



Arizona Forever: A love story

Jaclyn M. Hawkes

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Dr. Jessie Benn has everything—except Mr. Right.

There's only one problem.

The one guy who intrigues her is completely wrong.

She's a veterinarian specializing in horses with a thriving practice nestled between her family's Arizona ranches, looking for a nice, dependable guy who can take her to the eternities.

He's a visiting Australian business tycoon who's just a touch bitter, a touch wild, and way more than a touch fascinating.

What's a girl to do?

Jaclyn M Hawkes ROCKS!

I love all of her books! Each is equally great. I can't think of anything negative to say about anything I have read of hers. This was another great story that had it all; great characters, fun, happiness, love, suspense, sadness, triumph, family, and joy.

I'm not worried about letting my teenage daughters read anything Jaclyn writes.

Thanks for another great read and please keep them coming!

Couldn't put it down.... Jacklyn has a gift for giving her characters a fullness of personality, spirit and intellect that make them come to life. Her dialogue is quick, real and witty. I can only imagine what her life is like to have spawned the ideas, wisdom and humor she brings to her books

This the fourth book of Jacklyn's I've read this week...

I had read her first two books and then lost track of this author, not knowing she had four new books out.

Found out - downloaded them, and have not quit reading since.

Her emotional intelligence and wisdom come through in every chapter. This woman obviously has an amazing array of experience from which to pull her stories. She crafts characters anyone can relate to; they are thoroughly human yet their ideals are lofty. And who cannot relate to that? Each book was an engrossing read.

I was transported into the lives of each character. Now I am sad there are none of her books left on my bookshelf that have yet to be read. I cannot wait for her next book!

Fantastic as always!

Fantastic, magnificent and beautifully written.

Amazing!

I have never read a book before that had me captive from the beginning. I cried, have laughed and felt her deep grief and confusion. What a wonderful book and a wonderfully exceptional writer. I can't wait to read more of Jaclyn Hawkes books!

I'm becoming a really big fan of Jaclyn Hawkes, I love the way she writes! I enjoyed this book a lot. She touches on real things that we face and how we can overcome with the help of others who are put here to help us on our journey through life! I highly recommend this book and all her books!

I always get the feel that it's like a modern day western. I love it! And am always reading her books as soon as they come out.

This book was great. It is a fun read that warms your heart and makes you feel just as awesome as the characters.

A love story with depth and characters you want to meet
This new book from Jaclyn Hawkes was delightful!

Arizona Forever: A love story Details

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From Reader Review Arizona Forever: A love story for online ebook

Mummy Cat Claire says

Hawkes has become one of my favorite authors. I can almost guarantee that any book written by her... I'm gonna like it. I fell right into this book and it did not disappoint me.

Jessie Benjamin or Dr. Benn, is a veterinarian in Phoenix (Mesa), Arizona. She specializes in horses and spends most of her days tending to the needy at the race track. It's that time of year again, when the wealthy come into town with their really expensive race horses and compete for the championship.

Jessie's mother left her father and her brother's when Jessie was about 5 and is still very angry at her mother for her decision. "How often do you speak to her? Or do something with her? You equate me not socializing with her as me not having forgiven her." Jessie struggling with having a connection with her mother as an adult. She prefers to avoid the issue.

Jessie dates acquaintances here and there. She hasn't found that guy yet, meaning, all the guys she goes out with are just okay.

Riordan Kane is a rich Australian man. He made millions by "signing away...the company that had been his life for the past seven years." He was emotionless about it. "He felt nothing. No regret. No sorrow. No anticipation." Riordan worked very hard to start a business, build it and now that he has sold his, his sense of purpose has been exposed and he must find himself again.

Riordan doesn't have a girlfriend because he intentionally avoids women. After some awful experiences with terrible women who use him for his money, he just avoids the whole issue.

Riordan's parents live near him and he often goes over to visit them. He is quiet close to his parents.

Riordan's friend and football (soccer) star, Quinn, is leaving for America to enter his champion horse into the horse races. Riordan, decides to buy a champion horse for himself and tag along to Arizona for the competitions.

Riordan and Jessie's older brother, Josh, know each other from Josh's mission. Riordan took all the discussions but would never commit to being baptized. With Riordan in town, he stays in a room above Josh's garage. This is how Jessie and Riordan get to know each other.

The book has a nice blend of comedy, action, family and LDS fiction.

I really enjoyed this book and can see that I will often come back and re-read it. I like how the setting takes place in Arizona. I never thought I would live in this state but I do and I have really enjoyed it here. It was a nice change and the author did a really good job with bringing Mesa to life and the horses that Jessie takes care of.

This book is LDS fiction and would be confusing to others who are not LDS. The author adds in quite a bit about the gospel and the culture of the religion.

Hawkes added in a lot of humor into this book. I found myself laughing at the characters. I loved laughing with them and at them.

