



## Keep Me, Cowboy

*Nicole Helm*

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## **Keep Me, Cowboy** Nicole Helm

The Copper Mountain Rodeo has returned to Marietta and cowboy reputations aren't the only thing at stake...

Rodeo cowboy Cole McArthur has spent the last ten years running from Marietta, Montana, from his father's expectations, and from the only woman he's ever loved. But now his past is at his front door, begging for his help.

Jess Clark doesn't want to face the only man who's ever claimed enough of her heart to break it, but her foster family needs their prodigal son home, and she owes them too much to not make that happen. Seeing Cole for the first time in a decade unlocks the kind of desire she's only ever felt for him, and never acted on with anyone.

Back in Marietta facing family betrayal and family secrets, heat explodes between them, and feelings buried long ago rise to the surface. But can Jess convince this wandering cowboy that his home is with her?

## **Keep Me, Cowboy Details**

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# From Reader Review Keep Me, Cowboy for online ebook

## Elaine says

This is the third book in the Montana Born Rodeo 2015 series. Sorry for repeating myself but it still applies - Each book works well as a standalone, each is written by a different author but they do have some of the same characters in them and, of course, key events like the rodeo are also common to all the books. I am still so highly impressed by how these authors work so well together, I actually feel like I'm starting to know my way around Marietta through their descriptions!

This time ex foster child Jess Clark is going to see her teenage sweetheart, Cole McArthur, to try to get him to come home again after a decade away from his family, friends and home in Marietta. She's actually going because his father has been diagnosed with MS and she feels the family needs to reconnect with each other, even though she isn't really one of them. Cole is a rodeo cowboy who was given an ultimatum by his father; he's never forgotten Jess and no one has ever come near to measuring up to her in his heart. When he finds her at his door their attraction is still explosive but with family secrets, shocking revelations, misunderstandings and so much more do they stand a chance of achieving their HEA? You'll have to read it to find out!

This is another wonderful, sweet novella in this series - again, a delight to get lost in. The dreadfully poor communication between members of McArthur family causes so much trouble for them all. Reading as Jess develops from something of a doormat to a more forthright, feisty young woman is delightful. Similarly as Cole faces his own dilemmas and starts to understand his own reactions better all adds to the dynamics of their relationship and the story. An emotional journey that it is a roller coaster ride with plenty of twists, turns, ups and downs to keep the reader enthralled. A great story to get lost in, highly recommended!

Thanks to the author, publishers and NetGalley, too for provided an ARC for me to read in exchange for this, my honest review.

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## Monique says

This book was received free via Netgalley for an honest review. My review is below.

This book is a punch to the gut. In a broken family, it's hard to be the extra. And that's exactly who Jess is - the adoptive daughter, forever trying to be good so she will be loved, can stay. It's even harder when you're in love with one of your stepbrothers. And she is, very much. But Cole has left her and Marietta. He has no intention of coming back. Unfortunately, it's Jess who has to persuade him to come home, deal with family, and deal with her.

There have been some pretty dysfunctional families in the Marietta lexicon, but I'm not sure any of them come close to the McArthurs. It all starts with Dad. He's autocratic, demanding, unbending, and generally acts unemotional. Unfortunately those traits have pervaded the family. He drove off his son Cole with an ultimatum that shattered Jess's heart. He doesn't treat any of his kids well and keeps secrets from his wife. But suddenly Dad is in trouble. So Jess steps in and tries to make it all better. And her actions finally crack and then demolish the facade. The whole family ends up reeling because of the secrets that come out.

Against this backdrop of family pain, upheaval, and betrayal, Cole and Jess must find out if their 10 year separation will forever tear them apart or if they can try and find a way back to each other. The crux of their issues now is communication and they both decide (independently) to get with it and start talking. Both are hurting, Cole because of his father and Jess because of Cole.

The craziness of the family story makes Jess and Cole's HEA that much sweeter. It's a harder road than most and it is a road that comes with some steep prices and deep fissures in other relationships (including one from a previous Marietta book). The naked pain of so many characters could have dragged this book into a maudlin or melodramatic farce and yet it never went over the top. It was just straight up and unapologetic. I'm curious now about some of the other characters and what is in store for them.

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### **Kathy says**

Cole gave up the girl he loved so that she could find her brother and become a nurse. The fact that he got what he wanted a rodeo career was incidental. Jess however felt his leaving without talking to her was proof that he didn't love her. Cole's father is sick and Jess goes to tell him to come home. Conflict abounds in this short novel. People try to figure out how they feel and how to get along together.

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### **Books and Spoons says**

A broken family, emotionally unable to connect and communicate, with secrets and lies, betrayal and manipulation.

All Jess ever wanted was to be part of a family, but everyone she has loved, has left her without warning or explanation. She let the McArthurs treat her as a servant, and made herself believe she was part of the family.

