



Betting on Hope

Debra Clopton

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A bet gone wrong. A small town's meddling. And a cowboy intent on saving his ranch.

Maggie Hope is an advice columnist whose background leaves her with little advice to give . . . and it's beginning to show. When Maggie fills in at an interview with champion horse trainer Tru Monahan, the on-camera chemistry between them is undeniable. Maggie's bosses know this is the opportunity she's been looking for to launch her career—and their bank accounts. In order to save her column, Maggie takes Tru up on the bet that he can teach her to ride a quick-stepping cutting horse like any cowgirl, despite the fact that she has never been on a horse. And in the meantime, she can get the scoop on the man under the cowboy hat.

Tru has been on the competition circuit for longer than he'd like, but he knows it's the only way he can afford to keep the Four of Hearts Ranch that means so much to his ailing grandfather. So when his sponsors see the opportunity for Tru's fans to get to know the star on a more intimate level, he knows he must oblige. To his dismay, Maggie not only invades his small town of Wishing Springs, but she also invades his heart, and that is something he cannot let any woman do—for her own good.

In Wishing Springs, Maggie finds what she has always been looking for: a community and a home. But when her past catches up to her, it threatens everything, even the tender hope that this town holds all of her heart's desires.

Betting on Hope Details

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From Reader Review Betting on Hope for online ebook

Ann Valdez says

Maggie Hope as overcome a rough childhood to write an advice column. When her friend who helped her obtain her job and a better life becomes sick and unable to give a television interview to Tru, a champion cowboy horse trainer, the company decides Maggie needs to go and give the interview with the hopes of increasing the popularity of her column. Tru's dad died leaving him and his brothers a pile of debt they must overcome to keep their ranch.

During the interview, Tru and Maggie spar themselves into a bet that he could not teach her how to ride a quick-setting cutting horse. The chemistry between the two is apparent, but Maggie and Tru fight it every step of the way when his sponsors and her boss demand that they work together for two months to see who will win the bet.

Maggie meets a young girl walking along the road and takes her to the home for unwed mothers. Jenna's life has similarities to Maggie's and Maggie's heart goes out to the pregnant teen-ager as they both come to love this small community, but Maggie has some dark secrets that threaten to be revealed. Tru had cancer as a child and has some health issues which may threaten his ability to have a woman be in a relationship with him.

I appreciated reading this inspirational romance story which I received from the publisher through NetGalley.

Aimee (Getting Your Read On) says

What is it with swoony cowboys? I don't know but I sure like it. Tru is swoony. A little dense sometimes, but swoony for sure. And loyal. And hardworking.

Maggie will capture your heart. I loved her from the beginning and I loved her even more by the end. Life and it's challenges has made Maggie empathetic and compassionate. She is strong but not in an overbearing and forceful way. I like that about her.

One of the things that I loved about this book was the developing stories within the story. The romance was slow moving but provided that pull and tension between characters. Both Maggie and Tru have stories that unfold as they go along. The author did an excellent job of allowing me to get to know characters in a gentle and real way. It all felt good.

This book hit the spot for me. I was in the mood for a clean romance, a handsome cowboy and an overall satisfying story that went a little deeper than the usual fluff. (don't get me wrong though. I LOVE fluff!!) This is a Christian Fiction book, I would say light on the Christian. I'm really looking forward to reading about the brothers in future books.

My thanks to Thomas Nelson Publishing for allowing me to read and review this title for them.

Sarah says

4.5 star

This is my second Debra Clopton book & I really enjoyed it. I'm looking forward to reading the 2nd book in this series when it comes out next month.

Poor Maggie, what a disastrous interview! But she handled it, most of it :), with humor. It would not be pleasant to be pushed out of your comfort zone the way she is in this book. But she grew from the experience, & learned to ride. It turned out well for her & Tru. I liked how Maggie helped Jenna & then went back to check on her & befriended her. I really liked Jenna and ached for the choice she had to make. I really hope we get to see more of her in the rest of the series.

