



The Cowboy Who Got Away

Nancy Robards Thompson

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From homecoming crowns to wedding rings

Hunky bull rider Jude Campbell seems to have the world by the proverbial horns. But when the world champion returns to Celebration for his high school reunion, he's confronted by the ghosts he'd worked so hard to forget. Not to mention the high school love who got away...

Bridezilla wrangler Juliette Lowell is as gorgeous and genuine as she was as Jude's homecoming queen. And the spark between them burns as bright as ever. But Jules still smarts from Jude's betrayal years before. And as successful as he seems, Jude's struggling with the prospect of hanging up his spurs. But with his queen, Juliette, by his side, maybe this homecoming will take once and for all...

The Cowboy Who Got Away Details

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From Reader Review The Cowboy Who Got Away for online ebook

Jennifer Schultheis says

Nancy Robards Thompson easily captured my attention with her new release, The Cowboy Who Got Away. It's a second chance romance that will have rooting for the characters right from the beginning. A bull rider and a bridezilla wrangler cross paths again and this time, maybe they'll realize it's fate.

Jude left town for the rodeo circuit ten years ago and Juliette went to school and made a name for herself in the wedding business. They used to be high school sweethearts who were in love, but life has a way of catching you off balance and taking you in a different direction. Now both of them are in Celebration at the same time and it's time for them to figure out some things, especially since their spark is still there.

This author did a wonderful job at putting a lot of emotion into her story. Second chance romances are usually a hit or miss for me and this one hit all the right buttons. If you're in the mood for a realistic second chance romance, with plenty of feeling, grab this book as soon as you can!

Becky says

Another book in the Celebration series tells about the renegade Campbell brother Jude, who left right 10 years ago to get away from his father and to prove himself as a bull rider. After injuring himself, he has returned to Celebration to heal and reassess his future. Especially after crossing paths with his old high school true love Juliette Lowell. Juliette has made a name for herself as an exclusive wedding planner. She has never found anyone to love like Jude, so after 10 years when he walks into the Wedding Barn, her heart and pass feelings do a somersault. I liked how the author brought back the characters from the other books and how she goes back in time to really get the reader up to speed on journey Jude and Juliette have been on to get where they on. A story of second chances, love, romance, acceptance and forgiveness. Another great book in this short series. It just makes me want more and more.

****I voluntarily reviewed an Advance Reader Copy of this book****

Kerry Croucier says

Juliette Lowell has made a name for herself as a Wedding Planner extraordinaire, but lately has been questioning whether she wants to continue on her career path. When her High School sweetheart comes home to Celebration, she realizes that maybe it's time to make a change. When Jude Campbell left Celebration 10 years ago to become a Professional Bull Rider, he left the love of his life behind. Now, a year after winning the Championship, he has some decisions to make. Now that he's seen Juliette, he wonders if maybe they might have a second chance.

These two characters have so much love and history, embracing a second chance means dealing with the past and the reasons they separated. It also means that a future means dealing with some of the same issues. Jude and Juliette are two characters that were separated by life and misunderstandings, and despite the change and growth through 10 years, it is obvious there is still a strong connection, they both just have to be

open to doing what it takes to be happy.
A quick read with wonderfully fun characters!

Angela Crockett says

I enjoyed my visit to Celebration, TX. Jude Campbell is the cowboy who got away and Juliette Lowell was the girl who lost him. It's the classic young lovers story who didn't stay together after high school. Juliette has turned into a Bridezilla specialist and just as I was wondering how she manages to deal with the overly emotional brides, I realize she learned from dealing with her mother. Jude however has more baggage than he realizes. Just because he is the reigning World Champion Bull Rider doesn't make things easier on the relationship front. I enjoyed my visit to Celebration, TX and I highly recommend that your readers out there read this story too!

Susan Gorman says

Juliette Lowell has appeared in several of Nancy Robards Thompson's Celebration books and I was thrilled to read her story. As a popular wedding consultant, she creates magical weddings for her clients. However, Juliette has dealt with one too many demanding bridezillia and is growing tired of travelling that her job entails. Jude Campbell overhears Juliette talking to herself in her office at the Campbell Wedding Barn after a client meeting and asks about the situation. Juliette is surprised to see her high school boyfriend after ten years. Jude has left the bull riding circuit because he has suffered a concussion; he's spending time at home and looking to rekindle his relationship with Juliette.

Nancy Robards Thompson perfectly balances the present attraction between Jude and Juliette with the couple's need to sort through their past break up. As a reader, I could relate to Juliette. Her relationship with Jude meant everything to her and it took her a long time to get over him. Can she trust him? The author is spot on with the emotional poignant conversations between the couple. Jude opens up to Juliette about his relationship with his father, self-doubts and current career situation. Will he choose love or his career?

Several contemporary themes are woven in this tender, sexy story. Jude was very open about the concussions that he suffered while pursuing the bull riding championship. The concussion protocol is something all athletes should adhere to. Ms. Thompson did a fantastic job bringing this element into the storyline. Loved that Jude and Juliette danced to Blake Shelton's Mine Would Be You at the reunion. The dance scene was superbly written and each one of the author's words described the love that Jude and Juliette shared as well as the heartache they felt. Jude over hears that Juliette has been offered a job based in London; this leads to a huge misunderstanding between them. Can Jude and Juliette work through this situation.

