



First Kisses

Linda Goodnight , Janet Tronstad , Debra Clopton , Margaret Daley , Camy Tang , Lacy Williams

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A new anthology from some of your favorite inspirational authors.

Enjoy this collection of love stories with a theme of FIRST KISSES. The First Kisses collection includes:

The Rambler's Bride by Linda Goodnight

In 1870's Kansas, Widow Esther North will do most anything to save her land from her powerful cousin and the coming railroad—even kiss a stranger! The kissing cowboy, Jericho North is bent on revenge from his brother's widow, and the will hidden in his pocket is all he needs to make it happen. But he hadn't reckoned on a baby...and neither he nor Esther had reckoned on love.

Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Cafe by Janet Tronstad

USA Today and Publisher's Weekly Bestselling Author, Janet Tronstad, pens a brand-new Retro Café Sweet Romance starring a 1950's truck driver (Buddy) and a waitress (Penny) who both have enough trouble without everyone in Webster's Crossing thinking they are falling in love.

Her Mule Hollow Cowboy by Debra Clopton

Rescuing a beautiful cowgirl from being trampled has professional bull rider, Cliff Masterson, dreaming of romance, home, hearth and that first kiss...but Maddie Rose has had enough people in her life leave and she's not willing to risk her heart on a rambling cowboy—Sparks fly when these two are near. Can the Matchmakin' Posse of Mule Hollow help this couple find their happily ever after?

Deadly Hunt by Margaret Daley

All bodyguard Tess Miller wants is a vacation. But when a wounded stranger stumbles into her isolated cabin in the Arizona mountains, Tess becomes his lifeline. When Shane Burkhart opens his eyes, all he can focus on is his guardian angel leaning over him. And in the days to come he will need a guardian angel while being hunted by someone who wants him dead.

Necessary Proof by Camy Tang

Alex Villa became a Christian in prison, and because of his efforts to help stop a gang producing meth in Sonoma, he has been set up for the death of a cop. Can computer expert Jane Lawton find the evidence that will prove his innocence before the gang eliminates them both?

Kissed by a Cowboy by Lacy Williams

Former shy-girl Haley Carston is back in Redbud Trails, Oklahoma, to care for her dying aunt. She didn't count on cowboy Maddox Michaels, her high school crush and the man who might just bring her dreams of marriage and family back to life...

First Kisses Details

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From Reader Review First Kisses for online ebook

Dawn says

A collection of 6 inspirational novellas from popular authors: Linda Goodnight, Janet Tronstad, Debra Clopton, Margaret Daley, Camy Tang, and Lacy Williams.

The Rambler's Bride - Linda Goodnight - On the Kansas Prairie in the 1870's, widow Esther North is determined to save her farm from her powerful cousin. Jericho North wants revenge on his brother's widow. Yet he soon finds his heart stolen by a baby girl and her mama. Together this unlikely pair join forces to stop Esther's ruthless cousin and find love in the process.

Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Cafe - Janet Tronstad - A truck driver with a dream of a family meets waitress Penny who is the guardian of six children. In danger of losing their crop, Penny is determined to provide for the six children in her care. She didn't plan on falling in love or for a trucking community to come to her aid.

Her Mule Hollow Cowboy - Debra Clopton - Maddie Rose is determined to prove herself to her partners and herself. She didn't expect to be rescued by handsome bull rider Cliff Masterson. Cliff came to Mule Hollow to be closer to his twin brother, one of Maddie's partners. He dreams of putting down roots. The spunky cowgirl sparks feelings in him that he thought were buried. Can these two overcome the obstacles to a happily ever after?

Deadly Hunt - Margaret Daley - Bodyguard Tess Miller is looking forward to her vacation at her uncle's mountain cabin. Her vacation is cut short suddenly when a wounded stranger arrives on her doorstep with a gunshot wound. Shane Burkhart opens his eyes to see a beautiful guardian angel standing over him. Yet inviting Tess into his world puts her life in danger as well. Will the pair survive long enough to figure out how they feel?

Necessary Proof - Camy Tang - When Alex Villa became a Christian in prison, he was determined to change his life when he was released. Once released, he becomes an informant for the Sonoma PD regarding drugs and gangs. When he discovers he is being set up in such a way that will ruin his reputation with the police and land him back in jail, he seeks the assistance of computer expert Jane Lawtown. Can she find what is needed on the laptop to prove his innocence before they both are silenced forever?

Kissed by a Cowboy - Lacy Williams - Years ago, Maddox Michaels took Haley Carston to her senior prom. When she returns to Redbud Trails to care for her dying aunt, Haley soon finds her path crossing with her high school crush Maddox Michaels as she becomes acquainted with his enterprising niece Olivia. Trying to keep the walls around her heart up, Haley finds herself falling once again for Maddox. For his part, he also tries to keep the walls up. But the more time that he spends in Haley's company, the more that he hopes that they can have something lasting. Will these two get past their walls and see what their future holds?

I really enjoyed each of these novellas. A mix of historical and contemporary (one was set in the 1950's), I found myself wishing for more story in most of the books. I'd love to see a full length novel that revisits the characters in these books. My overall rating will be determined by averaging each of my ratings for the novellas.

Rambler's Bride - I found this one to be a little hard to get into. I thought that overall the characters were well developed. I really liked Jericho. This one just didn't stand out to me. My rating for this novella is 3

stars.

Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Cafe - This was one I struggled to get through. I loved the way the trucking community came to Penny's aid. Yet I found that the characters could have been fleshed out more. Still it was a sweet story. My rating for this novella is 3 stars.

Her Mule Hollow Cowboy - I've come to expect a giggle when I read a Debra Clopton book. This was no exception. I just wanted more story! My rating for this novella is 4 stars.

Deadly Hunt - I really enjoyed the suspense in this novella. I was kept engrossed through the entire story. I did feel that Shane's character could have been a little more developed. But overall, this was one of my favorites in this collection. My rating for this one is 4.5 stars

Necessary Proof - I've never read anything by Camy Tang before and was excited to finally read something of hers. I'm pretty certain I've got others of hers somewhere on my Kindle. Anyway, this one was completely unexpected in the way that it grabbed me in and kept me engrossed. I loved both Jane and Alex. My rating for this one is 5 stars.

Kissed by a Cowboy - This was by far my favorite of the collection! I loved all of the characters and sighed happily at the end. I really loved the enterprising Olivia and the way that she had a dream and ran with it. Her uncle Maddox was sweet. I wanted more of this story as well. My rating for this novella is 5 stars.

Overall rating - 4 stars

Recommended to fans of romance, Love Inspired books

I received this book from Netgalley for the purpose of reviewing. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Brittany says

What a great collection of stories! I feel so blessed to have been able to read and review this upcoming release. It is packed full of six wonderfully romantic stories. Each story is a novella that is well-developed, with interesting characters and great romance. Readers will, of course, find some favorites within this collection (as I did). Your favorites may be different than mine. I am just so happy to have gotten to read six enjoyable, romantic stories in one book! And...there is such variety of types of stories included. There are historical and contemporary romances, as well as contemporary romantic suspense. Truly something for everyone. I will give a short review of each story below.