Tru was a good character. I didn't like the way he was constantly sending mixed signals. I understand though that he had a lot on his plate. I loved his utter devotion to his grandfather. Caring for someone with Alzheimer is a difficult thing. And I loved it when he went in & took care of a problem for Maggie. That was a great scene. I wish though that he would have just explained earlier, to Maggie, what was holding him back.

A good clean western/cowboy story.

Heidi Robbins (Heidi Reads...) says

At first look, it seems like beautiful Maggie and heartthrob Tru have everything going for them- in the career department at least. But under the surface they each have tragic backgrounds and current struggles that run deep. It was the harder themes that got to me with this book rather than the romance. The author dealt with them in a gentle manner yet didn't shy away from the reality of the situations portrayed in the story. Dysfunctional family members, family loyalty, Alzheimer's, homelessness, unwed pregnancy, adoption, infertility, gambling, fame... but even with the heavy themes it's still uplifting and inspiring. I especially appreciated the different perspectives in the adoption storyline since we adopted both of our daughters. Don't get me wrong- there are plenty of funny and sweet moments too, and there is a strong cast of secondary characters that rounds out the hometown feel of this novel.

(Thank you to Thomas Nelson Publishing and BookLook Bloggers for a copy of the book in exchange for my honest review)

Kathy * Bookworm Nation says

4.5

I ended up really enjoying this one!

When I saw my friend Aimee's review mention swoony cowboys I had to give this one a try. This was a sweet contemporary western. I liked the overall plot and the characters were great.

Maggie has had a hard life, but is always able to see the positive in things. She has taken this talent and

become an advice columnist. She was an easy character to like and relate to. I liked how even though she had experienced a rough upbringing, she was still a caring person. She went out of her way to help others and was always lifting up those around her. I loved that.

Tru Monahan was a true cowboy. He is hardworking and loyal and takes care of those he loves. He has to fight his attraction to Maggie, but still ends up doing a good job of courting her despite his intention to leave her alone. They have good chemistry together and I enjoyed watching their relationship evolve. I like that they were able to become friends and that Maggie was able to turn to Tru when she needed him (drives me nuts when heroines refuse to go to the hero for help), it was refreshing to see her actually trust him, especially after everything she had been through. It was a big move for her.

I also enjoyed the side-story of Jenna, which touched a little close to home. (view spoiler)

Overall, a charming read! I enjoyed the setting and am looking forward to reading Bo and Jarrods story, I'll be keeping my eye out for more in this series for sure! I do wish there had been an epilogue, there were a couple things left up in the air (view spoiler)

Content

Romance: Clean

Other: Mild talk of Jenna and Maggie's past, nothing graphic

Religious: Mild, very little religious content and not preachy at all

Source: Received review copy from publisher for honest review.

This has been nominated for a 2015 Swoony Award, you can vote for it [here](#).

P.e. lolo says

Maggie Hope writes an advice column and now she has been ordered by the boss of her paper to go to Wishing Springs and do a TV interview with a champion horse trainer Tru Monahan. She also has questions that her friend wrote out for and is the host normally but has the flu. When she arrives she falls and drops the pages and as the interview begins she gets nervous and there is some dead air but Tru puts his hand on hers and that seems to calm her, so she can ask some of her own questions, but also there is a spark between them. The show then moves out doors where the talk is about teaching anyone to ride a horse and when he takes his out of the trailer she ends up falling again this time on her back side. She gets up walks to her car and leaves. So embarrassed that she does not want to see Tru again. The problem with that is someone recorded her fall and posted it on you tube and because of all of the hits they are sending back out there for Tru to teach her how to ride a horse. When she arrives back out there they each begin to find things out about each other and the more she is getting closer to Tru she does not know if he will still want to be with her when the truth about her back ground comes out. What she did not expect was her friend and all of the people in Wishing Springs being there for her. She did not have that growing up, and when Tru goes after her father because he is still wanting to cause problems for her she realizes that maybe just maybe this will all work out. A good story and not just a love story. I got this book from net galley. Follow us at www.1rad-readerreviews.com

Kathy says

Set in the small town of Wishing Springs, TX, *Betting on Hope* is the first novel in **Debra Clopton's** *Four of*

Hearts Ranch series featuring the Monahan brothers. It is an overall sweet and heartwarming love story that fans of Christian fiction are sure to enjoy.

