



Semper Fi Cowboy

Heather Long

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A Leatherneck by any other name can still kick ass, which is just what retired United States Marine Corps Captain Tanner Wilks plans to do when he returns to his Texas family ranch to care for his ailing father. And nothing will stop him from achieving his mission—not even a lithe, brown-eyed town veterinarian who seems hell-bent on driving him wild.

Captain Tanner Wilks, honorably discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps, returns home to find his father struggling after his latest heart attack. Worse yet, Julia Heller—the sexy new girl in town that he once spent a hot night with—is the resident veterinarian who's made a home for herself at Round Top ranch, and doesn't seem to be in a rush to repeat their time together.

It falls on Tanner's shoulders to take on the ranch and keep an eye on his father before he falls victim to another heart attack. But Julia doesn't appreciate Tanner coming in or pursuing her. Even if he's hot as hell and can make her quiver with just a look. Ousting her may give Tanner the leverage he needs to corral his father, but first he has to wrestle with his own heart.

Semper Fi Cowboy Details

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Author : Heather Long

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From Reader Review Semper Fi Cowboy for online ebook

Wendy says

Semper Fi Cowboy, by Heather Long, is the 1st book in her Lone Star Leathernecks series.

A sweet and sexy story that is the perfect cowboy romance!

I look forward to the rest of the series.

Nikki Brooks says

Tanner Wilks comes from a long line of Marines. But he has always had a tenuous relationship with his father. When his mother died, he and his siblings were left in the care of their grandfather until he died. Felling abandoned by their father, all 3 have flown the coop but Tanner has been called home by a family friend after his father has a health scare. He and his father may not be close but he doesn't want the old coot to die on him either!

When he finds himself delaying his return to the family farm, he cuts loose at the local bar and finds himself a distraction before the hard work of dealing with his father begins.

Julia Heller is the new town vet, after taking over from her uncle. But she knows she"always be the new girl and as such she is trying not to show favouritism to any one rancher. So she dances with all of them and dates none of them! When she gets up close and personal with Tanner on her night off, she wishes he was doing more than passing through town. But colour her shocked when he turns up at the ranch were she rents a home and realises that he is the prodigal son returned!

Tanner is happy to find his recent bedmate at the ranch and looks forward to more conventional dates but Julia has these weird rules that both try to follow but they soon find themselves breaking!

I loved these characters. Tanner is sexy, alpha, determined and cunning. Julia loyal, professional and in desperate need of some fun. The Colonel would make anyone exasperated and reaching for the exit! I enjoyed the weaving of veterans into the story and the side story to the romance of using veterans on the ranch was a great idea. We also see just how much work goes into running a ranch.

I did think bits were a wee bit mis-timed. Sometimes time jumped forward quite a bit and then there was a whole load happening at once but that might just be me. I would have enjoyed more time for the characters to get to know each other after the ONS but there is only so much room in the book and I understand that sometimes my book couples have accelerated timelines!

Chris C - A Midlife Wife says

I have had the pleasure of reading several Heather Long books and enjoy them so much. This book captured my heart with the great characters and fabulous plot.

Solid and sexy, Tanner is a dreamboat. I love how he is the perfect mix of sex and a gentleman. Focused, hot, and driven, he does not give up. Yay!

Julia is smart and capable and the last thing on her mind is a man. But when they collide, the sparks fly.

A delightful steamy read that will have you looking for your own hot cowboy. Love it!

* copy received for review consideration

Donna Repsher says

Semper Fi Cowboy is the first title in the Lone Star Leathernecks series and it's also the first novel I've read by this author, and it left me wondering how on earth I've missed reading any of her books up to now because wow, she's good! This novel gets a 5- star rating from this reader.

The hero, Marine Captain Tanner Wilks, is newly retired after 20 years in the Marines, and is returning to the family ranch in Texas, but it's not a choice he'd have made willingly had he not been informed that his father had had two heart attacks in the past six months and wasn't slowing down at all or following doctors' orders. He and his father never had much of a relationship to begin with, since his father, a retired Marine Colonel, was seldom there when Tanner and his two younger siblings were growing up. On the rare occasions he was present, he was both gruff and distant, and his expectations for his first-born son, Tanner, was that Tanner was expected to go to school, graduate and immediately follow the long-held family tradition, to enter the military, make it his career, and serve his country honorably.

