



Healing Montana Sky

Debra Holland

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After a grizzly bear kills Antonia Valleau's trapper husband, she packs her few worldly possessions, leaves her home in the mountains of Montana, and treks to nearby Sweetwater Springs, seeking work to provide for her two young sons.

Reeling from the loss of his wife during childbirth, Erik Muth must find a nursing mother for his newborn daughter to survive. For their children's sake, Erik and Antonia wed, starting a new life together on his farm on the prairie. But it's no easy union. Antonia misunderstands Erik's quiet personality. He finds her independence disconcerting. Both hide secrets that challenge their growing intimacy.

When Indians steal livestock from farms around Sweetwater Springs to feed their starving tribe, the outraged townsfolk demand retaliation. Erik and Antonia must work together to prevent a massacre. Will a marriage forged in loss blossom into love?

Healing Montana Sky Details

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From Reader Review Healing Montana Sky for online ebook

Erin says

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I'll be the first to admit Debra Holland's Healing Montana Sky isn't my usual fare. Light fiction is well and good, but I personally find it difficult to sink my teeth into. Make of that what you will and take my comments however you see fit.

As far as leading ladies go, Antonia Valleau had a lot going for her. She's a little rough around the edges, but I thought her position and perspective intriguing. Unfortunately, the character's dialogue drove me up the wall.

"I won't be breakin' down. For the sake of my children, I must be strong."

"Should I be takin' the boys and leave? Head for Sweetwater Springs?"

"No! I won't be leavin' Jean-Claude. Cain't leave my home."

I get what Holland was doing and I appreciate the idea, but as a reader, I found the speech patterns the Holland employed to illustrate Antonia's lack of education both cumbersome and distracting. I groaned in annoyance on more than one occasion and that frustration definitely colored my impressions of the novel.

Moving on, I found very little to appreciate in Erik Muth. Forgive me, but the man lacked both charm and intensity. I couldn't picture him managing a Montana homestead with ease, but I'll get back to that in a minute. The point I'm trying to make is he didn't feel authentic and that made the relationship he shared with Antonia difficult to substantiate and his lifestyle impossible to believe.

Atmospherically, this novel does no justice to Montana. It's a romance and I didn't expect much, but the story could take place almost anywhere and it wouldn't change a thing. It's a shame really, my home state has a lot to offer and in the right hands could be a breathtaking backdrop, but Holland dropped the ball. She utterly ignores the natural beauty of the state and the character of its inhabitants.

Healing Montana Sky is clean literature and slow paced. The themes are a little too soft for my tastes, the story too predictable and the structure too simplistic. There's nothing inherently wrong with the book, but it didn't speak to my interests and I'd have a tough time recommending it forward.

kate says

SLOOOOW

A little dull. A lot slow. Antonia was a 10. Erik more of a 5. Nothing really wrong with him except he was a pompous jerk. She can and does all types of growing. He can and does get mad at her for hiding the fact that she can't read. An embarrassment for her. He actually tells her he's been nice enough to overlook her poor grammar. But he's going to be magnanimous and teach her to read over the winter. Fortunately she is a quick

study a picks it up quickly. Not surprising considering she already speaks THREE languages fluently. English, French and Blackfoot.

A flaw in the book for me was the name dropping from previous books in the series. You know where the writer creates a scene and the characters from previous books show up together to drop snippets of their own book .

The situation with the Indians was beyond contrived. I found it hard to believe that the Blackfoot needed Eric to tell them that if they owned horses they could trade them for cattle so they wouldn't starve. Seriously. How insulting is that to the Indian nation.

But what do I know? This book is loaded with 5 stars reviews so if a pretty well edited book with a very slow story and no sex rings your bell go for it.

Linda says

A Well-Written, Emotionally Intense Historical Western Romance!

She stopped before the shelf of books and took one down. She'd never held a book before and reverently turned the pages, looking at the incomprehensible print and wishing she could understand the meaning of the words.

Henri drifted close to peer over her arm. "What's that?"

"A book. There be stories in here."

HEALING MONTANA SKY by Debra Holland is a realistic, emotionally intense installment in her Montana Sky series. It's always a treat to revisit Sweetwater Springs, Montana and the interesting array of characters who populate the area, many of whom I've become quite attached to, thanks to the previous books. This is the story of widow Antonia Valleau and widower Erik Muth.

