



Lucy & the Lieutenant

Helen Lacey

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THE VIRGIN AND THE VETERAN

Dr. Lucy Monero feels like the oldest virgin on the planet. Still crushing on her longtime neighbor, she's waited a lifetime for her first...and last. The man she'll marry. And now he's back—the star of her fantasies, ex-cowboy-turned-army-vet Brant Parker. The physician in her recognizes a wounded soul, but the woman in her burns for his touch. Lucy's head is filled with visions of white lace and white picket fences.

The last thing Brant needs is the walking, talking temptation that is Lucy. He may be out of his army fatigues but he still carries his demons. He's a loner, not the marrying kind that the hometown sweetheart deserves. So why can't he stop wanting her?

Lucy & the Lieutenant Details

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From Reader Review Lucy & the Lieutenant for online ebook

Susan says

Very emotional story. Lucy came back to Cedar River after medical school because it is home. She has a job she loves and friends to hang out with, but no love life. She's been in love with the boy next door since she was fifteen, but he never noticed her. Now he's back after twelve years in the military, but he's not the same boy she knew.

Brant is back, but he's floundering a bit. He is spending all his time renovating the tavern he bought and avoiding spending much time with anyone. He's haunted by something that happened during his last tour, and determined to put it behind him, but ignoring it doesn't seem to be working. It doesn't help that he keeps running into Lucy, who makes it obvious that she's interested, but he feels too broken to be the man that she needs.

I felt a little sorry for Lucy at the beginning because, even though she's twenty-seven, her inner awkward teenager seems to come out whenever she is around Brant. But because of the things she's been through herself, she recognizes the pain that he is in and is determined to help him however she can. I loved seeing the way that she would stand up to him when he was being rude or a jerk. Brant tries hard to push her away and makes it clear to her that he doesn't do relationships. But being around Lucy seems to quiet his demons a little.

I liked seeing the relationship develop. Brant was really fighting what he felt for her, sometimes pushing her away and other times wanting to be with her. Because he feels he can't give her what she needs, he offers her friendship instead, and she accepts thinking that something is better than nothing. That friendship changes and grows almost from the start. Lucy knows she's in trouble, because what she felt as a teen pales in comparison to what she feels now. At the same time, Brant refuses to believe that what he feels for Lucy is more than friendship with some lust added in. When the attraction overcomes the friendship, Lucy gets part of what she wanted and begins to dream. Brant is still fighting the inevitable, and quite honestly treats her pretty badly. I loved seeing Lucy finally stand up for her own needs in an incredibly emotional scene where she tells him he has to decide if what they have is worth fighting for. It still takes awhile, plus some straight talk from his mother, before he's ready to take a chance. I loved his big moment at the end, it was so sweet and romantic.

I really liked the realism of Brant's struggles. Seeing him try to cope on his own was hard. I loved the way that Lucy used her own experiences to show him that there is nothing wrong with getting the help that you need. There was no miraculous fix at the end, just the knowledge that it is an ongoing process and that doing it together makes them stronger.

Hina Tabassum says

Lucy embodies the wholesomeness of a small town (I am in no way saying that wholesomeness exists only in small towns). She had a crush on Brent Parker since she was in her tens, and still carries a candle for the man unknowingly.

Brent has seen too much as an army vet and believes himself to be unfit for Lucy. I don't understand why

every hero must think that way. Is something wrong with your self-esteem? Give a little credit to yourself guys!

It is a sweet story where gradually trust develops between the main leads and then they learn to love themselves and start loving each other the way they deserve.

Alexandra says

Dr Lucy Monero has had a crush on Brant Parker since they both were kids.

Both have left their home town of Cedar River, Lucy to go to medical school and Brant to join the military.

Now back in their home town, Lucy is still in love with Brant.

Everyone else can see how Brant really feels about Lucy, except the couple themselves.

Can Lucy help Brant knock down his emotional walls? So they can have a happy ending.

This was a sweet small town romance. My only negative from this book is the constant mentioning of Prom. It started to annoy me after a while.

Lynn Brooks says

In this second book in her "The Cedar River Cowboys" series, Helen Lacey brings us a sweet story revolving around a battle weary Army vet and his girl-next-door! She weaves a great tale centering on the horror still living inside this wounded soul's mind and how the power of love goes a long way in achieving some healing.

Dr. Lucy Monero has been crushing on Brant Parker since she was the teenage girl next door. He barely knew she existed, but she went on to college, med school, and to live her life, with thoughts of him always in the back of her mind.

Brant spent years in the Army and then suddenly he was out and back in town. He knew Lucy was interested in him, but he just wanted to be alone and ignored her often ... until the day came that she would no longer let him ignore her anymore.

