



Rancher's Refuge

Linda Goodnight

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Rancher Austin Blackwell knows a wounded creature when he sees one. Although Annalisa Keller won't reveal how she ended up stranded in Whisper Falls, his conscience refuses to let her leave. The little Ozarks town could be the perfect place for her to start over—just as it was for him. Trying to keep his own past hidden, Austin finds himself falling for the vulnerable beauty with too many secrets. Before long, Annalisa's warmth and love of life work their way into Austin's heart...and promise never to leave.

Rancher's Refuge Details

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From Reader Review Rancher's Refuge for online ebook

Rhonda says

4 STARS

I liked reading Rancher's Refuge. It has some drama, romance and a community that I will come back to read more novels in Whisperfalls

Rancher Austin Blackwell is on a horse looking for a missing calf and he sees a woman injured by Whisperfalls.

Annalisa Keller is afraid that her boyfriend who broke her arm and kicked her out of the car. She is afraid he came back so she went back behind the fall and starts praying for help.

Austin gets her back up out of the fall and takes her by horse to his ranch so he can get her to medical help. She has no ID, money, and is afraid to go to police. She tells people that she fell. Even though they can tell she was hurt by someone.

Austin keeps pretty much by himself out at his ranch with only his sister living with him. He decides to bring back Annalisa to stay for a few days there to get her bearings.

Austin has secrets and has lost trust in others. Annalisa's boyfriend was also her boss and had isolated her from everybody.

Annalisa gets a job in town and goes to church and makes friends. She gets Austin involved with the community too.

Nice simple clean romance.

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Rae says

My favorite part from the book: "With a chortle, she pushed at his shoulder. He caught her fingers. "That hand is getting out of control. I'd better hold on to it for you.""

If I was the swooning type I totally would have

Megan says

Rancher's Refuge is the kind of book I like to read when I want to read something light and fun. Yes, there are some worrisome moments in the book, but overall the story was still lighthearted.

The romance was very believable and I enjoyed that part of the story very much.

This was a quick and easy read. I would recommend it to fans of contemporary fiction.

I received a complimentary copy of this book to review. I was asked to give my honest opinion of the book - which I have done.

Sandy says

What I really enjoyed about Rancher's Refuge was the complexity of the characters. They each had their own struggles that they needed to work through and those struggles didn't take a backseat to the romantic plotline.

Learning to forgive your mistakes of the past in order to move forward was a major theme throughout this book. While each characters struggle was their own, they each similarly faced individual resistance to self-forgiveness. Each of them, in one-way or another was consumed by the idea that they were unforgivable and thereby unlovable.

I want to be clear here, when I say they each believed themselves to be unlovable I'm not just talking in terms of romantic love, but in all senses of the word. Unloved by friends, by family, by God. Austin Blackwell and Annalisa Keller each felt completely and utterly isolated, and this book is about each of them learning not to believe that lie...

For a more complete review stop by my blog: <http://sandraamaris.wordpress.com>

Jacquellyn says

I really enjoyed this book! As a fan of romance, I was nervous starting this book, thinking it would be overly religious. But it wasn't at all. It was actually very refreshing and uplifting. About 2 ppl who have lost their religion in some way and are trying to cope with real life. But the journey focused mainly on the romance and trust issues. It was relatable and realistic. It was also sort of simple and easy. It kept me interested the entire time. I would enjoy more from this author and I think I'll be reading more of these types of books.

June says

Why people stay in abusive relationships has always been an interest to me. In this story we meet Annalisa Keller who has finally decided she has had enough and makes it away from a battering with nothing but her life. Austin Blackwell finds and rescues her. Through the friendship that develops with both Austin and his sister Cassie, both Austin and Annalisa find themselves changing quite a bit throughout the story. This was a very enjoyable read and hard to put down. Love anything written by Linda Goodnight. A very good author!!!

Gaylee says

It was very spellbinding. I enjoyed reading it, but they always end too soon for me. I want to know how Annalisa and her rancher spend their life. Kids, grandkids? ha but I am that way about every book I read. I really liked the way you had to keep reading because you knew something bad could happen anytime.

Julia - The Romance Bibliophile says

"Rancher's Refuge" was a wonderful Christian romance and I absolutely loved it! The storyline and characters were superb, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading Austin and Annalisa's story. Linda Goodnight is a phenomenally talented author and I love her books so much, and this one was no exception. I cannot wait to read the rest of the Whisper Falls series! If "Rancher's Refuge" was any indication of what's to come, I know it will be amazing!

Megan says

This story line has similar elements to Nicholas Spark's Safe Haven, but I enjoyed it so much more -- possibly partly because the reader never gets into the abuser's thoughts. I loved the main characters, the sister, the townspeople, and the unfolding sense of community in Whisper Falls. I want to read more in the series.

Jennifer Faust says

I enjoyed the story, but a little slow to develop.

