



## Cowboy Christmas

*Mary Connealy*

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## **Cowboy Christmas** Mary Connealy

Get ready for a fun and suspenseful Christmastime romance. Trouble follows singer Annette Talbot to Wyoming—and rancher Elijah Walker finds himself directly in its path. Though still wounded by the betrayal of his ex-fiancée, Elijah finds himself attracted to the secretive singer. When it appears Annie is a threat to his mother's life, Elijah must decide if Annie's deep faith and love of God is genuine or if it's all just a ruse. He decides to trust her—until he discovers she's a wanted woman. As Christmas draws near, will Elijah respond to God's gentle persuasion to find the truth before he loses Annie forever?

## **Cowboy Christmas Details**

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Author : Mary Connealy

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## From Reader Review Cowboy Christmas for online ebook

### Lori says

Cowboy Christmas was not at all what I expected. Honestly, it took me awhile to read it. I picked it up, and put it down, quite a few times before I finally finished it. That's highly unusual for Mary's books...normally I devour them in one sitting. I don't know why it didn't hold my attention as much as her other books, such as, Montana Rose, which I absolutely loved! (my review here) That being said, Cowboy Christmas is not a bad book, it just didn't draw me in for some reason. I have been having a hard time getting into my normal reading mood this past week, so maybe it's me, and not the book at all. If you find this book appealing, by all means, pick up a copy and read it for yourself. I plan to read it again later on, and see if I feel differently.

The character of Ruby Walker was my favorite. I loved her gritty determination, and loyalty to her son, as well as her friends and ranch hands. She also stayed true to God through all of her trials and heart-break. She took Annie under her wing from the very beginning, and didn't waver in her belief of Annie's innocence...even when her own son had plenty of doubts.

Elijah and Annie's journey to find each other is a long and difficult one; hindered by many feelings of self-doubt, untrustworthy feelings, and heartrending grief. In the end, they come to the conclusion that with God, all things truly are possible.

\*I purchased this book myself on eBay, and will be passing it on to my Mom\*

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### Janna says

Have I ever mentioned how much I enjoy Mary Connealy's books? She is one of only a handful of authors where I feel that if they write a book, I must buy it. Period. Everything she writes brings me joy and makes me laugh, and in today's society I'll take my laughs anyway I can get them... so bring on Mary's new book!

Cowboy Christmas is her new stand alone book and it is great. Two broken, hurting people meet on a stagecoach where sass and sparks fly, but roles are laid out. Annie is the innocent young woman setting herself up for disappointment as she travels back home to her father after years away and is hoping for a happy ending. Elijah is the rancher that is recovering from his father's death a year ago at the hands of his then fiancee who is now languishing in prison. He has lost his faith, is full of guilt and to top it off he is now falling into the role of protector over this young thing that he knows is going to be heart broken when she gets out to her father's ranch.

Annie is hiding some secrets of her own (a boatload of them really) and is being tracked by some people that do not have good intentions for her. Can Elijah protect her when she doesn't want protecting and can he save his heart from hurt again? In typical Mary style, we travel the road to the answers with many smiles along the way. I will add this book to my Mary Connealy shelf and at the rate that she writes, it will be full very soon!

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## **Nora St Laurent says**

I read the title of this book and plunged in, thinking I might read about a cowboy Christmas. What does that look like? If you are looking for the answer to that question you won't find it here. What you will find is one wild, action filled adventure story, cowboy style. I'm so glad I received a review copy of this book.

Mary Connealy doesn't hold back in this Christmas tale, get a grip on your seat belt when you start reading this book. On the first page there's fist fighting, gun slinging and everything breaking loose at the seams. I've read some of Mary's other books and they are a hoot. This one's no exception.

Mary usually has at least one character in her stories that just gets under your skin, in this book it's Annette Talbot, her main character. Annette is the smartest dumb person I've read about. She's a strong willed, stubborn young lady that doesn't know when to give up when the getting's good! Ha! Ha!

Elijah the other leading character is crazed by Annette and her ways. He's fed up with her and her stubborn streak. Why won't she just listen to reason? After all he was the man and knew about things out in the west. Elijah thinks this about Annette, "even if he couldn't quite pin down Annette's lies, he knew for a fact she was a full-blown idiot. She'd pretty much only survived this long through direct, miraculous intervention from God. A woman shouldn't need a miracle a day to stay alive. Not even God had time for that nonsense. A person needed some survival skills and Annette had none."