Maggie Hope is an introverted advice columnist who is out of her element when she is forced to step in front of the camera when she fills in during an interview with Tru Monahan. She is also a little clumsy and her first meeting with Tru includes several embarrassing mishaps. Her nervousness during their interview leads to a surprising challenge that neither of them plan to act on but Maggie's boss and Tru's sponsor think that the bet would garner both of them some much needed publicity. City girl Maggie is like a fish out of water on Tru's ranch, but with both their careers on the line, she sets aside her apprehension and concentrates on winning the bet.

Maggie has not had an easy life but she has an optimistic outlook and sunny disposition. She is also very kind-hearted and compassionate and this shows in the advice she gives to her readers. Maggie lacks confidence in unfamiliar situations and this coupled with her fears makes her very uneasy about having to follow through on the bet. However, the biggest obstacle that Maggie must overcome is her longstanding trust issues.

Tru is a hardworking cowboy whose finds his reputation as ladies' man rather embarrassing. He, along with his brothers Bo and Jarrod, inherited the family ranch after their parents' death and unbeknownst to anyone, his father had mortgaged it to the hilt. All three men have been working hard to pay off the massive debts, so Tru has to do what his sponsors ask of him. He gently encourages Maggie to overcome her fears but he remains frustrated by her continued lack of confidence in herself.

Tru and Maggie harbor misconceptions about each other but they quickly and easily clear up some of their early misunderstandings. They share a mutual attraction, but for the longest time, they avoid acting on it. When Tru receives devastating news, he pulls back from Maggie, which leaves her understandably upset and confused since he refuses to give her an explanation. Maggie also has a secret she has been keeping, but when she is threatened by someone from her past, she turns to Tru for some much needed advice.

The small town setting is perfect for the story and it is quite enjoyable getting to know its residents. The townspeople are quite colorful and a little eccentric, but they are very likable. They are a little nosy and over involved in each other lives, but it is also quite obvious they genuinely care about their friends and neighbors.

Betting on Hope is a lovely romance with a very appealing cast of characters. **Debra Clopton** does an excellent job keeping the storyline fresh and unpredictable with a few unexpected plot twists. It is an overall wonderful beginning to the *Four of Hearts Ranch* series and I am very much looking forward to reading Bo and Jarrod's novels.

Meagan Myhren-bennett says

Betting on Hope
A Four of Hearts Ranch Romance 1
By Debra Clopton

The last thing Maggie Hope wants is to conduct an interview with Tru Monahan. But Tru's sponsors want this and the powers that be have ordered Maggie to fill in for the reporter scheduled to conduct the interview.

But Maggie is totally out of her element, after all she's an advice columnist not a reporter. And the interview

goes from bad to worse with the highlight being Tru stating he could teach anyone to ride and Maggie betting him he couldn't teach her. Unfortunately for both Tru and Maggie both the station and his sponsors see opportunity in their "bet".

Maggie and Tru are given two months to fulfill their bet. And they have no choice in the matter - Tru's sponsors see \$\$\$\$, the network sees ratings, and the future of Maggie's column depends on her accepting the bet. But will the small town of Wishing Springs, Texas ever be the same after Maggie gets done with it?

Maggie is determined to avoid Tru's charm and becoming the newest tabloid fodder. Tru is determined to keep any and all women at arm's length for their own good. But Maggie's constant presence just may make that a tad difficult, especially if she can't overcome her klutzy ways.

Betting on Hope is both humorous and emotionally moving as Maggie and Tru fulfill their obligations while dealing with issues from their pasts. The various residents of Wishing Springs add to the richness of the story, adding both a depth and dimension that will make you want to revisit Wishing Springs.

