



Chasing the Runaway Bride

Susan Meier

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From cold feet to hot-blooded... Former Marine and current rancher Cade Donovan left his hometown looking for a fresh start. But then Cade inherits the grocery store that his grandfather won from the O'Riley family in a poker game more than thirty years ago. The same store that caused a bitter feud between the two families. And worse still, Cade has to return home to confront his past—and share his inheritance with the enemy...the all-grown-up and sinfully tempting Piper O'Riley.

After ditching two fiancés at the altar, Piper has a reputation for being the town's runaway bride. The irony is, Piper is woefully inexperienced when it comes to real, true physical attraction. And working with Cade is torture. The kind that can keep a girl up all night imagining naughty, delicious things. Things that Cade is *more* than happy to show her...

It's all fun and sexy games...until the truth of why Cade left town comes out.

Chasing the Runaway Bride Details

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From Reader Review Chasing the Runaway Bride for online ebook

April Symes says

****A gifted copy was provided by the publisher for an honest review****

I cannot think of how many good things I can say about this author's book. The emotions that pour from the pages of the book really grab you and make you want to continue until the end. The mystery behind why Cade really left town to begin with, the reason there was a feud between Cade and Piper's family, and the immediate sexual tension between Cade and Piper... where do you begin?

Piper finds out she has been left part ownership in the store with Cade but Cade is NOT happy. Cade has finally come back home after 12 years gone from his home town. He left because of something very personal and painful. He is back to face some private demons and to take ownership in what he believes is his store, not have to fight Piper for his rightful ownership in the store.

Piper and Cade were at odds over things but the sexual heat between them and the feelings that did develop caused some other bumps down the road. Piper and Cade were a wonderful couple- people who had been hurt in the past and were afraid to open up – I loved seeing them open up to each other. I had my tissue box beside me when reading this story. Other times, I was fanning myself when reading other parts to the story when the heat level was high. Cade would give as well as Piper gave.

This is an appealing story about two people who find love by surmounting the many challenges both in the former lives and current.

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My Rating: 4.5 stars ****

***P says**

4 Star Review

This is the second book in the Donovan Brothers series and this time it is Cade's turn. This former marine turned Montana rancher finds himself back in his small home town. He left twelve years before when he left a pregnant Lonnie at the altar after finding out the child wasn't his. The only problem is that the gossiping town still doesn't know that information.

Piper is shocked when she finds out Cade's grandpa has included her in his will and now co owns the store with Cade. This is a big issue as Piper and her mother have had an ongoing feud with the Donovan's ever since the grandpa had one Piper's family's grocery store in a poker game. These two enemies struggle working together not only because of the feud but because of the scorching chemistry evident between the pair. The feud isn't their only issue though as Piper was Lonnie's best friend.

This book is very similar to the first in the series in that it is a coming home book. The hero and heroine are at odds with each other and they are both doing what they think is best for their families.

There were just a few issues keeping it from a five star read and the main one is that the reason Cade

commits to Piper is a little too close to why he had a bride at the altar a first time. The fact they were even in that situation was too irresponsible for me to condone. Top it off with the lack of true substance bringing the couple together. We get glimpses of something more than love but it wasn't enough for me.

Aside from that it is a sweet quick read you can breeze through in a few hours. Though part of a series it is easily read as a stand alone and it comes with a HEA and a promise of yet another Donovan brother story to come.

Thanks to NetGalley for an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Gokce ~Muslin Myst~ says

As much as I loved the first book, and as much as I wanted to love this one, unfortunately I can't say that it impressed me. I'm a big fan of bickering love. I love the tension that it builds, later that tension leading to passion and finally to reluctant love. I'm sad to say this, but I saw none of that in this book.

Cade is a Marine-turned-rancher who comes back to his hometown to take care of business after his grandfather's death. He avoids his hometown like the plague because that's where his abusive father lives- though his father had been dealt with in the previous book and now everyone knows what kind of scumbag he is- and also because he's left a pregnant woman at the altar and the whole town seems like they shunned him. Piper is a long time resident, but she has her own reasons for avoiding people, mainly because she's already left two men at the altar herself, and now dubbed as the 'Runaway Bride' of town. Add to that the feud between their families and the gossip mill, and you've got the whole story.

Even talking about the plot makes me sad because it had so much potential to be great. Not only there's my beloved bickering love, but also a small town and two fighting families whose two members who are about to fall in love.

