



## Cutting Out

*Meredith Shayne*

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A twenty-year veteran of the shearing shed, Aussie Shane Cooper loves his job, and the home he's made for himself in New Zealand. If he's a little lonely, he's got good mates to keep his spirits up. When a hot, cocky young shearer named Lachlan Moore catches his eye at a competition, he's content to look but not touch, knowing the young man is out of his league.

Lachie wouldn't mind a piece of Shane, but the gorgeous gun shearer from Australia is soon forgotten when the Christchurch earthquake hits, and tragedy strikes Lachie's family. Lachie deals with it the best he can, cutting himself off from all he knows. A year later and he's back in the shearing shed, out of practice and lacking confidence. That Shane's there to watch him flounder doesn't help his nerves.

As Lachlan struggles to re-acclimatise, Shane can't resist giving him a hand to get back on his feet. As they move from friends to something more, Shane finds himself wanting to know everything he can about Lachie. But Lachie's got secrets he desperately wants to keep, and when things come to a head, those secrets might just mean the end of them before they've truly begun.

## Cutting Out Details

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Author : Meredith Shayne

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# From Reader Review Cutting Out for online ebook

## R \* A Reader Obsessed \* says

This was really, really good. Cutting Out was quite a sober, and at times, sad tale and we first meet Shane and Lachlan at a sheep shearing contest. Each notices the other and before anything further can be done about it, tragedy strikes the younger Lachlan and they don't reconnect until a year later.

This was a slow burn. A smoldering slow burn mind you, but still a snail's pace at the romantic progression. So if you don't like that kind of build up, then this story isn't for you. It also had a lot of angst as you can imagine - and I typically like this kind where there was so much longing. Longing to be loved and to love. Longing to want more but afraid to push too hard. Longing for a past that will never be again. There was also fear of further loss, insecurity, and the misinterpretations from not communicating.

So yes, the angst was palpable. Not only was it between these two men but also about Lachlan's own unfortunate situation. He definitely carries the burden of taking care of his family and there was a lot of guilt, personal grief and resignation concerning the weight of his responsibilities.

Overall the chemistry between Lachlan and Shane was seriously high. It starts off with UST that was off the charts. Then the sweet, frantic coming together was oh so lovely, and your heart continually gets twisted watching the push/pull of them handling or not handling each other and their feelings. Despite the oft painful journey, their love story was beautiful and I whole heartedly believe so very worth it.

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## Love Bytes Reviews says

4 star review by Lily

What a beautiful story of love, loss, grief and healing.

Australian Shane Cooper who is in his early forties has been working as a shearer in New Zealand for some years. He made NZ his home for the reasons the readers will find out later. He is a successful shearer and is well known in his field. During a competition, Shane sees younger Larrikin Lachie and feels emotions that he did not feel for some time and the feeling is mutual. Sadly before these two men actually meet, tragedy strikes with a huge earthquake in Christchurch where Lachie's family live and sometime later Lachie and Shane meet again and this time they work together as shearers.

There are many things I loved in this story; the descriptions of the areas to the point I now want to see NZ. I also learned a little about the life of a shearer and felt I was among them when they were working....I think I even felt the twinge in my back from the repetitive position to hold sheep to shear. The way the writer described the earthquake so eloquently, I found myself in tears. The trauma of Lachie's family felt like my own trauma and my heart went out to them. The grief process and symptoms of depression were described and explained in a very empathic and insightful manner.

Insecurities of older Shane left me feeling very protective of him. I felt his joy, hopes, and his sadness as well as his passion. He was a very lovable man that anyone would be proud to call "my man".

Both characters were well established, complementing the plot and Kiwi culture.

Whilst sex was sensuous, it did not play a huge part in the story and did not defocus me as a reader, from the actual story.

Lachie's emotional struggle felt very realistic. The story was so engaging to the point, I found myself in Lachie's family home among the mess with two young teens trying to survive a very difficult time as well as Lachie's own grief and quitting his Larrikin ways as he had to assume the head of the family role. His mother's trauma was described appropriately for the event and made me very emotional.

The dialogue between the characters were appropriate to their sex, age and experience and I enjoyed noticing those fine qualities.

What made this story extra special that any adult can understand how the Christchurch earthquake was, and its impact on the individual, family and the community. Those pages were written so articulately as well as with empathy.

The only thing I noticed in the story is at times it was more focused on the events than the emotions. I respected that because the earthquake in Christchurch happened recently and is still fresh in our minds. The delicate balance between the fiction and the reality part in this story must have been very hard for the writer. I personally applaud the writer for the way the writer picked this topic.

Whilst there were minor misconnections in the story because it is a complex plot, I think the writer did a fabulous job of showing me the lives of shearers, the trauma a community experienced, two men falling in love with each other in very difficult circumstances, grief, loss, emotional struggle of teens and a grieving mother/wife.