I was provided with a copy of this book through the BookLook blogger program in exchange for my honest review.

JoJo Sutis says

Debra Clopton's Four of Hearts Ranch Romance series is off to a spectacular start with "Betting On Hope"!

Champion horse trainer Tru Monahan and clutzy advice columnist Maggie Hope shine in this heartwarming small-town romance.

Tru is trying to keep the family ranch afloat and Maggie is determined to save her advice column. A misspoken word turns into city girl Maggie spending the next two months with Tru- training her to ride a horse. With an entire town watching, can Tru and Maggie find their happily ever after?

This story is so sweet and cute and fun and funny. The characters just took me into their world from the start. I love the town of Wishing Springs and am thrilled to know that there are more books coming. The love of family shines through Tru's interaction with Papa...a character who touched my heart deeply, and Jenna- this entire side-story was just brilliant!

These are not just your typical cookie-cutter characters...Maggie is struggling with a secret from her past and Tru has a secret of his own that will affect his future. I loved watching the relationship develop between these two. The author kept me riveted until the very end.

Brittany says

I loved this book! It is a combination of a wonderful romance and a deep story of people dealing with intense issues.

Betting on Hope is set in a small town, filled with a plethora of fun and quirky characters. These people just made the place feel so very real to me. The two main characters Maggie and Tru are definitely opposites, yet they end up drawn to each other right from the start. Maggie is a strong woman, yet she struggles with self-doubt, guilt, and some clumsiness. Tru seems to have it all together. He is definitely a confident champion,

but there are things weighing him down, as well. I loved watching their interactions and learning more about both of them.

Jenna is another side character in a very complicated and scary situation. She and Maggie's paths cross and I really loved the friendship that grew between the two. This storyline was such a beautiful part of the overall book.

I loved this book from start to finish and I am really looking forward to reading the next book in the series.

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher, through Litfuse Publicity, in exchange for an honest review.

You can read this review on my blog at enter a Kindle giveaway (through 3/8/15) at:
<https://brittreadsfiction.wordpress.c...>

Cara says

I can't believe how much I loved this one. I was just looking for an easy, fluffy read. Didn't expect to so randomly pick a winner. But somehow I did!

I listened to the audio book, and I think that was a big part of it. This reader does the best voices and the greatest Texas drawl. It added so much to the story and brought so many of the small town characters to life. I laughed out loud continually. Then there were cowboys, so you know...swoon.

And I LOVED THE END.

This book may be shelved as Christian fiction, but on my 5 point preachy-meter scale, I give this a 0.5. Just good and clean and an emphasis on trust, hope, and family. No preaching. And to that I say, hallelujah!

Can't wait to listen to book 2!

Gina Burgess says

MY REVIEW

This novel started out so well, but dribbled to a rather predictable storyline. There was immediate sexual tensions. That's is not a bad thing, but it was very heavy-handed, almost forced. The thing is mostly Tell rather than Show, but Clopton did a great job raising questions in the readers' minds without coming out and telling the reader what the questions are supposed to be. That is rare these days.

Character development is cliché and heavy handed. There is little subtlety in this novel, and it is so predictable. I was yawning by chapter 5.

The main character is difficult to discern at first because there is so much back story given for 3 characters: The columnist, the cowboy, and the pregnant girl. Where should my attention be directed?

I blame the editor for a lot of this. In the attempt to show, not tell, a lot of backstory is given for the pregnant girl. This is very confusing at the beginning because you think she's hiding in the back of the truck driven by someone from the ranch, but it's not so. Everything sorts out later, but there is just so much confusion that a reader can take before getting fed up with a book.

Keep reading and there's still not one character that grows or is transformed or developed by what happens. Souls are not stretched, it is just a series of happenings. Again that is not necessarily a bad thing, but frankly I would much rather pick up bread crumbs along a winding path than be ramrodded down an Interstate highway.

