



The Rancher's Runaway Princess

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Brooding ranch owner Brody Hamilton keeps his heart out of reach. But there's something about vivacious stable manager Lucy that brings joy to his hardened soul.

Lucy Farnsworth has just discovered she's of royal blood. She should be glad, but it has blown her world apart, and she finds herself just wanting to be the old Lucy again.

At Prairie Rose Ranch, Lucy's found the man who makes her feel she belongs. Only, she hasn't told him she's a princess....

The Rancher's Runaway Princess Details

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Author : Donna Alward

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From Reader Review The Rancher's Runaway Princess for online ebook

Susan says

Very good book. Lucy arrived at Prairie Rose Ranch to work out a deal with Brody for the king of Marazur. As far as Brody knew, she is simply the king's stable manager. Brody was drawn to her, but had had a bad experience with a woman and kept comparing Lucy to her. This caused him to be nice one minute, then cold the next. Meanwhile, Lucy was happy being on the ranch, around the horses and getting to know Brody. She had a chance to be the old Lucy, before she found out that she was a princess. When she and Brody grew closer, and he told her things about himself that he normally didn't share, she began to feel guilty about hiding her identity. She was afraid to tell him for fear of losing their friendship and budding relationship. When he did find out, the blow-up was painful and made me cry in several places.. The ending was very satisfying.

Nicole says

I enjoyed this book. Some moments were so entirely incredible. And yeah, I know this isn't exactly a part of the book, though it definitely plays out in it, Donna has a letter in the beginning that brought tears to my eyes. Loved it. I'm also wondering if there are going to be books/stories for the two brothers. Definitely piqued my interest.

Julie (jjmachshev) says

Reviewed for queuemyreview.com; book release Jan09

What girl didn't dream of having a pony of her own? Well, probably those who lived on a ranch...but other than those girls? And didn't we all at one point dream of finding out we were really a princess? (Fess up!) So take horses, lots of horses, add in a princess who's incognito, mix with a hunky rancher who's nursing some angst, and—voila! We have Donna Alward's Harlequin release "The Rancher's Runaway Princess".

Lucy just wants to be 'normal' again...well, whatever normal should be for her now. When her mother was diagnosed terminal, she dropped the bombshell about Lucy's father...the King! Then she made Lucy promise to 'give him and his family a chance'. So not long afterward Lucy, who always considered herself a middle-class, cup-of-tea-in-the-kitchen kind of gal, became Princess Luciana and since then, NOTHING in her life has 'fit'. She's angry with her mother for dying, angry with her father for deserting her mother, and angry with herself for feeling so lost. When her father offers her the opportunity to travel to Canada and check out a horse farm for possible stud/breeding purposes, Lucy is thrilled. Finally, something she knows how to do, is comfortable with, and can use to 'prove' herself to everyone. But just to be on the safe side...she'll just be Lucy, not Princess Luciana. Of course, she didn't count on falling in love.

Brody carries a world of burdens on his shoulders. First his father was horribly injured and his mother killed in a car wreck so he had to take over the ranch. Then he found out a silent partner had embezzled most of the

ranch's profits. And finally, his excuse of a wife left him once the troubles began. Since then, he's worked himself to the bone bringing the ranch back to stability. But he's never forgotten his lesson...rich, flashy girls don't belong on a ranch and there's no such thing as love. Of course, Brody didn't count on meeting Lucy.

This was a sweet, almost fairytale, and definitely G-rated romance. And even though the plot had several overused contrivances, Alward managed to make the story readable. She describes her stories as 'feel good romances' and this one, at least, filled the bill. Her descriptions of Canada were beautifully detailed and made me want to visit. My only real beef with the story is the myriad of 'angsty' elements used. It was hard not to feel sorry for the hero and heroine as it seemed nothing good had ever happened in their lives--dead mothers, absent/very ill fathers, embezzlement, broken marriage, etc. And all these things were overcome in just a few days! I just couldn't buy it, and probably because this was a Harlequin Romance, I also didn't feel any sexual tension between the hero and heroine...but that's just my take.

"The Rancher's Runaway Princess" is a very sweet story targeted to a specific readership. There's nothing wrong with that...it's just not my thing. But I do know plenty of readers will find great enjoyment reading Donna Alward's latest release.

