



Sweet Annie

Cheryl St. John

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Annie Sweetwater Wasn't Like Other Girls

All her life everyone she'd ever known had told her so. Except Luke Carpenter, who never let her limp blind him to seeing her as she really was: a woman grown, full of dreams, desires and hopes for a future—with him!

Luke couldn't remember a time when he hadn't loved her

To her family, she was a Dresden doll in a wheelchair. To Luke, she was his Sweet Annie, a woman of surprising gifts, with a heart as open as the wide Western sky. And he'd risk anything to make her his bride!

Sweet Annie Details

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From Reader Review Sweet Annie for online ebook

Alex says

Annie Sweetwater has always been different from the rest of her family and friends in the small town of Copper Creek, Colorado. She was born with a bad hip that makes her limp. Her family adores her but also are over protective of her, at times thinking of her as a doll rather than a person.

When she was ten years old, Annie met Luke Carpenter - who had just moved to Copper Creek with his uncle - and he made her two wonderful gifts: took her for a horse ride, and he treated her like a normal girl. Sadly, her parents didn't take well to Luke, and from then on they didn't let Annie have anything to do with Luke, even though they lived in the same town.

Ten years later, Luke owns his own livery, which he build on his own since Annie's father is the town's banker and wasn't inclined to give him a loan; and he hasn't forgotten Annie; in fact, he's more in love than ever. And it is her love for him that will give her the strength to finally claim the 'normal' life she longs for.

Oh, I completely loved this book, it's the first Cheryl St. John book I've read and it was lovely. The way Luke sees Annie for the beautiful person that she is rather than pass judgment on her for her physical imperfections made me fall in love with him as well. And as Annie begins to fight for what she wants made her a great heroine.

Linda says

Book #1 in the Copper Creek Bride Series

"Out of all the men who could have ridden into her life and received her favor, he'd been the one she wanted. He would do anything for her, anything to please her, anything to see her smile, hear her laugh, win her kiss."

"Look at you. You're a strong, healthy man. Why would you want a girl like Annie, who can't possibly do everything a normal woman can? Those words pierced Luke's heart- and lodged anger in his soul."

....."Lord, she was a talker."

"Don't cry," he said gruffly.

"I'm not crying," she denied....."Sometimes my eyes leak when I'm happy."

"I'm not going to break, you know."

"I am," he replied.

R. Dewitt says

I loved this sweet love story! It was uplifting and simple with just enough drama to keep you interested! I did

get frustrated at one or two points in the book, but that is also why I loved it. If there was no drama or misunderstandings, there would be no story. I teared up while reading twice. Very well written and the characters are lovable. It is a must read for anyone wanting a simple historical !

Jacqueline says

Looked for this for quite a while. Thank you Scribd. Very nice story of a wheelchair bound girl in the 1800s. Her family treats her as an invalid when really she just walks with a bad limp. The hero is a guy who met her as a child and never thought she was any less capable than any other girl. I wish there had been more of them together as children to justify the instant love they felt when they finally get together as adults. It was really sweet though and charming. The ending was too predictable but all in all I liked this book.

Christy Stewart says

I'm torn here...I want to give this a horrible rating but I liked the character Annie...

First off, having a limp because one leg is longer than the other is a cheap ass way of writing a crippled character. Own it and give her something really gimp; this is fiction, I want DRAMA!

Second, this is yet another cripple-discovers-s/he-is-more-capable-than-previous-thought-once-a-3rd-party-treats-them-like-a-normal-person. I know this seems like it's not a bad thing but I cannot get on my milk carton every time I review a book so just trust me on this.

Annie was good though. She was the only character that seemed human in this book...she needs to find her potential in a better story.

Ridley says

I was really enjoying this story of a disabled woman breaking out of her shell and demanding people see her as the fully-actualized woman she was, until the author went and annoyed me at the end. Until then, it was a lovely story of two people who left lasting impressions on each other as children falling in love many years later as adults. Luke was patient, determined and kind as he encouraged Annie to live life on her own terms. Both laughed, loved and enjoyed life just a little bit more in each other's presence. They were an object lesson in seeing beneath the surface. She a banker's daughter, and he a mere farrier.

The story's weaknesses were a tendency to blandly tell instead of show and a frustrating hiccup at the end where Annie reverts to a weak, self-pitying creature.

Sandy Gordon says

A very sweet read. Love books written by Cheryl St John.

Xiki71 says

No sé por qué este harlequín tiene tantas buenas críticas. Se dice de él que es muy romántico, a mi me parece pasteloso. Demasiado azúcar para mi gusto.

A ver, siempre me han gustado los libros con protagonistas con defectos físicos o con enfermedades concretas, me gusta que no sean tan perfectos. Aquí en ese punto empezábamos bien, Annie tiene un problema que le impide caminar y el protagonista es el único, en un principio, que no la trata como si se fuera a romper con solo mirarla.