One of those who left her is Cole, and now ten years later she is willing to manipulate and lie, to get Cole back into Marietta, so she could fix the broken McArthur family, in thanks for what they have done for her. Little does she know, it was Dr McArthur, who made Cole to leave, with her as the target of the extortion. There is so much pain from the past, and heartache of the present in this novella. Not just between Cole and Jess, but the whole dysfunctional family is crumbling.

The communication skills between the family members are nearly non-existent. And they don't seem to even care, or willing to try.

I felt frustrated through the story, I just couldn't relate to them, or understand why they were so stubbornly hurting the people they are supposed to care about.

Nothing is solved in the story when it comes to the family, and the issues they face. Jess and Cole found some kind of happy for now, let's try to work things out, at the end. I felt this novella stirred a bee's nest called McArthur family, and left the angry bees to fly around. For a novella to start a family saga, this would have been a perfect story to get the interest, but for a third book in a series of the rodeo, I was left a bit confused and unsatisfied. Hopefully the next book in the series has lots of answers for us.

~ Three Spoons

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### **Oldive says**

Standard love story- high school sweethearts, guy splits without a goodbye. He does it because he thinks it's

best.

The story irritated me- not badly enough that I gave up reading but enough that I skimmed a lot. The main character was stuck on belonging, and chose sweetheart-guys family, who are all unrepentant jerks, and don't care about each other or her, yet she spends at least 10 years trying to ingratiate herself. She seemed to bend over backwards for her father figure that she had to call Dr. MacArthur.

The conflict between the two was pretty ho hum, but very irritating that the author made it so the wronged party felt obliged to ask for an apology for her guy up and leaving her without a goodbye or an explanation.

Then suddenly it's all okay and they are together.

I was left with an overwhelming Eh feeling.

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### **Bette Hansen says**

This is an amazing read! Filled with emotion, it takes you on a journey of going home, facing past hurts, and deciding a new path for the future. Some of the characters you just have to loathe but Cole and Jess make you want to hug them and never let go. If any characters deserve a HEA it's these two. When Jess goes to Cole to get him to return home for his father, never would she have guessed how her world would change. This is a definite must read. I highly recommend it.

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### **Lenna Wright-Berry says**

It would be a great story if...

1. Cut down on the inter dialogue, each chapter would have maybe a rough page of conversation and the rest inter struggles, doubts, fights, guilt.
  2. Jess is weak with a capital W. She is a doormat, her so-called family not by blood, treats her like an employee, call her by a different name and she's too scared to correct.
  3. Also Cole is a coward, when life got rough he ran, for 10 years until Jess came and lied to get him home.
  4. Where is the connection between Jess and Cole and where is it to the reader? I had to force myself to finish this and I still had to skip around (you won't miss anything if you did).
  5. It's a clean romance no real sex, since it's her first time at 28. It skimmed over that.
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### **Will Decker says**

I like a nice light romantic read that is well written and this one fits the bill, sort of. There's enough going on in the subplot to hold your interest while you cheer for the 2 main characters to get their act together and grow up. Unfortunately, I don't like morning afters with none of the details or graphic passionate scenes. Don't simply tell us they did it 3 times. I want to know what they did 3 times. Details! It falls flat in that regard. It needs more spice and a good steeping on the hob to raise the heat level.

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## **Carma says**

3.75 out of 5 ~ Continuing on with my cowboy loving theme lately I found myself downloading a free copy of Keep Me Cowboy by Nicole Helm. Having just finished another I downloaded via Overdrive I jumped right into this one having loved her writing style. Keep Me Cowboy is part of a multi author series called Montana Born Rodeo (77th Copper Mountain Rodeo). Now normally I can't handle reading things out of order in a series but generally what I've found happens with these types of multi author is they can be read separately or together. They normally don't hinge plots through these types (but I've seen some that do). I have zero idea if that is what happens with this series and the plot flow does leave some questions that may indicate a follow through.

Keep Me Cowboy is a novella about Jess Clark and Cole McArthur. The McArthur name is a prominent name in Marietta, Montana and Cole is the black sheep of said family. Jess comes from a broken home, foster home after foster home finally landing at the door of the well to do McArthur family. Jess and Cole become friends and then typical teenage crush ensues. Cole leaves town abruptly and 10 years later Jess shows up on his doorstep looking to bring him home.

Jess has longed to belong to someone, anyone, who would love her and care about her and not leave or abandon her. Her biological father was abusive and her brother was "trouble", they separated the siblings but she has been searching for him every since. Jess started building a relationship with Cole only to have it end suddenly. She didn't know why people don't stay with her.

Cole felt stifled by his family, wanting him to become a doctor and follow the medicine footsteps they felt he was destined to follow. He heard the call of the rodeo and answered. His big regret was leaving Jess behind. He felt he made the right choice 10 years ago by walking away but now he isn't so sure. Can he be strong enough to not walk away again?