Sylvie says

A cute story with a few twists but predictable. An enjoyable read

Lilly Cain says

Lucy Farnsworth has lost her balance. Her roots have been heaved up with the loss of her mother and the discovery that her father is actually alive and the monarch of a far away country. Joining him as Princess is a promise she made to her mother, but her heart yearns for something simpler, something pure. Only in the company of horses does she find some solace. In desperation to prove herself to her father, she embarks on a journey to enrich her father's royal stables by making an agreement with a successful ranch owner in Canada. The difficulty lies in working with Brody Hamilton, the ranch's owner. He's sexy, moody, and confusing.

Brody's life has been anything but easy and he resents the people that play "princess" – his ex wife taught him that lesson all too well, abandoning him in the darkest time of his life. With the loss of his family, Brody took on the ranch by himself. Now he has an opportunity to really put it on the map – an agreement with a Royal stable. But the negotiation isn't easy when the beautiful woman sent by the King is clearly hiding something. He can't bring himself to trust another princess.

In keeping her identity secret, Lucy engages Brody's suspicions. In turn he hides his difficulties from her. As the two work out their differences, they also find a sense of belonging, a bond that blooms with sensuality and finally love.

This book has a lovely flow to it – it pulls you along with the evolution of the characters in a way that leaves you with a smile on your face. Well written and descriptive, this book is a wonderful weekend read.

Michaela says

It was ok and a quick read but it never really felt like anything was happening in regards to the reason she was at the ranch in the first place. She could literally have been on holiday. The ending was rushed too, like the author had just realised that she had 2 chapters left and the couple wasn't together yet.

Sheila Melo says

FINAL DECISION: Nice story, but it was uneven. I liked the second half much more than the first half.

THE STORY: Lucy Farnsworth has come to Canada to check out a horse farm for the royal family of Marazur. She becomes attracted to rancher Brody Hamilton, but Lucy is keeping a secret. She is actually Princess Luciana, the daughter of the King of Marazur. Lucy discovered this only as her mother was dying and Lucy has had her world turned upside down. Her father has offered her the opportunity to perform this task in order to give herself some space from her new life. But as she falls for Brody, her deception becomes more of a problem.

OPINION: The story here was nice and for those who are looking for a sweet read, this is a nice one. For me, however, I want more passion between the characters. Both Brody and Lucy are too nice. Their conflicts didn't feel like they were something that could not be overcome.

Brody is a brooding and hurt man. He has been burned before so as he becomes more and more attracted to Lucy, he acts out in response. Lucy is confused about her own life and she is keeping the secret of her true identity as a princess. (Thus, it is perfectly reasonable that Brody doesn't trust her).

I'm not against sweet books without sex, but I didn't think there was enough emotional passion to keep the story going. Rather, the story is premised primarily on the secrets that both Brody and Lucy are keeping.

The story picked up in the second half and if the entire book was as compelling as the first half, I would have given it a better rating. I thought in the second half as the two get closer, there was a more interesting and personal story.

I liked this story but there was not enough meat here to make this a book that I will think about in a month. Rather, this is a sweet one time read.

WORTH MENTIONING: This is definitely a book in the sweet category. There is nothing more than kissing between the characters.

CONNECTED BOOKS: THE RANCHER'S RUNAWAY PRINCESS is the first book in the Larch Valley series. It is also the prequel to the Princes of Marazur series.

STAR RATING: I give this book 2.5 stars. This review was originally posted on Top10RomanceBooks.com

?°•.. Jillie Anne ..•°? says

The princess plot is not one of my favorites, however the writing is enjoyable.

Cecelia says

Its alright... a little fantastical but...

Paula says

this was a sweet story, better than I had expected. it was a quick HEA and sometimes I just need that in between heavy reads.

Fedora says

Enjoyable introduction to Larch Valley and a new series.

Solid characters, although slight minus points for lack of communication :)

Jules says

I'm still trying to figure out why the heroine likes the hero. Brody seemed to be looking for a target for his unresolved anger at his ex and Lucy walked away from almost every encounter with him with her feelings hurt. Then there's the whole insta-love gimmick. Basically, if you love your hero to be cranky and your heroine a door mat and for their relationship to be developed through arguments and cold shoulders, this is the book for you. Definitely not my cup of tea.

Lou Anne says

2.5
