



Peace in the Valley

Ruth Logan Herne

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In spite of their differences, Trey Walker Stafford knows he owes his life to cowboy and legendary rancher Sam Stafford--the uncle who rescued him after his parents' death. Trey had left the Double S Ranch to pursue music against Sam's wishes, but returns to central Washington when he learns he's the best match for a procedure that could save Sam's life. Although Trey's found country music fame and success, he's also endured the tragic loss of his wife. He croons about love, but struggles with a yawning emptiness he can't explain.

Overwhelmed by a growing list of challenges, but mistrustful of Stafford men, single mother Lucy Carlton reluctantly accepts Trey's help to revive her crumbling farm when Sam instructs him to repay the overdue debt to her family.

As the two grow closer, Trey slowly begins to open his heart to this beautiful woman and strives to let go of the grief he's held for years. Lucy has a complicated history of her own. Can Trey accept her as she is, learn to forgive the past, and find the elusive peace he's sought for so long?

Peace in the Valley Details

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Author : Ruth Logan Herne

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From Reader Review Peace in the Valley for online ebook

Andrea Cox says

FTC DISCLOSURE: I received a complimentary copy of this book from Blogging for Books. A positive review was not required. These are my honest thoughts and opinions.

I really wanted to like this one, but the constant talk of drugs (including a middle school student's usage) and the many inconsistencies prevented that. There were sweet moments in this story, but they were often overshadowed by Trey or Sam making decisions (including major ones) for Lucy -- something she belatedly (as in, during the next-to-last chapter) declared in an angry rant that she'd never let anyone do to her again. Where was that decision three hundred pages prior to that moment?

Something about the ending that really irked me is that there was a "skeletal framing of... [a] new house." What was the point of the plot to this book if all the work done got disqualified in that single sentence? Because of that one sentence, I came away from this book feeling like I had wasted my time getting excited about the pretty updates to the grounds and buildings on the farm.

I liked that there was a fairly quick pace to this book. Overall, the story flowed well and surprised me in plenty of places. Another great feature was family. This entire series revolved around the Stafford family, and I liked how that family was built upon book by book, keeping the reader updated on the goings on with previous leads as the series progressed.

This series will find many fans, I am certain.

Content also included tobacco products.

Rebecca says

Lucy Carlton barely makes ends meet; raising three young children and one teen sister-in-law, is a feat in and of itself, much less doing it on her own. When she and a famous local literally collide in the middle of a busy intersection, her livelihood as well as her vehicle sustain noticeable damage. Surprisingly, country music star Trey Walker Stafford offers to make amends. With his kind spirit, million dollar smile, and easy way with her children, Lucy cannot afford to make a mistake.

Trey Stafford has come home; his reasons very personal, nevertheless it becomes his mission to make sure that the lovely widow living on the ranch next door doesn't suffer from his poor driving skills or their families' rocky history. Unknowingly, Lucy Carlton finds a way to touch places deep inside Trey's heart that have lain dormant for years. What would it be like to have "peace in this valley" again?

Ruth Logan Herne's entire "Double S Ranch" series has been outstanding and this third and final trip to the ranch is every bit as satisfying as her readers have come to expect.

Suzie Waltner says

If you've been following Ruth Logan Herne's Stafford brothers throughout the Double S Ranch series, *Peace in the Valley* offers a satisfying conclusion to the series. And if you haven't been following, you won't be lost if you pick up the newest release.

While Trey Walker Stafford and Lucy Carlton's lives appear at opposite ends of the spectrum when they first meet, the reader (and the characters) soon discover they have much more in common. They are both search for love and acceptance. Trey's career in Nashville has given him fame, notoriety, and money but he feels something is missing. Lucy's life has been filled with one disappointment followed by another and she's struggling to provide for her family.

And speaking of family, Lucy's kids are adorable. I loved that the author included kids in all of the books in this series. Family is a huge thread that weaves through each of these books.

As a read who currently lives in Nashville (and no, I'm not trying to make it in the music scene) but once lived close to the central Washington setting of the Stafford ranch, I appreciated the juxtaposition of the two areas. Both have their own draw and beauty but there is something majestic about the Washington state fields and mountains.

Trey struggles with fears in his sacrifice, Lucy wrestles with trusting in a future that's too good to be true, and two of Lucy's brood struggle with their own issues. But it's family who gives us the courage to press on despite the uphill battle, and Ruth Logan Herne is one of the best out there when it comes to drawing the reader into the family fold.