First Kisses (releasing in March 2014):

The Rambler's Bride by Linda Goodnight

This novella is a wonderful way to start off the collection of stories. It is a historical novella with interesting main characters who must overcome misunderstandings in order to go forward. The back story and the sacrifices that Esther North has had to make in her life are touching.

Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Café by Janet Tronstad

This novella is unlike many typical romances that I read for two main reasons: the setting is the 1950's (a time period that I don't find many books set in) & the point of view is from the hero's perspective throughout the story. We see everything through Buddy's eyes. This is an interesting way to tell a story, as things are revealed to us only as Buddy discovers them.

Her Mule Hollow Cowboy by Debra Clopton

A contemporary western novella, this story is very sweet. I really enjoyed watching the relationship develop between Cliff and Maddie. There is so much for Maddie to overcome in order to learn to trust and let herself take a chance on love. Watching her emotional growth through the story and Cliff's patience with her is very sweet.

Deadly Hunt by Margaret Daley

This contemporary romantic suspense was so exciting! Tess, a bodyguard on vacation, ends up rescuing a man. Instead of the relaxation she needs, she becomes Shane's lifeline. Shane needs Tess to protect him from whoever is trying to kill him. Tess doesn't know if she can keep a professional distance with this man that brings out feelings within her that scare her. Great emotional connections between these characters.

Necessary Proof by Camy Tang

Alex is being framed and now he and his friend, Jane are running for their lives. In this exciting romantic suspense novella, Jane and Alex will have to fight for their lives by outwitting those who are after them. But will Jane truly be able to trust Alex with her life and her heart after having experienced more than her fair share of hurt? These are great characters. The compassion and understanding that Alex shows toward Jane really endeared him to my heart.

Kissed by a Cowboy by Lacy Williams

This contemporary cowboy novella was wonderful! Haley returns to her small town after being gone for ten years. The crush she had on Maddox long ago could turn in to something more. But Maddox has some big issues to overcome. He is not the confident football star that he used to be. Life has been hard and he feels less than worthy of Haley. I love how both Haley and Maddox have things that make them unsure of how the other feels about them. Both of these characters are so well-written. And the side characters in this story are wonderful. I am hoping to read more about them in future stories.

This novella collection really is great. It is one that I know I will be rereading many times.

I received a complimentary copy of First Kisses in exchange for an honest review, which I have given.

You can read this review on my blog at:

<http://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.co...>

Carrie says

As soon as I saw who was on the roster for First Kisses: Inspy Kisses Collection #1 published by Aspendawn, the book sailed to the top of my reading list: Linda Goodnight, Janet Tronstad, Debra Clopton, Margaret Daley, Camy Tang, and Lacy Williams. All of these authors have already been published with Harlequin's Love Inspired line. Debra Clopton and Margaret Daley are usually a guarantee to me of a great read.

The book is a collection of six novellas/short stories which are tied together by first kisses, which occur quite early for some, and for others, at the end of the story.

1) The Rambler's Bride by Linda Goodnight.

This is a western historical set in the 1800's. Jericho North has come to see Esther North, his brother's widow, a woman who Jericho considers to be a harlot because Silas, his brother, met her at the local saloon. Theodore Perkins, Esther's cousin-in-law, and mayor of the nearest town wants Esther to sell the farm to him supposedly so that he can magnanimously offer her a better price than what the coming railroad would give to her. However, neither Esther nor Theodore know that Jericho is the actual owner since Silas willed the farm to Jericho.

Jericho is determined to kick Esther off his land, but he discovers quite quickly that he's attracted to his brother's widow, and that she isn't what he thought she was. He also finds out that there was a lot that had happened to Silas that his brother had not informed Jericho about.

This story was six chapters long, but I thought that it was quite a complete story. There are a number of revelations that are revealed to the reader as Jericho discovers them. By the end I was rooting for the protagonists. This is the first historical that I've read by Linda Goodnight; most of her work that I've read before has been contemporary romances. I give this a thumbs up!

2) Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Cafe by Janet Tronstad.

If you love Ms. Tronstad's Dry Creek series, we revisit a nearby town, Webster's Crossing, in 1958. Buddy Hamilton is an ex-serviceman who is working as a flatbed trucker. He often stops by the Heartbreak Cafe for a meal when he passes through town. There, he meets Penny Rose, a widow with six children to care for. Penny is desperate to find a job to support her family. She had been renting some farmland nearby but was unable to continue to work the land due to a lack of finances. She left with her family to find work elsewhere, but returned to Webster's Crossing after a fruitless search for a job. Buddy and other kind souls at Webster's Crossing band together to help the family out. As Buddy spends more time with Penny and the children, he discovers how a young girl like Penny ended up with six children to support. He plots to find a way to restore to Penny the life that she had sacrificed in order to care for her family, not realizing that he might be the prince that she and children are looking for.

I'm not really a big fan of the Dry Creek Series. I've read a few books from the series in the past, but never really got into them as an avid follower. I did enjoy this novella, though. I found myself laughing upon reading the moment when Buddy first laid eyes on the children piled in Penny's car after hearing that she was a widow. This one is worth a read.

3) Her Mule Hollow Cowboy by Debra Clopton.

This is a contemporary story set in Mule Hollow, my favourite fictional Texan town. The couple involved are Cliff Masterson and Maddie Rose (no relation to Penny Rose from the Dry Creek story above, unless this

was a deliberate collaboration that Janet Tronstad and Debra Clopton made like their previously released *Small Town Brides* which is composed of two novellas about two female cousins who met their matches in Dry Creek and Mule Hollow respectively). Cliff is a bull rider who is looking to retire from the circuit. He wants to buy his own ranch so that he can raise rodeo stock. Maddie co-owns a ranch with four other men, one of whom is Cliff's twin brother, Rafe. This connection results in Maddie's and Cliff's initial meeting as he rescues her from being stomped on by an ornery bull.

The sparks fly between Maddie and Cliff, but Maddie is afraid of getting close to Cliff because of her past. She is also fiercely independent, acting in this way to overcome her feelings of insecurity and inadequacy. Cliff has some issues to deal with too, having come to realize that his bull riding career may have been his own way of dealing with his own past, but he knows a good thing when he sees it, and that is a future with Maddie. Maddie shares things that she has never shared before about her past with Cliff and is falling in love with him.

Although Cliff is looking for property so that he can retire bull riding, his sponsors rope him back into the circuit. Maddie is fearful that he will abandon her. Will this couple make it?

