



Mail Order Mystery

Robin Deeter

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A Brides of Beckham Book

This is an alternate cover edition for B01EIOL840

Leigh Hawthorne, a widow and local farmer in Beckham, Massachusetts, enlists the services of Elizabeth Miller, the creator of the nationally published, Groom's Gazette, to find a husband. An unusual letter from a man out west, who wants to marry a woman with ranching expertise, could solve all of Leigh's problems. Hoping to find a better life, Leigh embarks on a journey to Chance City, Oklahoma.

Fired for breaking Pinkerton rules, former detective, Cyrus Decker, just wants to live a quiet life as a cattle rancher. The problem is that he knows nothing about ranching—and his bank account shows it. Dogged by Chance City's sheriff to join his staff, and plagued by money woes, Cy desperately needs help to turn their ranch around. He hopes that Leigh is the answer to his prayers.

Brought together by necessity, will Leigh and Cy find love or will their attempt to find lasting happiness meet with disaster? Join the Chance City adventure as its citizens battle opposing forces and mayhem in their searches for love and a brighter future.

Mail Order Mystery Details

Date : Published April 18th 2016 by Word Mine

ISBN :

Author : Robin Deeter

Format : Kindle Edition 141 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Westerns, Historical, Mystery

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Linzi says

The 1* refers to the atrociously badly narrated audiobook. I think I would have liked the book but the audio put me off it so much that I know I need to leave it a few months before I try the Kindle version.

Jay R Smith - which might be a pseudonym as I can't find anything else he's ever narrated - does a truly dreadful job. And he doesn't appear to think post-production mistake fixing is his problem either.

The kind of utterly amateur job that is cute when it's your 6 year old breathing in all the wrong places and breaking sentences up so badly you lose the meaning of the words ... but isn't amusing in a purchased product. The narrator also shouts, overacts and generally sounds like a caricature of an old school baddy. It's actually quite painful on the ears - both literally in varying sound levels and because it's all so 'overdone'.

Coco.V says

?FREE on iBooks today (6/8/2018)!?

Janet Denise Ross says

HAS ME THINKING IN WESTERN SLANG

This has definitely earned its 5 stars for terrific writing; because it has me thinking in western slang. First, the reading age should be from 18 yrs & up because the indepth reach of consideration that Cy & Leigh, do within theirselves. Then, it does deal with racial prejudice with the American Indians and Mexican races, plus the prejudice against mixed race children. Having lived in rural OK as an young child, the interactions are pretty accurate for the time they are portraying. (no, I am not that old', or lived during that time) Cy wasn't the only member of his family, he has a sister, and a cousin Johnny who lives with at the farm Cy's father had left, nearby was an uncle and Aunt who have twin sons, Daniel & Sly then the widowed Uncle who flirts with the Ladies. They all have Comanche Blood, and are shown prejudice. Of course, Cy is bullied by the Sheriff of Chance, to go to work for him, with a couple of deputies that could roll out a novel themselves that would be interesting, at least the Lady deputy, nicknamed jabs. I could go on rambling as much like a tumbleweed rolling around town from nook to nook and back to some before moving on to the next because there is so much flavor and substance in this book for the reader, different crimes, Sly's love of his life, murder, men not appreciating or believing a woman made a difference, love and caring of family , training of animals, and the loving care of animals . Finally, although I read straight through the book like I was a hot wind barely blowing but blowing steadily enough to make you feel the wind, feel the heat in the wind and just wish if the wind was gonna blow it could be cool wind, but that hot steady wind just made people sticky hotter and some people iller than a mess of mad scorpions. Finally, Cy's personal spiritual journey about love and what it was, I found to be very interesting besides his view on type of wife, after the suggestion he received I found very refreshing. Like westerns, with mystery, a little romance then you have found one for you!

Jane says

Leigh Hawthorne, a widow and dairy farmer from Massachusetts, becomes a *Mail Order Mystery* for Cyrus Decker in Chance City, Oklahoma when she agrees to move across country to become the ranch foreman and his wife.

Cy is an ex-Pinkerton detective and now working for the local sheriff's office as a detective. Cy faces prejudices from the local community due to his Native American heritage.

Bank robberies, burglary and murder cases keep Cy busy as Leigh makes changes in the ranch to make it more profitable.

Romance develops as Leigh and Cy get to know one another, learn to respect each other as they face personal problems and pressure from the community. I enjoyed the maturity of the characters and their willingness to admit mistakes and face consequences.

Trewen says

This was OK
The weirdest thing to me was the setting.
It could have been 1972 for all I knew.
meh...

Delta says

Just skip this one!

Don't you just hate it when a "historical" is historical in name only? In the opening of *Mail Order Mystery* we meet a female deputy sheriff, who describes a man as "gorgeous" when speaking to male colleagues; a male private investigator, who approaches a crime scene like a modern medical examiner and who does forensic photography; and the sheriff, who with the other two attends the found body of a young woman murdered elsewhere and dumped near the side of a road without expressing shock, outrage, or grief—as though this is a common occurrence in their time. Only the explicit telling of the late 1800's setting and the use of horse-and-buggy or train for transportation give away the time period. The speech, language, and mannerisms of characters had me almost expecting someone to whip out a cell phone to make a call.

Sometimes "free" is not worth your time.