I loved the conclusion of the novel—it's full of love, understanding and a teensy piece of irony which I loved! And it works perfectly for this couple!

Deanna Vrba says

Juliette Lowell was a bridezilla wrangler and when a guy from her past walked back in town in the form of Jude Campbell, she realize that something life give you a second chance at a first love. she was determine not to let him get away a second time. now if only she could get over her fears of having her heart broken . this character Juliette is alike like me. she was scared to take another chance.

Cindy says

This is the third book in the Celebration, TX series, but can be read as a stand-alone. The author, Nancy Robards Thompson, does a wonderful job on giving you the back-story of the main characters and others who were introduced in previous books.

I really enjoyed this story about high school sweethearts who meet again at their ten-year reunion. Juliette Lowell had gone away to college in London, while Jude Campbell traveled the circuit as a bull rider. They've each made names for themselves, she as a popular wedding consultant, and he as a Professional Bull Riders (PBR) World Champion. Even so, they are both at a crossroads.

Everyone in town still sees them as a couple, as Homecoming King and Queen from ten years ago, even as they've tried to move on, emotionally and now physically. Juliette always wanted to design clothes, so is thinking of selling her business. Jude wants to continue riding, but after several concussions, his life could be in danger if he doesn't quit. They separately realize the reason they never found another love was because they never got over their love for each other, but don't know how they can plan a future the way things are. It's interesting to watch how they resolve their problems in this story about misunderstandings, second chances, and love.

This book was given to me free of charge and without compensation by the author in return for an honest review.

Lynn Brooks says

When love reunites, it's beautiful to see! With the next book in the Celebration, TX series, we get the renegade Campbell sibling's story! Jude left town to hit the rodeo circuit 10 years ago and never looked back ... or so it seemed! Crossing paths with his high school sweetheart at Ethan & Chelsea's wedding a few months ago after all of those years apart really got him to thinking ... and when an injury took him out of the running for the year, he could think of no better place to visit than home!

Juliette Lowell might have gone away to school all those years ago, but her heart never ventured far from Celebration, and she soon came home and created a successful wedding planning business. She's feeling unsatisfied though, and part of that has always been because of an unsatisfying love life. She tried to get over Jude after he moved on all those years ago, but no one ever quite measured up to the boy that stole her heart as a teenager.

Jude Campbell happens back into town just as their ten year high school reunion is ramping up, and it's kind

of fun to look back and recreate some of their memories from when they were homecoming king and queen together. He's at a crossroads in his career and wishing for something more ... she's also looking to be more satisfied with her life -- maybe reconnecting and rekindling the love neither of them was ever able to bury will be the answer??

Jess Lawson says

The Cowboy Who Got Away is the third book in the Celebration, Texas mini series by Nancy Robards Thompson. If you have not gotten the chance to visit Celebration, Texas I suggest you do today! I have loved all three visit's to the precious town. The Cowboy Who Got Away is a second chance romance. Jude and Juliette are high school sweethearts. They are absolutely precious and have the typical stubborn issues that push each other away but yet pull each other back at the same time. I couldn't put this book down.

Jude is a World Champion bull rider. Jude comes home to take care of a few issues and possibly be able to move forward with his life. Then he gets roped into reunion activities. I mean what is a high school reunion without prom king. He doesn't exactly hate the idea of spending time with his prom queen.

Juliette is a small town wedding coordinator. She happens to do a lot of business with Jude's sister Lucy as she owns the wedding venue in town. She is also on the reunion committee, so when her prom king comes to town she can't let him break her heart again. He may take part of her with him when he lives.

Nancy Luebke says

I enjoyed this cowboy romance, however I felt there were a lot of mixed signals. I received this as a gift and voluntarily chose to review it. I've given it a 4.5* rating. First of all, I can understand how there were a lot of mixed signals. By the end, I could understand part of the why. There was a lot happening on the sidelines. They let each other get away once, would they let it happen again? It was a interesting ending.

Julie Eichelberger-Ford says

The Cowboy Who Got Away is another installment of the Celebration, Texas series and the stories just keep getting better. This is a story of a second chance at a first love. Jude and Juliette were high school sweethearts but graduation and issues with their families separated them. Their love has never waned but some of the issues that originally separated them are still causing problems with them reconnecting. They must resolve the past in order to have a future.

Monique says

Juliette Lowell, a wedding planner, was having a bad day with a hysterical bridezilla, then she sees that Jude Campbell is back in town. They had seen each other briefly three months before, but it had been ten years since their break-up: Juliette had gone to college in Scotland and Jude began his career as a professional bull fighter. Jude is back home in Celebration, Texas, for a few weeks, the time to assess his future. It's taking

him longer this time to recover from his injuries, but he should tough it out one more year on the circuit, could he afford to retire from bull riding now? Does he even want to? He has never stopped loving Juliette, but what about her? It had never seemed the right time for them to be together...