Disclosure statement:

Tyndale House Publishers provided me with a complimentary copy of this book. I receive complimentary books for review from publishers, publicists, and/or authors, including Netgalley. I am not required to write positive reviews. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

MT says

I love this book! Superb book on so many levels! It is a satisfyingly romantic cowboy love story but so much more! The author paints a beautiful picture of a family turning to God for healing of past wounds. The characters seem so real you forget you're reading a book. You become immersed in their struggles. I enjoyed the times in the book when each character would think back to a scripture that helped give them strength or encouragement for the moment. The relationships and backstories of Trey and his brothers and father was unique and inspirational. The way Lucy and Trey interact with each other and her children is heartwarming. The interactions and conversations between side characters add richness and depth to the main plot. This is a fascinating story with a lot of thought-provoking messages woven into an excellent story about God's grace, forgiving others and embracing love through the courage God gives us through second chances.

Alyssa says

This was such an amazing book and I was truly sad when I turned the final page. Have absolutely adored the Double S Ranch series and I am sad that they are finished. These books are filled with love, faith, family, forgiveness, and cowboys.

I loved the story of Trey and Lucy. Trey seemed to be the brother with it all together and the one full of faith but he had just as many issues as the others. It's so easy to think that famous people with a bunch of money have it all together, but that isn't always the case. It was wonderful to read about this down to earth guy who was still trying to come to terms with the drug addicts who shaped his life.

The relationship between Trey and Cade was completely heartwarming. He was able to relate to these kids who were growing up without a parent because he was unfortunately in the same predicament. His love, respect, and gratitude towards Sam swooping in and saving his life, reminded him of what it's like for a kid to have a strong man take him in to raise and love him.

This is a book and series I will read many times and I have no doubt I will treasure it each and every time.

I received an advanced copy of this book from the publisher. A positive review was not required. All opinions are my own.

Kathy says

4.5 stars.

Peace in the Valley is an absolutely spellbinding novel of grace, forgiveness and trust. Although this latest release is the third installment in **Ruth Logan Herne's** divine *Double S Ranch* series, it can easily be read as a standalone.

Trey Walker Stafford can never repay his uncle and adoptive father Sam Stafford for providing him with a loving home following his parents' deaths from a drug overdose when he was three years old. Despite his love and respect for Sam, he could not give up his dream of becoming a musician and he now makes his home in TN. In spite of their past differences, Trey is more than willing to put his life and career on hold after discovering he is the closest match for Sam's much needed liver transplant. Although there are risks involved with the live donor procedure, Trey knows the operation is his father's best chance at survival. He also cannot turn down Sam's request to help him make amends for the damage he caused on their neighbor Lucy Carlton's farm. Trey is quite charmed by Lucy and her four children, but will learning the secrets from Lucy's long ago past destroy their chance at happiness?

Through all of life's tragedies and successes, Trey's faith has remained constant. After the very public loss of his wife years earlier, he ignored the negative publicity and gossip surrounding him and worked hard to keep his career on track. However, the circumstances of her death shook Trey's confidence that people can truly leave their pasts behind and he remains very wary and cautious about whom he trusts.

Lucy is devoted to her children and she works hard to make ends meet while also finding time to give back

to those in need. She has made a few missteps in her life but she learned from her mistakes and has no intention of repeating them. Although Lucy has made peace with her past, she is quite guarded and very careful about who she trusts. She speaks honestly and openly about checkered past and she is always willing to give people a second chance.

Trey and Lucy both share a deep faith, but their pasts make it very difficult for them to trust one another. Trey is initially open to a relationship with Lucy, but he is reluctant to make promises he might not be able to keep. Once he becomes aware of Lucy's history, Trey tries to distance himself from his growing feelings for her. Lucy's experiences with her deceased husband naturally make her wary about becoming involved with another musician. She is also worried the unsubstantiated rumors about Trey might be true. Lucy is fiercely protective of her independence and she is quick to think the worst of Trey when he ineptly expresses some concern about an offer she is considering. Will Trey and Lucy's respective baggage prevent them from risking their hearts?