El problema viene después, cuando él empieza a decirle "amén" a todo, porque claro, ella es tan dulce, tan pequeña que todo le parece bien con tal de que ella sea feliz, ni una sola discusión, ni una palabra mas alta que otra, ni siquiera al final cuando sucede algo definitivo.

¡Por Dios! Cuando leo una novela romántica me gusta tanto una escena de amor como una buena discusión para ver cómo se va resolver, me da igual que se tiren platos a la cabeza si luego van a reconciliarse de forma apasionada, pero en este "libro" falta todo eso y más.

Faltan escenas de cama, faltan discusiones, reconciliaciones e incluso que él le de un buen puñetazo al hermano de ella en más de una ocasión, pero no... todo eso falta porque como dice el título, el amor es tan dulce...

Julianna says

Reviewed for THC Reviews

Sweet Annie would be a perfect book to be turned into a Hallmark Channel movie. It's an incredibly sweet, tender story filled with very human emotions that really tug at the heartstrings. Annie's family could be very frustrating in the way they coddle her when all she wants is to be normal. I think that in general their hearts were in the right place, but their over-protectiveness and control of her, especially on her mother's part, was emotionally abusive, which is evidenced in Annie's lack of self-confidence even after she's experienced Luke's unconditional love and encouragement. At least her uncle, aunt, and cousin, Charmaine, treat her like a capable human being, but it's Luke who truly believes in her and shows her a whole new world she never knew existed.

Annie was born with a birth defect in her hip that causes her to walk with a pronounced limp. However, her parents never really allowed her to walk, always keeping her confined to a wheelchair. All she ever wanted was to do the things other children were doing, but her parents wouldn't let her. Then on her tenth birthday, Luke, a new boy in town, comes to her birthday party with his uncle. He doesn't ignore her or see her as incapable like the others do and offers to take her for a ride on his horse. Annie eagerly accepts and has never felt so free, but it leads to heartache for her when Luke gets beat up by her brother and her parents banish him from their house and Annie's life. She never forgot that day or Luke. She's seen him around town on occasion but never had the opportunity to talk with him again until ten years later when she and her cousin go to his new livery and Luke asks them both out for ice cream. I adored Annie and thought she was a wonderful heroine. All she wants is to be treated like a normal girl, but her family has always viewed her as a delicate china doll that will break at the slightest little thing. They've treated her that way so long, they've beaten her down emotionally. She can't imagine why a man as handsome and perfect as Luke would want a crippled young woman like her, but it doesn't stop her from lighting up like a firefly when he's around and reveling in his attentions. She's somewhat afraid to get involved with him, though, because she doesn't want

her brother or father to beat Luke up again for coming near her. I admired her courage in sneaking out of the house to see Luke, when she knows her parents wouldn't approve, but most especially for eventually standing up to them and letting them know exactly what she wants in life.

I love how, from the start, Luke never saw Annie as being crippled. He only sees a lovely young woman who intrigues him and stirs his emotions and desires. It's really sweet how he only has eyes for her, even though her cousin flirts with him, thinking she's the one he wants at first. Luke is a smart, hard-working young man who saved up his money to build his own livery business, because he knew that Annie's father, the only banker in town, wouldn't give him a loan. Luke is just the sweetest most perfect hero ever. He isn't afraid of Annie's family or of standing up to them if he has to. I adore how he always encourages Annie to do what she wants to do as long as it won't cause her any pain or harm. He's a very responsible young man who wants to build a house for Annie and make sure that he can fully provide for her and any children they might have before marrying her, even though she's eager enough to be with him to not care where they live. I love how he's completely focused on Annie and on bringing her joy and happiness. Luke is tender and loving, a totally dreamy hero I'd love to have in real life.

I have a feeling that some readers may find the tragic event toward the end of the book too melodramatic. I didn't, but it did make my heart ache for this sweet couple who'd fought so hard to be together and shared so much happiness up to that point. It was also a little disappointing and difficult to see both of them seemingly giving up on their love, but when I really stopped to consider it, the author had stayed true to their characterizations. Both Luke and Annie are highly sensitive people who take their perceived failures deeply to heart. Also everything Annie had feared might happen, mostly fears that had been instilled in her by her mother, as well as her mother's constant reminders that she was basically a handicapped invalid incapable of living a normal life, had actually occurred, like a prophecy fulfilled. Not to mention, I'm sure a form of clinical depression was probably involved as well, leaving Annie feeling like a complete failure. Luke didn't fare much better, feeling that he'd been careless and negligent in his care of Annie. They certainly could have communicated better during that bleak time, but what's important is that Luke and Annie learned something from their mistakes and found their way back to each other and to the happiness that only each of them could bring into the other's life. It also gave Annie's family a chance to do the right thing for a change and talk some sense into her.