Annette did trust God with her life how did she end up in such a mess? Hadn't she heard and followed his lead?

If you are looking for a cozy, warm and fuzzy Christmas story you won't find it here. What you will find are every loveable, characters like Ruby Elijah's mother who loves the Lord with all her heart and her son knows that and so does Annette.

Ruby takes a liking to Annette and tries to do a little match making. She tells Elijah to lighten up in regards to giving Annette a bad time. It's almost Christmas they have to enjoy the time they have and forgive. They all had a past they needed to get unstuck from, so they can enjoy the future. Don't miss another wild adventure from Mary, it's guaranteed a good time, with a good message just in time for Christmas.

### Disclosure of Material Connection:

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising"

Nora St.Laurent

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The Book Club Network blog [www.psalm516.blogspot.com](http://www.psalm516.blogspot.com)

Book Fun Magazine [www.bookfunmagazine.com](http://www.bookfunmagazine.com)

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## **Ruth says**

Have you ever seen or read a melodrama? The only one that comes to my mind is "Snidley Whiplash" which was one of the continuing features on The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show I used to watch as a kid. The main characteristic of a melodrama is that everything is exaggerated; the heroes are very good and the villains are awful, with no redeeming characteristics. Mary Connealy's *Cowboy Christmas* is a melodrama. The heroine, Annette Talbot, was a singer with a travelling gospel show. The managers retired and a new crew took over. She discovered they weren't good Christians, and were actually using the show as a front for gambling. At that time they also told her she was going to wear an indecent dress and sing bawdy songs. She wants to leave, but is going to stay to protect the elderly organ player. However, after a beating, the organ player came to her, said her heart was giving out, and encouraged her to run away, and gave her some money. She ran back to her father's ranch, which she found abandoned. The bad guys were on her heels, they wanted her beautiful voice as a draw. She meets a lonesome cowboy who a few months ago discovered that his fiancee murdered his father. The cowboy and his mother take her in, but the bad guys are not far behind. Will this virtuous maiden escape the dastardly villain? You'll have to read the book to answer that question.

The book is Christian fiction, and like the plot and characters, the faith elements are melodramatic. The hero lost his faith as a result of watching his father die due to the actions of his fiancee. The heroine prays constantly, and dramatically. When the heroine and the hero's mom meet, faith is the first thing they discuss. By the end of the book, the hero's faith is restored.

This book was amusing in its own way, but I preferred *Montana Rose* and *Gingham Mountain*.

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### **Carolyn Tye says**

Such a fun feel good read.

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### **Tamara Tilley says**

Though the title is a bit misleading, *COWBOY CHRISTMAS* was another enjoyable read from Mary Connealy.

Annette Talbot finds herself in a world of trouble, far from the traveling missionary troupe she sings with. When a deceptive and swindling Claude and Blanche Leveque take over the troupe and decide Annette is going to sing bar tunes and dress provocatively, Annette has no choice but to run. She finds herself headed home on a stage to Ranger Bluff. Elijah Walker is also on the stage, and though stinging from his own tragedies, it seems he finds himself drawn to the little songbird, even against his better judgment. When Annette's hermit father is nowhere to be found, she decides to settle in on the family ranch and wait for him to show up. Unfortunately, it's the Leveque's that show up and chase her from her home. Annette has a near tragic accident and finds herself once again in the care of Elijah Walker and his nurturing mother. Elijah has no intentions of letting the beautiful Annette Talbot into his heart. His heart has other ideas.

*COWBOY CHRISTMAS* has action, adventure, tenderness, and a large helping of stubbornness. All together it makes for a wonderful read set in the great outdoors. Don't let the title discourage you. This is not a holiday novel, just down home good reading.

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### **Nicole says**

This story combined action, suspense, humor, romance and Christmas as only Mary Connealy could tell. Loved it!

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### **SheLove2Read says**

Mary Connealy has become one of my "auto buy" authors and this book proves why. Great characters, good storyline and nothing unbelievable or far fetched - just a feel good Christian romance.

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### **Nicole says**

I love Mary Connealy's westerns. I love the abrupt writing style that she uses to draw her readers into the rugged period of cowboys, ranchers, gunfights, horses, and (if it's one of Mary's books) many comical twists and turns. I love her humor.

Elijah Walker wasn't my favorite hero, but I did like his sweetness and protective nature. Annie was adorable (even if she was a bit confused).