On his first night back in Texas, Tanner decides that he can show up at the ranch in the morning, but that he deserves a beer at the only place in town there is, the Silver Dollar, a bar and dance hall with live music. It's there that he first spots Jules Heller on the dance floor, a beautiful young woman who seems quite popular and is never lacking a dance partner. Jules, while attracted to the handsome stranger, rebuffs his attempt to buy her a drink, but Tanner manages to charm her into dancing with him, and I can't recall a time when I've been more impressed by an authors facility

with writing such smart, sassy, and sexy banter--and it was such a pleasure to read! After a number of dances, five beers for Tanner and a glass of wine for Jules, and the speedy mutual attraction between these two, they end up at the only hotel in town, sneaking off separately to preserve Jules' reputation, and it's then we discover that in addition to writing great dialogue, Ms. Long can also write one sizzling hot sex scene.

Jules is gone when Tanner awakes the next morning and heads off to the family ranch for the first time in years. He's not looking forward to the reunion with his father, and as he rides out to meet him, he's shocked to discover that his sexy one-night stand, Jules, is actually the new veterinarian in town, a job she inherited from her uncle, and, not only is she shocked to see the handsome stranger she thought was just passing through town, she also works for his father, is renting a small house on the ranch, and she has a strict rule of not getting involved with any of the local ranchers, something her uncle drilled into her head for years. The Colonel is unpleasantly surprised to see his son, and to say that this is not a happy reunion is putting it mildly. His father immediately tells him he's not needed at the ranch and orders Tanner to go back to his military career, and dear old Dad is not used to anyone ever refusing to follow his orders. He and Tanner butt heads immediately, something that happens every time these two have to be in the same place at the same time.

What I loved about this novel is pretty much everything, and what sets it apart from many romance novels is that the handsome and hunky hero actually has to work hard to gain any ground with the heroine who, regardless of her attraction to the hero, isn't afraid to tell him "no". Jules is one strong and competent female character, able to give as good as she gets, and because of that, the fireworks between these two when they are together are both believable and intense. I also thoroughly enjoyed watching Tanner try time and again to make his father realize that he's home for good, that he's needed at the ranch, that his military career is over, and to watch him try to forge a relationship with his difficult, rude, old-fashioned and demanding father.

While this was a rather short read, a one-nighter for me, there was enough substance, drama, character building, backstory and angst in this novel to keep me entertained throughout. I was incredibly impressed by this author and while this may have been my first encounter with her work, it most certainly won't be my last. I'm hooked and I believe you will be too.

I voluntarily read an advance reader copy of this novel. The opinions expressed are my own.

Bambi Unbridled says

I don't read a ton of cowboy books... but I'm spending a month among the ranches and farms in Tucson and Yuma, so I figured this is a good time to read about men in Wranglers, Stetsons and broken-in boots. Heather Long is a new-to-me author, and one I will definitely be reading again in the future.

Captain Tanner Wilks is about eighteen years into a successful military career with the Marines when he gets the call that he must return home to the ranch to assist his ailing father, the Colonel. Feeling a familial duty doesn't quite overcome Tanner's resentment for his forced early retirement, and he delays the last portion of his trip home with a stop at the Silver Dollar for a burger and beer. Tanner quickly decides that there may be no better way to spend his last night of freedom than with the lithe brunette dancing the night away and rebuffing his advances. Tanner was a great hero... somewhat alpha male and someone who doesn't like to take no for an answer. I enjoyed watching him experience some personal growth as the story progressed, and he had quite the adjustment to make in learning how to deal with this woman, his injured comrade, and his ailing and stubborn father.

Julia Heller is the sole veterinarian in a small Texas ranching town, and she is struggling with being the new girl on the block. In an effort to earn (and keep) her client's trust and respect, she lives by several rules, one of which is that she doesn't date ranchers. I had to admire Jules' drive and work ethic, even if I thought that rule was a bit silly. She genuinely cared about all the animals she treated, and she never shied away from late night calls and difficult situations. I liked that she helped Tanner to understand the Colonel and Mateo, without being too preachy about his shortcomings and lack of understanding.

The relationship between these two started with a bang and never really slowed down. Even though Jules threw up her hand and said she didn't date ranchers, Tanner wouldn't take no for an answer and set out to woo her at every turn. Because this book took place over a relatively short time, I would categorize it as a tad instalove... but it wasn't an annoying shallow relationship. They talked and got to know each other quite a bit, and that helped distribute the focus away from the timeline.

As I haven't read a ton of books of the cowboy trope, I am glad that this southwestern setting wasn't in your face. They were working a ranch and the animals, but there wasn't any artificial honky tonk type stuff or stereotypical southern slang. Heather Long will definitely be an author that I revisit in the future.

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced copy of this book that I received from the publisher, Pocket Books.

Donna says

"He can be taught" echoed through my mind several times as I laughed and sighed my way through *Semper Fi Cowboy* by Heather Long.