THE COWBOY WHO GOT AWAY is small town romance at its finest. Neither Juliette nor Jude jumped to any conclusion, whether regarding the past or the present. They are still very much attracted to each other, but there is no resentment, no harsh words, no miscommunication; they are very realistic about their situation, which doesn't seem to have changed much in some ways: Juliette still refuses to go on the road with him, as she did in the past, but Jude is at a crossroads; he simply doesn't know what to do with his life anymore. I really enjoyed that it was more than picking up where they left off: their lives had changed in those ten years, and that's what they had to evaluate, especially Jude. They had to look at who they were now, at what they wanted, and if there was a way they could make it work, and if they still wanted to make it work.

THE COWBOY WHO GOT AWAY is one of those very rare books with a second-chance trope that had me really wondering what they should do, what they would do. There was a lot of introspection from both characters. I expected a light, frothy little romance, and what I got was a smart, adult story featuring intelligent people who are willing to listen and talk about what ails them. It's a very quick read, very well written, with no bumps whatsoever, and with a most excellent ending that left me entirely satisfied. Extremely well done!

I voluntarily reviewed an advanced reader copy of this book.

Fran says

I normally like 2nd chance stories but this one didn't work for me. Why? Because H & h were very much in love when they were in highschool (they both lost their virginity to each other) and then one day after he fought with his Father and got a beating, Jude asked Jules to marry and run away with him. She said she couldn't RIGHT NOW (not ever!) because she had gotten a college scholarship and he wanted her to drop everything (her dreams, family, etc) to run away with him. He ends up leaving h and she goes on to college but 3 months later, Jude returns home for Christmas, newly engaged. Jules saw him kissing his fiancée and couldn't believe he had moved on so quickly with someone else after he had professed his love and asked her to marry him. She had come home because she missed him & changed her mind and was going to run away with him. But after seeing him with someone else, heartbroken she left without him ever seeing her. 10 years later, they see each other again and when she tells him how much it hurt that he got engaged and moved on so quickly, there is no apology or grovelling on his part. He just states that the ex-fiancée whom he never married was a "rebound". Yeah right....Then there is the part where he says internally that he hooks up with "rodeo groupies" regularly because he is after all single & horny, yet when heroine questions him, he claims he "doesn't have time". Then when a teenager asks for his autograph on her chest, he feels embarrassed to do so in front of Jules but not so embarrassed when she is not there (which he did regularly in all body parts). So while others may like this one, for me it was DNR. I didn't feel any connection or chemistry with the characters - especially with Jude. The romance seemed forced somehow and Jude just kept coming across as a whining looser, selfish & needy. The fact that he couldn't comprehend how he had hurt Jules by not only breaking up with her because he expected her to give up all her dreams & hopes for him, but also with how quickly he moved on with someone else! His only excuse/explanation was that the OW was "not her" and that they (Jules & Jude) "weren't ready to be together back then. Huh? Why did he ask Jules & OW to marry

him if he wasn't ready? Also, when they saw each other again after 10 years, he tells her that if she didn't show up in the restaurant when he asked her out, he would never bother her again and would move on. Yep. I like my H to grovel and redeem themselves. This one did neither and never once attempted to contact her in all the years they were separated. Even when a year prior he saw her at his Brother's wedding, he never tried to pursue her. Hence why I couldn't get into this story because H was too much of a wimp for me and h was all too forgiving. If she had not given in so quickly and made him work for it, I may have given it 3-4 stars. As it is, I want my money back!

Sue Stewart says

As I opened this book it was with a huge smile on my face and a happy fluttering in my heart. WHY? Because I was returning to my family in Celebration, TX.

I love watching bull riding competitions, so that being Jude Campbell's profession was a pleasantly unexpected bonus to the story.

Juliette and Jade were definitely meant to get a second chance at making their relationship work - they were the perfect example that sometimes love, by itself, is just not enough . How I loved their journey to see if they could make it work. Plot twists and turns, family (both supportive and some, not so much!) - it all contributed to an amazingly outstanding book!

Have truly enjoyed each book in the series and always look forward to the next. Both the characters and the storyline captivate me right from the start and never let me go. As I said at the beginning - Family!!!!

"If you can't count on family, who can you count on?"

Judy Rudy says

The Cowboy Who Got Away is the third book in Nancy Robards Thompson's Celebration, TX series. I love reading stories about second chances and this was definitely did not disappoint. From the outset of the book, I was drawn into the characters. We're first introduced to Juliette Lowell when she's forced to deal with an unruly bride. And then right after that, she's confronted with Jude Campbell her high school sweetheart that broke her heart. I so enjoyed watching these two reconnect after ten long years. Of course right when we think they're on the path to forever a misunderstanding threatens their happily ever after. The Cowboy Who Got Away kept me turning the pages to see what would happen next. I thoroughly enjoyed it and highly recommend it. I received an advanced copy which I voluntarily read and reviewed. This is my true and honest opinion.
