



Sequins and Spurs

Cheryl St. John

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Her last chance at redemption

Singer Ruby Dearing is tired of life on the stage and yearns for a place to belong. She returns home to beg forgiveness from her mother and sister, only to find stubborn Nash Sommerton—her sister's widower—in charge.

Nash is prepared to fight this unruly beauty for his ranch, but Ruby amazes him with her determination to restore the house to the home it once was. Can he persuade Ruby to forgive herself and see the second chance they've both been given?

Sequins and Spurs Details

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From Reader Review Sequins and Spurs for online ebook

Lyuda says

dnf at 30%- Boring and suspend believe moments did it for me.

Sara Archibald says

Cheryl St. John's Sequins and Spurs is a must read. I was given this book as an ARC for an honest review.

This book made me laugh, cry and fall in love with the characters from the beginning. It was a delightful read from beginning to end. I couldn't put it down.

Singer Ruby Dearing left home at a young age only to come back home only to find out everything she holds dear is gone. Nash her sister's widower has taken over her home and is in fear of losing what's left of what he holds dear. Can Ruby convince him that she just wants to make a mends by any means and do what's right for the remainder of the family she has left. Can Nash get over the fear of losing what he's accomplished and help Ruby to forgive herself for leaving?

Shelly Dabbs says

This is a story of Nash & Ruby who have both had things in the past they have to overcome & the future they will make together with their family. Ruby regrets leaving her Mother & Sister to seek a life of her choosing. As she returns to make amends, she finds life has changed her forever. She finds a family in the home that was her Sisters & meets her widower & his children. She is accepted as life happens to all of them. They form a bond & take the chance at new love to make a family of her Sisters children & an abused orphan. Love the characters, showed depth & was able to see how our choices make changes in our lives.

Joann Maggio says

Sequins and Spurs by Cheryl St. John *****

Ruby returns home after years of being away from her family. She discovers her sister and mother have passed away. She learns her sister had married and has two children with Nash Sommerton her brother in law.

These two characters begin at odds with each other but begin to accept the sincerity of each. She wants a home and adores her niece and nephew and he finds an attraction to her warm and vivacious personality.

He is afraid to recognize his feelings as he suspects she will leave again. She continually shows her devotion to the children and accepts her role as aunt warmly.

Ruby finds herself very attracted to Nash but she constantly reminds herself that he was her sister's husband. Finally, he admits to her his marriage to her sister Pearl was a marriage of convenience no passion and he is overwhelmed by his strong feelings for Ruby and he loves her.

This Western Romance captures your attention from the beginning to end. The story continually developed which is what I look for in a novel. I would highly recommend this book.

SuperWendy says

I liked this, but didn't love it. There's plenty of conflict throughout the story, but the couple doesn't seem to have to work very hard to get past it to their happy ending. That said, St. John writes very good homespun westerns, and this one gave me the same cozy feelings as many of her other books have. Also I thought the couple was a really good mix. The heroine's background especially was like catnip to me. Not a favorite, but still time well spent.

Susan says

Good story of second chances. Ruby had left home at sixteen, tired of life on the farm and dreaming of a bigger world. She spent eight years as a singer and actress, moving from town to town. Now she's tired of life on the move and ready to go home and ask her mother and sister to forgive her for leaving them. But she arrives home to discover that her mother and sister have died and her sister's husband in charge.

Nash isn't sure what to make of Ruby. For his entire marriage he has resented the way that she just disappeared, leaving her sister alone to care for their mother. He doesn't know what she wants or if she can be trusted, so he's going to keep a close eye on her.

I really liked Ruby. She has a lot of guilty feelings over the way she left and that she didn't come home in time to ask for their forgiveness. She understands Nash's doubts about her and is determined to show him that she belongs there too. I loved watching her tackle each challenge as it came up, from learning how to cook a chicken to facing the townspeople she left behind. She also has a really kind heart and doesn't hesitate to stand up for what she believes is right. The scene with the abused horses is just one example. She also aches for family of her own, and falls hard for her niece and nephew. She's determined to take good care of them, the way her sister would have wanted. Though she's never been around kids before, she really does a fantastic job of looking out for them. She also has no hesitation about taking in a young orphaned girl who has been abused.