I think that this story is sigh worthy, but I'm biased; I love Mule Hollow and its characters. App, Stanley, Sam, Hailey Bell Sutton, and of course, the Mule Hollow Matchmaking Posse, composed of Esther Mae, Norma Sue, and Adela, show up in the novella. And boy! The ladies of the Posse were *bad* this time round! However, how Cliff responded was very sweet. In fact, I liked how he conducted himself throughout the whole story. Yes, Maddie, he's a keeper!

And Ms. Clopton...if you ever read this, I would love, love, love to read about Rafe's story. There's enough of a hint that he has had some disappointment in love, and I would love for that cowboy to have his own happy ending. In fact, I would also love to read Ty's, Chase's, and Dalton's stories too.

4) Deadly Hunt by Margaret Daley.

Tess Miller, a bodyguard who specializes in protecting children, is on vacation at her uncle's isolated cabin in the Arizona mountains. She is trying to unwind from her last assignment when an injured man, without any identification, shows up at the cabin, bleeding from a gunshot wound. Shane Burkhart claims to be the owner of a high tech company, but has no idea why he had been shot; was it an accidental shooting by a hunter or is there someone trying to kill him? Will Shane survive his injuries? Is he really who he says he is? If the shooting was not accidental, who is trying to kill him, and why? What will Tess do about the attraction that she feels towards this stranger who is injured in her uncle's cabin?

I thought that this suspense story was quite well written. For the most part, the reader discovers details about who Shane is and the threat against his life as Tess learns about them. Unlike some stories, I had no idea who the bad guys were until they were revealed. For a while there, I was even uncertain about the male protagonist. The story unfolded well, and as I mentioned before, I usually find that Margaret Daley delivers a satisfying read.

5) Necessary Proof by Camy Tang.

Alex Villa, a police informant, and Jane Lawton, an IT/software specialist, are on the run from a Filipino gang that wants to recover the laptop that Alex had swiped after tailing a gang member to one of their drug labs. Alex had previously given information to the police about another drug lab belonging to the gang which led to an officer being ambushed and killed by gang members when the police tried to raid it. Alex needs Jane's expertise to retrieve any data that could prove his innocence and show that the gang is trying to frame him.

The pair barely keep one step ahead of their pursuers and are chased all over Sonoma. However, being on the lam forces Jane to face issues that have been plaguing her for the past year in which she has grown to be distrustful of men after being wounded and betrayed by most of the males in her life. All of this has also resulted in an estranged relationship with God. Alex, who had been previously interested in Jane, finds himself increasingly attracted to her again, but cannot act on this attraction until he can resolve the dangerous situation that he has brought upon Jane and himself.

This story was a bit more frantic than the previous one, because the pursuit takes place for most of the story. I'm not a technologically inclined person, but the descriptions of what Jane needed to do with the computer in order to help Alex were good enough for me to follow and not get lost. Finally, this was the story in this collection that I thought had the most incorporation of faith in God into the storyline. I enjoyed reading it.

6) Kissed by a Cowboy by Lacy Williams.

At the time of this review, this particular short story is also available at Smashwords. In fact, that is where I first read this before I received a copy of First Kisses.

Maddox Michaels was the man who Haley Carston had hoped would fall in love with her and want to marry before Maddox's sister and Haley's best friend, Katie, died. Then, he was full of confidence about his life and future, with the possibility of being noticed by professional scouts for the NFL. Now, Maddox is a different man; he is barely keeping his family together, having assumed the responsibility for caring for his orphaned niece, Olivia, and for a younger brother, Justin, who was injured in a bull riding accident. He has long shouldered the position of being the man of the family as both his parents have passed on. Maddox is also trying to keep the family farm financially afloat, traveling for a few days at a time doing additional work to earn extra income.

Haley and Maddox are reunited when Haley returns to Redbud Trails to care for her Aunt Matilda who is dying of cancer. Haley runs into Olivia, a precocious 11 year old who wants to start up a gourmet ice cream business but requires start up money that Maddox can barely spare. When Haley offers to help fund Olivia's business because she is determined to give her best friend's daughter a chance to realize her dreams, Maddox reluctantly agrees to Haley's scheme.

The more time Maddox spends with Haley, he realizes that he's falling for her, but he wrestles with fears that

he has nothing to offer her when his own life is a mess. Meanwhile, Haley is also falling for Maddox but can't figure out how to overcome his reservations about starting a relationship and his increasingly distant attitude.

I liked this story. Out of all the stories in this collection, I found this one to be the most plausible, believable, and possible that could happen in real life. It is one that I could relate to also because it is set in a contemporary time and didn't require me to imagine being in another era or for me to imagine being involved in a situation where my life would be endangered through espionage or criminal activity. The only quibble that I have is that I wouldn't classify this story as a Christian inspirational; I'd probably group it under the "sweet" and "clean" categories. Even though there is mention about church and people from church, I didn't see much mention about God or about drawing strength from a relationship with Him.

However, as I mentioned before, I enjoyed this story. This is the first work that I've read by Lacy Williams. I'd be interested in reading more of her work in the future.

In short:

This is a nice collection of short stories that includes the historical, suspense, and contemporary genres. Each story is a fairly light read. I believe that this is a great sampler for the authors included in this book if one hasn't read any of their work before.

Disclaimer: I was provided with a free e-copy of First Kisses from Net Galley in exchange for a review. All opinions stated in this review are mine.

This review is also posted on my blog at
<http://whatiscbreeding.blogspot.ca>

Alisa says

I love anthologies (collections of short stories) and this was a great one! It is 6 short stories about first kisses (no surprise there)! It was very clean!

There were Christian references in some (maybe all?) of the stories, but nothing preachy...

I don't think I have read other books by any of these authors, but I would love to read more of their books.

Kim says

First Kisses: Inspy Kisses Collection #1 is the first collection of novellas from some of my favorite authors! Each story has a theme around first kisses, which is incredibly sweet and sometimes hilarious. I was surprised that they squeezed in 6 different stories in one book.

The Rambler's Bride by Linda Goodnight

Jericho North gets the surprise of his life when he is greeted with a kiss from his brother's widow, Esther, who he believes has a sordid past. Jericho's quest is to claim what is rightfully his from his brother's will, but he didn't know about his nephew. Esther is desperately trying to make life in Kansas work but she will not sell the land that her husband would want to leave his son. Is Jericho the answer to her problems?

I enjoyed this story that starts with a bang! Right away I was drawn into the lives of Jericho and Esther. Esther is a strong woman, and she was not willing to be pushed around. Jericho is conflicted about what to do with his rising feelings for Esther and his nephew; his struggles are sincere. I thoroughly enjoyed this story.

Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Cafe by Janet Tronstad

Set in the 1950's, Penny, a widow, needs a job to support all her children. She meets a truck driver, Buddy, who helps her find a job and take care of her family. While Buddy can't help falling in love with the sweet woman, he can't ever imagine Penny returning his feelings. Can these two find love at the Heartbreak Cafe?

This story was one of the sweetest ones I've read in a long time. The tone is so down-to-earth and homey. I feel like I need to live in a small town and experience all the quirks and hospitalities that occur. The story is a very light-hearted read that will put a smile on your face.