AJ says

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18 chapters/279 pages

Book Summary—Annalisa Keller is running from her present, an abusive boyfriend, Kames Winchell, who loves her so much he, he proves it by breaking her arm to teach her a lesson about “love” and obedience! Austin Blackwell is running, too, from a past he desperately wants to forget, but he’s currently running after a stray calf when he stumbles upon Annalisa at the back of his property, Whisper Falls. Seeing she’s in trouble, he reluctantly takes her in. needing away from her creep of a boyfriend—EX-boyfriend—she reluctantly lets him. Together, Annalisa and Austin must face their pasts in order to conquer the demons they bring along if they’re to move forward and embrace the love that begins between them.

But are there some pasts too frightening, some hurts too deep, some secrets too shocking that not even the love of God can conquer?

My Review—I gave this only four stars not because I didn’t like it but because I just couldn’t get into the love story enough that I couldn’t put it down and WANT to finish it to see how the two get together at the end. I think maybe because my practicality kicked in. Annalisa Keller has just been in a very abusive situation. The man twisted her arm IN ORDER to break it! So, to me, the very last thing she needs is to start “falling” for the first man she comes across, the one who rescues her—I don’t care how tall, strong, and attractive he is or how black his hair is or how it slightly curls around his ears or how green his eyes are! Romance is NOT a good idea. It’s as if she’s transferring her “love” onto her knight-in-shining-armor rescuer. NOT a good idea. I’m not saying love can’t happen in six weeks—if God ordains the match, love

can happen in six HOURS! But for a woman to be the victim of abuse, she has serious internal issues, in her soul, that six weeks aren't going to fix, solve, or heal. For me, Linda Goodnight tries to rush the romance. Annalisa, in real life, would probably need more than six MONTHS to get her head straight—she needs to figure out what makes her cling to men, especially to bad men, what makes her so lacking in self-confidence and value that she keeps returning to a man who beats her and abuses her verbally and emotionally, etc. Instead, Annalisa goes from “loving” a louse to falling in love with another man, a veritable stranger, in six weeks—not a wise move.

And the same would go for Austin Blackwell. His past haunts him. Without spoiling the ending, Austin's sort of in the same boat Annalisa is—both need RoMANS 12:2 NOT romance. Close in spelling but definitely not the same effect. Before they should contemplate the heart (romance), they need longer to get right in the head (soul—Romans 12:2).

Grade: A

IrenesBookReviews says

This story is set on a ranch and includes drama and romance! Their first meeting finds Annalisa with a broken arm and Austin rescuing her from what, he is not sure. So starts this fast moving love story.

I gave this book 5/5 stars. I thought the storyline was great. I liked how the two characters come together and grow to trust each other. The author wrote some great conversations and even their inner thoughts were easy to read and follow. The minor stories were ok but did not really add to the story. The setting was great and how the author described them was well written. You can really picture the ranch and town in your head. I enjoyed the story and would recommend to anyone looking for a quick Christian romance to read.

I would like to thank NetGalley and the publisher for the copy of this book I enjoyed reading. I gave an honest review based on my opinion of what I read.

Karen says

Wonderful Christian Romance!!

Brittany says

Annalisa Keller has made some really bad decisions in her life. She trusted the wrong person and is now paying the price. When Austin Blackwell finds Annalisa, she is battered and bruised. Nursing a broken arm, she is obviously terrified of something or someone. Austin gets her the help she needs and even allows her to stay on his farm with him and his sister. But Austin has his own secrets and past hurts. As Annalisa recovers and begins to open up and trust him, will Austin be able to overcome his past and be the man Annalisa needs? Will the truth about Austin's past come between them? Is Annalisa truly safe now from her abusive ex-boyfriend?

I chose this book to read for my participation in Book Cover Bingo because it has two dogs on the cover and satisfies the requirements for week 1. I am so glad I chose this book. This is the third book I have read that was written by Linda Goodnight and once again, she did not disappoint. The characters are well written and believable. The storyline covers the serious topic of domestic abuse very well.

Michelle says

Whisper Falls
Book 1

This was a good start to what sounds like a great series! The author captured my attention right away with a cowboy riding across his land in Arkansas (I live in the Ozarks, and it is as beautiful as she says). While Austin Blackwell was a strong person with some pretty intense baggage, Recent circumstances caused the strength that Annalisa obviously possesses to be covered by fear of abuse. The romance happens naturally as Austin and Annalisa help each other deal with their problems.

This book deals with many issues such as mental illness, false accusations of crime, physical abuse, and fear. While Austin acts as Annalisa's protector, a bit reluctantly at first, he also fights acting on his feelings but soon learns it's a loss cause. Meanwhile, Annalisa helps Austin with his own baggage. Austin is the sort of cowboy that every girl would love to have. He's protective and nurturing, but he allows space when needed.

The two begin falling in love and just when they think they are where they want to be, their pasts collide in an explosive way. Will either of them be able to recover from the shock the community will obviously feel over their tainted pasts?

By the way, I like that they both had flaws. If your looking for a girl who's never done anything wrong and a cowboy who has it all together, this is not the book for you.