Even though it is part of an ongoing series, HEALING MONTANA SKY can be fully enjoyed as a standalone as the plot and romance are fully contained within this novel. The author seamlessly fills in any information from the previous books that the reader may need to know. That holds true for any of the books in this series, so feel free to read the series in any order.

I liked both Antonia and Erik. The couple were adaptable and genuine with strong backbones - all qualities required to survive in the rugged landscape. Each of the primary characters were suffering the wrenching emotional pain involved with losing a loved one. Some sections were admittedly difficult to read, but there were plenty of bright spots to offset the sadness. There was also much wisdom to be savored in the characters' thoughts and words. While there is much sorrow in the tale, there's also positivity and the threads of a bright future. I was not depressed at the end, but hopeful for a new tomorrow.

I enjoyed catching up with my favorite characters from Sweetwater Springs in this tale including the Carters, the Thompsons with Samantha's miniature horses, and many more. Both the hero and the heroine had children and their antics with all the animals were treats. On a yuck note, Caleb Livingston and the Cobbs were their same old despicable prejudiced selves. In a way, they each provided a form of relief as they made me mad.

Please know that I read the first half of this book and listened to the remainder; It was an easy transition and I thoroughly enjoyed both editions. Natalie Ross returns as the amazing narrator of the audio edition. As she has for the previous books, she does a great job capturing the essence of the characters and seamlessly differentiating between them. She has a very clear and pleasing voice and, under her care, the story flows smoothly and quickly keeping listeners spellbound. Her pauses, accents and mannerisms are always appropriate.

The story was well-paced until near the very satisfactory ending when it seemed to switch to fast-paced. Please do not take any of my review as meaning that I didn't enjoy the story. It was an extremely emotional story - more so than any of Debra's other books I've read - but the tale was engrossing and I didn't want it to end. I look forward to catching up with this couple as supporting characters in ensuing books. I would recommend HEALING MONTANA SKY to anyone who enjoys well-written historical western romance.

My full review is posted at Reading Between The Wines Book Club. Please check it out
<http://www.readingbetweenthewinesbook...>

4 Wine Glasses!

Abbie says

Insightful

When you read a story that not only delivers what you expect from that particular genre but gives you something extra special that's a good book. The insights this storyteller gives into these characters and to the time period makes this a very satisfying romance to read, well done!

cheryl says

By far, the best one yet!!!

This book focused on two families at first. Antonia losing her husband and leaving her with 2 children and Erik's wife dying during childbirth. leave him with a new baby to feed. so the two families are joined and they make the best of this situation. Very heartwarming. the feeling they eventually developed. I loved this book. people were put in dire situations, not knowing exactly how things would turn out. I love Antonia and I'm glad both her and Eric were blessed with good descent and caring people to be married too.

Cathy says

This story starts with an "edge of your seat", "what's going to happen next". I absolutely couldn't put this book down.

It starts with Antonia having to physically bury her husband who has been killed by a bear. She has a baby she is still nursing as well as a six year old. You can feel this woman's pain at having to say goodbye to the

man she loves and still be strong for her children. She is out on the prairie all alone not knowing what she is going to do. She finally decides to go into the town of Sweetwater Springs where she is helped by the minister and his wife in a way she didn't see coming.

In the meantime Erik is frantically trying to save his wife who has been in labor for hours and hours. So here you find yourself on another roller coaster of emotion for this family. Daisy, his wife, dies after giving birth to a baby daughter, Camilla. Erik is desperate for help for his daughter. He just can't lose her too. The minister and some other families in town also help him in such a surprising way. It is suggested that in order to save his daughter as she needs a woman who can nurse her and to help Antonia and her boys, that the two of them get married. They are both shocked at such a suggestion.

This is a story of a second chance at love for sure but before Antonia and Erik can find that again they go through such pain because of their loss and then the guilt of possibly having a life of happiness once again.

This is a beautiful story of two people becoming a family out of necessity but staying together out of a newfound love for each other and their children. Debra Holland has done it again with another tears and laughter visit to Sweetwater Springs and its wonderful characters.

I received a free, advanced copy of this book from the publisher via Net Galley in exchange for my unbiased review.

