



Fancy (Leisure Historical Romance)

Norah Hess

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THE LADY

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THE LOGGER

From the moment Chance Dawson laid eyes on Fancy, he wanted to claim her for himself. But the mighty woodsman had felled forests less stubborn than the beautiful orphan. To win her hand, he would trade his roughhewn ways for tender caresses, and brazen curses for soft words of desire. Only then would he be able to share with her a love that united them in passionate splendor.

Fancy (Leisure Historical Romance) Details

Date : Published (first published 1995)

ISBN :

Author : Norah Hess

Format : Kindle Edition 448 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Westerns, Western Romance, American, Americana

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From Reader Review Fancy (Leisure Historical Romance) for online ebook

SewUnicornish says

I liked Gil.... you know...the "bad guy" who treated Fancy with respect... saw her worth and DIDN'T RAPE HER.

As most romance novels are, this is your typical dysfunctional romantic relationship. With fighting, mental and verbal abuse, the lack of self control and inability to empathize with each other.

I typically dont like books that have characters that are this dysfunctional and dont help themselves or each other. But I dont feel like the book tries to justify thier behavior. The book only gives us THIER perspectives and views. I liked the setting, the obstacles set before all characters and the theme of what happens when we objectify people.

Obsession and objectifying were the main issues here. Also Chance saw that he was wrong all the time. He knew better, but he CHOSE out of his pride to do what was wrong. Fancy was raped by Chance but found comfort in the material things Chance provided. Fancy also knew that Chance was an abuser but she let her physical attraction to him make the final call. She also used the excuse that the boys needed a father figure. Yes they did but that doesnt mean a bad father is better than no father.

Gil, who was competing for Fancy was described as a wanderer, he seemed to have trouble with women obsessing over him. His stalker ends up burning down Fancys house and killing the prostitute he sleeps with. Then she finally kills him by sabotaging his tree topping gear. It was sad to me because he might not have been perfect but he was a nice guy. He did nice things for Fancy and not just too woo her I dont think. He was pretty brave, he protected the town. He wasnt rich like Chance though. And I did feel like the book painted him as pathetic for not having more money.

If I was Fancy I would have fell for Gil. Gil continued sleeping with a prostitute while trying to get Fancys attention because he wasnt sure if Fancy would like him or not. On the other hand Chance wanted to sleep with the prostitute while persuing Fancy but litteraly couldnt because he was detirmined to have her. He WOULD have Fancy one way or another. To me at least Gil viewed women as individuals who had choices and thier own minds.

The dance hall owner was a great character and the secondary romance between her and the piano man was cute. All characters were well written and thats what saved the book to me. Lenny, Fancys mentally stunted cousin gets to go to scool and learn, and gains acceptance from the town. I liked Lenny a lot and truly felt sorry for him and Fancy.

Janet Holderman says

Love her books.

Laurie says

This was a very good book though it could do without Gil and pillars secondary characters murder plot and I couldn't help but notice the plot line was quite the same another one of her books but over all it was a goodread.

Rogetwhi says

I liked this one and would've gave this one at least 4.5 if not 5 stars if the main characters hadn't bickered the entire book. It was literally more than 90% of the book until they finally got along.

KatieV says

I loved Fancy, even though there was so much misunderstanding it sometimes made me want to scream. And Chance was really a childish ass with his jealousy and hurt pride. The story sucked me in, though. I think it was nice to have a break from all the rich Lords and Greek tycoons and listen to a story about regular people.

I have to give a nod to Norah Hess' reference to Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men with the big, strong, mentally delayed character Lenny. I'm glad to report that things turned out much better for this Lenny and no rabbits were petted to death.

Elle says

I hhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhate books like this.

I haven't finished it and doubt that I will because of the hero. He is such an ass. Do you need an example? They're knocking boots, she tells him to stop ... he says "just give me a minute" and proceeds with the thrusting.