Will Brant be able to dig his way through his demons to open his heart to living again? And will Lucy finally get that happily-ever-after she's been dreaming about for so long?

Alexia says

"Lucy & the Lieutenant" by Helen Lacey is part of a series called 'The Cedar River Cowboys.' You do not need to read the series in order to understand the book because it is also a read alone, but I highly recommend the series. This story between Dr. Lucy Monero and Brant Parker started back in high school with a crush Lucy had on Brant. He was too busy sowing his wild oats and she was too busy studying for them to truly come together back then. Fast forward a few years and we learned that a sexual assault on Lucy's college roommate had her steering clear of any guys and finishing school. She's back home and still a virgin. As you can tell this is classic romance at its best. There is so much to this story that you will love it as much as I did.

Victoria Lees says

I finally got my laptop back from the computer doctors. The holidays are over and now I can dig into a romance. I'm just beginning Lucy & the Lieutenant. Happy New Year everyone, and happy reading in 2017!

Lucy & the Lieutenant by Helen Lacey is well-written romance about giving oneself permission. Lucy Monero, a caring hometown girl in this Cedar River Cowboys story, is a doctor at the local hospital and deals with life and death daily. She is still struggling with permission to forgive herself and forget that she was inexperienced and couldn't save her mother. She wants to join the world again, find someone to love and marry, and have a home life together.

Enter the man she has had a crush on since she was 15.

Brant Parker was a cowboy in the small town they grew up in who joined the army and survived three tours of duty in Afghanistan.

Or did he?

Brant is cold and distant since his return from his last tour of duty. He wants nothing more than to forget the war and lose himself in renovating the burnt out Loose Moose Tavern in South Dakota. However, Lucy, being a doctor and trying to give her own self permission to forgive and forget, realizes that Brant may be suffering from PTSD.

Personal note I admire ANYONE who fights for our country. God bless you all!

Lacey does an excellent job of layering this story with a desire for permission to forgive and forget. The details come alive, as does the love between the two main characters. The reader's heart goes out to both characters as Lucy helps Brant see that the only way to have a future is to let go of the past. Brant comes to realize that bravery is shown in facing your fears and believing in the help of others. Like all good romances, Brant finally gives himself permission to love another—Lucy.

Amanda says

Helen Lacey creates the most believable settings that add layers of characteristics to her well-rounded, three-dimensional characters whose stories are full of small-town charm. In her latest offering, Lucy & the Lieutenant, Ms. Lacey takes readers on a passionate journey where her hero Brandt Parker and Dr Lucy Monero are tempted by the sight of each other. But the emotional baggage that both Lucy and Brandt carry takes precedence on their attraction. The strides they take in helping each other heal creates tension and drama...keeping the reader engrossed. Great dialogue, descriptive scenes and a well-written story is sure to find favor with loyal fans of Ms. Lacey and the Harlequin Special Edition fan-base!

Recommended

4 Stars

Adel says

Lucy & the Lieutenant by Helen Lacey is a book about a young soldier recently returned from war, overcoming his PTSD with the help of a special woman. The book describes the journey to recovery for both Lucy and her Lieutenant.

The characters were a breath of fresh air and amazingly real. Lucy is a gutsy woman that knows what she wants and is going after it with her whole heart. Brant is an inherently considerate and compassionate guy who is facing the challenge of moving on from what he's experienced in the war.

I would highly recommend this book to all romance lovers who enjoy a great story. I found the book extremely easy to read, the story just grabs you in the first couple of pages and as they say... the rest is happily ever after!

TashNz says

A wonderful read filled which in a beautiful way the author wound the story right around me and I was snuggled in the midst of it all Easter Monday. Quite a heart warming story where everyone in town knew ex military man Brandt Parker loves Dr Lucy Monero – except him. While he fails to see it because he's wrapped up in his military past Dr Lucy Monero lays her lil heart on the line and spends most of the story trying to figure out if her teenage crush is worthy of her love.

Set in small town Cedar River, Brandt was quite likeable and had just enough mystery surrounding him that you really wanted to know what was bothering him. He had lovely family who were secondary characters and helped make it a heartwarming story. Lucy was quite the opposite in the way that she had no one and it made her all the more endearing.

I usually am a "Presents" kind of girl and don't often go for the small town girl kind of story in a town where everyone knows your name so when I pick one up and it consumes me till I reach the last page I'm the first to say – don't pass this one by. I'm especially happy to see there is more stories featuring Lucy's fab friends. I even got teary when Lucy did her goodbye speech and felt all sad for her. Wonderful writing Helen Lacey!