With no shortage of valuable life lessons, *Peace in the Valley* is an emotionally compelling Christian romance that old and new fans of the *Double S Ranch* series are going to love. Trey and Lucy are vibrantly developed with imperfections, strengths and weaknesses that are very easy to relate to. Lucy and Trey's unexpected friendship provides a firm foundation for their slow-growing romance. **Ruth Logan Herne** beautifully incorporates relevant scripture into the storyline in a realistic manner that will resonate with anyone who has ever struggled to let go of past hurts and mistakes in order to find peace, lasting happiness and ultimately, love.

Arlena says

Title: Peace In The Valley
Author: Ruth Logan Herne
Publisher: Multnomah
Series: Double S Ranch # 3
Reviewed By: Arlena Dean
Rating: Five
Review:

"Peace In The Valley" by Ruth Logan Herne

My Thoughts....

I loved this heartfelt tear jerking read of the last series: Double S Ranch # 3...Peace In The Valley this only this author can give to her readers. What a beautiful read of a story of what will happen when one puts the past behind and now it's about faith and the family. The main story was of Trey Stafford and Lucy Carlton however we are also given many secondary characters [Sam] and a few others that were truly indeed special in this very powerful moving read. Not only was this a romantic cowboy story but so much more. I loved how this author gives us a story of what will happen when a family turn to God for some healing of past wounds and we are even given some inspirational scriptures that were there to give them 'strength or encouragement' at the perfect time. The story is definitely giving the reader a heartwarming story with Trey, Lucy and her children[Cade & Cody]. In the end the reader is given a fascinating story that will include quite a lot of messages that will be woven into this story giving the readers 'God's' grace, embracing

and forgiving one another as through love they are given second chances. This author really did a well good job at giving the readers a fantastic ending in this series. To get the whole story of Double S Ranch three book series get..." Back in the Saddle...Home on the Ranch and Peace In The Valley.' The reader will truly enjoy all of them!

Dawn Leonard says

Loved Trey's story. I don't know anything about living donor organ donation, the music business, or being a recovering drug addict but everything made sense. I want to visit the Double S and meet the Stafford family, the woman and children they love, Murt, and Hobbs. My only complaint was that the book was too short - I wanted to keep reading about Sam, Colt, Nick, and Trey and their families (or future families). Sad that this is the last book in the series!

Susan Snodgrass says

I love Ruth Logan Herne's books. She writes with such heart! I have been anticipating this last book in the Double S series for quite a while and she does not disappoint.

Herne has created a cast of characters that appear to be real, they have the same types of problems normal, every day folks have, they struggle as we do and trust God as we do. The reader feels Herne's heart for God in her writing. She feels like home, too. I don't know any other way to describe it other than this. Reading a Ruth Logan Herne book is like sitting down with a beloved friend to pass the time, loving every minute and leaving with a full heart. Her books are on my keeper shelf!

*I was given a copy of this book by the author. My opinions are my own and honest.

Amy says

A missed Stop sign creates a chance meeting, thankfully one in which no one is badly hurt. Trey Walker Stafford is returning home to Washington to perform the biggest sacrifice of his life. To donate a part of his liver for his ailing father Sam. Though not a direct relative, he is the perfect match, and he feels he must do this one thing for the man who saved him as a child after the death of his parents. Growing up on the Double S Ranch, Trey was afforded all the opportunities to follow in the footsteps of his father and brothers. However, he took a path towards the Country Music scene, desperate to prove to everyone that it was possible to be in the 'business' and avoid the pitfalls and traps of drug and substance abuse. Now a big time star, he is back, and searching for the answers to the questions that have plagued him since he lost his own wife, star in her own right Cathy, to the same destruction of his parents.

Lucy Carlton has struggled to withstand the powerhouse of the Double S and Sam Stafford for years. Being neighbors and competing landowners, their relationship has been strained and resented. Fallen into disrepair her property and life as single mom to her 3 young children and sister in law Ashley is surviving on a day by day basis. When the accident leaves her vehicle and only source of income destroyed, she has no desire to have anything more to do with the Stafford's, including the handsome country music star that ran her off the road.

As we've read in the previous 2 books in this series, Sam is on a pathway of repentance and making amends with his fellow townsmen and neighbours. He asks Trey to intervene and do whatever must be done to make things right for their neighbor Lucy. Fix the house and outbuildings. New car. As her heart softens to the assistance she is being given, and their friendship blossoms, secrets lie underneath that may destroy the fragile arm of forgiveness.

Both incredibly likeable characters, you will develop empathy for both of them. Seeing the world through both of their eyes, is so vastly different, yet, in so many ways they are alike.