There is a lot going on in a short amount of time, but that just made the book less boring. I can't remember a time when there was a lull in the book. Things were always happening, things were always changing...progressing and the characters were very interesting. I wanted to know more about them and keep following them. I cared about all of them.

Overall, this is a great LDS fiction novel. I recommend Hawkes in general but this particular book is great. It has a nice blend of almost everything. The characters are very believable and relateable. I didn't take a lot of notes from my read through because I was too distracted by what happens next to remember to mark things. Ahhh That makes my review short and sweet, I guess.

Content: talk of abortion (if you are sensitive to this topic)

Donna May says

I absolutely adored this novel. It's one of the best books I have read in a long time. It made me laugh, it made me cry, it made my heart ache and soar. The author is also so descriptive that I can picture everything in my mind – just as if I was watching a movie.

When you fall in love with someone, it's really hard to stick to your values when their values are different than yours. But that is what true love is about. Sticking to your guns and finding someone who will stick with you – through all your ups and downs and all arounds.

If you love LDS romance novels, this book is highly recommended.

Hyrum Littlefield says

Two thumbs up

What a wonderful book. I loved it. A great story line and the characters were all well developed. An awesome love story and I highly recommend it.

Karen Phelps says

Fabulous

I loved this book from the start. It drew me in because I love reading Jaclyn books. She is an amazing writer and I have never come away disappointed. They are clean and funny books.

I also loved the fact that one of the characters was an Aussie. I loved his way of talking. The love story that developed while working with horses was so cool. The parents of the Aussie were just as entertaining. Good on you Jaclyn for a great book. Look forward to your next masterpiece.

Heather Green says

This was a sweet book of friendship, forgiveness, and change. I liked how respectful Riordan was. I also liked that he was Australian. That added a lot to the book. I liked that it explained tons about the LDS religion, beliefs, etc. I liked that the MC's developed a friendship first. It reminded me of *Most Important Catch* and that's my favorite book by this author. I liked the banter back and forth between Jessie and Quinn and also between Jessie and her brothers. I was sad when Quinn went home. A followup book about him would be good. The characters were well developed. I laughed and I cried. I would like to have seen more of a resolution between Jessie and her mother even if it wasn't a positive one. I also didn't like the epilogue very much. I'm not sure why; whether it was too far into the future or what. I thought the word absolutely (as well as other adverbs) was over used. I really liked the cover and the background info about the author's grandfather. It's clean and appropriate for any age. I would read it again. I received this book in exchange for an honest review.

Alisa says

Jessie grew up really close to her father and 3 older (and very protective brothers). She has never forgiven her mother for what happened when she was 6 years old and because of what her mother did she is content to look for a boring, steady Mormon guy to marry.

At 27 years old, Jessie is running a successful veterinarian practice. When her brother's friend from Australia comes to Arizona to show his horse, she is not prepared for what happens to her heart. Jessie has set high standards and Riordan is definitely ineligible. Riordan has just sold a successful business in Australia, but is planning to return to Australia when the show is over. He has avoided being baptized into the Mormon church for a decade, and he isn't looking to fall in love with an American Mormon girl.

I really liked both Riordan and Jessie and I really liked watching their story play out. I do wish there had been a little more resolution with her mother.

I love learning new things while reading a good fiction book, and I never knew that reining horses was a sport - or even existed. So I "you-tubed" it and found this video of Laura Sumrall doing a freestyle reining to "Let it Go". This is pretty much how I pictured Jessie (but without the blue Elsa dress):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jgzuy...>

Content: Clean

Notes: LDS fiction

Source: Review Copy (opinion is 100% my own)

Sarah says

Arizona Forever is a lovely LDS romance. Jessie is a girl who knows what she wants and is willing to wait and keep trying until she finds the one that fits. She is a very strong woman and is the perfect match for Riordan. He is a man who has already made his fortune and now needs to find a woman to love him for himself and not his money. This story takes place within a close knit Horse training/showing family. I thought there was a little more that was missing in the story line of Jessie's mother. I kept thinking it was

going to be resolved but nothing really came of it. Hopefully we will revisit the Benjamin family and see what happens with the mother/daughter relationship and where the story goes with the unmarried brother.

Good clean read. Some LDS doctrine but not preachy.

Tressa (Wishful Endings) says

ARIZONA FOREVER is a fun story with romance, humor, a slight inspirational aspect, some Australian charm, and a strong family dynamic. The characters are lovable from the start with plenty of family teasing and romantic banter. An enjoyable read!

I adored these characters and Jessie's whole family!! They were so fun! I loved how close Jessie's family is and how they are there for each other, but don't mind taking any opportunity to rib each other and have a good time. They work hard side by side when it's called for and are each successful in what they do. I loved how Jessie is confident in her profession and quite talented, but also had a very sweet side.