This story will be a reread for me in the near future because I was captivated with the plot and characters.

I really enjoy this one. I was on holiday in New Zealand for two weeks and really love this beautiful and peaceful country. So the setting of the story in NZ with the wonderful descriptions is such a pleasure to read. I especially enjoy the camaraderie among the sheep shearers and the writer has certainly done her research, including the slangs. I like both the MCs and their slow burning romance. Sex only starts about 60%+ into the story which is just fine by me! Some maybe frustrated with the ending.

A copy of this book was provided in exchange for an honest review. Please visit [www.lovebytesreviews.com](http://www.lovebytesreviews.com) to see this and many more reviews, author interviews, guestposts and giveaways!

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## **Heller says**

3.5

This is a melancholy read. So very sad and I couldn't help but feel the constant underlying pull of that sadness throughout this read.

Shane is an older shearer. He's in his late thirties, he's an Australian living in New Zealand working for different farms and hitting a few competitions for practice and extra cash. It's at one of these competitions

where he meets Lachlan, who is in his early twenties, also a shearer. The men are attracted to each other but things never go further than looking at this point.

On a visit home to visit his family Christchurch the 2011 earthquake happens and Lachlan's father is killed throwing his family into chaos. His mother, in her grief, falls into a depression and Lachie has to give up his dreams of shearing by staying close to home to take care of her and his younger siblings Ngaire and Kenny.

It was hard reading about his struggles to find ways to keep his family together through both their money troubles and their mother's deepening illness.

After a year's break from shearing Lachie is convinced by a family friend to take things up again heads back to in it. He meets up again with Shane who is on the same team and the men strike up a friendship and soon something more follows.

On each shearing run the men share a bunk house and get together. I loved these men together. There's such a wonderful chemistry between them but unfortunately this is also where the failure to communicate clearly starts to happen as well. Shane feels insecure because he's older and doesn't understand what the hotter, younger shearer sees in him and thinks that Lachie is seeing someone else. Lachie is feeling insecure because he thinks he's into the relationship more than Shane and that he may only be a convenience.

It does take a while for things to straighten out but it does in a pretty wonderful way. This is a light and dark read though. So be prepared to wade through the sadness that surround it, not sadness between the relationship although they have their issues. It's more the struggles that Lachie faces that make this a hard read. Worth it though.

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## **Melanie says**

Rating: 4.5 stars out of 5

For the full review, visit <http://wp.me/p220KL-3kj>

From that review: "I particularly enjoyed the insight Shayne gives us into the different levels of shearers, from the junior divisions of shearers just learning their profession (junior and senior refer not to the shearer's age but experience) to the top Senior level and the sought after shearers that are asked to shear the top quality and much larger breed Merino sheep. The author easily slides her information about the profession, from the "shearing teams" that tend to work together over and over again as well as the loosely aggregated bunch assembled at the last minute, into her story making it all feel as natural as their surroundings. The camaraderie and the close community is strengthened by the bond of the Maori society that hovers like a benign parent over its members and families..."

A lovely romance and remarkable setting and plot. A Recommended read by Scattered Thoughts and Rogue Words.

For all reviews, author interviews, book tours and contests, visit <http://ScatteredThoughtsandRogueWords...>

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## **DaisyGirl says**

I'm finished with Cutting Out: It was alright. 2.5-->3.0 stars but I hate unreciprocated i <3 yous.

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## **multitaskingmomma says**

Original Blog Post: Blog Tour, eARC Review & #Giveaway: Cutting Out by Meredith Shayne

Lachie had to deal with a tragedy that not only struck his family but his whole community. As a direct result of said tragedy, he had no choice but to give up on his dream to be a shearing gun and be a handyman, a construction worker and every other job he could get to keep food on the table. With a mother going into depression and siblings who think they can sit their butts out from responsibility, Lachie dreams of going back to shearing and maybe, just maybe, find someone he could share his life with.

Shane Cooper has had twenty years of shearing and has the medals to show just how good he is. Once, he chanced seeing a young man who had the potential to beat his record but that young man disappeared. When he next sees him, Shane was curious why Lachie was not performing at his best. In fact, if Shane could assume the worst, it was as if the young shearer not only lost his time, but his confidence in his ability. Attraction aside, Shane had to help and be the mentor to get the young man back on his shearing feet. Soon, their relationship becomes more than mere mentoring and soon crosses over to a full blown affair.

Unfortunately, it is just this thing that Shane could not accept. He wanted more than an affair and yet it seemed that Lachie's walls were too thick and his secrets too deep. How Shane could break down those walls and get Lachie to lighten up and be open about their love for each other is a journey that was both heartbreaking and hopeful.

