



# Texas Homecoming

*Maggie Shayne*

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## **Texas Homecoming** Maggie Shayne

### A HEART YEARNS

Luke Brand wishes for what he's never had—family. Aside from an overprotective mother who died young, he's never had that—until he drives his rig into Quinn, Texas to meet the family he's never known. His cousins welcome him with open arms. 3 months later he's still there, selling his semi to buy an abandoned house for back taxes, dreaming of settling down with a wholesome woman and raising some kids of his own.

### OPPOSITES ATTRACT

Jasmine is not wholesome. She's a waitress and sometimes exotic dancer at a Chicago club. A classically trained dancer, Jasmine doesn't mind doing what she has to. It's all for her son, Baxter. She'd do anything to protect him from the world.

### DANGER PURSUES

When Baxter witnesses a murder at the club and becomes a target himself, Jasmine takes him and runs. Posing as her best friend, shot dead by the same killer who's after Bax, she heads for Texas to hole up in the house her roomie inherited but wanted no part of. The only problem with her plan is the sexy cowboy who's already living there.

## **Texas Homecoming Details**

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Author : Maggie Shayne

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# From Reader Review Texas Homecoming for online ebook

## Valerie Dixon says

Luke Brand is the illegitimate cousin of the Texas Brands. Although he knew he had a rather large family, he never intended to look them up until his mentor and friend Buck died alone. Luke drives his big-rig to Quinn, Texas to meet the family he never knew. What he didn't expect was to find the home he never had and now he doesn't intend on leaving.

Jasmine plans to run straight in and back out of the club where she works as an exotic dancer. Unfortunately, she and her son witness the murder of an undercover cop. She hightails it out of the city and heads straight for Quinn, Texas. She has no other choice but to pretend to be her best friend Rosebud and hide-out in the home Rosebud's mother left her when she died.

Coincidentally, this safe haven is occupied by none other than Luke Brand. Luke is suspicious of the woman, but knows the fear in her eyes is real. Can Luke protect Kara and her son? Will Kara trust Luke enough to let him in? Can love conquer all?

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## Verna Clay says

This was such a fun story! Maggie Shayne writes wonderful books. The story incorporated suspense and romance in a great storyline. It made me want to read the other books in the series, so I just downloaded "The Littlest Cowboy." I love the way family is the most important aspect of "Texas Homecoming" and how the H/h, although total opposites, were perfect for each other. The patience of Luke Brand (H) made him a true hero in my book, and what he did for Jasmine sealed the deal. And just when I thought things were resolving, they ratcheted up again. I was really shocked by what happened. And when the "girls" came to the rescue, the villain didn't stand a chance. I thought the love scene was tastefully written. And I don't want to forget to mention how the children touched my heart. Certain aspects of the book were written true to life, other aspects should be read tongue-in-cheek.

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## Jennifer Prescott says

This book was wonderful, as much as the others in this series. I look forward to jumping in to more of Ms. Shayne's books. I really enjoyed the "homecoming" of Luke to a family he didn't even know, and as I've come to expect, the Brands opened their arms not only for their long-lost half-cousin, but when Jasmine and her adorable boy enter with danger following them, they are also accepted immediately! I love this family, and can't wait to read more in the other connecting series'!

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## Stacy says

### Love this series

This entire series was a fantastic read. I felt like I stepped into The Brand Family and onto The Brand Ranch with each new adventure. Worth every second!

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## **Abby G. Amos says**

### **Awesome Read!**

Every book I have read in this series I have really enjoyed! I really believe everyone who reads this book will enjoy it! I will definitely recommend this book to others!

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## **Rob.C. Rob.C. says**

Wow! Fantastic book! It'll keep you on the edge of your seats until the end.

Luke is a great hero and I loved the way he decided to change his way of life and put down roots, getting to know a family he didn't know he had. I love the Brand clan, every single member brings something to the story. At some point I wanted to be a part of that family too!

Jasmine is a fantastic heroine. She's been through a lot but she's ready to do anything to make her son happy and make him feel loved. Baxter, her son, is ADORABLE. He's so cute I wanted to hug him.

There's a lot of tension and angst, but there's also romance.

Warning: pick a day when you don't have to put the book down, because it's rather addictive and once you get hooked, you won't be able to stop reading.

I'll definitely read the other books in the series about the other members of the Brand family. I love this Texas clan!

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## **Jo-Anne says**

Luke Brand is a member of the huge Brand family but he has never met them. He is their illegitimate cousin that none of them know about. Luke was content living with only his mother who taught him they didn't need anybody else to have a good life. But when his good friend and mentor, Buck, died alone, Luke started to realize that being alone was not necessarily the best way to live. He happened to get a load to Quinn, Texas with his transport truck, which happened to be where many of his cousins lived so he decided to visit them. He couldn't believe the welcome they gave him and encouraged him to stay.