Tanner Wilks is hero material through and through. He is sexy, strong and he knows how to dance. But like any other man he comes with issues.

Veterinarian Julia Heller is smart, sexy and strong enough to put Tanner in his place and teach him a thing or two.

When these two meet it is pure story time magic. Their interaction will keep you flipping pages and longing to spend more time with them.

Darcy says

This one was a fun one to read. Tanner and Jules had chemistry from the start, but I liked how Jules made Tanner work to get her attention. There verbal battles were like foreplay for them. And of course considering how they met and the rules that Jules had you knew she was going to be upset that Tanner wasn't just travelling through. Tanner was pretty determined on courting Jules and did so in a way that he slowly worked under her skin.

I really didn't like the Colonel. When Tanner told Jules about his Grandfather that made me not like him more, then when the two men had their talk I felt like the author wanted us to like the Colonel now, but I didn't. It pissed me off that he knew what he was doing was wrong, yet he didn't change his behavior.

☆ Bianca ☆ BJ's Book Blog ☆ says

Tanner just retired from the marines. Retired at 35. He could've/would've worked his job for another 35 years, but home needs him. His dad had another heart attack and someone needs to take over the ranch in Texas.

Only his father has never been the most fatherly of fathers. He doesn't want him there. He wants to do everything himself - stupid old man.

The best thing about being home is the girl he met his first night at the bar - Jules.

Only, she doesn't want him home either!! She's not ever dating the ranchers she's working for as a vet. Poor Tanner.

But Tanner wouldn't be the tough marine he is, if he would let those two people stop him from getting his happily ever after ...

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I really enjoyed reading this book. I didn't really know what to expect when I started - unfortunately I've scrolled through some goodreads reviews, and most of them were not very kind... No idea why. This was a fun and cute and sexy cowboy lovestory! With a bit of family and military history, a few frustrating moments, moving moments. But all in all very sexy & fun. It could've been either a bit shorter - novella-ish, orrr a bit longer with more in-depth backgrounds and pasts and couple-time and ... just a bit more. Both would've been great, but I liked it the way it was. Finished it in one afternoon and now I can't wait to see what the next book will be about - AS YOU WERE, COWBOY - coming in December!

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Margaret says

Another great read from Heather Long! I loved watching the hero have to work for his chance with the girl and I really loved seeing father and son come to terms with their relationship.

Tanner Wilks is not happy to be coming home. He knows it's not going to be easy dealing with his father and he's not quite ready to be hanging up his military career, but duty has called and he knows coming home is the right thing to do. What he doesn't know and takes him by surprise is how hard and fast he is falling for the local vet – who happens to be renting a place on his family's property and has some very strict rules about not getting involved with any of the locals.

Julia Heller is determined to gain the trust of all the local ranchers. She knew when her uncle retired and she took over his practice that this was not going to be an easy task, so keeping her personal and professional lives separate is something that is non-negotiable. Of course, doing what's right and doing the right thing aren't always the same, especially if her heart has any say in the matter!

I just loved watching these two come together. There is no denying the instant attraction between these two and they certainly had a lot of fun getting down and dirty with each other when they first met. Tanner did come on a bit too strong and way too bossy with Julia once she lets him know that she has her rules and dating a local is a definite no. He's a bit to cocky and confident that if he just says it then it will happen – and I loved Julia shutting him down and letting him know that she and her career deserved more respect than that. I loved that despite having to fight off Tanner's advances, Julia always managed to see the vulnerable side of Tanner, especially when it came to his dad. She offered him some things to think about when it came to his relationship, and, when he really needed her support, she was always there. And even though Tanner

was a bit of a domineering jerk at first, I did love that he was all in from the moment he realized that Julia was the one for him – even if that meant waiting her out.

Along with the romance there is the story of Tanner and his father that plays into Tanner and Julia's romance. Tanner has to learn how to have a relationship with his father, something that his father isn't really interested in doing. And Tanner's father is less than happy that his son and his vet might be having an affair. And even though these two didn't exactly end up hugging things out, I did find their reconciliation to be on point for these two characters.

This was a quick read that was still able to have well developed characters with lots of emotion. The supporting characters were woven nicely into the main story and even though we really don't get a lot of info about Tanner's siblings, there's just enough of a tease to make you want to know more about them and some of the other locals that are in the book.

I am always excited to get my hands on a Heather Long book and this one did not disappoint. I look forward to reading more of her cowboys and would recommend this book to any romance lover.