Set in New Zealand, this is a beautiful story about shearers who love their trade. Meredith Shayne takes her readers with her to take a peek into the shearing men's lives and maybe dream that amidst all the wool and lanolin, maybe there can be love too.

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## **SydneyGen says**

This novel, about sheep shearers in picturesque New Zealand, was an entertaining read. The author used a wonderful voice to portray both main characters, and the emotion came through on the pages.

The story line weaves in the world of shearing in a way that makes you feel like you can smell, and hear the hustle and bustle of the shearing shed. I really enjoyed the camaraderie around the gangs that work together, and the portrayal of bonds formed in the roughest of conditions. The integration of slang was enjoyable, and make me chuckle a few times.

The main characters, Shane and Lachie were wonderfully written, and the author did a really great job of making me feel every emotion available. At times I had to take a moment to relish the fact that I was frowning, or smiling, or having my heart crushed at the devastation that the Christchurch earthquakes had on families. In my humble opinion, when an author can make a reader feel that, they really have a gift.

Read this book if you're after a love story between characters that push and pull, and create a slow burn. Cutting Out is a wonderfully portrayed romance novel, with blokes and beer, instead of wine and flowers.

\*I received this book as an ARC - all reviews are solely mine.

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### **Nova says**

4.5 stars.

I really, really enjoyed this beautiful story! A little bit heartbreaking and with characters I loved. Only the ending/epilogue was a bit short.

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### **Rick says**

I've never read Meredith Shayne before and let me tell you this will not be the last time that I do.

Ah Cutting Out such an interesting tale placed in New Zealand. The characters Lachlan and Shane are so interesting and fun to watch heating up to each other.

You ask what's it about? Well Sheep shearing for one. A horrible earthquake, overcoming family matters that make Lachlan feel totally overwhelmed. The attraction from afar of Shane and Lachlan. Will they? Won't they? Oh but I won't tell you that would spoil a totally great book.

This book was a real slow starter not bad in anyway. There were just so many things happening. Easy to keep it all straight though. Then it got to the warm part, and went on to become overwhelmingly sad, happy and wonderful.

Give it a go folks I guarantee you'll like it!

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### **Anke says**

So - this is the first DNF of 2015. I tried again but I can't take it anymore. It's just totally depressing and I don't care for any of the people in this book. And I don't think I'll try it again later.

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### **Morgan Skye says**

<http://thebloggergirls.com/2014/10/27...>

The book starts with Lachlan “Lachie” and Shane at a sheep shearing competition where both win in their respective categories, Lachie a junior and Shane a senior. Both are a bit intrigued by the other, but have reason to believe nothing will come of it.

That night, Lachie’s life changes dramatically when his dad dies in an earthquake, leaving Lachie in charge of his family and his depressed mother.

A year goes by where Lachie is out of the shearing world, taking care of the family. When things seem to be settled, he re-joins the circuit and is pleasantly surprised by the helpful hand Shane offers to get him back in the swing of things.

Many months go by with Shane and Lachie forming a solid friendship, even though both know the other is gay. Neither thinks the other would be interested, so they leave it be. Until one night, the stars are aligned, and Lachie is brave enough to make a pass at Shane.

The next several months fly by as Shane and Lachie hook up repeatedly at various jobs, but they never connect outside of work, despite Shane’s yearning to do so. Lachie keeps himself aloof, too worried about his family to do more than a casual thing.

When things get rough at home and Shane begins to ask for more, Lachie has to make a decision. Does he want to bring Shane into the mess that is his life or risk losing him forever?

Fortunately, he makes the right choice and we have a lovely epilogue to show their HEA.

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This is a new author for me. After having read another sheep shearing love story, I was quite intrigued by this one. This story is nothing like the other, in that it spends a lot of time dealing with Lachie’s personal issues and a lot of time looking at the Maori culture and life in New Zealand. In fact, we get mostly glimpses of the relationship between Shane and Lachie as they spend so much time apart.

When the two are together it is clear they are a match made in heaven, but it takes a lot for them to get to that point.

On the whole I really enjoyed their story. I liked them both as characters, I was particularly impressed with Shane. He was a solid, confident, caring man and definitely good for Lachie. I learned a bit about shearing and life in New Zealand, so that was interesting too.

Lachie’s mother’s depression was hard to read about, but touching as well.

I would have liked to spend more time with the couple as a couple, we spent so much time with them apart. I think some of the waffling and the battles with the family could have been shortened and the time the couple spent together broadened, rather than telling us that they met “again and again and again”.

I recommend this book to anyone interested in sheep, shearing, New Zealand, or if you are looking for a book low on sex, but full of family and eventually, love.

Overall Impression:

4 stars – I really liked it

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## **A.B. Gayle says**

Loved the short version in the free Blokes in Love anthology, but the full version is even better.