Essie says

A new author to me. Enjoyed this book and will definitely get more of her stories. I felt for the pain that Cy,

Daphne and Sly suffered because of the way that people treated them because of their heritage. Those who looked down on them or even outright hated them forgot that there were good and bad doings on both sides. I liked the feelings that developed between Cy and Leigh as they worked together to build up the ranch and forge a life for themselves and Cy's family.

ReadingWench says

I am in love. Yep. It's true. I have fallen in love with this book, the characters, the town, and this author.

I started reading this book and I was so tired, I must have fallen asleep and when I did, my kindle fell right into my face. That's ok though. I took it to my place of employment the next day and sneaked to read it every chance I got.

The characters are wonderful. They are complex and you can relate to them. I liked the plot and its flow. I liked the mystery and intrigue of it. (It could have been stretched out a bit more, but hey, it was fantastic anyway).

I love that this is first in a series. That means there are lots more stories, mysteries and adventures!

Ms. Deeter, keep writing!

UPDATE: I listened to this on audio. I didn't think it could be better, HOWEVER it was! The narrator was amazing!!!! He brought to life all the characters in the books. The inflections in his voice made it! Awesome! Please keep this narrator.

Susan R Clement says

Good intentions

I enjoyed the story , but it seemed to bounce off track several times. Hated. the ending. One minute they're taking about kids and the next it seemed like part of the epilogue was missing. You were reading about a miserable winter holidays coming and then nothing. I was expecting her to tell Cy she was expecting at Christmas. I know the book continues with his sister but I really was disappointed in the ending. Lots of jumping around from Sly to the woodworking shop with nothing defined. The writer is responsible for the story, but the editing is just as responsible for checking the flow.

Lyngay says

Set backs are hard, relief is possible with work and love.

Prejudice is wrong and makes life difficult. Cy is good at investigations but not so good at rules or farming. Cyrus uses dogs for investigating and a mail order bride for ranch forman both are not the norm in his time. He and his family are Comanche, the town has a woman mayor and a female on the police force. Guess all that happens with this progressive attitude and bias? Enjoyed the book greatly. Look forward to other stories

involving some of the other characters in this series.

Elissa says

Author Robin Deeter writes strong heroines, perhaps a bit too obviously strong for the times but fully enjoyable nonetheless. The progressive momentum of the end of the 19th century means a lot of what seems anachronistic quite likely isn't. Scientific investigations predate CSI, after all, and forensic evidence has long drawn a picture and told a story.

Narrator Jay Smith nicely modulates a variety of voices and the action progresses swiftly as a failing rancher takes his friend's joke as a suggestion and requests a ranch manager from a mail order bride company. Ms Deeter has a nice light touch and keeps the humor to the forefront except when tragedy occurs. There are a number of secondary characters who are nicely developed as well; since this is listed as Book 1 in the series, I anticipate more fun!

Linda Walters says

I really liked both of the main characters, who each had their own good stories and needs before they even got together. The secondary cast of people were a good addition to the story as well, It was one I just flat out enjoyed. Cy's sister, Daphne and his cousins, and Johnny were just a few I'd like to mention. There is also a fellow deputy named, Brock despises Cy and his heritage, so that adds tension to the story. As well as several crimes that need to be solved. There were some surprises when it came to those crimes that kept my interest. Also Leigh had a secret, that was totally unexpected, both that she had one and what it was.

Cynthia says

What a delightful story with both strong male and female roles just with different strengths. Cyrus owns a small ranch but doesn't know a thing about ranching if the ranch was left in his hands there wouldn't be one. Leigh knows a lot about ranching but her father in law won't give her credit for anything since her husband died. He uses her as a slave with nothing in return. She has had an enough and plans to find a way out. Cyrus decides he needs a foreman Leigh decides she wants the job they agree to get married a win win for both of them. He get a free foreman and do his job as a sheriff, she gets a place to call her own to do things as she wants everyone wins or do they?

The narrator does a great job but at times is a little slow not pausing when he needs to and pausing before he does. As you get into the audio I didn't notice that and was taken away by a great story. Some of his female characters voices need a little work but for the most part they are very nice. His male voices are great I loved Cy voice it was very sexy and deep. I had no trouble knowing who was talking or what they were feeling. He shows great emotions from sad, to humor as needed. I found no background noises or any volume changes. If any breaks were taken I could not tell.

I loved this audio with the strong characters learning how to get along but knowing their weakness and doing what they do best. I loved the humor and do some majorly chuckling as well as the serious things. There is a

little bit of everything in here from racism to robbery and everything in between. Cy has mixed blood and most people don't like it. I liked how the author keeps the story moving with many different cases that Cy was on. It is a win for me with Leigh being able to take over and the praise she gets for a job well done. The supporting characters are wonderful some I would love to see have stories of their own. I really liked how Cy and Leigh get along from their teasing to their bricking. Leigh isn't afraid to tell it like it is she is one very entertaining women that holds her own very well. The slow steady build up of the romance is great, the little side stories are wonderful. The twists and turns kept me hooked and very entertained. I really enjoyed this audio from start to finish.

April says

Mail Order Mystery: Chance City Series, Book 1
: Robin Deeter

This mail order bride book blends romance with murder mystery, law vs. ranching, prejudice, and more. Both the male and female protagonists have things from their pasts that might keep them apart. Family is everything. Will love grow? I like the strong female characters. The ending left room for the next book in the series.

The narration was well done. The characters were well portrayed. Jay R. Smith was a bit speedier than most narrators, not that I'm complaining. I like a faster pace.

I was given this free review copy audiobook at my request and have voluntarily left this review.
