



Rancher Wants a Wife

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A marriage to save them both...

Among the responses Cassandra Hamilton receives to her advertizement as a mail-order bride, one stands out—Jack McColton's. The last time she saw him, she was a carefree girl, but tragedy has made her a cautious woman.

Jack is mesmerized by his new bride—Cassandra might bear the scars of recent events, but she's even more beautiful than he remembers. They both have pasts that are hard to forget, but under the cloak of night, can their passion banish the shadows forever?

Mail-Order Weddings

From blushing bride to rancher's wife!

Rancher Wants a Wife Details

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Author : Kate Bridges

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From Reader Review Rancher Wants a Wife for online ebook

Melissa says

Can't say I've ever read a mail order bride book with this premise! I found it refreshing.

There's a bit of mystery in with this romance. I am usually the last to guess whodunit, but halfway through this story I knew who the as-yet-unidentified villain was. I'm not kidding that for good or ill, just to say it's on the predictable side.

Linda says

A very good historical romance from Harlequin! Enjoyed the book.

Susan says

Very good book. I loved the courage that Cassandra found to pursue a new life. She might have known Jack in the past, but it's been five years so there's no guarantee that he's still a good man. She lost her father and sister in the Chicago Great Fire, and was injured herself. Having lost so much, she is cautious about trusting her heart to someone else. When she finally reached California and saw Jack again, she discovered that she was still attracted to him. She wants to build a relationship with him but there are still some things from their past that they need to work through. She is also worried about how he will accept her scars. Cassandra was worried about their future when he didn't even kiss her at first, but was more confident once they were married and their physical relationship took off. She still had some confidence issues thanks in part to Jack's ex-girlfriend who appeared to still want him. I loved seeing her make herself an important part of Jack's life, not just in bed. She has to learn to trust him and seeing the work he does and the way he is respected by others goes a long way toward that. I also enjoyed Cassandra's desire to be more than a wife. Having been involved with her father's law firm, she has an interest in law and law enforcement and would like to become a lady detective. She doesn't know how Jack will react to that wish, and when he makes his dislike of the idea clear she hopes to change his mind. I loved the way she put her abilities to work as they tried to solve the mystery of sick animals and a possible murder.

Jack left Chicago after telling Cassandra about his feelings and being rejected. He couldn't stand the idea of seeing her marry the man she was engaged to, so he left and didn't look back. He's made a good life for himself in California. When he heard about the Great Fire, he tried to find Cassandra to check on her but had no success until he saw her ad in the paper. He immediately wrote to her, proposing marriage to him, all the time wondering why she wasn't married to the other man. He feels guilty that he wasn't there to protect her and vows that she will be safe with him. He notices her scar when they finally meet again, but it makes no difference to him. He realizes he still cares for her and vows to keep her safe. He's not happy about her plans because he sees too many opportunities for her to get hurt and he doesn't want that to happen. I loved seeing how attracted he was to her, and how he tried to control himself but couldn't. He's intrigued by the way her mind works but feels her plans are too dangerous. I enjoyed seeing him get closer to her and try to show her how he feels. His protectiveness really comes out as he worries about the unexplained events that are going on. His growing appreciation for her and her deductive abilities starts to work on his opinion of her plans. He also has a tendency to screw things up just as matters between them start going well. The final showdown at the end showed him just how much he had come to love her.

I enjoyed the mystery part of the book also. The way that Cassandra had of thinking outside of the way that Jack and the other men did went a long way toward figuring out who was behind the trouble. I thought it was pretty cool that she solved it before the guys did. I wasn't really surprised by who it was, but the process of getting there was very good. I'm looking forward to the next book in the series.

Kim says

The women of Mrs. Pepik's Boarding House for Desolate Women placed ads looking for husbands. After surviving the Great Fire of Chicago marrying a stranger should be easy, right?

Former wealthy socialite Cassandra Hamilton is the first to accept a proposal from the many responses to her ad, only she did not choose a stranger. It was a surprise to get a letter from Jack McColton, a man she refused and who then disappeared five years ago. She is willing to risk everything by traveling to California and discovering if they can build a relationship. But how can she trust him to be there for her and how will he react when he sees her scarred face. Maybe surviving the fire will be easier than finding happiness, love and acceptance.

Jack was shocked when he saw Cassandra's ad. He had left Chicago because he couldn't stand by and watch her marrying another. Why is she still single? He should never have left her. If he had stayed, he could have been there to save her from the fire. He failed her but once she is his wife, he'll never let her be hurt again. Only things are not as safe on his ranch as he believes.