We now have the story of how Lachie and Shane met and the events that led up to the segment that appeared in the anthology. Parts of the last section have also been extended or tweaked to tie in with the new material, so it makes it a much more complete story. Now we get a much better idea of the problems Lachie has been dealing with at home. This makes the conflict that stops them getting together much more understandable.

More good mad on man action and a lovely look at New Zealand and shearing.

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## **Matthew Coenen says**

### **Ok... when's the sequel?**

A good read. Moved rather fast at the end... I wish the author would have slowed it down a bit. I'm not a huge fan of skipping multiple years at the epilogue.

Regardless, Cutting Out is well written. With focus more on the characters than on sex. A welcome change.

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## **Niki says**

I really enjoy this one. I was on holiday in New Zealand for two weeks and really love this beautiful and peaceful country. So the setting of the story in NZ with the wonderful descriptions is such a pleasure to read. I especially enjoy the camaraderie among the sheep shearers and the writer has certainly done her research, including the slangs. I like both the MCs and their slow burning romance. Sex only starts about 60%+ into the story which is just fine by me! Some maybe frustrated with the guys not having a heart-to-heart talk to sort out their problems but given the time they knew each other I thought it was realistic. Also there was a 15 years difference between Shane and Lachie. This is not a May-December romance but I could understand Shane's hesitation and the impression Lachie gave, before the earthquake forced him to man up, was really of a carefree bloke. Also these are real men with a blue collar job so sitting down and chat about their emotions is probably hard to do.

What made this story special was the Christchurch earthquake and its impact, which I thought the writer has done a great job weaving it into her story. Those pages were such touching scenes. However I do have a few niggles. The brief epilogue is rather disappointing, as if it was just an after thought. It sort of created a gap in the story line. It would not "kill" the writer to give us more details on what had transpired to lead to that point which was obviously years later. It is also a pity the writer did not give us more emotional connection between the guys once the major misunderstanding was cleared. The leapt straight to the brief epilogue after they understood each other was such a let down, as if something missing in the flow of the story.

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## **Cryselle says**

3.75 marbles

New Zealand's half a world away, known to most of us as spectacular scenery with hobbits and a vague idea of Maoris and sheep. Meredith Shayne's added detail and dimension and given life to those ideas.

There's a very, very slow burn between Lachie, a rising star in the shearing world, and Shane, the acknowledged master. It's not just competition, these men keep an entire industry moving, they're an essential link between wooly animals and winter coats. It's a world Lachie loves, and hates leaving.

The earthquake in Christchurch changes Lachie's life and family forever, forcing him to step up to being the head of his family and the only one holding things together. He can't manage this out on the shearing circuit,

so he does what he must. Since Shane's only a broad grin after a competition, any thought of pursuing more goes by the wayside. Once he's back on the circuit, things can change.

The author seems to have used two real events as her basis, which is great for verisimilitude but may have had an adverse effect on the timeline, because a lot of time passes without much changing. (Christchurch is in a seismic hotbed and if you want to see a really cool demonstration look here:

<http://www.christchurchquakemap.co.nz...>)(Yeah, I look stuff like this up if the book intrigues me.) The sheep-shearing cycle may also have played into the timeline issues.

Lachie's Maori, or part Maori, and the culture does come into play. While his mother is understandably devastated, she also retreats, and is allowed to remain in retreat, way past grieving and into self indulgence. I had high hopes for change after Jade and the other women from the marae came to visit, but alas, no. The result is a story that encompasses a lot of time but where plot and relationship advance at a glacial pace.

The writing is smooth enough to take some of the sting out of the pace, and once the guys do get into bed, they're in bed a lot, but not talking. Not even the barest bones of something as important as "I have family to take care of," which boots this into Big Misunderstanding territory.

Frankly, I was ready to slap Lachie and his entire family just to get their attention. Ngaire and Kenny, his sister and brother, read much younger than their stated ages and very helpless. While the mother's depression was understandable, and may be a real course for some people, she lost reader-sympathy fast for essentially abandoning her kids for most of the long timeline. The whole seemed like artificially inflating the reasons for Lachie to avoid a relationship and to feel guilty for even wanting one.

Shane and Lachie do eventually expose their hearts to one another, and then cut to the HEA, which accentuated the timeline issues for me. I can't help but think events could have been better balanced. Shane's family issue had little foreshadowing, and came out in a rush.

Still, this was an interesting look into an industry we mostly don't think about, with two guys who catch at the heart in spite of or because of their flaws. More June/November than May/December makes for an experience gap that isn't hugely wide, still wide enough that I believed Shane felt too old to be a choice for a twenty-five year old in his prime, and still be really wrong. These guys will be good together.

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