



# Pony Express Mail-Order Bride

*Rhonda Gibson*

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## *A MATCH MADE BY MAIL*

Needing a home and a husband to help her raise her orphaned nephews, Bella Wilson travels to Wyoming in response to a mail-order bride ad. But when she arrives, she discovers Pony Express rider Philip Young didn't place the ad. With her groom-to-be insisting he's not looking for a wife, Bella must convince him to marry her for the sake of the children.

Philip never planned to marry, but he can't possibly turn away a woman in distress and allow her nephews to end up in an orphanage as he once had. A marriage of convenience is the perfect solution. But when he slowly discovers that family life may be what he's been looking for all along, can he convince Bella to give love a chance?

## **Pony Express Mail-Order Bride Details**

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Author : Rhonda Gibson

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## **From Reader Review Pony Express Mail-Order Bride for online ebook**

### **June says**

Loved this story. Philip and Bella were the perfect characters.

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### **Harlequin Books says**

Miniseries: Saddles and Spurs

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### **Hazel Robinson says**

#### **Love marriage of convenience stories**

Wonderful story, Bella had to put her dreams on hold when she got word that her sister and brother in law had passed. There was no one else to take her nephews but her. As she was packing her nephews clothes she saw an ad for a wife of convenience. With no other choice she headed out to Dove Creek. Philip Young had no desire to marry, his father had died of a broken heart when Philip's mom died. Philip did not want to love anyone so deeply that he would not be able to go on without them. But we all know God had other plans for Philip and Bella.

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### **Michelle says**

such an enjoyable read. really liked all the characters can't wait to read the rest of the series.

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### **Harlequin Historical says**

Miniseries: Saddles and Spurs

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### **Julie (Manga Maniac Cafe) says**

4.25 stars

This is the second of the Saddles and Spurs novels that I have read. I have enjoyed both, but I think Pony Express Mail-Order Bride was the best so far. Though I thought the characters were a bit on the young side (eighteen), and Bella's lack of trust made unnecessary hardships for the couple, the story kept me engaged from beginning to end. That's actually saying a lot, since they spent a lot of time doing every day tasks around the homestead, and there weren't a lot of diversions other than what kind of sweets Bella baked for dessert, so the author's writing style is engrossing, and the protagonists' inner monologues were kept at a

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steady tempo to draw the reader in and care about the characters.

Bella turns up at a Pony Express relay station with her young nephews in tow. She's come to reply to Philip's ad for a mail-order bride. Only Philip didn't place the ad; his brother did to get him back for a placing an ad for him the previous year. When Bella seems at the verge of tears and at her wit's end, Philip suggests that they have a marriage of convenience (third marriage of convenience in less than a week in a Harlequin!). He never wants to get married because he is afraid it will destroy him emotionally if anything were to happen to his wife, just like what happened to his father. Bella, penniless and desperate to keep her nephews, agrees to his proposal of a loveless marriage.

While the boys could often be annoying, (how many times do you almost have to drown to listen to orders to stay AWAY from the river?), the slowly building relationship between Philip and Bella felt natural and believable. They both have dreams that they have had to set aside, and those unfulfilled aspirations poke at them like at tooth pain. With rumors that the Pony Express might be shut down, Philip suddenly has the opportunity to realize his dreams.

Bella wants to be supportive, but she's terrified that she and the boys will have to flee when Bella's villainous ex shows up, making threats and trying to force her to marry him. I was worried that the awful man would cause a bigger rift between Philip and Bella than he did, mainly because Bella was afraid to tell Philip that she was being threatened by another man. With the help of the local lawman, the threat was neutralized, leaving Bella and Philip closer and ready to admit their feelings for each other. I have to see if the library has the rest of this series, because the books are a quick, satisfying read, without being too preachy. I love the settings, and the Pony Express has always fascinated me.

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### **Julie Graves says**

When Pony Express rider Philip Young arrives at his home relay station his brother greets him with a surprise. Bella Wilson and her two young nephews have answered a mail-order bride ad that Philip never placed! Bella sees no other way to care for her young nephews. Bella and Philip agree to a marriage of convenience. Neither one are looking for love since their pasts have proven that love cannot be trusted. Slowly but surely Philip and Bella begin to care for each other, but what happens when Bella's former fiance' arrives and threatens Philip and Bella's newfound happiness?

I enjoyed Philip and Bella's story. I did get frustrated with Philip's reasons for not wanting to fall in love with Bella, but everything worked out in the end, so that made me happy! I also enjoyed several other characters in the book. Hazel, the neighbor that gave Philip and Bella her home to live in, was quite a character. I loved her outspokenness. Philip's brother Thomas and his wife were a big help to Philip and Bella with the boys. If you enjoy historical romances then I definitely recommend this book for you to read. If you like Pony Express stories then you will enjoy it even more!