Both Cassandra and Jack have to make adjustments on how they think of each other to build a strong foundation of love, trust and friendship. If that was not difficult enough, Ms. Bridges adds an ex-girlfriend who obviously still wants Jack, a hidden danger, and Cassandra's dreams for the future that Jack is unwilling to support. Watching these two find their Happily-ever-after will keep readers turning the pages. Ms. Bridges is a master at storytelling, making you feel part of the tale. I highly recommend you add her to your auto-buy list. You won't be disappointed!

Suzanne says

After the Chicago fire many people were killed and families were torn apart. Women without husbands or families lived together in hopes of finding a new life. Cassandra was going to be the first mail order bride. The burn scar on her cheek was a reminder of the fire she would always live with. Interestingly she had chosen Jack McCoulton in California. She knew Jack and they once had been friends.

Jack was a tall good looking veterinarian in Sundail, California. He was the most eligible bachelor and had spent his last five years sowing his wild oats. With all the available wealthy beauties locally, people did not understand why Jack sent for a plain, poor woman who was scarred.

Jack had a beautiful ranch, many friends, and wealth. Cassandra herself was unable to understand why he had agreed to the marriage. He was very comfortable with his life and did not appear to need a wife.

With all his talk about providing for her and protecting her, Jack really seemed unaware of her needs and their relationship began with a lot of mistrust. A local beautiful girl Elise objected at the wedding causing Cassandra to feel awful. Jack denied having made her any promises but since she helped him do veterinary

work, he had continued to see her even after the mail order engagement. Animals seemed to get sick all the time and Jack and Cassandra were constantly pulled apart.

Elise's boyfriend made threats to Jack and Cassandra went out to their own barn to find Jack and Elise's boyfriend in a fight over her.

Jack had a wonderful English couple who had worked for him as housekeeper and butler. The butler was found dead.

Cassandra began to put the clues together. She had been suspicious from the beginning. Finally the sheriff, the doctor and Jack began to listen to her. Jack had believed all along that someone wanted to hurt Cassandra but he couldn't see the whole picture. Hopefully the pieces would come together before a killer could act.

Caron Pescatore says

I absolutely loved this book! Once I started reading it, I could not put it down.....it took me less than a day to read it. It is, without a doubt, one of the most, if not the most, amazing mail order bride book I've ever read! And I've read quite a few. While the mail order bride plot is not uncommon, in this instance the author added an unusual twist in that the h and H have a past history prior to the h becoming a mail order bride. The plot moves at a nice, quick pace and kept me engaged.....actually it kept me prisoner all day! LOL The characters are all well drawn and relatable. I really loved both Cassandra and Jack and liked several of the other characters. In addition, the book is extremely well written.

While living in Chicago, Cassandra and Jack were friends as children into early adulthood. At the time, Cassandra was the older daughter of a wealthy Chicago attorney. Approximately three years after Jack leaves Chicago, Cassandra loses her younger sister and father in the Great Chicago Fire, as well as sustaining a burn injury which left her with a significant scar to her cheek. A year and a half after the fire, Cassandra is living in a boardinghouse for desolate women and posts an ad to become a mail order bride. Among the many responses she receives to her ad, is one from Jack. Cassandra chooses Jack as her groom and travels to Napa Valley, California to marry him.

Jack is a wealthy, successful rancher and veterinarian. The past relationship between Cassandra and Jack was a complicated one and things were left unfinished when they parted ways. This history does create some difficulty for the newly married couple as they become reacquainted and learn to trust each other. The romance between Jack and Cassandra is a sweet one. It is so obvious that Jack cares a great deal for Cassandra, but she keeps a tight rein on her emotions and he has no idea where he stands with her. As for Cassandra, she suffers from insecurity because of her altered appearance.

To add intrigue to the plot, there is the question as to whether or not a series of animal illnesses are due to nefarious doings, and a death which may, or may not, be a murder. Cassandra's dream is to become a lady private detective. Consequently, this is the perfect opportunity for her to demonstrate her superior observation skills and above average intelligence.

I really, really loved this book. I highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys this genre of books. BTW this is not a clean romance. There are a few love scenes, which, while descriptive were not overly long, nor was there any crude language. I was lucky enough to borrow this book from my county library's digital library. I loved it so much, however, that I will definitely purchase a copy. This book is a keeper! Furthermore, I see

Ms. Bridges has another mail order bride novel being released later this year...Welcome to Wyoming. I will definitely keep an eye out for that one. Happy reading!