Then there was the instant chemistry and romance aspect of the book. I enjoyed that the romance didn't overwhelm the story. There is the immediate attraction but they don't act on it. They slowly get to know each other and then become very good friends before anything more develops between them. Even then, it wasn't a guarantee and they had a few things to work out to get to their happily-ever-after. I love these types of slow-burn romances!

Inspirational stories where a character may or may not become converted to a new faith are always hit and miss with me. This one did fairly well although some parts came off a little forced when I wanted everything to feel natural. Otherwise, this aspect of the story worked.

In the end, was it what I wished for? Overall, I really enjoyed this story. It was easy to sink into and stay there until the very sweet ending.

Content: Clean

Source: I received a complimentary copy through ebooksforreview.com, which did not require a review nor affect it in any way.

Susan K says

Romance, clean, Christian and LDS faith elements

This was a fun read! Set in Arizona, Jessie and Riordan are thrown together after his trainer mistreats his horse. Ri's past, his wealth, and his distrust of women (most are after his money), are challenged in this family centered training facility, and of course with Jessie's no-nonsense treatment of him.

Two honest hearts that come together with a lovely chemistry. There are obstacles to their relationship, and faith is one of them. Ri's journey to understand his faith and how it could work in his life is told from a Latter-day Saint perspective. That part of the story was a little simplistic, but still a kind journey that was insightful for Ri as he reflected on his life and the character of Josh, Jessie's brother who had tried to teach him how faith and healing work.

Beautiful read, have no idea if the veterinary things were accurate, but intense scenes with the work done on

the horses. Tragedy that turned into magic for these two people! Will be looking for the other stories in this family.

Nicole says

Disappointing read. I gave an extra star for it being super clean. Too perfect, unrelatable characters. Predictable. Over the top. Boring and repetitive descriptions. Obnoxious judgmental "mormon culture" comments (modesty, and calling girls trashy and skanky to name a few). My jaw quite literally dropped at one of them: Jessie (a 27 year old woman) makes a comment about how she would never hang out with anyone who had had an abortion.. WHAT?!? Because when people make a mistake we should cast them out? I would think that someone who'd had an abortion would need a friend more than ever. Christ would never abandon someone who made that mistake and neither should we. It didn't uplift me or inspire me to be a better person, which is one of the key things I want from a book.

Gayle says

3.5 stars. This was a cute LDS romance that revolved around horse reining and a horse veterinarian. I am not familiar with horses and I enjoyed learning a little more about reining competitions as well as the care of horses. The main conflict of the story dealt with an LDS veterinarian falling for a non-LDS visiting Australian businessman when she is committed to marry someone that shares her faith.

I liked the developing relationship between the two main characters and how they helped and supported each other as their friendship grew. I thought the supporting characters were well done and loved Jessie's close-knit family. I felt like some issues were left unresolved, especially the situation with Jessie's mother.

Overall, this was a sweet story with a happy ending!

Note: I received a free e-book version of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Brandy says

Arizona Forever: A Love Story by Jaclyn M. Hawkes

This story follows the close-knit Benjamin family of ranchers, trainers, and veterinarian, residing in Arizona, as they prepare for the USA National Stock Show. A friend of the family, from Australia, joins them to participate in the show; but more than friendship is soon developing between Riordan and Dr. Jessie Benn. Perceived as doomed from the start in both their minds due to religious differences, family secrets, and a troubled heart, they struggle to find their way. With strong family values, stronger Christian themes, follow these two as their relationship unfolds within a sweet family drama.

I found this to be an interesting and touching story. I do not like to include spoilers so I'll try not to reveal too much but to deliver my meaning all the same. The relationship described occurs quickly but doesn't appear as insta-love like many books I have read; I found that to be a plus. The religion-Mormonism-within the book is evenly dispersed, sometimes explained even--which relates to the character and story (as well as readers who may not be familiar with this particular order.) I felt the author did a fine job of meshing the

details with the story and characters without carrying overtly strong tones. However, the principles and beliefs are strong and may differ widely from reader to reader. I don't follow this religion but was easily able to read this book-- appreciate the story and the author's (and character's) beliefs with only occasional difference of opinion. I loved the strong and supportive family structure the book lended. I was left wondering about one part of the story that wasn't cleared up in the ending so I decided it all ended well for Clara but I would have liked to have known more about her and her horse. In the way of character flaws, we see Riordan call Jessie perfect and calm but I found moments I thought her to be pouty and assuming. I decided that may be due to miscommunication between characters as it generally occurs during periods they were musing thoughts and reacted later based on the point of view of the chapters of the book.

While the book started slow, and had a lull in the middle where the couple waffled, the meat of it moved quickly and flows nicely all while incorporating tons of information--about LDS, veterinary practice, horses (showing, illness, surgery, bone breaks,) National Parks in the Midwest.... It was surprising to have such in depth information included but a very nice addition that did not detract from the story.