There are some gaps in the plot. Trey heavily insistent on honesty, and communication, yet fails to share with Lucy the biggest part of the storyline - his distaste for drug use and why, and his own inability to share with her his donation of an organ to his father.

However, overall I loved this story, getting to know Trey, who has previously entered our existence in the previous 2 books, but only briefly. This is beautiful story of second changes, forgiveness, family and love in a western setting. The Double S series from Ruth Logan Herne has been fantastic. I truly recommend it.

I am not a fan of the decision to only print this 3rd book in mass market, since the other 2 are in trade. It looks ridiculous on my shelf and in my mind will not appear part of the set to the customer in a bookstore, especially if it gets categorized separately in location.

Thanks to Blogging for Books & Multnomah Waterbrook for the complimentary copy. This is my honest review.

Karen says

Another wonderful story from the Stafford brothers. I always hoped Trey would find his way back home, and boy did he! Of course I cried. And found an amazing story of God letting you start over. *I received a copy of this book*

Beth Erin says

Full review on Faithfully Bookish <http://wp.me/p7ngfE-UR>

This conclusion of the Double S Ranch series tugs the heartstrings and leaves readers with a warm and fuzzy feeling of satisfaction!

With his strong faith and dedication to the straight and narrow, Trey Stafford appears to have it all together. His personality is a great blend of hardworking cowboy and sweet country crooner.

When it comes to being pushed around by men, no-nonsense, hardworking single mama Lucy Carlton is done! She is determined to stand on her own two feet and provide for her children with no one but the Good Lord to help.

Herne has a knack for authentic characters and heartfelt storytelling and Peace in the Valley is no exception.

This is another excellent book for my all time favorites list!

I requested the opportunity to read this book through the publisher. The opinions expressed are my own.

Michelle says

I have so enjoyed Double S Ranch throughout this series. It is a great setting. Peace in the Valley, while good, is probably my least favorite. It was a bit more difficult to get into the storyline and characters. I think the secondary characters were pretty solid. The ending tied things up nicely as well. I know Ruth Logan Herne doesn't shy away from difficult situations and real life problems which is what makes her books good. Four stars.

"I received this book from Blogging for Books for free. All opinions are my own."

Bailey says

Warm, heartfelt, and tear jerking, Peace in the Valley is perfect for someone who is looking for a story about faith, family, and putting the past behind you. I had tears in my eyes so many times at the truly meaningful moments that happened throughout the book. This is a great book for someone who really appreciates what is really important in life. Growth happened in so many areas. Children, teenagers, mothers, siblings, fathers, and everyone in between learned something on this journey. It was the simple and beautiful statements of faith given by the children that especially made me tear up. It also made me want to never ever bother a famous person in public who is just trying to live their life and needn't be bothered by some random person. I did wish that in the end there were more details about how all of their lives played out in the future and a duet between Trey and Lucy. But the simplistic values and goals were more important anyway, so the ending was magical and satisfying without needing too many frills. I have very much enjoyed every part of the journey at the Double S Ranch. I received this book from the Blogging for Books program in exchange for this review.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: Peace in the Valley (Double S Ranch #3)

Author: Ruth Logan Herne

Pages: 352

Year: 2017

Publisher: Multnomah

My rating is 4 out of 5 stars.

In the final book of the trilogy, the author treats her readers to a story focused on Trey Walker Stafford. Trey has been traveling the country, but now his uncle needs a lifesaving operation and Trey could be the match. Trey's uncle instructs him to help a local farm family out to pay a long overdue debt, and what comes out of this just might be a budding romance between Trey and Lucy.

Lucy is a single mother who has been running the farm. Her past has caused her to build a wall around her heart. Trey's past has some brokenness in it that causes him to be reluctant to open his heart to Lucy. Both are searching for peace, forgiveness and a better future if they are willing to let go of their pasts and begin

life anew.

Some of the best parts of the novel are reading with bated breath to see if these two main characters are going to risk love and a possible future with each other. The author does a great job showing how hard it is to walk through a valley filled with pain and regrets in order to get to the other side of wholeness. The hardest part of the series is knowing this is goodbye to the characters and the Double S Ranch that I have become fond of visiting.

Read the novels and see if you too don't become attached to the wonderful story within the pages! The first book is titled, Back in the Saddle followed by the second book, Home on the Range.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255. "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."