Jasmine is a classically trained dancer who is working as an exotic dancer to pay the bills. She had to run into the club where she works to pick up her check. Instead of the quick in and out she expected, she and her son witnessed a murder and were spotted and shot at. She knows she has to get them out of there fast so she pretends to be her roommate, Rosebud, and heads to a home Rosebud's mother left her in Quinn, Texas.

When she gets to the safe home, she finds Luke living there. She doesn't trust anyone any more and Luke has suspicions about Jasmine so it gets interesting as they try to get each other out of the house.

The character development was exceptionally well done so that we really get to know them. Jasmine is a wonderful mother who will do anything to protect her son, Baxter, and make him feel safe and happy. Baxter is a cute little guy who is terrified of the 'bad man' who might find him. Luke made a huge change in his life when he sold his transport truck and decided to settle down and buy a house. Too bad the house he wanted belonged to Jasmine (Buttercup) and she didn't want to sell.

I loved the way the Brand family stuck up for each other and always had each other's backs. The men dropped everything when one of the family needed help in any way. Even the women stuck up for each other. It was wonderful the way they helped Jasmine when she needed them.

The story line was really interesting and enjoyable. It was not what I expected which was that I thought Jasmine would go into Witness Protection. It was nice to see this story was different and she didn't.

I love the Brand family and want to read more books in this series.

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## **Terry says**

A twist of other stories rolled up into this one. But it was fun

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## **Sarah says**

### **4.5 stars for The Homecoming**

After witnessing a brutal crime, Jasmine Jones left town with nothing but her seven-year-old son and the building blocks of a whole new identity. And although she hadn't meant to deceive the close-knit Texas Brands, claiming to be their long-lost relative, Jenny Lee, was her only chance at survival. Jasmine thought her secret was safe -- until one Brand started asking questions . . . Luke Brand recognized fear, and this woman was practically shaking in her stilettos. But the woman's blinding beauty and her desperate pleas for protection soon obscured Luke's quest for the truth. Luke knew protecting her was only asking for trouble, but sometimes a Brand's gotta do what a Brand's gotta do.

### **My Synopsis**

Jasmine Jones just wanted to get her paycheck from work so her little boy could go on a school fieldtrip. But everything goes wrong when she and her son witnesses a point blank execution of a federal officer. Narrowly escaping a rain of bullets Jasmine manages to escape town with nothing but her son, her friend's purse, her car, and the clothes on her back.

Driving all the way to Texas she stumbles into the grasp of Luke Brand and the Texas Brands, a close knit family that puts family first.

### **The Gist of It \*WARNING, SPOILERS\***

Jasmine witnesses a cop killing another cop. Her son also witnessed the same crime and as a result they peel out of Chicago to avoid a hail of gunfire that's all aimed in their direction. Her roommate and best friend, Rosebud, is murdered before she can even be warned. Jasmine uses Rosebud's identity and legal documents

to stake a claim on Rosebud's mother's house in Texas. Only there's a problem. Someone is already living there, Luke Brand.

At first all Luke wants to do is throw the woman out on her rear. That is, until he realizes she has a kid in tow and that his family would frown upon him for breaking the Brand's Family code. He offers to let her stay, sensing that there is more going on than she leads him to believe.

As is the Brand way, the entire family welcomes Jasmine and her young son, Baxter into their fold without question. They offer her everything she could ever want, a job, a family, a place to call home. But Jasmine has never believed that any of it could be true, everyone is out for themselves and men are one step up from dogs. She refuses to let any of them into her life, even as her son blooms under the acceptance of this amazing family.

Luke, poor Luke, finds himself falling for the petite woman, despite the wall around her heart and her sharp words. It seems she trusts him. Trust him enough to make him promise if anything should happen to her, he'd keep her son as his own and raise him.

And then she disappears into the night....

Aaaannnddd you'll have to read the book to see how it ends.

### **My Conclusion** ,

All in all I really liked this book. It introduces some interesting ideas. Ideas, I admit, other authors have often used in their books, but in this one it actually sort of rings true. The idea of fate, or a higher being guiding us through our life should we choose to listen. Luke feels like his old friend Buck who died (we start the book at Buck's funeral) is guiding him to a life fulfilled by family. He believes Buck was the one telling him to meet the Brand clan out in Texas, and later, that Buck may even have bought Jasmine into his life. Or maybe it was Rosebud...or maybe it was God.

Another example, the author uses the idea of true love or soulmates. While she doesn't actually use either term, it's there for the reader to pick up. Usually I'd chalk it up to a type of Insta-love, but Shayne truly doesn't make it feel that way. The way she wrote the book, with both characters hating each other for complicating each other's lives and then Luke quickly realizing that maybe she was there for a reason (Jasmine, not so much). It was interesting and I found not the least bit aggravating. A true achievement in a world now full on insta-love novels.

I also didn't mind the ending. I have no idea why I didn't find it highly annoying. After all, one of my chief beefs with romance novels is the 'hasty wedding'. While this is a marriage done in a hospital room, I didn't mind it. Perhaps it's because Jasmine was hit so hard by the fact that she truly loved Luke, or maybe it was the fact that they both got a huge dose of how short life could be, but I honestly didn't mind the ending in the slightest. Heck for making me like such an ending, wow Maggie Shayne, I applaud you.