I enjoyed a sweet, clean, read romance, which I reviewed as an ARC. My very favorite touches to the book were the author's special additions of notes of recognition at the beginning and end of the book. They are not to be missed! Be sure to look for them! I would gladly read other books by this author!

Donna says

I was given a free copy for my honest opinion. I was pleasantly surprised by the depth of the characters and the ability to tell an LDS romance without being preachy. I know that when you tell a story with a strong religious landscape it is sometimes littered with pages of doctrine and I steer away from these authors. If this was an Amish story about shunning or other religious situations you have to expect some gospel aspect to be explained so that the reader better grasps the difference being raised as a faithful 'anything' brings to a story. While this was an LDS romance, it never once spoke of the Book of Mormon or a Sunday worship service. It had just the right amount of LDS culture to better understand the inner turmoil of our hero and heroine.

I did feel that part of the story was left unaddressed. Whatever happened with her mother's horse? I wonder if there is another book in the works with Quinn? What about her single brother? Does her mom ever apologize?

I really liked learning more about the horse reigning world of competition and veterinarian work. She was a sassy, goal driven, no nonsense girl with a vulnerable side. He was an extremely cautious, stubborn, intelligent and warm person with just the right amount of tease.

Julie Carpenter says

What does a billionaire, handsome horse owning Australian and a sweet, feisty, horse reining veterinarian have to do with each other? In this story...EVERYTHING! Jessie is our feisty vet and Riordan our handsome billionaire with the accent and there is chemistry between these two. The only problem, Jessie had a couple experiences when she was younger that has helped her decide early on that she will not budge from her commitment to marry within her Christian faith. And Riordan definitely is everything she could ever hope for and want in all her searching but the one thing she will not budge from, a member of her faith.

Jessie's family have several ranches all connected and next to a large Race Horse facility where Jessie has set up her practice. One of the largest horse reigning competition and shows is about to happen and her brother's good friend from Australia is coming to have his prize stallion compete. The mixups and first meetings between these two were quite humorous. One knew who the other was and one didn't know who the other was. I loved all the equine moments and talk in this book. I'm a big horse lover, never owned one but a girl can dream right? There's a lot of detail about the horses as well as the competitions and routines that the horses do for the competitions.

The setting and characters were all very enjoyable and the writing was well done. I liked the banter back and forth between several of the main characters as well as the secondary characters. I loved Jessie's private little oasis, and imagined myself relaxing out on a hammock while reading those scenes. Oh and the Hawaiian pizza and Root Beer, lol. If you read the author's bio it tells us that she loves pizza and root beer. I thought it was fun she added some of her favorites into the story as well. Especially the horses...with the details about them I'm assuming that's a passion of hers.

There were a couple moments in the book that I felt the author was overdoing some topics and that she repeated the same thing multiple times. Like Jessie not wanting to marry outside of her faith. That was made very clear a couple times at the beginning and then was just re-mentioned multiple times. Maybe it was more apparent to me because it has been a long week and my brain is tired and just easier to pick out little things....I don't know. That might not even be an issue for other readers. If I were to reread the book, it might not bug me the second time.

Overall I enjoyed the book and the many different aspects of it, the Australian accents and definitely the sweet romance.

Content: Clean, some sweet kisses and a couple scenes of a little bit more passionate kisses but nothing more than kissing. Talk of the LDS faith and the couples relying on Christ and his Atonement in their lives. Talk about an abortion and how that is a major topic throughout-mostly underlying but it plays a big role in the storyline- and was done without being graphic. Talk of a secondary character who enjoys partying, he gets drunk a couple times and has a hangover from it.

I received a copy from ebooks. All thoughts and opinions in the review are my own.

Happy Reading!!!

Cordelianne says

Arizona Forever was an interesting book. The book was in the beginning quite slow, it starts with a throwback to the youth of the main character and than immediately, two different perspectives are thrown in, with different characters. So it was difficult to exactly grasp who everybody was and the relationships between people. This made the beginning not really interesting.

The middle part was more interesting, but it was still quite boring. This whole book could have been 100 pages less if the two main characters just got together. I did enjoy the progress of their relationship. It was not instalove and they started out as friends. Riordan helped Jessie a lot and their friendship felt honest. Jessie was portrayed to perfect in my opinion, she only had a troubled relationship with her mother, but that was not her fault. I would have enjoyed seeing some of her flaws as well. Riordan even says she is christlike,

come on, nobody is perfect in real life, so do not portray people like that in a book.

Overall an interesting and fun read. I would not recommend it to people who are not religious, because the Christian religion plays an important part and there was a lot of talking about conveying people to their religion. *I received a free ebook in exchange for an honest review*
