!

Rating: 4 stars / B+

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## **Cheri says**

I don't think it's any secret that I don't have a huge budget for books. Even when it comes to my favorite authors, like Maisey Yates, I have to be careful about what I purchase. I've been lucky enough with a lot of favorite authors to get ARCs from Net Galley or have my online library or local library carry some of their books. When it's a story I really want/need to read and I can't get it through the library I will, of course, buy the book. I'm all about supporting my authors. Unfortunately (or fortunately?) I read way too many books each month to be able to afford purchasing them all. I had finally caught up to current (I've waited months and months on my library's waiting list for some of her titles) in the Copper Ridge series a few months back and had pre-ordered the first book in the Gold Valley series, a spin-off (cross-over?) of the Copper Ridge books. Once that book came out I realized I had somehow missed this book. Now, I know it's not always necessary to read the .5 books in a series. But I love this author and really hate missing any part of a series that I love. But it's a novella, less than 100 pages even, and was far more than I would usually spend on a shorter book. I hemmed and hawed over this one for a few days. None of my libraries have the books, although I did put a request in for them to purchase the book. (Please always do that even if you plan on purchasing a book. The more exposure our favorite authors get through libraries, the more likely people will purchase their books themselves which means the writer will write more books! A win/win!) Anyway, this paragraph is getting super long and it's just to say that I bit the bullet. I purchased this less than 100 page story for \$2.99 for my Kindle and I don't regret it at all.

As usual, I hate giving spoilers. So I'm going to speak in code and you'll understand later. When I realized that Annabelle didn't realize something that was happening at the beginning of this story, my stomach was actually in knots while I waited for the big reveal. Poor girl! I love how this author sucks me in and has me sympathizing with her characters so quickly. And the aftermath of that realization, I was so on Annabelle's side even though I know it was a tiny bit irrational.

Cooper is such a needy soul without even realizing it at all. He sets the parameters yet he's the one always wanting to talk and learn more about Annabelle. I swear I don't even think he ever realized he was doing it, their relationship was just that natural to him...even if he didn't want a relationship.

This is a super sweet, somewhat sad, very touching short story. You get a lot of bang for your buck. Again, no regrets on making the purchase.

<https://allingoodtimeblog.wordpress.c...>

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## **Aly says**

3.5

Cooper doesn't like Christmastime and try to stay away from Gold Valley because it makes him sad and makes him think about his late sister who lost her battle to cancer during that time almost a decade ago. But he doesn't have the heart to say no to his mother when she ask him to come back for the Holidays.

Ever since she was a little girl, Annabelle had always have a crush on Cooper. But being seven years older than her, he saw her more like a little sister. She intend to change it and goes to a bar with a clear goal in mind : seduce him. When she succeed, she doesn't realize he didn't recognize her and think he's hooking up with a stranger. They are in it for an awkward surprise at the end of the evening.

Is it because I was uncomfortable with the idea of Cooper thinking of her before as a sister and him remembering about it that I didn't enjoy this novella as much as I usually do with Maisey Yates's stories ? I mean, there was nothing creepy there but I still don't like the idea. Or maybe it's because for the first half of the novella, it felt to me like the heroine was just a body for Cooper and since he doesn't know her anymore, it annoyed me that he made assumptions and pretended to know what she wants. But it was better once he began to see her as a person because then, he wanted to know her, he made her talk about herself and she really needed to share with someone the mean things her ex-boyfriend said to her. And you feel sympathy for Derek because he's so not over the loss of his sister, it was heartbreaking. But that's why it was so sweet that the heroine gets him to open up about his feelings, his grief and help him to make peace with it. Her ability to believe in hope was beautiful to see.

The town of Gold Valley is described as having a classic, Old West feel to it. I can't wait to read more about it

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## **Francheska says**

because I had just finished Christmastime Cowboy - this plot was the same - girl falls for cow hand when a young girls and continues to have fanisties about him for eight years. Is was a good short story.

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## **Jennie says**

This is a short, sweet novella about Maisey Yates new town, Gold Valley, Oregon. Cooper comes back at Christmas because his parents asked him to. He meets up with Annabella, who has loved him most of her life. Cooper hates both Christmas and the town because his sister died at Christmas time. He and his parents have never talked about her death and how it affected the three of them. This story is a good lesson in how people have problems dealing with death and how letting go can help you.

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

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup. (live on the blog 12/20/17)

Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2iOdGi0>

Damn Maisey Yates making me cry! Every blasted time. And even with a short little novella. \*flails\* But, yeah, Cowboy Christmas Blues got me.

The Gist: Cooper has reluctantly come home for Christmas. He does NOT like coming home especially during the holidays because it reminds him of his sister who died but his parents asked him. So drinking? Yeah, gonna happen. Random hook up? Yep. Check that right off. Accidentally doing the latter with a long lost childhood friend and not realizing it was her? Oops! #SomeonesGonnaBePissed

\*happy sigh\* Yeah, I liked Cooper and Annabelle. Scorching hot chemistry, humor, passion. These two grabbed my heart right away. Cooper, bless his heart, is not in a good place and watching him struggle with his grief just made me ache for him. And Annabelle. I loved her. She's kind, brave, and finding her self confidence after a bad relationship. Their romance was sweet as it snuck up on them. As they found peace with someone else and found themselves opening up for the first time over things that troubled them.

