



# The Place I Belong

*Nancy Herkness*

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## The Place I Belong Nancy Herkness

*Nancy Herkness invites readers back to Sanctuary, West Virginia, in Book Three of the award-winning Whisper Horse series.*

Fleeing professional scandal and a broken engagement, veterinarian Hannah Linden abandons Chicago for the mountain town of Sanctuary, West Virginia, hoping to put her troubles with men and the media behind her. But when she encounters world-famous chef Adam Bosch, she finds herself increasingly drawn to the charming but darkly complex man and his troubled teenage son, Matt. Adam, a recovering alcoholic, fears he can never be a worthy father to the surly, distant boy he has just come to know, and enlists Hannah's help in his struggle to connect with his son.

Hoping to coax Matt out of his shell, Hannah introduces the boy to an ailing brown pony who has the power to change his view of the world. But can the determined little whisper horse prove to Hannah, Adam, and Matt that they were meant to be a family?

## The Place I Belong Details

Date : Published June 3rd 2014 by Montlake Romance

ISBN :

Author : Nancy Herkness

Format : Kindle Edition 349 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Fiction

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# **From Reader Review The Place I Belong for online ebook**

**Dianne Hart says**

**Whisper Horse**

Another heartfelt story. A lovely veterinarian looking to rebuild her life in a town aptly named Sanctuary and a flawed man feeling a need for redemption. I love Nancy's books. She brings warmth and delight with a little bit of sizzle.

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**Marcy Collins says**

**Wonderful third story in the series!**

This one really brought pieces of varied backgrounds together and made each character stronger. I am definitely a fan of Ms. Harkness and look forward to reading more of her books!

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**Kristiej says**

3.5 Stars

This is the third book I've read in this Whisper Horse series and I'm finding each one a little bit better than the previous one. A brief intro; there is a woman who is an expert in riding and she runs kind of a horse sanctuary place for old and unwanted horses. She believes that certain people who are needing something have a certain horse just waiting to be needed – a whisper horse as it were.

This is the story of Hannah Linden a veterinarian who has come to the small town of Sanctuary when she was falsely accused of animal cruelty. She has joined a partnership with the local vet whose story was told in a previous book.

The hero of the book is Very Hunky Chef Adam Bosch who owns a world famous restaurant in Sanctuary that caters to the rich and the famous. They meet when he brings his dog to Hannah to be treated after his dog was shot by hunters. It turns out his son was partly responsible, having let the dog out without care. Adam has a very difficult relationship with his son Matt. Matt's mother recently died and Matt was brought to stay with Adam, the problem being Adam didn't know he had a son. The boy's mother decided not to let Adam know as during the time they hooked up, Adam was a real party animal with a big drinking problem. But Adam later wised up and has been sober for a number of years now.

Adam sees a kind soul in Hannah and asks for her help in connecting and establishing a relationship with Matt because right now Matt is pretty hostile towards Adam. As they work together to help Matt, Adam and Hannah are quite attracted to each other and begin a growing friendship until it turns into more.

But Adam isn't sure he can be a good father and a good partner. He's got such baggage from his past as well as struggling with the fact he works such long hours as owner/chef of a world class restaurant. I really liked Adam. He was angst filled with the mistakes he'd made and he truly wanted to be a better person for his son. And Hannah also makes for a good heroine.

And in case anyone is wondering, It's Matt who gets a whisper horse in this book. He needs a friend since he's just lost his mother, living in a new town with a father he never knew he had. And Sachmo, his horse, also needs someone caring for him. He's had it rough too.

I think if you are fans of Robyn Carr or Jill Shalvis then Nancy Herkness will be right up your alley. I'm not a great fan of either, though I have read and enjoyed some of their books. If I were a bigger fan of small town series, I would give this a higher grade as I'm sure those who are, will be more generous. But, I enjoyed it and I think I have one more of her books to read, I bought a number at the same time.

Not very helpful here am ??