June says

Jack has loved Cassandra for many years, but she was engaged to his cousin. So he moved on. He's now a veterinarian with a horse ranch and life is pretty good. When he sees Cassandra's mail-order bride in the newspaper, he knows he has to have her.

Cassandra is relieved that she gets a response to her ad from someone she already knows. But when she arrives in his town, she isn't so sure Jack is happy to see her. After all, he didn't kiss her, nor did he introduce her to anyone or tell them he had a bride coming. And the scar on her face from the Great Chicago Fire makes her wonder if he regrets accepting the offer to marry her. There is an objection at the wedding and from there, life gets crazy with murder and mayhem. A fun and interesting story.

Asma Mighri says

I quit loved this story, it was sweet, lovely and both hero and heroine were so beautiful together... It was just what I needed and I got sucked into the story although it's really short but I couldn't help never wanting it to end...

Cassandra was amazing and so perfect for Jack... they had history and I was glad she confronted the past from the beginning, she was not whiny even when Jack stopped her from doing what she wanted... Jack was such a sweetheart, a hot cowboy sweetheart.... it was obvious they were in love from back in Chicago, it was just trust they didn't accomplish yet....

All in all, it was amazing and beautiful and I never wanted it to end....

Ashley Nelson says

2.5 stars. Very predictable and formulaic. Jack and Cassandra had met several years prior, then misunderstandings and circumstances separated them before they got started. So Jack knew who he was getting as a mail-order bride and Cassandra knew at least a little of what she was getting into. The "villain" was rather obvious from the start. Held my attention enough to finish, as it was rather short, and I liked the historical detail. The plotting and romance were weak.

Love Butterfly says

Enjoy every moment of it. I love they way writer develops two important character. Jack and Cassandra knew each other when they were teen but could not able to express each other feeling. They struggled and tried their best to work out their difference and then they fall in love. This is such a beautiful story.

Harlequin Historical says

Miniseries: Mail-Order Weddings

Harlequin Books says

"Bridges delivers an enjoyable installment in her Mail-Order Weddings series as she wrangles romance, deception and attempted murder." RT Book Reviews

Miniseries: Mail-Order Weddings

Ruth Kiger says

First in the series of Mail Order Brides. The brides left penniless and with no family after the Chicago fire and in order to start a new life offer themselves as mail order brides. This had a little mystery which if you read a lot was predictable, but still entertaining. Recommend if you like early Americana westerns.

Roxie Wojcik says

The Great Chicago Fire, when a wealthy young woman loses more than her family and belongings. Cassandra becomes a mail order bride to a man from her past.

This is a well written love story. With the exception of it having been based around a historic event, its writing is timeless and could have taken place in any small town, ranching community (where there is no gun control).

If your preferences are hot and heavy sex, this isn't the book for you. This is true Harlequin style, where there isn't an overworked storyline, your imagination is teased, the scenery beautiful, and a book that you don't want to put down.

I'm giving it 4 stars because it was too well written for a "like", yet not meaty enough for "amazing", which isn't quite fair to Kate, because it was amazing for a Harlequin. Kate Bridges

This was a Facebook win ~ and I thank you very much :)

Jenn says

3 Generous Stars

I loved the whole idea of the story- mail order bride with the twist that the couple had known each other previously for quite sometime. I liked how both of them went from one spectrum of the finance department of life to the other- basically switching places.

However, the story lacked romance and the feel goods of that department for me. Sure it had steam but it did

nothing for me and really- it seemed that was all the couple had to go off of- as they really didn't spend much time together as a couple.

What I liked :

1. Couple were friends, previously
2. Mail order bride story
3. Her intelligence and her job ambition
4. Jack's station in the community and his job

My problems with the story:

1. Jack's job and people - which both seem to encompass the mysterious crime going on in the mix- came between the couple the entire book!!!
 2. Couple never had time to be a couple
 3. They didn't share their feelings or talk much - when they did it didn't go well so it was a rare thing.
 4. I didn't buy her love for him. (He had loved her long before they reunited.)
 5. He seemed to show her attention and affection in public but sucked at it when he was home. He was more about the sex than anything.
 6. Lacked real romance
 7. The couple lacked major substance to their relationship.
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