Not only that but dude is just down right mean when she doesn't fall all over herself to get with him. I get that he is not dealing with the rejection well and that he is a nice guy because he's nice to her mentally delayed cousin but at this point that's no excuse. Dude needs to grown up.

I got as far as when she gets the letter from her grandma (if that means anything to you) my kindle is temporarily MIA so I'd guess it's about 50% in.

The story is a bit all over the place at this point but maybe later on it will all come together. But the ghost, crazy women (yes, more than one), two less than impressive suitors and a relatively depressing tone just ended up being too much for me and I threw in the towel.

ANGELENE says

Fantastic

I did not put this book down until I finished it excellent read. I was caught up with the characters it's as if I was living in that period.

Preeti ♥? (Romance She Reads) says

Fancy was just about fanciable.

More of a constant maddening bickerfest. Although one could tell it was sexual frustration that was driving him and the need for independence and respect from her side. Still it went on and on...

I could still empathize with her reasons (despite her overdone fire-spitting), but he was like a mean immature schoolroom bully who wanted something bad and misbehaved when he couldn't get it.

The h dances at the local dancehall to earn enough money to go to SFO for a better life. The not-very-likable H, the owner of the lumber camp, propositions her and gets a slap for his efforts. In his defence, how's he to know that such sterling purity can co-exist with so much dross! By 'romance-land' coincidence, the H's newly orphaned nephew turns out to her nephew as well, so they start living together (but not that together-at least not just then) to make a home for him and the h's mentally challenged cousin. The sparks turn to unrelenting fire and fury!

Unlike many books, this book's middling chapters were actually its saving grace. For more than 8-9 chapters, I plodded on because of the reviews but my mood was no less snarky and frustrated than that of the H.

For one, despite the author waxing lyrical about the open mountain country, all I could envision was the claustrophobic setting of a small lumber camp with everyone living in each other's pockets – the living quarters, cookhouse, school, dancehall/whorehouse all within shouting and interfering distance. Also the suggestion of so much intra-community sex made me uncomfortable.

Then I had a problem with the concept of this dance hall itself. I just couldn't conceive hard working lumbermen wasting money to dance with the girls till daylight – every night. Drinking and whoring I can comprehend especially as most girls were offering just that, but dancing the night away - daily? I don't know why I worried about their rest, but I wanted them to toddle off home after the visits to the girls' rooms!

But then the book picks up and I could see the appeal of Fancy. The mystery was intriguing enough but I couldn't credit how one woman could wreak such havoc and not get seen or caught – for months. The mysterious om was charming and rakish. The ow was suitably evil and man-hungry (I never can concur with the description of prostitutes as some kind of nymphos!). Also, while on the topic, I've realized Norah Hess' Hs are lead by their head – and not the one aka cranium!

The third part limped along fairly okay but the h/H held onto their pride/positions till the bitter end. Still some fairly angsty bits and engrossing segments lift it just above a 3.

ETA -

Oh and the irony!

For the whole book, she hedges and wages a war that she will not be his whore. But in the final scene, her thoughts are thus.... *few married women acted the whore for their husbands.... they didn't know what they were missing.*

Sexual equality seems farfetched if a woman has to be labelled a whore just because she gets raunchy and happy in the bedroom.

Dorothea Collyear says

This romance kept my interest the whole way through and even had some mystery mixed in. I wish the romance between Fancy and her lumber man didn't take so long to get going , but still a pretty good story .

Karen says

All over the place.

Hero is a womanizing, judgemental, pig. Heroine just takes his abuse, low opinion & unjustified possessive jealous streak instead of setting him straight. Then they fall into bed together like she's a common whore.

I can't believe the grandmother having lived with a womanizer forced the issue.

There's a subplot of an obsessive, destructive, crazy woman that doesn't really mesh with main story.

I liked the school teacher, cousins, camp cook & dance hall madam. Even the bitchy dance hall girl & straight laced pious wife were well developed characters. As well as the acceptance of the couple who were "brothers".