Every time I read a book by a new-to-me author, I never know what to expect. Even if the cover blurb sounds great, it isn't always as good as I think it will be, but that was definitely not the case here. *Sweet Annie* was everything I could have hoped for in a romance and more. I loved Luke and Annie. They're two sweet, wonderful people who make a perfect couple. I liked many of the secondary characters too, especially Annie's cousin, Charmaine. I had hoped she might be the heroine of the next book in the *Copper Creek Brides* series, but that doesn't seem to be the case. While some readers may find this story too sweet, it was just right for me. I had such a great experience reading this book that I honestly don't mind who the next hero and heroine are as long it's as good as this one was. I very much look forward to continuing the series and checking out some of Cheryl St. John's other books. *Sweet Annie* was originally published in the Harlequin Historical romance line, but was later reprinted in the special Harlequin Close to Home series of reissued favorites.

Tiffany says

ANNIE SWEETWATER WAS A LITTLE CRIPPLED YOUNG WOMAN, BUT THAT DID NOT STOP HER FOR MARRYING THE GORGEOUS LUKE CARPENTER. SHE LOVED HIM, SINCE SHE WAS

TEN YEARS OLD AND NEVER FORGOT, HOW HE TREATED HER AS A PERSON AND NOT A WEAK LITTLE GIRL, LIKE HER PARENTS AND BROTHER. HE GAVE HER, HER INDEPENDENCE, THAT SHE ALWAYS WANTED!!!

Jessica says

Great storyline, tender romance showing the vulnerabilities of the two protagonists. Nicely developed plot and characters too.

Kristiej says

Thanks to the amazing sale at Harlequin, I've been picking up some much beloved books as ebooks. I picked up a number of Cheryl St John books since I love her writing and have just about all her print books. The first one up is Sweet Annie, originally published in 2010.

As with all her Westerns, this is a sweet gentle book, a cozy kind great for reading on chilly, wet days under a blanket. Annie Sweetwater has been over sheltered all her life. Though she has what I think is a hip displacement, walking is difficult for her. Doesn't matter though as her family, in particular her mother and brother, have kept her wrapped like spun glass. She's in a wheel chair and pretty much allowed no real life at all. She's not happy but she's resigned. At her 10th birthday party, of which she is excluded due to her 'frail health she meets a boy, Luke Carpenter, who isn't fazed and in fact takes her for a ride on a horse which she loves, but he is beaten up by her brother when it's discovered and not allowed any contact with Annie.

Years go by and both remember each other, it was a defining moment for them both. They encounter each other again years later and there is a definite attraction between Annie and Luke but she is still living her life as an invalid. But Luke doesn't see her that way. He 'sees' her as the person she is, not someone who has to be coddled at all costs and this is so wonderful for Annie. As their feelings for each other deepen, they must fight for her independence from her over protective family.

Cheryl St John is a wonderful author and writes the most wonderful characters. Both Luke and Annie are such well-defined people and the reader can't help but root for them. As I said, this is a gentle kind of story, without a lot of angst in many of the books I've been reading lately and it's perfect for a warm cup of cocoa, a cozy blanket, if you have a cat, a purring cat on your lap. That's how I read it and it was a most excellent way to spend a cold, rainy Sunday.

Lovetoread says

Once in a while a book comes along that touches you. As I read Sweet Annie, I realized I was reading one of those special stories. I am a huge fan of Cheryl St. John. She has never shied away from difficult subjects in her novels. In her story Sweet Annie, Annie Sweetwater is a young woman who was born with a bad leg and lives in a wheelchair, never permitted to do anything that might endanger her by her overprotective family. On her tenth birthday party, a visiting Luke Carpenter, 14 years old, takes her for a horseback ride and she

soars with a sense of freedom for the very first time in her life; a sensation quickly quenched when an overly-protective brother beats Luke when they return from riding. Annie's entire family shelters and keeps her child-like, but her mother is the most dominating figure, intent on keeping her daughter dependent, her own personal porcelain doll to dress in lacy dresses. She continually reminds Annie that she is not like other girls and never will be, leaving a sensitive young girl feeling suffocated and useless with no self-worth at all. At nineteen Annie once again meet Luke, the boy whom she never forgot has now turned into a handsome man. To Luke, he fell in love with her at first sight and never forgot Annie. He did not see any limitations and only wanted to love and make her happy. This story touches issues of family love and influences, self awareness, and incredible sadness due to loss. Ms. St. John can write these important and life changing issues with such grace and tenderness that only a few gifted writers can accomplish. One again I a reminded why Cheryl St. John is one of my favorite authors.

peachygirl says

As much as I liked the story, the narration was painfully slow.

The characters were pretty great, except Annie's mom who was bitchy because she didn't like her handicapped daughter walking and learning new things and falling in love with an amazing man. I had a hard time understanding her. But what is a good romance novel without such pain in the ass oppositions and the eventual triumph of the star crossed lovers?

3 stars only for Luke, Annie and her super sweet cousin!

Meriba says

Matame, la cosa más romántica que he leído.