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### **Sandy Sexton says**

I bought this as a Kindle special as it had good reviews, and I'm always a sucker for books which feature horses. It's a romance with a tall, dark and handsome hero and an intelligent, capable blonde heroine. Who could ask for more? The relationship between the characters is well balanced, with each bringing a positive element into the life of the other. The teenage son is well portrayed, as are the various minor characters - the friends and acquaintances. I also enjoyed the setting, a small, friendly town in West Virginia. The beauty of the area and the kindness of the locals created a feeling of peacefulness. I found the sex scenes 'eye rolling', but happily skimmed over them to follow the other plot lines. I enjoyed this and am glad I read it on this rainy afternoon. It was a perfect curl up on the couch with a cup of tea read.

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### **LORI CASWELL says**

#### **Dollycas's Thoughts**

She did it again. Nancy Herkness continues to write books I quickly find myself lost in. This whole Whisper Horse theme touches me. I wish I had a whisper horse!!

All the main characters in this story are broken. Hannah was blamed for something any caring person who have done and the man that is supposed to love her turns his back on her. Adam had a very rough upbringing and his self esteem is lower than low. He tries to escape into his work but knows something is missing. Matt just lost his mother and is sent to his father, a man he doesn't know at all. Heck Adam didn't know about him either.

Herkness has written a wonderful story that is more than just a romance, these three people are almost reborn as they are surrounded by the caring community of Sanctuary, West Virginia. Don't worry, there are a few steamy romantic scenes too.

The author paints pictures so easily with her words. I could easily see all three of stories as movies. I love this escape!!

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## **Sonia189 says**

Better than the first two in everything but the romance felt meh to me.

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## **Jeanie's Kindle says**

### **Heartfelt joy**

Broken and hiding, trying to find a place to begin again. Seeking shadows out of the stark limelight of a politician's fiancée. Now starting over in small town. Finding complete bliss.

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## **Barbara Longley says**

I really enjoyed this book. I loved the dynamic of between the single father struggling to find a way to connect with his son, and the father's struggles with believing himself worthy of happiness. I also loved that the whisper horse in this book was a whisper pony, and that the heroine was a veterinarian. Nancy created very relatable, lovable characters, both the humans and the animals, and I found I could not put the book down! I highly recommend the entire series. I love books that deal with real life issues and characters who must overcome adversity, and Nancy's Whisper Horse series very much fits the bill.

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## **Lorelei's says**

THE PLACE I BELONG (A Whisper Horse Novel) by Nancy Herkness.

Nancy Herkness continues delivering superb romance, this time featuring the All-in-Black charmer Chef Adam Bosch, successful owner of The Aerie, an elite restaurant in the area. Hannah, a kind hearted city girl, wants to find a fresh start to leave behind an ex-fiancé and other problems as she finds a job working as a vet in Sanctuary. But issues in the past catch up with her, which may affect those around her. Topics in this story include a teenage son who appears unexpectedly in Adam's life. He's also an AA sponsor. Both Adam and Hannah will deal with their issues and of course there's a happy ending. Other four legged protagonists are always present which truly make this story even a more enjoyable read. There are friends from previous stories present, whom I really enjoyed seeing again! You'll find drama, passion, exquisite cuisine, lots of animal love and sense of community and support. Sanctuary is one of those places you wish you could live in. I can't say enough great things about Nancy Herkness' writing style. I'm just pleased as punch to be able to review her stories. 5 happy hearts for this one!

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## **Eileen Dandashi says**

Title: The Place I Belong, Book 3 Whisper Horse series

Author: Nancy Herkness

Genre: Women's Fiction, Romance, Contemporary Fiction

Published By: Montlake Romance (June 3, 2014)

Story Setting: Sanctuary, West Virginia (a small town)

Pages: 349

ASIN: B00HNLCS0Y

Whisper Horse series:

Take Me Home

Country Roads

The Place I Belong

About the Story: Hannah Linden, a veterinarian has buried herself in a little small town in West Virginia, far from her professional woes and her ex-fiancé in Boston. She considered herself lucky to find someone who would hire her after she told them what happened in her previous job. Something else Hannah hadn't expected, is her growing love for the town, its people and her patients.

She becomes emotionally touched with Matt, a young teenager who spent a day with her at the clinic learning how important animals are in people's lives. Hannah finds Matt's father complex and charming – someone she needs to stay away from to keep her heart intact.