In the previous book, the hero had a military background and that wasn't involved in the story. The same happened here. Cade was a Marine, but his past had little to do with his present. Although he was a rancher now- and hello, cowboys- we didn't get much from this side of his life either, except for his Stetson he seemed to carry around with him everywhere. And the whole thing with his father- I'm only telling about this here because it was already revealed in the first book- the resentment, the pain of the past, all of it, it was too weak as a plotline. I felt as though it was only given to us to create an obstacle for Cade and Piper to overcome. No depth, no detail. And since I'm a sucker for emotional baggage and how people get over things, this was disappointing. Cade, though as a character he was okay, as a hero he was too weak. He didn't radiate the strength that I like in my heroes. Sure, he was casual and flirty like a cowboy, he had a tough exterior that contained a very emotional man who still struggled with the past he suffered in the hands of his father, but that's all the surface information we get about him. It was as if he was only outlined for the story but never got his details that'd make it all *him*. And naturally I couldn't connect with his character and when he struggled, I couldn't get beyond my reader status to actually feel for him.

Unfortunately the same goes for Piper. She was good as a heroine outline, but there was no depth to her character either. A lot of things about her didn't make sense to me, her leaving two men at the altar for example. I'm a woman, I should be able to relate to her reasoning but I'm never given any, except for the men not making her feel that passion she thinks she needs to get married. That wasn't enough for me as a reason, I

would've preferred something-and I know I keep repeating myself- deeper. I liked that she was ready to fight for Cade, but that alone wasn't enough to complete her character.

Everything that happened in between, the town residents and their behavior towards Cade and Piper, the wrongs and misunderstandings that were supposed to comprise the plot, the family feud, the abusive father and the will, they all felt like they were there to fill in the pages, not to develop the story.

I liked the idea, I liked the *characters* as an idea, every obstacle too, but it lacked the details. While reading, I wanted more, more character development, more confrontation, more interaction, just more from this story as a whole.

Mandy says

Cade is back in town for his brothers wedding and the reading of his grandpas will. He inherits half of his grandpas grocery store but has to share the other half with Piper, a family enemy. I love a good enemy to lovers story - they are kind of forbidden to hook up. There is a ton of sexual tension in this book. I love the small town dynamics and the other characters. Looking forward to reading more about the Donovan brothers in the other books in this series.

****ARC provided in exchange for an honest review****

Jen says

Note: This ARC was provided by Entangled Publishing via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Chasing the Runaway Bride is the second book in the *Donovan Brothers* series by author Susan Meier. This installment focuses on the middle brother, Cade Donovan, who piqued my interest with how he left town and moved to Montana, only returning whenever his mother or brothers needed him. When he finds out that his maternal grandfather, Richard Hyatt, left him the grocery store that was supposedly won in a poker game and must now manage it for a year, he's gobsmacked. He's not exactly thrilled at the idea of having to live in the very town that had nothing better to do than gossip about him nor is he looking forward to having to work side-by-side with Piper O'Riley, the daughter of the man his grandfather won the grocery store from.

Piper O'Riley is surprised that the late Richard Hyatt decided half the grocery store would be given to her but she's not one to complain. Getting back half the store is better than nothing and while she's not excited about having to work with Cade, she'll do what she has to. So what if she's attracted to him? She has no intention of being anything more than his co-worker, especially since she still believes he left her pregnant best friend at the altar years ago and has never provided support for the son her best friend claims is his. However, the more time she spends with him, the more she sees that he's not the horrible person the gossip mongers have made him out to be.

Both Cade and Piper have been fodder for the busybodies of their hometown. Their families have their respective supporters and Piper's own mother has gone out of her way to badmouth the Hyatts and the

Donovans. There are also two camps when it comes to Cade's departure all those years ago, one believing he's a scumbag for having abandoned his pregnant bride and their unborn child and for not bothering with child support afterwards and the other speculating that he left because he found out the child in his bride's womb was fathered by someone other than him. On the other hand, Piper is tagged as a runaway bride, having already left two grooms at the altar, making people think she's either crazy or plays around.

It took a while for Piper to grow on me and maybe it's because I knew that her opinion of Cade was based on presumptions. So yes, my sympathies were geared more towards Cade because the guy was funny, nice, charming, and he had a brain to go with the good looks and brawn. When the truth about Cade's runaway groom past finally came out, Piper's reaction felt real because she was both confused but remorseful. Their relationship didn't suddenly shift from mere co-managers to something more. It was gradual but sweet and I finally started liking Piper for Cade. ^.^ These two had chemistry and I enjoyed how one of them would back away only to change their mind later on.

The manner in which the story of Cade and Piper is told made me appreciate it even more, especially when you reach the end of the book. This was a couple that had personal hurdles to overcome and there's a part that had my heart breaking while I was reading it. The last few chapters alone make this book worth reading and I did it in one sitting. I'm going to assume that Devon's story will have him paired up with Barbara Beth aka B.B., but I could be wrong. ^.^ For *Chasing the Runaway Bride*, I'm going to give 4.5 stars, rounded off to five stars for Goodreads, and I recommend that you read the predecessor, *Her Summer with the Marine*, while waiting for the release of this sequel. ♥

Irene says

4 stars

I really enjoyed *Chasing the Runaway Bride*.

