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Two Ways Home (Love That Counts Book 2)



Synopsis

She's about to lose her home. He never wanted to see his again. And a stalker is staking a claim . . . Washington, 1892 Mary Smith was never one to back down from a challenge. Her father's health may be failing, but their dairy farm was her mother's dream, and Mary will do whatever it takes to keep her father from selling it—even if it means sneaking off to the next town to earn money by playing the piano in a questionable establishment. No one seems to understand why home is so important to her, least of all her childhood nemesis who just wandered back into town. When injured Texas Ranger Luke Thomas is forced to return to Pine Creek, Washington, he's hailed as a hero and thrust into the town's first race for sheriff. But no one knows the secret he carried to Texas, nor the secret he brought home. Setting his perfect aim on returning south, he refuses to get tied down by the town's admiration, his brother's disapproval, or the spirited, hardworking dairy girl who's less annoying than he remembers. But strange things are happening at the Smith dairy and in Pine Creek, and Luke's instincts tell him Mary is in far more trouble than she realizes. One thing is certain: "home" is about to get more complicated for them both. Full of wit and romantic tension, this Christian historical love story sets forth the true meaning of coming home.

Book Information

File Size: 1543 KB

Print Length: 311 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Trail House Publishers; 1 edition (August 10, 2016)

Publication Date: August 10, 2016

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01K6DXVTW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #11,533 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #43

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Religious & Inspirational Fiction > Romance

Customer Reviews

After reading the first book in this series I was really excited for this one to come out! I really loved the banter between Luke and Mary. I like women who can joke around with and keep up with the teasing of men and just tease them right back. Makes for a really fun interchange between characters. I really empathized with Luke in this story having to head home after having been away. I felt many of the same emotions he felt anytime I went home after moving away. It can be a really hard transition. I loved his character. He had a lot of flaws that came out slowly throughout the story at just the perfect times. I like a man who can be so blunt and honest while still being a good guy. I really appreciated the fairly unique struggles that Luke dealt with. I don't want to spoil anything but I believe it was an excellent addition to the story and might be really eye opening for some people. I didn't empathize quite so well with Mary and her desire to stay home but she was a good balance to Luke's constant wanting to go back to Texas. I did admire her incredibly strong work ethic though. This friends to marriage love story was really good. I liked how we got to see the relationship evolve and sometimes got Luke's inside perspective into his feelings. And the building love between them made for some great chemistry in the pages of this book. The only part of this book that threw me off a little was when it would switch back to when they were kids. I have trouble with dual time books because I tend to get so enveloped in one time setting that when it switches to another time it throws me off. It was done very well in this book it just isn't my favorite so I'm mentioning it. Overall this was a super cute story full of wit and banter but also full of really open and honest feelings from the characters. I loved the theme of forgiveness but I also loved the idea that you don't always end up where you think you will and sometimes it is even better that way.

Enjoyed the second book by Sondra Kraak. Luke and Mary love for each other started before he left for the Rangers but neither one of them knew it. It became more real when Luke came back hoping not to stay. But there was someone who wanted to hinder that relationship it was someone both of them knew. Both families were all for it. They even wanted Luke for sheriff but he had something hanging over him before he could say yes to it. Mary was devoted to her family. But in the end she told Luke she would follow him to Texas. But things changed and they stayed. All ended well for

them. Cam story will be an interesting one to read.

Mary is a strong independent woman who is desperately trying to keep her father's dairy afloat since he's suffering from shortness of breath, as well as arthritis. She gave up her music dreams to return home to help out, as her father had no one else. Luke wanted to be a Texas Ranger all his life and did just that, leaving his mother, sister, and brother to keep up the farm years after the death of his father. A few gunshot wounds, and an investigation after the shooting, has him sent home and told to stay home until contacted further. Mary has always been a friend of his, but also a thorn in his side. They banter like siblings, but there's an undeniable attraction. Mary is over-working herself at the dairy, but in order to bring in extra money so they don't lose it, she plays piano some evenings at a rowdy hotel full of miners. Luke helps when he can, but his injuries, which don't seem to be healing, make everything very difficult. I love the characters, I love the jibes and bantering between friends, and the obvious chemistry that they can't admit because Luke is planning on leaving to take up his lawman career in Texas. Welllllll, as you can imagine, things don't always go along as planned....Loved it! Recommend it!

Mary is determined to save her family's dairy farm, which is her connection to her mother, who died giving birth to her. Her father, whose health prevents him from helping much on the farm anymore, is ready to sell, but Mary is set on finding a way to hold onto her mother's dream. Luke left home years ago to become a Texas Ranger, but now, both wounded and falsely accused of being in league with outlaws, reluctantly returns to the town he couldn't wait to leave. Back home, he is constantly crossing paths with Mary, and while they continue the banter that began in their childhood, this time, neither one can deny the attraction between them. But with Luke set on leaving again as soon as he can, and Mary equally set on staying, can they find a way to make things work?! I liked this book quite a bit more than the first book in the series. (I liked that one, just not as much). I loved Mary, who is sassy and strong and tells it like it is. I loved Luke, who is haunted by his past and who might tease Mary but is also equally prone to run to help her. Seeing ? Luke come to terms with his past, seeing Mary's struggle to keep her farm, and seeing their relationship blossom were all satisfying and engaging plot lines.

It's a tried and true storyline- childhood friends finding their HEA. For me, it's about the story's journey, and this one does not disappoint!! It was funny, tender and had several unexpected twists. The reviewer who "liked the sex scene" was incorrect- there was not one. This book was romantic

AND clean. Nothing inappropriate, just a fantastic read.

I enjoyed reading Mary & Luke's story! I cheered, laughed and cried with the characters. The gentle reminder woven through the story is the never failing love of our Heavenly Father that longs for us to come just as we are. I'm looking forward to reading Cam's story!!

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