



Her Colorado Sheriff

Patricia Thayer

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SAFE IN HIS ARMS

Shelby Townsend and her orphaned five-year-old nephew have escaped to Hidden Springs, Colorado, leaving plenty of pain behind. New job, new home—a new start is just what they both need. Until a very delicious complication walks into her life. Sheriff Cullen Brannigan.

Cullen assumes he'll miss the hustle and bustle of his big-city life when he's forced to take a break from his job with the Denver police force. But he's surprised how much two complete strangers, who just happen to be living on his ranch, make him want to stick around. Because behind Shelby's protective shell is a tempting vulnerability that inspires a promise in him—to keep Shelby and her nephew safe at any cost.

Her Colorado Sheriff Details

Date : Published January 1st 2017 by Harlequin Western Romance

ISBN :

Author : Patricia Thayer

Format : Kindle Edition 224 pages

Genre : Romance

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From Reader Review Her Colorado Sheriff for online ebook

Brenda says

3.75 **

This was a nice, low-angst read with extremely likeable MCs and supporting characters.

Cullen who was a detective with the Denver police force for ten years had a bad year when he was framed and indicted for taking bribes just when he was very close to shutting down a big drug dealing ring. What shocked him the most was not his colleagues not helping in clearing his name, but that his own father who was in a more senior position had distanced himself from his son and did nothing to help him. Seeing him so angry and upset even after his name was cleared and he was reinstated back into the force, his older step-brother, Trent, prods him into taking the interim sheriff's position of their town for a change.

Shelly's sister, Georgia, was relocating along with her five month old son, Ryan, from Kentucky to Hidden Springs to escape her abusive ex-boyfriend, a crooked cop, and Shelly was to go with her, but the day they were to leave, Georgia is murdered and Shelly is sure that it was the ex-boyfriend who murdered, but since he was a cop, and had support of his colleagues, she was told it was a burglar who murdered her. Moreover, the cop suspected Georgia had given something to Shelly that would land him into trouble with the law and he wanted it from Shelly. Fearing danger to hers and Ryan's lives Shelly flees to Hidden Springs as planned earlier, but finds that the job and the house that was offered to her sister wasn't available anymore.

However, Cullen, who has now inherited the ranch where Georgia was supposed to work, offers her a cottage on the ranch to live. There is instant attraction between the two and Cullen finds himself wanting to help Shelly in whatever way possible. When he got to know she was a sous chef, he put in a word at the local diner for the chef's job for her. Ryan too, who has nightmares about the abuse his mother had gone through, finds comfort in Cullen's presence. Shelly is constantly living in fear that her sister's ex would find them and being distrustful of cops, she hides it from Cullen, little knowing that he'd already done his search and found out her sister had been murdered. But, he didn't know Shelly suspected the crooked cop of murdering her sister. Both, believing their stay in Hidden Springs is temporary, decide not to take their attraction any further but struggle with it.

Shelly and Ryan are warmly accepted by the community of Hidden Springs especially by Cullen's family - Trent and his wife Brooke --the MCs of book one in the series and Brooke's twin, Laurel and her husband Kase (MCs of book2). Even though Trent and Cullen were step-brothers --Cullen's father was married to Trent's mother-- the two were very close. I liked the friendly banter between them. Cullen's mother was also very sweet to Cullen and his twin, Austin and when she died, she left the ranch to all three brothers.

It seems Trent (I loved the guy as much as Cullen) is determined to make Cullen put down roots in Hidden Springs like him and soon Cullen finds he's boarding older horses, then giving riding lessons to Ryan and gradually to the friends Ryan makes in his new school at the same time fighting to earn respect of his colleagues at the Sheriff's office and the community who are loyal to their sheriff who's temporarily out of commission because of a heart attack. Cullen's father too has retired from the force and come to stay with him and he has to find a way to forgive his father. I liked how they all find their way to each other and come together to help the community like building a ramp so that children with disabilities would be able to mount horses and ride.

Since both Cullen and Shelly were hesitant to start a relationship because of their temporary stay in Hidden Springs, the romance was bit slow in places but you could feel both were very much into each other. Soon, the thought about leaving was not making them happy and eventually they succumb to their desire for one another. The end was very nice and also the epilogue. I would like to catch up with the other books in the series, especially Trent's book.

Overall, it was a sweet, heartwarming, small town romance.

Julie (Manga Maniac Cafe) says

3.75 stars

After Shelby's sister is murdered by her ex, a cop, she flees Kentucky with her nephew, Ryan. She discovers that the job she was expecting to have is no more, and that the housing that came with the job is also gone. Instead, ends up in the house Cullen just inherited. Thankfully, he's a reasonable guy and offers to rent the cottage out back to Shelby. With his help, she also lands a job in town. But can she trust him? Cullen is the temporary sheriff in a small Colorado town, and Shelby is terrified that her sister's murderer will track her down.

This is a feel good romance. Everyone is nice and pleasant, and other than the crooked cop trying to track her down, the townspeople are welcoming of her and Ryan. Shelby is reluctant to clue Cullen in about her past because she's distrustful of the law, and she's afraid to get involved with the handsome sheriff in case she has to flee town suddenly.

Cullen is a bit gun shy, too. He was accused of being a crooked cop in Denver, and after fighting the charges for a year, was exonerated. His father, also a cop, didn't support him, so he left to take a temporary job as the sheriff of a small town while the original sheriff recovers from an illness. He, too, is reluctant to get involved with Shelby and Ryan, because he doesn't know what he's going to do after his temporary contract is up.

I enjoyed this book. The characters just want what's best for their families, the secondary characters are all likeable, and there is even a small herd of horses that Cullen gets stuck taking care of. At times the romance felt stagnant, but I liked the protagonists enough that that was only a minor quibble.

Beverly Hunter says

It was a typical reading.

Harlequin Books says

Miniseries: Rocky Mountain Twins