Both characters are likable and relatable.

Cade and Piper have great chemistry, I love that the way they come together.

This was a highly entertaining read. If you love the idea of a runaway bride you will enjoy this.

Thank you Netgalley and to Entangled: Bliss for the advance copy in exchange for my honest thoughts.

Nicola says

Enemies to lovers is one of my favourite tropes and Susan Meier has done it justice; I adored the latest addition to her *Donovan Brothers* series. From the allure of the storyline to the charm of the main and secondary characters, *Chasing the Runaway Bride* is a fun, sexy and sweet read.

Piper O'Reilly and Cade Donovan are more similar than they realise. Both the subject of small-town gossip, she's abandoned 2 fiancés at the altar whilst he never even bothered to show up for his nuptials. And with an age old feud burning between their families, the last thing they want to do is work together. He may not be around anymore, but Cade's Grandfather leaves them with no choice and it's a hardship...

"You like working with me?"

"I wouldn't go that far. Though I will admit to liking that little lust thing we have going on."

With a superb chemistry that brings flirt, teasing, snark, humour and intimacy, they were perfect together. A Stetson wearing marine turned cowboy is pretty irresistible in my world, particularly one who uses the word *Darlin'*, and combined with a lady who will go toe-to-toe against him, I couldn't have asked for more.

If a small-town romance with some spice is what you're after, then this is a novel I highly recommend. Can't wait to see what Susan Meier has in store for Devon.

Reviewed for Read Your Writes Book Reviews.

Copy received courtesy of Entangled Publishing via NetGalley for an honest & unbiased opinion.

Shari says

What a great enemies to lovers story. Cade has returned home to run his grandfather's grocery store when he finds out that he has to run it with Piper. Their families have been feuding for years. There is an attraction there but they both try to fight it off. Can they move past the family feud and secrets to start a life for themselves. I really enjoyed the sexual chemistry between these two.

I received this book from NetGalley for an honest review.

LJT says

Chasing the Runaway Bride by Susan Meier is a Red-Hot Bliss, which means a little spice has been added to a typically sweet imprint. This book has a unique storyline, along with a cast of characters that are very interesting, funny and gossipy. Harmony Hills is a small town in Pennsylvania, where everyone knows your whereabouts and your business, even after you have been away for twelve years. The residents are very devoted and loyal to the town and each other.

Twenty-eight year old Piper O'Riley has been to the alter twice, and has left her grooms standing both times. She was not in love with either of them, yet it took her until the very last moment to come to that realization. Due to her actions, she is the butt of jokes and whispering. She lays low most of the time in order to prevent the busybodies from making her life even worse. Piper is smart, beautiful and is the manager of the local chain drugstore. The O'Riley's are well known for being on one side of a family feud that has lasted many years. Her father lost their grocery store in a poker game decades ago and to this day, she has wanted to reclaim what she believes belongs to both her and her mother.

Cade Donovan is a former Marine that left Harmony Hills to start a new life as a rancher in Montana. He had to escape, because the gossip mill was running rampant and he was unable to get a handle on things. He is a handsome and charming man that plans on owning the Double K ranch in the very near future. Due to his grandfather's passing, Cade is back in town to fulfill the requirements of his last will and testament. His grandfather owned the local grocery store and his will states that both he and Piper must share the ownership

of the store for one year. Cade's grandfather was the other half of the family feud.

Piper and Cade make a great couple. Ms. Meier does a wonderful job of evolving their relationship from enemies, to friends, to lovers. Their connection is sexy and hot, and I loved how they communicated with each other, both in and out of the bedroom. I felt their love developing, and was cheering for them to be together from the moment I experienced their tangible chemistry. The grocery store conflict is quite fascinating, as each detail of the past gets discovered and unraveled. This is an engaging story about two people who find love by overcoming the many challenges both in the past and present.

Complimentary copy courtesy of the publisher via NetGalley.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4.5 STARS

Review copy provided for an honest review

This is the second book in Susan Meier's Donovan Brothers series and it is even better than the first. Harmony Hills bad boy returns for his brother's wedding and fall in lust with the town's "nutcase" runaway bride the minute he lays eye on her in the Health Aid Pharmacy. Their attraction is instant, it's evident, and they enjoy their little verbal foreplay until she realizes he's the man that left her best friend and at the altar and deserted her and their child and the man whose grandfather stole her family's business leading to a Hatfield/McCoy type of feud. To top it off his grandfather's will put them in each other's path for at least a year and trying to keep their relationship business proves to be much more difficult than they ever imagine. I really loved the way this story played out with two people who are suppose to hate each other finding that they really wanted each other fiercely. With both of them being the focus of town gossip for their past deeds they seem to understand each other fairly well and their attraction leads them to decide an affair wouldn't be the worst thing in the world. It was interesting watching them learn to not only work together but figure out how much they enjoyed spending time together as a couple. While Cade had no problem letting everyone know about their affair, Piper just couldn't face the gossip only it seemed it was one of the worst kept secrets in town.