Cowboy Christmas Blues was a quick read but, yall, it's full of all the feels. These two both have a lot they're working through but it's balanced with delicious steamy moments and little bites of humor. Honestly it's everything I love about Yates and her romances. Honest, real, passionate and utterly moving. Not bad for a tiny little novella!

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## JoAnne says

This was a bonus story in the back of Christmastime Cowboy (Copper Ridge #10).

Cowboy Christmas Blues welcomes us officially to Gold Valley and is Cooper and Annabelle's story. They have a shared childhood since their dads are friends and they grew up around each other and their siblings. Tragedy struck Cooper's family six years before and he was never the same. He only returns to Gold Valley when his parents ask him too. Annabelle always had a crush on Cooper but they had a big age gap - at least when they were younger. Not so much now but can they be more than friends with benefits since Cooper doesn't plan to stay around for long and Annabelle is a business owner in town. Are they doomed to be apart or can they work through their differences?

There was a lot packed into this ninety-three page novella and had a nice flow to it. There was closure with the epilogue and a happily ever after too. I can't wait to be back in Gold Valley over and over again.

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## Cheryl says

I really enjoyed this novella. Cooper Mason left Gold Valley after the death of his sister at Christmas time. He moves from one place to another always trying to out run the pain of his loss. And, by moving he doesn't become connected to anyone that might cause him to feel more loss. Annabelle Preston used to follow Cooper around when they were kids. She was younger and looked up to him. As she hit her teens she

crushed on him. Annabelle got out of a relationship where she was devalued by her partner. Since then she's trying to do things to build her confidence. She decides to seduce Cooper when he is back in town for Christmas. Both of them have pain in their past. They both feel better when they are together. This is a good story about healing and taking chances.

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### **Karen Geurts says**

I liked the story line and the characters. It just took me a bit to get into the book. The main character Annabelle, turned out to be stronger and more determined than she thought she was. Cooper was hiding from the past and did not want to have feelings. I am glad they got things straight and ended up with a very happily ever after.

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### **Veda says**

What an introduction to Gold Valley. Both Cooper and Annabelle are ruled by their pasts. Can they both overcome that past to have a future? This was a wonderful Christmas Story and a great introduction to the town of Gold Valley, can't wait to read more, and see old friends from Cooper Ridge.

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### **Jane says**

I am a new fan of Maisey Yates and started with Christmastime Cowboy. Cowboy Christmas Blues was a bonus novella and I loved it. It was short and sweet with quite a message. Eight years after his sister has passed away Cooper still hasn't fully dealt with it. It takes someone from his past to help him see the light and move on.

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### **Melanie says**

#### **3.5 Stars!**

*Cowboy Christmas Blues* was a delightful introduction to the town of Gold Valley and an enjoyable start to Maisey Yates' new series.

Eight years ago, Cooper Mason left Gold Valley with no intention of ever returning, however a promise to come home for the holidays sends him back to the last place he wants to be. After losing his sister, Cooper prefers to spend his time on the move and plans to get in and out of Gold Valley as quickly as possible. Annabelle Preston had a crush on Cooper for most of her childhood, but she's since moved past it and has built a good life for herself in Gold Valley. After a run in at the local bar, Annabelle and Cooper find themselves engaging in a no-strings affair for the time Cooper is in town. When Annabelle's old feelings start to return, she realizes she'll only have a week to convince Cooper that this could be just the start of so much more.

Cooper spends nearly all of his time on the road and his only relationships are of the no-strings physical

variety. After the pain of losing his sister, Cooper actively avoids falling in love or forming connections with people as he doesn't want to experience the pain of losing someone again. Being back in Gold Valley has brought all of that old pain to the surface and he is reminded of his sister everywhere he goes.

Annabelle got out of a bad relationship shortly before the start of the story and has been making a lot of changes in her life that her ex convinced her she couldn't do. She recently purchased the store where she worked and has been dedicating most of her time to make sure it is a success. Her ex really did a number on her self esteem, so she's working towards believing in herself again and regaining the confidence she lost during that relationship.

Cooper and Annabelle have great physical chemistry and their sex scenes are incredibly sexy and definitely on the hot side. A nice addition is that these two have known each other since childhood and understand each other in ways an outsider wouldn't. Cooper helps Annabelle see that she's more than her ex made her out to be and that she is enough and shouldn't have to change herself for a man. Annabelle helps Cooper work through his grief over the loss of his sister and to instead focus on the good memories he has of her. She also pushes him to reconnect with the rest of his family, which is something Cooper (and his parents) put off for too long.

*Cowboy Christmas Blues* managed to pack a lot into its short length, but I think the book could have benefitted from being *slightly* longer. Overall, it was an enjoyable read and I'm excited for the first full-length book in the *Gold Valley* series to come out soon.

*\*\*This novella was included as a bonus story in Christmastime Cowboy, which I received an advance copy of from Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.\*\**

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