Adam Bosch, Matt's father and world-renowned chef, when learns of Matt's existence cannot come to grips with the idea of being a father—he would destroy anyone close to him. Adam has issues he struggles with daily and knows he must keep a distance from people. He's an alcoholic and has stayed away from the bottle for nine years, but when he drinks he's afraid that he would be abusive as his father was. Adam convinced himself he can't be a father nor could he get married. What would he do to his wife or child? Adam fills his life with cooking and has a restaurant in Sanctuary that people fly in by helicopter to dine. That's his life and he doesn't need more, but when he meets Hannah, things begin to change.

When Hannah helped Adam with his troubled son he was drawn to her physically and emotionally. She was light to his dark. And he couldn't stay away.

My Thoughts: This story had three things going for it that I really liked.

The setting is in a small town up in the mountains. There is something a small town has that a larger one doesn't and these types of stories draw me. It's as if there is some healing quality to living in a smaller community with the type of people who live there.

Coupling that with a story with animals, it was even more endearing. The little pony that became Matt's whisper horse tugged at my heartstrings. Trace, Matt's dog even played a heroic role within the plot. They were as much part of the story as Adam, Hannah and Matt.

Lastly, the story dealt with social issues and diseases we grapple with today and laymen need to further understand how they affect our lives and behavior.

They say that an author should write what they know. Nancy Herkness was born and raised in the mountains

of West Virginia and was able to capture the feeling of a small town in words because I saw it very clearly in my mind.

Her story was evenly paced with no slow points that dragged and she kept me reading hours at a time.

The heat between Adam and Hannah was quite sizzling launching them both into territory both were afraid to face. Both had quite noble character.

Her writing lifted words from the page to my imagination. The dialog came natural within a well-crafted whole. Herkness is an excellent writer showing me a life that I've never lived until now. The idea of animals sharing our emotional burdens is not new to me however, her story was unique with the idea of whisper horses.

When I read Herkness's novel it reminded me of author Susan Mallery's series Fool's Gold. If you enjoy her books, you'll surely enjoy Nancy Herkness's novel--an all-around well-crafted story, romance with a sizzle, in a small town contemporary setting with a heart-warming happy ever after ending.

About the Author: Nancy Herkness was born and raised in the mountains of West Virginia, where she rode a pony much like other children ride bicycles. Herkness discovered her love of reading and soon after a passion for writing romance when her grandmother gifted her a Georgette Heyer novel.

After graduating from Princeton University with honors in English literature and creative writing, she had successful careers in retail, computer programming, and marketing before finally returning to her first love--writing.

She's the author of the Whisper Horse series as well as several other contemporary romances. Herkness is one of 2003's Best Up and Coming Authors in the Affaire de Coeur's readers' poll. She is also the winner of several writing awards, including the Golden Leaf Award, the Aspen Gold Award, and the Gayle Wilson Award of Excellence.

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## **Karen Laird says**

### **REVIEW OF SERIES**

Any native West Virginian knows every word of John Denver's legendary hit and can sing the lyrics from the time they can follow the tune and form the words (or near sounds). "Take me home, country roads, to the place I belong. West Virginia, mountain mama, take me home, country roads." Driving down the back lanes of the winding mountain roads you can almost hear the strains of the banjos and guitars blowing with the wind through your hair as it whistles through open windows of your vehicle.

There is a sense of having arrived and wanting to belong, a sense of finding home every time you visit, or come back home. I should know, I lived in one of the most remote areas of the state, not too far from the settings of these three novels, for almost five years. Just like the scenes and places in the great Louis L'Amour's novels, even though the names of the locales and business were fictionalized, I have walked the streets of similar towns in the area and am well acquainted with the personalities of many of the small locales. Nancy nailed the spirit of the small, isolated town in rural West Virginia. She was able to verbalize the spirit and genuineness of the people. In these three novels Nancy singlehandedly dispelled the longstanding aura of "dueling banjos" that has so haunted the area and villainized the souls of people who lived there. No wonder outsiders who wander through or seek a place of solace, find themselves putting

down roots and settling in this little piece of heaven on earth.