Dana Dobias says

Such a Great Stoiry

This story continues the Montana Sky series. A character briefly mentioned in a previous book loses his wife in childbirth. A new character lost her husband. They are thrown into a marriage of convenience. This is a well constructed story with interesting details about farming in the late 1800s. The author also continues to weave many insightful thoughts into the story as well as creating another completely original storyline for the characters.

Catherine Anderson says

This was the first book by Debra Holland that I've read. Sexual tension was executed with a light touch, but I found the emotional and physical shifts and growth between the characters to be very realistic. Kudos to Ms. Holland for writing a delightful book.

Rogetwhi says

3.5 stars!!!

Carol (StarAngel's Reviews) Allen says

****4 Healing Stars****

Ms Holland did a wonderful job of creating an emotional read dealing with loss, heartbreak and learning to love again.

The characters in this story really touch you and after you close this book, you will come away with a light heart and a smile on your face.

This was definitely an awesome premise for a book but I did have a bit of a problem with all of the references to sorrow and death. After awhile, I found myself rolling my eyes and then just ended up shaking my head.

All in all, this was a great book that I'm happy I took the time to read and enjoy!

rosa says

The details this story contains satisfied an important element of the real lifestyle of our forefathers. it is what I find most intriguing about the settlers .

Loved the background this storyline is built on, the everyday lifestyle of the entire family. I could emphasize with her, and applause her strength of character. She is the strong female in a world where weakness is expected and better understood by many.

Mary says

An emotionally complex and satisfying romance

I took my time reading Antonia and Erik's story. Their journey through grief felt real that I kept wondering how is Debra going to pull this off? But she delivered a poignant love story and as always, I'm a little hesitant to leave Sweetwater Springs when I finish a Montana Sky romance.

Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says

This tale of resilience over heartbreak grabbed my attention from the first and did not let go. The opening scene with Antonia burying her dead husband all on her own, sets the mood for this wonderful book.

When Antonia Valleau leaves behind her mountain cabin with her two sons in search of a new beginning after the terrible loss of her beloved husband in a hunting accident, she valiantly journeys to the town of Sweetwater Springs to find work to help sustain herself and her infant and young son.

Farmer, Erik Muth gains a daughter but loses his wife in the same day, and if he can't find a woman to feed his infant daughter, he may lose her as well, and that is something he just won't be able to take. Erik takes his newborn daughter and heads into town to find the help he needs for the baby. As fate would have it, Antonia is put in Erik's path for giving the tiny babe a chance at thriving. The only possible way this situation can work is if Erik and Antonia marry, leaving gossip to a minimum while Antonia and her sons move to Erik's farm.

Uniting two wayward families who are strangers is quite a task that Antonia is quite up to. This resilient woman may not be able to act the proper farm wife, but she can put in a hard days' work as well as a man and make sure the children are well cared for. Erik is left bereft when he loses his wife in childbirth, but his daughter's health and safety are paramount and only Antonia can help with that. At first this arrangement is quite uncomfortable for all involved but with time and work, Erik and Antonia see what they have is a good thing.

When the theft of livestock from surrounding farms leads to mistrust and possible danger in the area, Antonia and Erik must work together to hold their own and keep their new family from harm. When danger comes too close to home, Erik finally understands that what he has been given is a gift from above and he will do what he must to protect it.

HEALING MONTANA SKY by the very talented Debra Holland is a journey that can't be missed. When tragedy strikes, survival is the only option and this story clearly shows how that can be done. I love both Erik and Antonia, as they both have so much pain, but so much capacity for hope. HEALING MONTANA SKY is eloquent and so well written. It is a story of hope that should be enjoyed by all.

received from Netgalley for an honest review

David Hughes says

years A good frontier story. July 2017

DRH. Really enjoyed the 1900's frontier tale. The two main characters Eric Muth and Antonia. We're exceptional _ they were rounded out. Since I served 3.5. years. In early 1970's. Of course the author ignored the tough minus 10 degree weather. Truly DRH

♥ Rachel ♥ says

Loved this one so much! I bought the next one in the series immediately after finishing, and I'll probably go back and read *listen* to the previous books, too.

Natalie Ross was amazing as the narrator, as usual.