ABOUT THE NOVEL

Maggie Hope is an advice columnist whose background leaves her with little advice to give . . . and it's beginning to show. When Maggie fills in at an interview with champion horse trainer Tru Monahan, the on-camera chemistry between them is undeniable.

Maggie's bosses know this is the opportunity she's been looking for to launch her career-and their bank accounts. In order to save her column, Maggie takes Tru up on the bet that he can teach her to ride a quick-stepping cutting horse like any cowgirl, despite the fact that she has never been on a horse. And in the meantime, she can get the scoop on the man under the cowboy hat.

Tru has been on the competition circuit for longer than he'd like, but he knows it's the only way he can afford to keep the Four of Hearts Ranch that means so much to his ailing grandfather. So when his sponsors see the opportunity for Tru's fans to get to know the star on a more intimate level, he knows he must oblige. To his dismay, Maggie not only invades his small town of Wishing Springs, but she also invades his heart, and that is something he cannot let any woman do-for her own good.

In Wishing Springs, Maggie finds what she has always been looking for: a community and a home. But when her past catches up to her, it threatens everything, even the tender hope that this town holds all of her heart's desires.

Tressa (Wishful Endings) says

I have a soft spot for cowboys. They're rough, rugged, charming, strong, and normally gentleman (at least in fictional stories). Tru definitely fit the mold although he has been painted as less in his past. Maggie on the other hand is a single city gal with a rough past that she feels guilty about. They were an interesting combination and as they fell for each other, I fell for them and this small town full of fun and interesting characters with some interwoven stories of their own.

I felt a little pulled from the main story of Tru and Maggie at first when we learn about Jenna and about some of the other characters from the town separately, but the author had a plan and it all comes together beautifully in the end. I really loved being out on the ranch with the main characters and getting to know Tru's brothers and Pops a little more. I'm definitely looking forward to seeing the consequences of the town being in the spotlight and what romance comes to Tru's two brothers: Bo and Jarrod.

If you enjoy contemporary romance with an inspirational element that felt natural and wasn't too pushy, then I'd definitely recommend Betting on Hope. I enjoyed the story thoroughly. There were some heartbreaking moments, some that definitely curled my toes and made me sigh, and some that were just sweet. I got behind these characters and cheered them on and felt a smile form on my face when I came to the end.

Content: Clean

Source: I would like to thank the publisher through Litfuse for my complimentary copy, which did not affect my review in any way.

Dawn says

Maggie Hope is a journalist and the author of a popular advise column. When her friend needs her to fill in on a TV interview with horse trainer Tru Monahan, Maggie agrees because she knows what it could do for her column. When she makes a bet with him on camera, her producers and his sponsors want it to happen. Maggie never dreamed she'd go from having never been on a horse to entering a competition in just a few short weeks. Yet Tru's a good teacher and she soon finds her heart being drawn to the handsome cowboy doing all he can to save his family's ranch. Will Tru be able to see into Maggie's heart and that she really does belong in Whispering Springs?

I've read quite a few of Debra Clopton's Love Inspired Books over the years and I always enjoyed them. So when I had a chance to review this full-length novel, I was thrilled.

I loved how Maggie had to step out of her comfort zone to do something she wasn't sure about. I also loved how patient Tru was with her. I loved how he was determined to do whatever he had to do in order to save his family's ranch.

The cast of minor characters were delightful and I look forward to the stories featuring Tru's brothers.

I found the book to be a very quick read. It was filled with humor. I think I giggled all of the way through it.

I received this book for free from Booklook Bloggers for the purpose of reviewing. My thoughts and opinions are my own.

Recommended to fans of Janice Thompson, Love Inspired, cowboys, romance, Debra Clopton

Rating - 4 stars

Gennie Gee says

Needs an Epilogue!

I loved this story. It didn't fall into the usual romance book tropes. I thought several times I knew what was coming, but I was wrong and I LIKE that. The only reason I took off a star was that when the story finally resolved, it was the last page! I need a little more, just a taste to know everything is all right. Make sense?
