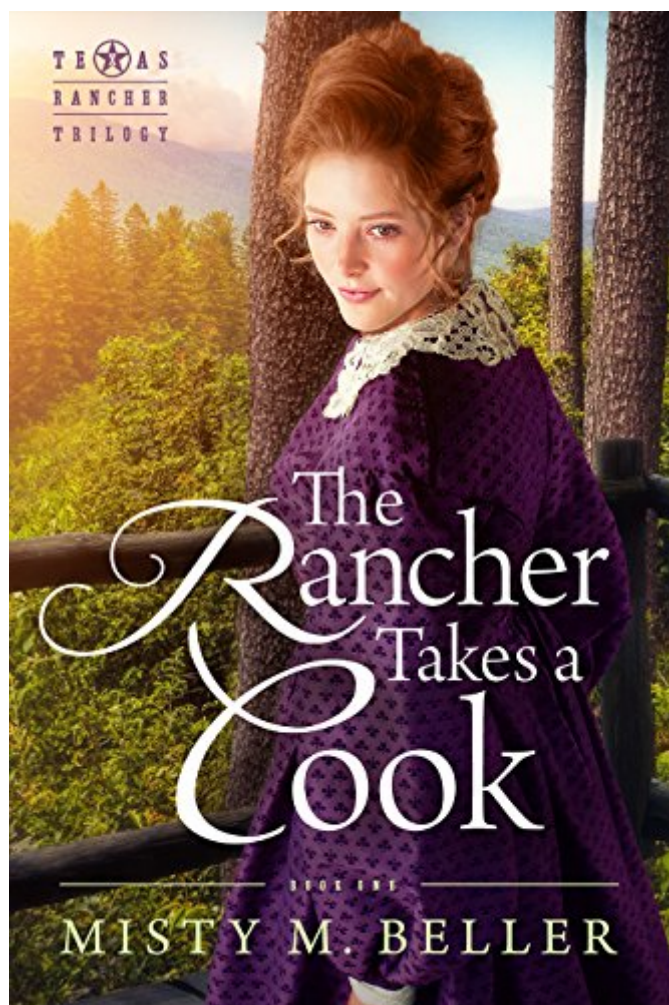


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The Rancher Takes A Cook (Texas Rancher Trilogy Book 1)



Synopsis

A Christian Historical Romance Novel When their South Carolina home burns to the ground, Anna Stewart's only choice is to move with her younger brother to the wilds of a Texas ranch. Their prospects are beginning to look better, until the rancher's son, Jacob O'Brien, shows up with his alarmingly blue eyes to put a kink in Anna's well-controlled plans. When danger escalates in the form of a band of cattle thieves with deadly intent, can Anna learn to release control to God's capable hands and those of the blue-eyed cowboy who's stolen her heart?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After the Civil War, Anna Stewart and her fifteen-year-old brother, Edward, face a daunting new life. Their parents have died and the family home and candle shop have been burned to the ground by Union soldiers. The siblings make their way to Seguin, Texas, to their aunt and uncle's mercantile. Anna helps in the store and Edward does odd jobs around town. Anna dreams of a way

to make a home for herself and her brother and be able to support them. Edward's care of animals is noticed by a cowboy from a ranch just outside of town and he offers him a job. Anna, wanting to protect Edward heads to the O'Brien's to tell the owner her brother will not be working for him when she has a job proposal herself to cook for the ranch. The two settle in and Anna meets the owner's son, Jacob, the same handsome cowboy with the dazzling blue eyes she'd seen at the mercantile. Through the next year with all the wilds of Texas including bad weather, cattle rustlers and wondering bears, Jacob learns he can't live without her and she learns she needs to let God guide her life. Ms. Beller has written a delightful story of the Texas frontier. While the characters develop into the reader's treasured friends, her delightful prose paints a beautiful picture of the Texas countryside and the Guadalupe River. I enjoyed this heartwarming story and strongly recommend it.

This is a clean western romance with a light Christian thread. It takes place at the end of the civil war. When Annie and her brother are burned out of their home they travel to Texas where their only remaining family runs a mercantile. Annie feels responsible for her fifteen year old brother. When he accepts a job offer at a local ranch she hires on as the cook in order to keep an eye on him. Jacob came home after weeks on the trail driving cattle to market. The last thing he expected was for his father to hire a beautiful new cook. Good thing his heart belongs to the ranch. This is a well written and edited book. It spans a years time and is quite descriptive. Daily life is interspersed with adventure, danger and romance to create a balanced story that never gets boring. There are some '...sigh' moments (you romance lovers know what I mean). The Christian thread is gentle and non preachy. The story is complete with a satisfying ending. I did not notice any obvious logistical gaffes. Well done. I recommend this book.

Enjoyed another great book by Misty. Anna and Edward had a rough start at first in the book. But when they got to Texas they had a loving aunt and uncle to take care of them. But Anna felt she needed to earn her own way. So when Edward was offered a job on a ranch. She felt it was too dangerous for him and intervened. But she ended up getting a job herself there. She fell in love with the people and the hands too. Edward also came to love what he was doing. Jacob the boss son had to save Edward and Anna three different times. He fell in love with little spitfire Anna and their love for each other grew as the story went along. He also became that big brother to Edward that he so needed. Looking forward to reading more in this series and also more of Misty books.

Set in Texas, this book was fun. As a native Texan, and one familiar with Sequin and San Antonio, I was surprised to read about the descriptions of spring flowers with no mention of our state flower, the Bluebonnet. Although Dogwoods are native to East Texas, I've never seen one in South Texas. The story was entertaining, and I loved the description of Anna's foods. The author combined southern traditional foods with Texas cuisine. The details of cowboys and their work seemed authentic. There is a lot of adventure in this book, cattle rustlers. Yankee soldiers with less than honorable intentions, bears, storms..to name a few hazards. Anna evens gets shot by a cattle rustler. The love story between Anna and Jacob naturally grows, and so does the O'Brien family warmth toward Anna and Edward, her "little brother." You'll enjoy the book.

Anna and her younger brother Edward move to Texas after losing everything in the war, and end up working on a ranch, where Anna develops a relationship with Jacob, the owner's son.(Though reviews are inherently subjective, I prefer to provide some organization to my opinions through the use of a personal rubric. The following notes may contain spoilers.)Plot and Setting: 4.5 -- Plot has unique elements and no major holes, but a few shaky bits. The way the story is spread out over a year or more makes the plot unfocused. We hear bits about the rustlers, bits about her friend Ginny, bits about kisses, but there are clearly frequent month-long gaps in each of the storylines. It's more a life story (which I do enjoy) than a story with one clear plot. Setting is clear, believable, and consistent. I really appreciated the way references to time passing were working frequently into the story, as it otherwise would've been very confusing.Characters: 5 -- Relatable, realistic, interesting, dynamic characters. Even minor characters have depth. I especially appreciated the deep friendship connection that Anna and Jacob built over time.Writing and Mechanics: 4.5 -- Few, if any, typos or word errors. I spotted 2 or 3 small ones. Good use of POV. Alternates between Anna and Jacob, with one small section of Edward when he's with the rustlers. Generally skillful writing.Redeeming Value: 4.5 -- Well-developed uplifting themes of friendship, trust, and finding home. Sex, alcohol, violence, etc, are not glorified, but some shaky ground, eg. violence when capturing the rustlers, and a bit of satisfaction that they will hang.Personal Enjoyment: 4 -- I liked it a lot. Highly enjoyable and very entertaining, with perhaps an issue or two that tempered my pleasure. I'd enjoy reading it again.

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