Her Mule Hollow Cowboy by Debra Clopton

Meet Cliff Masterson, the famous bull rider who is ready to settle down. Showing up at his brother's place early, he rescues Maddie Rose, one of his brother's partners. Although she is hurt, Maddie Rose can take care of herself. Even if there's something drawing her to Cliff, she will not be hurt by that cowboy. Will Mule Hollow's matchmakers have their work cut out for them?

I love the fun banter between Cliff and Maddie. Maddie is feisty and determined. Reading about Mule Hollow made me want to read more from Debra Clopton. I didn't want the story to end.

Deadly Hunt by Margaret Daley

Tess Miller is a bodyguard who is on vacation in her uncle's isolated cabin when a wounded stranger collapses at her door. Shane Burkhart is grateful to this guardian angel but Tess is hesitant to trust him. She's not sure if he's a victim or a criminal. Who would want to kill Shane? Can Tess figure out what's going on before someone else gets hurt? Can she shove aside her feelings of attraction for Shane and do her job?

As a huge fan of Margaret Daley, I was excited to jump into this short mystery-thriller of a story. I was fully committed to the characters and their struggles. For such a short story, the pacing was great and the story didn't suffer too much. I only wish there was more to the story. I love Daley's strong women who stand up for justice. I encourage everyone to pick up some of her other books – they're that good.

Necessary Proof by Camy Tang

After becoming a Christian in prison, Alex Villa started working to help stop all the gang activity happening in Sonoma, but now he's been framed for the death of a cop. Can his old friend, Jane Lawton, use her skills as a computer expert to prove his innocence without getting both of them killed in the process? Can Jane let

go of her mistrust in men and trust the man she initially rejected?

Camy Tang is another of my favorite authors of all time and yes, it's because I'm biased. She always writes about Asian-American heroines which I absolutely identify with. She has a great voice that is sometimes humorous and yet authentic. She is true to what she knows and the pacing of this story was exactly what I wanted. This mystery-thriller is full of action and suspense but nothing too dark. Fans of romance-suspense will definitely enjoy this one.

Kissed by a Cowboy by Lacy Williams

Haley Carston used to be the shy girl who followed around Katie Michaels her senior year of high school, but she has returned to Redbud Trails, OK, to spend time with and care for her aunt dying of cancer. She runs into the first boy who ever kissed her, Maddox Michaels (Katie's older brother), and can't decide if her teenage crush would ever have feelings for her. Maddox feels he is barely holding everything together; what could he even offer the beautiful Haley?

Although I didn't experience all the Haley did growing up, I identified with getting over her shyness. On the outside, she looks almost perfect but on the inside she still struggles with insecurities and daddy issues the way that most of us do. Maddox is a cowboy who struggles with the "provider" hat that was placed on his head after his dad drunk himself to death. The constant pressure is overwhelming at times for him. The religious thread in this story was almost non-existent, which was a little disappointing to me but others might appreciate the author's subtly.

All in all, I rated the novella 3.5/5 because the stories are too rushed for my taste but it can't really be helped. I would definitely recommend the book to those who love reading fun and heartwarming stories.

I received this book for free from NetGalley but was not required to give a positive review.

Lokdyer says

There are six stories in this one book, all by wonderful authors. You find cowboys, truck drivers, mystery, suspense, and romance. Each story is separate from the others. Even if some of the stories don't sound like what you usually read, I think you'll enjoy all of them. I know I did.

The Rambler's Bride by Linda Goodnight

Don't miss reading this one. Linda Goodnight has written another great story. Jericho North comes to the homestead seeking revenge on his sister-in-law, Esther. He thinks of her as "the harlot who had killed his brother." He knows she worked in a saloon and he is sure she somehow tricked his brother into marrying her. Boy, is he in for some surprises. First, he intervenes between Esther and her cousin's powerful husband, Theodore "Theo" Perkins, who owns the saloon in town. To stop trouble between the two men, Esther throws herself into Jericho's arms and kisses him. What a shock that kiss is for both of them. Then he finds out he is the uncle of a precious little boy named Samuel—not doubt about it, he is his brother's son. With time spent together, Jericho has to revise his opinion about Esther. She isn't what he thought her to be. She is a kind, caring, loving person, who loves her son and her land. Soon they grow close and work together to out-smart Theo, who is trying to force Esther to sell her land to him. See how it all works out and they get their happily-ever-after ending.

Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Café by Janet Tronstad

This modern day story is not what I usually read, but I have to say I enjoyed it from beginning to end. The story is set in 1958 in a small town—"not much more than a dozen old clapboard houses, a two-story general store in need of paint, a gas station with one pump, a wide swath of tumbleweeds, and the Heartbreak Cafe and Hotel" (the hotel being a rusty trailer parked behind the café). Meet the main characters, truck driver Buddy Hamilton and Penny Rose and her six children. But then there's Fred, the café owner; Granny, who owns the general store, and her granddaughter Irene; Lizzie, who runs the gas station, but also cuts hair, gives perms and fixes truck engines when not busy; "Shades", also a truck driver; plus a lot of other wonderful truck drivers and townspeople. Watch romance blossom between Buddy and Penny while they deal with life's problems—Buddy dealing with feelings from his past and now wanting to buy a ranch; Penny needing to work and care for her children. Buddy has an idea to help Penny and her family, so with the help of other truck drivers and people from around town, they put the plan into action. See how their faith and hard work lead to success. See how Buddy and Penny get the happily-ever-after ending they've both dreamed about.

Her Mule Hollow Cowboy by Debra Clopton

Mule Hollow is a great place to visit and every story about it is fun to read. This one is no exception. You'll love Maddie Rose and Cliff Masterson, although there are also other great characters in the story. Maddie is one of five owners of the New Horizon ranch. Cliff is a professional bull rider, coming to visit his twin brother Rafe, and looking to buy a ranch in the Mule Hollow area. The story starts with Maddie trying to load an ornery bull named Buford into a trailer, but that job ends with Maddie in the dirt, ready to be trampled by Buford. You can imagine what would have happened if Cliff hadn't arrived just then to save the day. There is instant chemistry between them when Cliff helps Maddie up off the ground, but sparks fly almost immediately. He criticizes and she automatically bristles. That seems to be the pattern whenever they're together. Maddie is afraid to open her heart to Cliff because she's had too many people leave her in the past. She's sure he'll leave to go back to the rodeo circuit. Cliff knows Maddie has some kind of issues, so he goes slowly to win her heart and, needless to say, his efforts meet with success. I enjoyed this story and I'm sure you will too.