This novella, as most are, is too short to fully build a backstory for me. I wanted to know more about the why's in the past not the quick build to getting people back together. The author does a pretty good job about trying to answer as many questions as she can but I'm still left with a bunch. I'm curious now if any of the novellas previously or future will address my questions.

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## **JG says**

Keep Me, Cowboy is a second chance love story between two people who had different priorities in life when they first met but has now come into a turning point in their lives after ten years. This was quite an emotional book, full of regrets, repressed feelings and lots and lots of misunderstanding. Cole has issues with his father that had spilled out unintentionally to his early relationship with Jess. But he hasn't really forgotten what she meant to him. Jess on the other hand has been fooling herself into believing that she doesn't deserve more than what she has and in fact is feeling grateful that Cole's family has decided to foster her as a young teen. When they finally meet again because of family circumstances they now had to confront what they were before and how to go beyond it. Cole as a character was very difficult to like, but you get a very good sense of how much remorse and regret he has for leaving Jess behind with no explanation. Now Jess had the most development in this book. From someone who barely acknowledges herself as an individual deserving of more, she in turn realizes that she needs to find out who she really is without this constant need of getting

by and being taken for granted. Overall, Cole and Jess journey back into each other was dealt really well and is probably what makes this story worth reading.

\*ARC provided thru NetGalley by the publisher\*

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### **Claire Robinson says**

#### **3 - "All I ever remember is wanting you."**

The third book in the *Montana Born Rodeo* series, gives us the return of Cole McArthur to *Marietta, Montana* and the reconnection between him and his first love; Jess Clark after his departure ten years previously without even a 'goodbye'.

This was a book of two halves for me, I was really enjoying the chemistry that was building between Jess and Cole, especially as you are given the reasons of his departure back when they were teenagers, what knocked the rating down a little for me was the McArthur family in general, as the author gave them some pretty unlikeable and irredeemable qualities.

#### **"I will always care... Whether I should or not."**

It was however a very quick read, and everything was resolved before I had much of a chance to build up a head of steam behind my dislike, and it had a pretty sweet ending as well.

ARC generously provided via Netgalley, in exchange for the above honest review.

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### **Jennifer F says**

This is a multiple author series, I read this one but I found that the writing style was way to feminine to have any male character talk or emotionally feel like what was written. I did like the plot line, and the characters were good, there was some build up to future novels of the other siblings, some sweet romance.

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

Reviewed for herding cats & burning soup. (posting to blog 4/2/18)  
Amazon: <http://amzn.to/2Ce2ouk>

Oh goodness. Helm does know how to give you down to their bones fucked up and broken characters and make you ache for them. Keep Me, Cowboy was a short read but one full of feels as a family is forced to

face how messed up they've become over the years and tries to piece their lives back together.

The Gist: 10 years earlier Cole left town and the girl he loved. He thought he was doing the right thing at the time but now that she's forcing him to come back to town and face his family (the one she wishes were her own) and her? Well, he's realizing maybe he hadn't had it right all those years ago after all.

"I don't know who I am. All I've ever done is look for family, and no one wants that from me.  
So, I don't know who to be."

These two. Man they made my heart hurt. Jess is a former foster kid who has only ever wanted to fit in and be part of a family but is finding out that maybe the family she thought she fit with and tried so hard to be a part of the past ten years...doesn't see her the same way. She's sweet and earnest and just lovely. And Cole. Well he's spent his whole life feeling like an outsider in his own family. Never good enough. Never right. So he bailed instead of sticking it out. It hurt watching them both deal with their feelings and trying to figure out who they were all these years later. To themselves and each other. And how they fit with the family that was breaking their hearts, as well.

The romance is heartbreaking, too. So much hurt and frustration between them. So many lost years. But they were sweet together and I loved watching them heal and find each other again.

All in all, Keep Me, Cowboy was an emotional read. Not just with the romance but the family behind them as well. Seeing them own up to the years of not listening to one another, not sharing their feelings or really acting like a family. Seeing them all try to put the past behind them and move on to something better and whole. Things aren't perfect when everything ends but there's hope and change happening and it's a heart warming thing to see.

This one did stop at 81% of the ebook.

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### **Traci Westling says**

Rodeo Cole & Jess must meet up again ... it's not going to be easy for sure as made clear from the get go but Jess does what she feels best for the foster style family that she's known & loved for years . Short and to the point, I actually read the most current release about this Medical inclined family & fell hard for all the characters I met ! I've missed the older titles such as this so I had to dig into my TBR STASH & boy did I enjoy Cole & Jess ! Anything Nicole puts to pen is golden ! Highly recommend this to anyone !

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### **Joan says**

I am at 41% and nothing is happening other than Cole and Jess thinking deep thoughts about what they wanted and didn't want and what happened in the past(which hasn't been revealed yet. And then more about what they wanted and didn't want until I wanted to shake the pair of them.

There is no conflict or tension or even plot here. Just two people who spend pages thinking deep introspective thoughts without getting anywhere. i couldn't care less about either of them.



Not for me. Not rating at this time.

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