So the only thing that really got me was a few poorly formatted sentences that I had to read over once or twice to comprehend why I was stumbling over the wording. Other than that, that was actually a really good romance novel...and I have never said that before.

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## **Jess says**

This book has been updated and is now listed as Texas Homecoming. This is a good story about a two people who really need family. Luke was raised well but within the confinements of an overbearing mother. He doesn't know what he is missing in his life until he connects with his extended family. The Brands are a devoted group of family members that put family first above all. Once Luke is with them he knows for certain what he wants, his own family. Jasmine, and her son, are on the run and end up in Luke's home. Jasmine is how Luke saw his mother, overbearing but strong and loving. Luke doesn't want to fall in love with Jasmine and Jasmine doesn't even trust men. This story takes two characters, both strong willed and uncertain in love, and makes them face the reality of what they both want and need, a family. A cute story I would recommend for romance lovers.

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## **Wall-to-wall books - wendy says**

Wow, what a book! This story held me captive right from the beginning and kept me there till the very end! I read this book in almost two sittings. This story in an "on the edge of your seat" suspense/romance/western. It was fun, sexy, romantic and heart warming. I was even in tears a couple times! I found it very hard to stop reading. Even while I was knitting I was thinking about the book and wanted to put my knitting aside (and there is not too many books that will do that). And, big surprise, this book got great reviews from others on Amazon.

The character development is excellent! Wow I loved everyone! LOL really, I did. But I did especially love Jasmine. She was such a toughy, if I ever get into trouble I want her to back me up! She kind of reminded me of Hallie Berry in Catwoman, LOL I don't know why, she just did! And the "Brand Clan" was awesome, what a great family! It was kind of like the "Dallas" TV show, only without all the scandal... well, no there was definitely scandal - so scratch that!

Well lets just say - I loved this book. And what a great idea it is to have a book like this for free. I would have never tried one of her books otherwise and now I can't wait to read another!

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## **Rachael says**

another wonderful book. love this author

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## **Alison Davies says**

Sara hasn't had a great life, she saw things no child should see.. When she was four she was playing an innocent game of hide and seek with her mama, but witnessed her mother and fathers murder... She spent the next twenty years in witness protection, to keep their murderer from finding her... All these years she thought her brother had died along with them, but later finds him and realises he thought she had died too and he ran.. now happy with her brother and cousins, they send her for a long needed vacation... While there she meets Jake, another lost soul, he spent twenty years in prison and its made him bitter... He warns her away, saying he's a bad boy, but Sara doesn't believe him and is determined to prove it... But then she witnesses the

murder of his cousin, which makes him the prime suspect... Even though he didn't do it, he runs with Sara... His intention is to get her away from a killer and then leave her somewhere so he can get away.. But things don't always go to plan... I loved every minute of their journey, it's so heart warming!!

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### **Megan says**

2 ½ stars. Book number 9 of the Texas Brands. The story of Luke Brand (a cousin of the “original” Texas Brands) and Jasmine Jones (a Chicago girl with a son, Baxter). The reason I did not like this book? The heroine, Jasmine, was annoyingly prickly, non-trusting, and hard to like. The plot was boring and predictable, in my opinion, Jasmine and her son, are on the run after witnessing a murder. The murder unfortunately is a bad cop. The romance? Didn't feel like there was any. There was one love scene and it was written like it was written for a young adult book. Which was completely disappointing since Ms. Shayne can write awesome books with awesome characters, plots, and love scenes! The only redeeming quality this book has is that it centers around family. More specifically ALL the Brands whom we have read about in previous books are all in here. It was fun to read about them all again. Now, I'll be able to move onto the Oklahoma All-Girl Brands.

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### **Clare O'Beara says**

This romance suspense story starts with a lady witnessing a crime and protecting her small child. They manage to jump into a car and drive to Texas, where despite the fact that they have made stops, it turns out she hasn't bought any useful items or changes of clothes. She turns up at a family house that has been left empty and is about to be put up for sale to pay back property taxes, but of course it is also rented temporarily by the lawyer in an attempt to pay the costs, and the guy in it doesn't appreciate being told to get out. The real snag for our heroine is that she's not who she is claiming to be, and the house is not actually in her family but her flatmate's. She's terrified that the evil criminals will catch her.

Good start and the kid is quite realistic. The mother is highly overprotective but then they are not used to outdoor life. The end is a return to suspense, but in between we get the making of a romance story with a dozen of the Texas family showing up to chat. I take it these people have been in earlier books.

This is okay but the writing style is basic, with almost no description of the surrounding environment and most scenes set indoors like a soap opera. Quite a bit depends on guns, which I suppose may be plentiful in Texas. This is an adult romance. The language however doesn't get much stronger than damn and effing, if you can believe a bad guy saying that. I think that's a compromise too far.

I read an e-ARC. This is an unbiased review.

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