Katie Valdez says

I felt so related to Lucy that I can't even describe it
Lovely story, each page is a twist

Helen says

I do love small town romances and this is one that should be snapped up and read there will be tears of sadness and joy as we journey to the best HEA with ex-military gorgeous home town guy Brant Parker and home town girl next door Dr Lucy Monero.

Lucy has been home in Cedar River for short time now after being away studying but Lucy is a quiet person who has been through so much losing her Mum in a dreadful accident that left her with bad memories and feeling guilty it has taken a while for her to get over it but she has and now back home and working at the local hospital Lucy has come back in contact with the guy she has had a crush on since she was fifteen who unknowingly she has saved herself for him Brant Parker but Brant has no intentions of settling down but is Lucy just what he needs to turn his life around.

Brant has returned home after being on the front line for years he has left the military permanently, and has bought a tavern in the town to do up and re-open he has thrown himself into his work and is determined to get on with his life and try to forget his past and put his fears to rest. His mother and brother are there to support him but he is not taking help that is until he finally starts talking to Lucy he is drawn to her she is easy to talk to, to be with can Lucy do what others have tried?

Truly this is just the best story a moving emotional story that will pull you in from the first page they both have so much in common that they help each other. There will be smiles and tears as Lucy stands up to Brandt she never gives into him she shows such strength for someone who has been through so much herself and getting Brant to open up is so good. This is a sensual story that I highly recommend the second book in The Cedar Rivers Cowboy's Series and I am looking forward to more and it was great catching up with friends from the first book in this series.

Cheryl Steckling says

Lucy & the Lieutenant (The Cedar River Cowboys) by Helen Lacey

The Virgin and The Veteran perfectly describe this love story. Dr. Lucy Monero thought she was the world's oldest virgin in the world. She had a crush on a neighbor back in high school. She still had it through college, through medical school and now as a doctor. Brant Parker had barely noticed her through high school and then went off to the army and now was out and returned to his home town, which was Lucy's hometown too. They both had something in common. Lucy lost her father at an early age, then her mom was killed in a car accident and then her friend in college had been sexually assaulted and she was determined to stay away from guys. Brant had been through several tours in Afghanistan and part of his group had died and it should have been him. He had PTSD and was someone who was more for the one night stands and never saw himself as the marrying kind.

Brant had purchased a burnt out bar and was going to make it usable again and do the work mostly himself. He was a loner. He was carrying his own demons.

Lucy had already worked through most of hers and was throwing herself into work also. Her friend felt it time for her to find love. But she only had eyes for Brant.

Helen Lacey had a fantastic way of showing us how 2 people with their sides of issues could come together. They may have to have their feelings sometimes pointed out by others and yet they did find love. They found it with each other.

Dottie says

In a lovely town of Cedar River you find Dr. Lucy Monero who is a doctor helping out in a nursing home for a few weeks. One of the patients in the home is the uncle of Brant Parker, the man Lucy has loved since she is 15. Brant is home from the army and has lots of issues from being in Afghanistan and so decides he doesn't need to have any ties. He buys a burned out bar and is fixing it up and keeps his mind and hands busy. No time for Lucy or anyone for that matter. Lucy has her own demons losing her dad at an early age and her mom killed in an accident as she was going to medical school. The only thing in her life she doesn't question is her love for Brant. This is lovely story of how a person who has been in your life always can help you overcome what you never really knew you suffered from. Ms. Lacey's story always leave you with a wonderful feeling, especially this one when Brant realizes that what he was looking for

Nightwitch says

Perfectly pleasant romance, remarkable only for the fact that if it happened in real life you'd be yelling at the heroine to run for the hills: she's had a crush on the hero since they were teenagers, not only is she a virgin but she's never been kissed, and each step they take in their relationship the hero says "I'm not into commitment, I'm not doing this, I can't give you what you want, etc." She says defiantly that she doesn't believe him and pushes forward. This manages not to be overwhelmingly obnoxious, probably because Lucy's given a strong support network of female friends and the hero's entire family *also* believes the hero has his head up his butt when he's insisting that he's incapable of commitment, but it's still there.

Nas Dean says

LUCY & THE LIEUTENANT by author Helen Lacey is a June 2016 release by Harlequin Special Edition series.

Dr Lucy Monero had the hots for Brant Parker for long now. But Brant is a returned veteran with huge issues, could they make it work?

Read Lucy & the Lieutenant to see how author Helen Lacey brought them together at the end despite all the emotional baggage and past grief they carried and brought this romance to life on the page which would hook her readers in. I loved the emotional intensity and the roaring chemistry between the characters.

Highly recommended for all readers of romance.