Deadly Hunt by Margaret Daley

Margaret Daley has written another great suspense story. Tess Miller is a professional bodyguard, but she's staying at her uncle's cabin in the Arizona mountains for a well-earned vacation. Imagine her surprise when a man falls through her front door with a bullet hole in his leg and a head wound. Is he a criminal on the run from the law or an innocent hiker? Tess has all she can handle trying to save the man's life and can't worry too much about who is watching the cabin. When the man regains consciousness, Tess finds out his name is Shane Burkhart and his injuries were not an accident. They both realize someone wants him dead. But who? After returning to Phoenix, Tess reluctantly agrees to be Shane's bodyguard until after a merger he's working on. I was surprised at who was involved in the murder plot and amazed at how Tess and Shane managed to survive their kidnapping. You won't want to miss the action, suspense and romance in this story. You find it all.

Necessary Proof by Camy Tang

Can you imagine being framed for something you didn't do? Well, that's what happens to Alex Villa. Alex spent time in prison due to some bad choices he had made, but through that nightmare he discovered Jesus. He is now a Christian and working as a confidential informant for the Sonoma Police Department. Because

of his efforts to get rid of meth labs in the area, he's been set up by a Filipino gang called the Tumibays. Alex manages to steal a laptop from the gang's accountant, but needs help to retrieve its data, so he goes to Jane Lawton, a computer expert and friend. Now Jane and her family, as well as Alex and his family, are in danger. After being followed by the bad guys (of course they want the laptop back and Alex and Jane dead) and narrowly escaping from them at Jane's office, they devise a bold, daring plan to outsmart the three men after them. I was shocked at the plan (I'll bet you will be too), but....you know it had to work out right. I'll let you discover how that happened. Alex clears his name with the police and Jane moves into a new career. Of course, there will be a happily-ever-after for them.

Kissed By a Cowboy by Lacy Williams

Do you remember your first kiss? Well, Haley Carston does, even 12 years after Maddox Michaels, her best friend Katie's older brother, kissed her at her senior prom. Haley has been gone twelve years, but is back in Redbud Trails, Oklahoma, to take care of her dying aunt, Matilda. That's the only reason she has returned. In coming back, Haley meets Maddox again and past feelings resurface, but Maddox is too busy working and worrying about his life to think there's hope for something more than friendship between them. He has so many responsibilities: working long hours just to keep from losing the family farm; taking care of his brother Justin, whose bull-riding career has ended from being stomped by a bull; being the guardian of his 11-year-old niece Olivia, Katie's daughter. Once Haley and Olivia meet—Olivia wants to start a business selling gourmet ice cream—Haley becomes a frequent visitor to the farm and gets involved with the whole family. What a difference she makes in all their lives! It takes some time, but Haley and Maddox realize how much they love each other and whatever problems might be ahead, they can work them out together. This was a great story. Don't miss it.

I received a free advance copy of this book to read and post an honest review, which I have done. I would recommend this book to everyone.

Michelle says

First Kisses - A Collection

Six amazing books from six different authors. They are all Christian fiction set from the 1800's to present time. Each book is a stand alone book with great settings, story lines and characters. All the books had family and faith. Some of the authors were know to me and some I was unfamiliar with. I really enjoyed each book. I can not wait to check out books from these new authors. I want to thank the authors Linda Goodnight, Janet Tronstad, Debra Clapton, Margaret Daley, Camy Tang, Lacy Williams and publisher for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

The Rambler's Bride by Linda Goodnight

Jericho North is on the quest to get revenge for the death of his brother. He search's out his brother widow who he thinks is at fault and finds Ester and infant son. He soon realizes Ester North is not the harlot he thought her to be. She is so much more, hardworking, an upright citizen, Christian and mother. Ester is confused by Jericho he is kind, compassionate but has a deep seated anger just beyond the surface. Read this great story to see if they can overcome the things they thought the other was and find a life of love. The author Linda Goodnight did a fantastic job of showing what can be found in life when the love and forgiveness of Christ is present. I give this book five stars and would recommend it to anyone whom loves Christian historical fiction.

Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Café by Janet Tronstad

In this amazing story a community comes together to help a struggling family. Buddy is the local truck driver and is filled with compassion for the new waitress at the local café. Penny is struggling to raise 6 children and finds herself homeless and out of work. This story demonstrated the true spirit of a Christian. I love how the community pulled together to help Penny and the kids. How Penny, herself was compassionate enough to give up everything to raise her six nieces and nephews. I found Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Café to be an remarkable example of how we all should serve others. The author Janet Tronstad did a great job, the characters are faith filled and believable. Five stars to you and the publisher for this Christian fiction. I enjoyed this book and would recommend it to others.

Her Mule Hollow Cowboy by Debra Clapton

Cliff, a pro bull rider comes to Mule Hollow to visit his brother Rafe and do some soul searching. He finds more than he every imagined when he saves Maddie from Buford the bull. Maddie has the walls to her heart up after being raised in foster care. But Cliff is determined to bring down her walls and settle in Mule Hollow. Debra Clapton did a wonderful job with this well written book. If you enjoy Christian fiction with a little romance this is the book for you. I enjoyed the spit fire personalities and the witty characters of Her Mule Hollow Cowboy. I give this novel five stars and highly recommend it.

Deadly Hunt by Margaret Daley

Tess Miller was surprised when a tall dark haired stranger crashed through her front door only to collapse at her feet with a gunshot wound. Shane Burkhart has no idea why someone would be after him. He is a single dad and CEO of DDI. Tess was on much needed vacation from her body guard job but now is guard and nurse over Shane, until she can get him out of her uncles remote cabin. Margaret Daley did a fantastic job bringing the characters to life. I love them and the story line. I highly recommend this book for everyone who enjoys Christian fiction, mystery and romance. I give five stars to Deadly Hunt.

Necessary Proof by Camy Tang

Alex Villa is in a pickle, he is being accused of a crime he did not commit but is determined to prove his innocence. On the run from the bad guys, he asks Jane Lawton for help with a computer. Now both of their lives are in danger and the bad guys are around every corner. Jane's character developed a back bone and I have to admire her courage to stand up to other's. I loved the fast pace of this book. Author Camy Tang did a great job of bringing these characters to life. I highly recommend this book to those who love Christian fiction, suspense and a little bit of romance. Necessary Proof is worthy of five stars.

Kissed by a Cowboy by Lacy Williams

As a senior in high school Haley Carston received her first kiss from an older college guy Maddox Michael's. Years later she returns to Redbud Trails, Oklahoma, still remembering that kiss. She only plans to stay long enough to help Aunt Matilda that is fighting cancer. Things take an interesting turn when she meets Maddox's young niece Livy at the bank. It seems she rode her bike three and quarter miles in order to get a business loan. Read this great book to see if Haley and Maddox can rekindle the flame from before. This was a extraordinary book. It was well written with believable characters and situations, well worth 5 stars.

Peni says

Please see individual stories for review.

Judy says

The Rambler's Bride by Linda Goodnight

Jericho North has traveled over a hundred miles to reach his brother's homestead. Each mile that passed he hated the woman more who had tricked his brother into marriage and caused his death. He was going for revenge. Only it seems God has something else in mind.