Loretta says

amazing what attraction can bring people to do and say for self-preservation... especially when they think that their feelings are one-sided. an interesting tale and I loved that it was set just outside of Seattle.

Jan says

THE LADY

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Joann says

Pretty good read

Kerrie says

This book worked my last nerve. If it hadn't been an audiobook and a way to pass the time while painting, it would totally have been a DNF (hence the 2 stars - actually 1.5 - instead of 1).

First, the positive (yes, there's only one.) The setting of a Pacific Northwest logging camp was interesting, and a first for me. I'll come back to it, but not with Norah Hess writing it.

So now the negatives. I could rant at length about it, but I'll try to keep it short. However that usually ends up as much of a big fat FAIL as this book was. Seriously, it was bad.

Short version: If you love tropy romances that are pretty much by-the-numbers along with an Adorable Kid, you'll love it.

However, I am not one of those people.

The hero Chance Dawson was pretty much a douchebag. With the stunted emotional development of a 15-year-old (my apologies to mature 15-year-olds everywhere) he was jealous, possessive and horny as all get out. Seriously, not getting pussy was a perfectly rational reason to have a snit fit.

Fancy the heroine was the typical Sue. Unaware of her effect on men around her, she also manages to be a virginal dancehall girl surrounded by total sluts, and yet still shunned by the respectable wives in the camp. Until she starts raising her orphan nephew. Or something. She's pretty much a beatific mother figure, except when she's being a bitchy, mule-headed moo every time she interacts with Chance.

That brings me to the misunderstandings. OMG, this book was, up until almost the very end, a constant succession of **Big Mises** for every contrived reason that could be imagined so that Chance and Fancy could spar with each other. Of course privately Chance is bellyaching that Fancy doesn't like him (but she does) and she bellyaches that Chance doesn't like her (but of course he does). Argggh, I tells ya. **Arrrrrrgh.**

Among the parade of Romantic Tropes 101 (and ripoffs) that might float your boat (or not):

- orphaned heroine who's amazingly naive despite the fact that she works in a

WHOREHOUSE/DANCEHALL

- who looks after her r*****d cousin *Lenny* (seriously?)...

- who is accused by one of the whores for attacking her (who's wearing a **red dress**)... <== luckily that

episode didn't last long

- ...who is also the obligatory Mexican spitfire who's jealously possessive
- heroine has a rich relative, a grandmother...
- who has to inform the heroine that those morning vomit spells means she's PREGNANT (cuz the heroine is so naive)
- and who also gives the heroine 20th century relationship advice
- Saccharine scenes with an Adorable Orphan

My biggest peeve was how the arrival of the baby (ugh, birthing scenes!) the amazing world record of constant Big Misunderstandings are immediately brought to an end and finally Fancy and Chance are both on the same page with each other and suddenly comfortable with proclaiming their love. Too Easy. But again.... By-The-Numbers. Formula. Predictable. Soooooooooothing.

There was some sort of subplot with a crazy woman in the woods, a Scooby-Dooish mystery that turned slightly serious when people DIED. However, the culprit was a character who I don't even recall hearing about earlier. Should have just been cut out, but then we would have only had more H/h verbal sparring and hissy fits. >__<

The last scene was truly lulzy, what with the "witty banter" and how their relationship is now supposedly so sizzling and hawt. If sex with a horny 15-year-old is hot.(view spoiler)

I give some props to Rebecca Cook's narration, although her male voices sounded either like dullards or Southern Gents. Considering at times her voices for Chance and Lenny sounded alike, it was kinda appropriate.

In brief: A purely predictable and formulaic romance with lots of "heart" in the form of the ~~germ-wagon~~ kid, if you're into that kind of thing. But not for this bodice-rippin' reader.

Kimberly says

i thought this was a very good book..fancy was taken care of he cousion and he was slow since her parents died..then she had to work so hard and she didnt really care for the work, she struggled yet she kept her head up and she found where her life was suppost to be