This was such a fun holiday read, and I'm so glad I got it in time to read for Christmas!

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### **Deanne Patterson says**

Full of rip roaring action and surprises right up until the last page. Great!

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### **Julie says**

How willing are you to pick up your cross DAILY and live for the Lord? Annette was willing to do this and then some! Lost in a world of what she thought was a great mission work, Annette soon learns that not everyone who says they are believers really are. Claude and Blanche let her know that pretty quickly.

Annette isn't about to let these two bring her down and ruin her faith. With a tragic situation on hand, Annette finally chooses to escape her current situation and try to better herself.

She's been away from home for six years and Annette is ready to see the ranch and Pa. Several of the townsfolk try to warn her about her ranch and what she may or may not see. Most townsfolk aren't fond of Pa. Little does Annette know, this is yet another cross to pick up and carry.

This book has several tragic starts but has a heartwarming lesson about sticking to the faith and doing what is right. Annette solely leans on the Lord and brings a cowboy to a new found version of life with crosses.

This was my first read by Mary Connealy. I've seen many reviews for her other works and when I saw this on netgalley.com, I couldn't pass it up! I'm so glad that I didn't! She is now on my list of authors to read more

of! Coincidentally, I have 3 other books of hers sitting next to me as I write this!

Be sure to check out this great read when it is released on Sept. 1!

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### **Moaning says**

I enjoy Mary Connealy's christian fiction. This one was a little different with a protagonist who wanted desperately to live boldly for God but who didn't seem to be able to make good decisions.

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### **Lorraine says**

**SUMMARY:** Get ready for a fun and suspenseful Christmastime romance. Trouble follows singer Annette Talbot to Wyoming—and rancher Elijah Walker finds himself directly in its path. Though still wounded by the betrayal of his ex-fiancée, Elijah finds himself attracted to the secretive singer. When it appears Annie is a threat to his mother's life, Elijah must decide if Annie's deep faith and love of God is genuine or if it's all just a ruse. He decides to trust her—until he discovers she's a wanted woman. As Christmas draws near, will Elijah respond to God's gentle persuasion to find the truth before he loses Annie forever?

**REVIEW:** This was a fun, adventuresome Christmas read with some happenings that were a bit of a stretch of the imagination and some villains who were a little over the top. In spots the events seemed a bit melodramatic. I liked the developing relationship between Elijah and Annette as well as their growing relationship with Christ. Ma was a sweetheart who displayed her strong and fearless faith which helped both Elijah and Annette see the need to overcome their fears. Loved the theme of God walking with us through the evil that is around us each and every day. Overall, an enjoyable Christmas read.

**FAVORITE QUOTES:** "I don't think you need to pray for crosses. This life is hard enough without praying God will make it more difficult."

"But if a person couldn't cry over losing a pa, then there was no reason for God to have even invented tears."

"None of us deserves a thing Annie. None of us deserves love or forgiveness or food or a warm house. We're all born into trouble, as the sparks fly upward. We are living on the sole mercy of God."

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### **Kav says**

This is the first Mary Connealy book I ever read and I revisit it every Christmas because I love it that much! Annie and Elijah's story has become a holiday tradition in my house.

I love this author's unique style and quick wit. Her deadpan humour cracks me up every single time. And her characters explode off the page and keep me grinning and fuming the whole read through. When it comes to this hero and heroine, stubbornness abounds, complicating the path to a happily ever after. Lots of scope for plenty of reader angst. And the villains are truly dastardly and conniving. Even more reader angst. But I think tough-as-nails-with-a-heart-of-gold Ma might just outshine them all. A rollicking Christmas read!

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## Rochelle says

Alas, I did not like this book.

### List of Cons:

There was SOooo much crying in this book! The female lead **could not** keep it together!

She was trying incessantly to be brave, and in so doing was **constantly** putting herself in harms way, and therefore constantly needing to be saved. She kept trying not to be a burden but through her constant illogical actions, she was constantly a burden.

The male lead used the term "pretty" WAY too many times. It made him sound oafish.

This book felt like something that could have easily been a small novella, but Ms. Connealy had stretched the living daylights out of the story. Leading to whole chapters just being taken up by stupid arguments e.g. "I'm going to town" - "No. You're not." - "Yes. I am." - "No." - "Yes." - "No." etc. with a bunch of connector words peppered in between.

It would be pages later and I would be like "What? didn't they decide this 6 pages ago??"

Eh. It was so monotonous!

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