Esther North is doing the best she can without a man around. Dealing with her cousin's powerful husband and keeping up with the farm. When the dark handsome stranger appears and helps her, she starts to hope. But will he stick around or just pass through?

<http://justjudysjumbles.blogspot.com/...>

Merged review:

First Kisses Anthology

Six popular authors have pulled their talents together and wrote these six stories. Each story stands alone, not connected to the other authors. Romances from the 1800's to the present day. People who are hurt and scarred and don't think that love could be in their futures. They are wrong of course. It's a great mix of stories. Two of the stories are suspense and keep you on the edge of your seat. All six are page turners. I hope that more stories will come from these as there are some great secondary characters as well.

The Rambler's Bride by Linda Goodnight

Jericho North has traveled over a hundred miles to reach his brother's homestead. Each mile that passed he hated the woman more who had tricked his brother into marriage and caused his death. He was going for revenge. Only it seems God has something else in mind.

Esther North is doing the best she can without a man around. Dealing with her cousin's powerful husband and keeping up with the farm. When the dark handsome stranger appears and helps her, she starts to hope. But will he stick around or just pass through?

Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Cafe by Janet Tronstad

Buddy Hamilton was a simple truck driver who wanted a piece of land and a home to call his own. Nothing more. Growing up in foster homes convinced him he'd never be a family man, wouldn't know how. Then he met Penny Rose and her brood. At first they scared him, and then intrigued him. Especially the way the young woman lived out her faith so strongly that he was learning more about God through her actions.

Her Mule Hollow Cowboy by Debra Clopton Parks

Maddie Rose was determined to work as hard as her male partners on the ranch that was willed to them all. She finally had a place to belong. Putting her past behind her and deciding if she couldn't have her dream, at least she had this.

Cliff Masterson thought he was living the dream being on the bull riding circuit. Now that his dad died, he stopped to realize maybe he'd been running all these years. When he went to stay with his brother Rafe and look for land in Mule Hollow, he never expected to find someone that could fill the empty hole in him, even if she was a stubborn spit-fire of a woman.

Deadly Hunt by Margaret Daley

Tess Miller is a bodyguard and she cherishes her time at her uncle's cabin twice a year. Time alone. This trip isn't going quite as she planned when a man who's been shot makes it to her cabin's door. And she's his only help since they are a long walk from anywhere.

Shane Burkhart was just enjoying some time in the mountains, hiking and photographing. Next thing he knows he wakes up in a cabin being tended by a woman. He's been shot. Worse yet...it might not have been an accident.

Necessary Proof by Camy Tang

Alex Villa had spent time in prison, he has since become a Christian and changed his ways but someone is setting him up. He is determined to clear his name and to continue fighting against the drug dealers in Sonoma.

Jane Lawton has felt alone this past year. She's tired of being used, now Alex appears at her door and needs her computer skills. And as she always does for anyone, she helps him. Who knew what danger it would bring to her doorstep? And also how much healing would come from it.

Kissed by a Cowboy by Lacy Williams

Haley Carston had been moved from one place to the next. Then her aunt invited her to stay and finish high school. She was finally home and had friends. And gave her heart away for the first time. Until it all fell apart. Her aunt's health has brought her back to town.

Maddox Michaels has the world on his shoulders and has since he was a teen and his dad drank himself to death. Now he's trying to keep the farm afloat, raise his niece and deal with his depressed brother. How can he make room for Haley in this mess that's his life?

****Received as ARC for review**

<http://justjudysjumbles.blogspot.com/...>

Cas H. says

This is an excellent collection of stories. Wonderful authors. I loved this book! The reason why I gave it a 4 instead of a 5, was because I was not too interested in the second to last story in this book Necessary Proof. I loved the falling in love, I loved the thought of happily ever after, and the way each other conveyed their stories in very different ways.

I received a free copy of this book in return for my honest opinion.

Diana Montgomery says

First Kisses (Inspy Kisses Collection #1)

By authors: Linda Goodnight, Janet Tronnstad, Debra Clopton, Margaret Daley, Camy Tang and Lacy Williams.

This is a 5 star book all these stories each are a 5 star

I loved all the short stories Looking forward to volume 2.
I was given this book to give my own honest thoughts of it.

First Kisses

This book is written by six authors who came together to write their own romance novella. Stories of finding love and trust. Suspense that will keep you wanting to read. I hope there will be more to follow up with the great characters in each story.

The Rambler's Bride

By: Linda Goodnight

A very well written novella. The story kept your attention to where you didn't want to stop reading. Story is of a brother who is out for revenge for his brother's death. Hearing stories he married a saloon girl she was taking advantage of his brother. All he could think of was revenge. Until he sees for himself. What could God have in mind here? Did his brother know what he was doing by what he wrote in these letters? Was this all in God's plan?

Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Café

By: Janet Tronstad

Such a sweet love story. I felt so at home with the family in this story. Penny looking for a job, her husband just passed away leaving her with 6 kids to raise. Buddy a trucker thinking not much of a chance at him ever finding a gal to settle down with. He didn't own anything. Then there's trouble with a landlord what will Penny do? Can her faith hold strong?
Loved the story. Hope there is more to follow.

Her Mule Hollow Cowboy

By: Debra Clopton

Very cute story. Can Maddie let her guard down and let someone love her? Fall in love with Maddie and Cliff. Cliff is such a sweetheart of a guy. Even though he is mister tuff bull rider. What does the future have in store for them? I sure hope there is a follow up of them.

Deadly Hunt

By: Margaret Daley

This story was so exciting. Tess Miller on a little vacation to get some well deserved rest from her job. Turns out to be a adventure to find out who this stranger is who crashed through her front door with a bullet wound. Can she be his body guard and find out who is out to get him. This is really a great story. You will love it.

Necessary Proof

By: Camy Tang

Alex is being accused of a crime he didn't do. In order to prove himself he has to steal a computer that has very important info on it. This story is full of a lot of action and will keep you on the edge of your seat. You won't put it down.

Kissed By a Cowboy

By: Lacy Williams

Kissed By a Cowboy

By: Lacy Williams

I really enjoyed this book. The characters are easy to love. Haley who has devoted her life to her Aunt. Her Aunt has cancer and no help for it. She needs around the clock care so Haley has agreed to care for her in her last days. Haley goes back to her hometown to take care of her. Meets a old guy she liked from high school. Maddox is one good looking cowboy. Can something become of this relationship? Maddox has problems of his own. Great romance written very clean and no cussing. I look forward to more written by Lacy Williams.

Sally says

First Kisses

Inspy Kisses

Collection 1

The Rambler's Bride by Linda Goodnight

I loved this story by Linda Goodnight. Jericho North has preconceived notions about his sister-in-law Ester since she used to work at a saloon. When Jericho receives word that his brother has died, he travels to their ranch in the lawless prairie to kick her out, since Jericho was named in the will as the rightful owner now. She had tricked his brother into marrying her, was the cause of his death, and now she deserved whatever she got.