The central focus the three novels revolved around was a horse stable run by a former Olympic medalist. The name of the stable was Healing Springs Stable. Sharon, the owner of the stable, took in horses nobody wanted anymore or were old or ill. She also believed that every person had a Whisper Horse. Whisper Horse? No, not a horse whisperer, but a whisper horse. "A horse you can tell all your troubles to." Horse owners have a special connection with their animals. Horses will run themselves to the ground for their owners, they respond to body language, to voice nuances. They are highly intelligent. Sharon's idea of a whisper horse is not a bad idea. Horses need to be needed as much as humans need someone. Nancy recently quoted on her FB page about the friendship between man and his horse.

"When your horse follows you without being asked, when he rubs his head on yours, and when you look at him and feel a tingle down your spine...you know you are loved." --John Lyons

This energy and joy was evident throughout her novels. Until you have known the joy of a horse's love, you have not known the joy of unconditional love.

The stories, though each is a stand-alone, grow and build upon the one before it. The characters have active full lives that are not narrow in scope. They care about each other, their neighbors, and their community. They are close knit, and beware he/she who threatens one within their community. In fact, "community" is very much a sub-plot through the entire series. Community is very much a way of life in the mountains of West Virginia.

Nancy Herkness has been recognized for her literary skills and abilities. In 2014 *Country Roads* received the nomination for the coveted RITA award for Contemporary Romance Novel. Then in 2015 *The Place I Belong* also received a RITA nomination. It is a privilege and honor to be able to write a review on this series.

#### Review-

As Nancy has continued with the Whisper Horse Series, her writing perceptions and story-telling skills have been honed and each story has shown her growth as a writer. *The Place I Belong*, is the crowning jewel of her, work, to-date. The complexity of the storylines, taking three separate stories and over-laying each one with the other, weaving them together like a work of art has created a masterpiece of the written word. To add color and additional depth to this already intricate story, Nancy reached back into each of the two previous Whisper Horse books and utilized the back stories of the characters from those novels to broaden and fill-out the beauty of *The Place I Belong*. Weaving these characters and their continuing stories into the current novel brought additional life to the pages. Suddenly, these were real, living people who interacted on a daily basis and lived as a community. The feeling of community seems to come out the loudest and most keenly in this, the final novel.

Like *Country Roads*, I think that *The Place I Belong* is some of Nancy Herkness' best writing to-date. This set showcases her storytelling gift at its best. I loved this book because it was about finding family. It was about community. Oh yes, there were her wonderful pages where she showed her great skills at storytelling and description and leaves us all swooning, but to me, the story, not to be missed is about the priority of finding family and the priority of family in your life. This, her third novel in the series, gets a standing ovation and FIVE STARS in my review of her novel *The Place I Belong*.

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#### Vickie says

I loved this third book in the Whisper Horse Series by Nancy Herkness. Hannah Linden is a veterinarian who ends up in Sanctuary, WV after a professional scandal. She meets up with Adam Bosch, the reclusive owner of the restaurant, The Aerie. Adam has just been given custody of a son about whom he knew nothing. Enter



Satchmo, a rescue horse, who just might be the whisper horse for Matt.

I really enjoyed meeting the two main characters in this story as well as seeing the characters from the first two books. I like the author's style of writing as well as the small town feeling that she captures in these books. I have enjoyed the series!

Go Cards! L1C4!!

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### **Vicky McKay says**

#### **Wonderful**

This is a wonderful book!!! I really like the author!! I hated for it to end!!! I bought it because it's a story about a veterinarian and has horses in it!! Highly recommend it!!!

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### **Kim says**

#### **Ups & downs with great food**

This story tackles some difficult subject matter and I'm not ashamed to say that I did shed a tear or two. There were ups and downs and plenty of great food. Also, a young man with an uncertain future and too much loss. This is a lesson in love, loss, fighting for what's right, fighting for the ones you love & belief in yourself. Well worth reading.

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### **Vipin Kumar K says**

#### **Deep**

It's interesting to introspect with the questions at the end of each book. Makes one feel the depth of all the stories that lie dormant within us.

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