Cade and his family were dealing with some issues that sent him running thinking he wasn't good enough for Piper but Piper show great strength and even put herself in a position to be gossiped about for years if things didn't work out and she found she was okay taking that risk because it was worth it.

Chasing The Runaway Bride was an entertaining enemies to lovers story and a fantastic addition to this series!

Mandy says

I had very high hopes for this book! The first book in this series, Her Summer with the Marine , blew me away. I was totally blown away by that book and I was really looking forward to more books in this series. Unfortunately, this book was just ok for me. I kept hoping that it would grab me by the throat and pull me

in and it never truly happened. The MCs didn't even really touch each other until around 50%. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm not asking for the MCs to be shoving their tongues down each other's throats at 10% in. But, the thing is, Piper and Cade had really great chemistry when they first meet and I thought there was a lot to work with there. And then, it was all about the grocery store, the family feud, and the two steps forward/one step back dance that they did around each other.

Did I enjoy it? Yes, I did. But it just had a hard time with everything that was going on in the town and the issues that both Piper and Cade had to deal with. It was just a lot to process I guess and it all seemed to come down around them at the same time. Not a bad book, it just didn't blow my skirt up like I had hoped it would.

Purchase Chasing the Runaway Bride : Amazon //B&N// iTunes

This review was originally posted on Straight Shootin' Book Reviews

Alycia says

Out today!!!! Grab it for 99 cents this week only! This is a fun, sexy enemies-to-lovers story.

Lee says

3.5 stars Cade returns to his home town of Harmony Hills for the reading of his grandfathers will and to look after his grandfathers store. He happens to walk in to where Piper is working and sparks fly between them. They don't initially recognise each other and unbeknownst to them, they are going to get way more than they bargained for with their flirtations. Piper is working at the local pharmacy and has strong family ties to Cade's family store, as her grandfather had owned it before he lost it to Cade's grandfather in a wager. For years Pipers family have resented Cade's family, always believing Cade's grandfather stole the shop from them. For years the secret and true nature of that wager has been kept hidden and when Cade's grandfathers will is read, requiring Cade and Piper to run the store together for 1 year or it will be forfeited, he vows to keep the shop in the family, honoring his grandfathers legacy, and to find the truth behind the rumors.

Piper had her reasons for disliking Cade and they ran deeper than the ownership of the corner store. She believed that he left her best friend at the altar and left their baby behind. Because of this, Piper had sworn off marriage and, in the couple of times that she had been engaged and ready to marry, she ran out on her husbands to be, earning herself a reputation as the town runaway bride. Although it took me a while to connect with Piper, I did end up liking her character. She seemed a bit naive and protected by her best friend and family but she did end up standing on her own and maturing. Cade, on the other hand, I connected with immediately and found his character easy to relate to. He had baggage of his own, much more than what he showed on the surface, and I liked how his character grew and developed. When their relationship started

heating up, you could feel the chemistry between them and I did like how they grew from a transient affair into a couple. I enjoyed seeing how they grew comfortable with each other and their feelings for each other moved into something deeper.

This was a quick and easy entertaining read for me and I enjoyed the plot and premise of the story. I liked the way the secrets were revealed and how the story played out. I read this book without realising it was the second in a series, but I didn't feel lost or if I had missed anything, but if you haven't read book 1 I would suggest starting there so you get more of a background. I will definitely be going back to read about Finn and Ellie.

copy kindly provided by Netgalley and the publisher/author

Samantha says

Cade Donovan is a man on the run. but he doesn't realize it. After everything his father has done to his mother and the gossip Harmony Hills has said about him. He wants away from it on his ranch in Montana. But when his grandfather dies, he has to come back and take charge.

Piper is known for not making down the isle. Is it because of her father? Not really caring for the men she was marrying? Whatever it is she's instantly attracted to cade the minute she sees him. That is until she realizes who he is. Their families have been feuding since her father lost his grocery store to Cade's grandfather 30 years ago.

Now they are forced to run it together. It's a fun read adn I really enjoyed it. the runaway bride and the groom who never made it down the isle. What kind of love story do they have?

Chrissy says

HOT MARINE TURNED COWBOY EQUALS HOT. This is a great read, this is a perfect romance novel. It's hot is based in a small town. Have to love these type of books. As a wife of a U.S. Marine veteran I highly recommend this book.