Ester married Silas and now he is dead. She is trying to keep the ranch going without her husband. But she was pretty much doing it all even before her husband died. Now Theo, who is married to her cousin, is trying to make her sell her ranch for the railroad that is coming through. This is all she has; she isn't giving it up. When Jericho and Ester meet, she throws herself into his arms for a heart-stopping kiss in front of Theo, in order to get Theo to leave. Jericho follows her plan, but he just thinks it proves his point. She is a loose woman; she just proved it. And since she is the reason for Silas' death, he doesn't care what happens to her after he kicks her out. But then he realizes he has a nephew. What is he supposed to do now? He can't kick her out with a baby.

I loved the interaction between Ester and Jericho. Both have secrets they want to keep from each other, but can they build a future after the truth is told?

Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Café by Janet Tronstad

I cried when I finished this story! Have you ever read a romance, and when the story was over, you sighed because it was just perfect? That is this story!

Buddy Hamilton is a truck driver who stops in at the Heartbreak Café to eat. Penny Rose stops in looking for a job, with 6 children in her car. Buddy doesn't want to get involved with someone who already has kids, but he can't just leave her. She's recently widowed and has all those kids to care for. The closer Buddy gets to Penny and her kids, the more he realizes he doesn't want them out of his life, especially when he finds out from Ellie, one of the daughters, that Penny's their aunt taking care of them.

The other truck drivers, local businesses, and ranchers pitch in to help Penny and her family. When they have church, one of the truck drivers leads the services. They introduce each other by the truck they drive or what they haul. Buddy talks the other drivers into helping Penny's wheat farm produce wheat so she'll have money to go back to school to find her prince. With Penny's faith and love for God, Buddy realizes anyone can change with God's help. But will she see Buddy as her prince? You'll have to read the story to find out!

Her Mule Hollow Cowboy by Debra Clopton

I loved this sweet romance by Debra Clopton. Maddie had been an orphan, left at the post office as a baby, unwanted. Could she trust Cliff with her heart? She didn't trust anyone. She didn't want anyone telling her what to do.

Cliff was a bull rider. Could he give up his lifestyle and settle down with Maddie?

You'll love this romance as Maddie and Cliff come to terms with their past and forge their future together.

Deadly Hunt by Margaret Daley

This is a great suspense story! Who is trying to kill Shane Burkhardt and why would they want to? He runs Digital Drive Inc and is in the process of a company merger. Is there someone who doesn't want to see that merger take place? Would they resort to murder to keep that from happening?

Tess Miller is a professional bodyguard. She is on vacation in the mountains at her uncle's cabin when Shane falls through her doorway. He's been shot, but has no idea who would want to kill him. Shane talks Tess into protecting him until the merger goes through by posing as the woman he's dating. How can she pretend when it's really what she wants? But how can she know that already? They just met. She'll just have to get this job over with and go back to her normal life.

If you love a romantic suspense love story, you'll love this one. See if you can guess who is behind the murder attempts! Shane and Tess are great characters, the plot is believable, and the ending is pure bliss!

Necessary Proof by Camy Tang

This is a great story filled with suspense and intrigue. Alex Villa is accused of a crime that he didn't commit. As a confidential informant, he is used to being on the right side of the law. He steals a laptop from the bad guys, and in order to prove his innocence, he asks Jane Lawton to bypass security protocols on it to see what information is contained that can help his case. The bad guys show up at her place ready to attack. Alex and Jane start running and the action never stops.

Jane is a Christian out of habit. Things haven't gone well for her over the past year; she feels alone, like God has abandoned her. She feels her distrust of men has spilled over into her relationship with God. Her faith has become lukewarm and she feels like no one, especially God, loves her. She has to learn that God's love can heal her, that it's real, nonjudgemental, and unfailing. With this kind of love in her life, she can rebuild her life.

Jane's faith journey is a perfect element in this story. She agrees to help Alex, and in the process, discovers her strengths. Alex and Jane are great together, making a wonderful suspenseful love story!

Kissed by a Cowboy by Lacy Williams

Haley Carston wants to go to the prom, but no one will go with her. Her best friend, Katie Michaels sets her up with her older brother, Maddox. They get along well, but things don't work out, Haley moves away, and Katie dies, leaving a little girl Olivia for Maddox to take care of. When Haley's aunt gets sick, Haley comes back to take care of her and runs into Maddox again.

Maddox has always been under the strain of everyone else's expectations. He was the star football player. But he comes back home without a degree, trying to keep the family farm afloat, raise his niece, and watch over his brother Justin who suffers from depression.

Haley has always wanted to fit in. When she finds out she can help Olivia start an ice cream business, it doesn't matter that she's just a little girl. She's going to do it while she's in town taking care of her sick aunt. Olivia is such a sweet girl. Haley and Maddox work together, even though they have unresolved feelings about each other from their past. She helps Maddox and Olivia with their pain from Katie's dying. She even brings about a change in Justin.

Haley feelings of inadequacy keep her from telling Maddox how she feels. Maddox is under too much pressure, feeling like he can't dream any more, taking care of everyone else. This is a great story of love overcoming all. It's a great ending to a great collection of romances!

I received this collection free in exchange for an honest review.

Elizabeth says

First Kisses (Inspy Kisses) volume 1

By, Linda Goodnight, Janet Tronstad, Debra Clopton, Margaret Daley, Camy Tang, and Lacy Williams

Six authors have joined together to write First Kisses and I want to say they have all done a great job.

The Rambler's Bride by Linda Goodnight

I loved this one and I think Linda Goodnight did an awesome job, she takes you back to 1800's in Kansan Esther North is a widow who will do about anything even kiss a stranger to save her land from her cousin's husband and the railroad. Esther's husband died a couple of years back and she is trying to save her land. Her cousin's husband is giving her a hard time and wants her land. He is there one day and mishandling Esther. Just about this time Jericho North comes riding onto the homestead that this buzzy Esther is living on. He wants to send her packing as quick as he can and he has in his pocket just the thing that will do it. He goes on in and both Hester and her cousin's husbands surprised to see him. Will Jericho get more than he bargained for? I enjoyed this book and I know you will too.

Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Cafe by Janet Tronstad

Janet Tronstad writes a good one here. Her story is a sweet romance in a 1950's Retro Cafe and a truck driver name Buddy. Buddy has a lot of problems on his own without adding a beautiful young lady name Penny to them. He is trying to buy some land and was in the Cafe the day Penny comes in looking for a job. Wanting a job is not all of Penny's problems, but she needs one really bad. This is a very good story and you might find that the whole town has them falling in love. Penny and Buddy have their problems and don't need anymore.