Amelia says

There is a wide variety of emotions in the first Lone Star Leathernecks story, as two spirited individuals struggle to find their place in the world. From family disagreements to different opinions about a relationship, a man and woman who were not looking for love find themselves being challenged by many unexpected conflicts as they explore what is between them. *SEMPER FI COWBOY* is an emotional journey of discovery. Heather Long takes her characters through lots of difficulties along with letting them experience absolute joy, and I found the storyline to be captivating.

Though Tanner Wilks was not yet ready to stop serving his country, he felt obligated to retire from the U.S. Marine Corps because of family responsibilities. His father has lived through two heart attacks, but another may be too much. So now Tanner is returning to Round Top ranch and will be taking over many of its duties in order for his dad to hopefully live longer. Staying the night in his hometown before going to see his dad the next morning, he connects with a woman at a bar that he never met while living there.

Her need for a career change had Julia Heller moving to a Texas town to take over a relative's veterinarian practice. Proving her worth to the ranch owners is imperative, however she figures spending one night with a man passing through the small town will not harm her reputation with the locals. But when the former marine turns out to be a son of the man whose ranch that Jules has been staying on, their intense attraction to one another only leads to one complicated ordeal after another.

What started out as a truly memorable night for Tanner and Jules turned into an encounter with unforeseen consequences. Since the two will be working together on his ranch because of her being its veterinarian, she believes there will be problems if they continue to see each other. I really enjoyed watching Tanner come to terms with her wishes while learning something important about his own views. While he does not like being told "no", he is still a very compassionate person and showed this trait through various deeds. Jules has a good reason for being cautious, and I kept eagerly reading to see what she would decide.

All throughout the story, I was given glimpses into the lives of Tanner and Jules. I came to know what made them the people they currently are plus several of the reasons for their reactions to certain situations. I also

got a sense of what living on a horse ranch entails on a daily basis, while becoming familiar with some of the secondary characters. Heather Long created genuine conversations for Tanner and Jules, and their lively banter was often amusing. A great start to a series featuring a dedicated soldier living in Texas. SEMPER FI COWBOY has engaging characters and plenty of emotional issues to resolve.

I voluntarily reviewed the book from the publisher, and all comments are my honest opinion

Heather andrews says

Tanner can be one arrogant man, “oh, I know you’re busy , because you’re going to have dinner with me, Jules. ” Then he stretched his arm out to brace it against her seat. “You can tell me all about what a terrible son I am. I’ll still buy you a nice steak dinner.” I really loved this book, Tanner was quite the cowboy.

Laurie says

Retired marine/cowboy? Yes. Please.

Semper Fi Cowboy was a gem of story that I absolutely adored. It is a quick and wonderful read with a fabulous romance, a bit of family conflict and a peek into the life of a large-animal, whose life isn't always their own.

This is a relatively short book and Heather Long wastes no time or space introducing these characters and drawing the readers into their (insta) love story. Tanner Wilks and Jules Heller are so perfectly suited for each other, however it is outside forces that pose the biggest challenge to their future. None of it rings a false note, in fact it really does give a interesting perspective of those who live in ranching communities. We know it is not an easy life, but it is more than Stetsons and stallions, it is a livelihood on which people stake their lives. For me, it really brought the story home.

While the idea of a marine/cowboy had me all ???????.

But Tanner Wilks was even better than I imagined. He wasn't perfect, in fact far from it, but it was great to see him action, especially through the eyes of the woman who was trying not to want him.

Dr. Jules Heller does not rest and Semper Fi Cowboy is as much about this woman's dedication to her clients -- specifically, the ones with hooves. She is fearless and has a set of (very well-informed) rules that she lives by. But we all know rules are made to be broken, right?

These two together had a chemistry that was as hot as a wildfire, but even more, I loved their emotional connection. Full of of understanding and affection, it totally stole my heart.

But what really got me was the focus that Heather Long put on veterans' issues, particularly PTSD and the use of riding therapy as a part of treatment. It was more than a plot driver, this was a brilliant way to not only inform readers, but maybe spark a conversation or even inspire it as a treatment option. It just made my heart happy to read about it.

Also, Heather Long is a new-to-me author and I have to say that I am very impressed. I thoroughly loved this book and can't wait to read the next installment in the Lone Star Leathernecks series! Enjoy!

Happy reading!

Dawn says

This is a great book. With stubborn women and stubborn men, love and loyalty along with strength and passion. Nothing like smooth talking men who have a sense of humor and sense of service and the independent women who support them. Family may not always be easy but they are still family. This book has it all.

I received this ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Deb says

Semper-Fi Cowboy is a sexy little read with a whole lot of heart. I for one cannot wait to see what **Heather Long** does with the *Lone Star Leathernecks series*.

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