Her Mule Hollow cowboy by Debra Clopton

Maddie Rose and some of the other cowboys had a ranch willed to them after the owner died. Now Maddie thinks she has to prove that she is just as good as the rest of the cowboys. Well she has some trouble one day getting a bull into the trailer. About the time she was already on the ground she looked up and sees Cliff Masterson a stranger helping her. Now Cliff probably saved her life but he thought she was dead by the time he got to her. Cliff is home to try and find some land to settle on and raise bulls so he can leave the rodeo circuit. Will stubborn Maddie let Cliff help her? She thinks that he is a handsome cowboy. Why did the other cowboys let Maddie try and get the bull into the trailer by herself? I loved this story about Maddie and Cliff.

Deadly Hunt by Margaret Daley

I really loved this suspense and action story by Margaret Daley. You are in for a ride, so hold on tight. Tess Miller works for a security company as a body guard in Texas. She is on Vacation at her uncle's cabin. She hears a racket at the door. There should not be anyone around the chin. She get her shot gun and opens the door. As she opens the door a man falls inside. Who is this man and is he a killer? She just knows that she must not let him die. She has no idea who he is. Tess and the wounded man is in for a ride. Tess only knows that someone is trying to kill him and she has to try and protect him. Will Tess be able to save him from the ones trying to kill him?

Necessary Proof by Camy Tang

Alex Villa was in prison and while he was there he became a Christian. Someone is trying to frame him, he

is being set up for the death of a cop. He goes to a computer expert, Jane Lawton to get her to help him find the evidence he needed to prove he is innocence . Now he is also putting Jane's life on the line too. Can they find what they need to help Alex?

Kissed by a Cowboy by Lacy Williams

I loved this book and you will just fall in love with the characters. Haley Carston's aunt has been with her through dark times after Paul walked out on Haley. Now it was time for Haley to help her aunt that had been diagnosed with inoperable cancer. Haley goes to Redbud Trails, Oklahoma back to the town where she grew up and left. Maddox Michael ,was a football player in high school and now was stuck in Redbud Trail and he was trying to save a family farm, his brother, and be a father to his niece, Olivia.Olivia's mom died when she was a baby. Haley and Katie grew up together and everyone knew Haley as Katie's tag-along . Olivia and Haley gets to be good friends and they go into business together. Now this business is something that is really cool. I hope you will love this story as much as I did.

I gave this book a 5 star because all the stories was an awesome read. I was given a copy of this book by the authors for my honest review, which I have given.

Janka H. says

Romantic reads about first kisses and openings of heart. The collection contains 6 novelettes with range from historical to contemporary.

I liked the variability as almost anyone can find the suitable genre/time period story for them. It is difficult to write a novelette - same plot demands as a novel, but within the limited space. So I enjoyed the writing skills of the authoresses quite a bit.

I especially loved these two novels : "Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Cafe" by Janet Tronstad and "Necessary Proof" by Camy Tang.

"Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Cafe" has THE feeling. I was immediately there in the 50's summer, feeling the heat and understanding shy truck driver who met the beauty. At first intimidated by the circumstances (among them 6 kids, at that!), but Bud soon realizes he is in love up to his ears, but he doesn't want to take anything, just to give. Because how could a guy like him be enough for her? But his heart is the size of Texas and it shows. I loved it.

"Necessary Proof" is fast and intelligent crime read about Alex, former convict now leading an honest life, who must fight to clear his name. And who could be a better help than smart computer specialist Jane Lawton?

I loved this novelette because it is completely believable. The characters (including bad ones) are behaving like intelligent people and their steps are both logical and fast-paced. I love my heroes being smart! And besides being smart, they are very human. My heart went out for Jane - but you are the winner with a guy like Alex, girlfriend!

"Deadly Hunt" by Margaret Daley is also very good mystery. Bodyguard Tess is vacationing at the mountain cabin, when a hurt man enters. It is very possible that Shane is hunted by the killers to stop his business operations. Can Tess help him? Can he enter her seemingly closed heart?

The read is catchy and fast-paced and the human story is even better!

"Kissed by a Cowboy" by Lacy Williams is a sweet story about young couple meeting some 10 years after that kiss. Haley is now a quite successful city girl visiting her Aunt, while Maddox is a broken man striving to meet the ends and to make a bread for his hurt brother and a young niece. But they understand and complement each other and the feelings follows. But are they able to follow their hearts?

Truly warm, heart-touching read.

"The Rambler's Bride" by Linda Goodnight

Jericho is sure that his late brother's wife Esther is a "harlot". His brother was not the marrying type and she just might manipulate him! But when the lovely woman kisses him to get rid of the man bothering her, he feels...something. And he soon realizes that not everything is as he thought it is.

"Her Mule Hollow Cowboy" by Debra Clopton

Orphan Maggie feels she must prove herself to anybody, to show she is not a weak woman. But bull rider Cliff immediately sees her tender heart.

This is a summer read for me, for sitting on verandah with a glass of cold tea - to enjoy the warm feelings what romance brings.

Rebecca says

July 2, 2014 I just finished the first story, The Rambler's Bride by Linda Goodnight. I loved it. Jericho's brother died a couple months ago, and left him his property in Kansas. Jericho comes to claim the land, but instead falls in love with his brother's widow, Esther. This was such a sweet story, and I can't wait to read the others.

July 8, 2014- I just read the second story, Lovebirds at the Heartbreak Cafe by Janet Tronstad, and loved it. Penny Rose has been widowed for two months. She married her deceased sister's husband, because he had lung cancer, and their six kids would be orphans once he died. She goes to the cafe looking for work as a waitress, and meets Buddy Hamilton, who is a truck driver. He soon falls in love with Penny and the kids

Her Mule Hollow Cowboy by Debra Clopton

Maddie Rose was left a partial owner to a ranch, and gets injured trying to load a bull into a trailer. Cliff Masterson comes along just in time to help her. She doesn't like needing help, and feels that she needs to prove herself to the other owners of the ranch. Cliff can't understand why she won't accept help. This was a really cute story.

Deadly Hunt by Margaret Daley

Tess Miller is alone at her cabin in Arizona, when an injured man bursts inside, and collapses. Shane Burkhart had been shot in the leg, and fell off a cliff. Tess works for a security company, and suspects someone is trying to kill him. She agrees to be his bodyguard until they can find out who wants to hurt him. I liked this one, too.

Necessary Proof by Camy Tang

Alex Villa is being framed for a cop's murder. He goes to Jane Lawton for help in clearing his name. This

was a good story. I liked seeing characters from Deadly Intent again. I didn't realize the stories were connected until the end.

Kissed by a Cowboy by Lacy Williams

Haley Carston is back in Redbud Trails after twelve years because her aunt has cancer. She meets Olivia Michaels at the bank. She is Maddox Michaels,' niece, and the daughter of Haley's best friend from high school. Haley offers to help Olivia open a business. This one made me cry, but I still loved it.

I thought this was a great selection of short stories. The second and last stories were my favorite, but they were all very good.

I received a copy of this book from the authors in exchange for a review. All opinions are my own.