Nash is also quite wonderful, in spite of his initial attitude toward Ruby. He has some guilty feelings of his own about his marriage, believing that he hadn't treated his wife the way he should have. He spent a lot of time working on making the ranch a success, thinking that he had plenty of time to then work on making his marriage a success. Instead, she died before he had the chance. Now he has Ruby showing up and shaking up his life. From their first encounter, involving a skillet and his head, he doesn't know what to expect. She claims she's home to stay, but can he trust that she really will?

Nash and Ruby have a strong pull toward each other, but both try to resist it, feeling that it is inappropriate. Nash especially can't get Ruby off his mind, and the longer she stays the more he begins to believe that he

has misjudged her. He's a strong man with a strong will, but he is also able to admit when he is wrong. I really enjoyed seeing Nash come to appreciate Ruby and the way she takes care of everyone. Ruby's biggest issue becomes one of deciding if she can forgive herself enough to believe that she deserves to be happy. I liked the way that Nash had a big part in trying to show her that her mother and sister never held her leaving against her. Then all they had to do was have the courage to admit their true feelings for one another, and it only took a tornado to do it.

I also enjoyed the secondary characters. Nash's mother was a real sweetheart of a lady and did a lot to show Ruby that she was a good person. She is also a very strong person herself and sets a great example when a surprise visitor shows up at her home. I also liked Nash's hired men and how sweet they were to Ruby. Nash's kids were adorable and young Jane's explosion onto the scene was both funny and heartbreaking.

Once Upon a Romance Reviews says

Ruby Dearing is a woman after my own heart. I, like her, heard the siren call of the stage and the theatre. Unlike Ruby, I set that aside and settled down as a wife and eventually a mother. I felt an affinity with her, though. I surely understood what drove her to keep going. Sometimes I was irritated with her for so completely losing touch with her family, but there is redemption in St. John's writing and redemption and forgiveness shone through to me.

Nash Sommerton is a good guy at heart, but he's got a chip (or a boulder) on his shoulder as big as the Grand Canyon. And he's not really in the mood for forgiveness—especially not for Ruby. She's going to have to prove her worth and he knows he can't depend on her because he believes she will flee again and head back to the stage. Might not be today, maybe not tomorrow, but he knows that one day she will disappear once again. It's really too bad that he likes the change she brings to his ranch. He likes the breath of fresh air that she is to his soul. He would like to talk to her about second chances...but do second chances really exist?

Another must read, page turner from Cheryl St. John. I always know I need to plan a long evening with nothing scheduled in my morning when I pick up her books. Once I start the first page, I won't be sleeping until I've read the last page. St. John creates such complex and believable characters that wrap you up completely in the story. You will forget that you aren't living on the prairie before electricity and grocery stores while you are reading this book. Written with great attention to historical accuracy, it's a pleasure to learn about times gone by without the accuracy overpowering the plot and story. *Sequins and Spurs* is one of St. John's best books to date. Make sure you get your copy!

-- ROBYN

Jody Holt says

Loved this book. Cheryl writes about such strong women! The emotions that are displayed and brought forth in this story can manifest at any time in one's life. Coming home after a long absence and finding all things changed would send anyone into a tailspin, but for this heroine, she pushes forward and ultimately learns to forgive herself. I think this was my favorite book so far of Cheryl's historical romances.

Susan Shearer says

Cheryl St. John wrote another keeper! This adventure revolves around a former singer and stage performer and a lonely (although he doesn't realized it) rancher (not a farmer, there is a difference) who find common ground in family, love and trust. St. John puts two unlikely people (and add three kids) and you have what she is famous for...love, trust, compassion and hope. Ruby Dearing comes home to mend fences that were broken eight years before when she left angry and rebellious. Meanwhile, Her mother died, her sister Pearl had married Nash Sommerton, had two kids and died in a buggy accident.

Returning home she found hostility and self made opinions from Nash. Both stubborn and determined, they worked together to make a life for his two children. Along the way they cared for and adopted a girl named Jane. They meet some challenges and some happiness along the way.

St. John brings with Sequins and Spurs a book you don't want to put down until the last page!

Darlene says

Loved the book. The characters pop off the page and into your living room. They are so gentle and kind, full of spirit and empathy but with some flaws. I'm an animal lover, so a good, clean, Christian story, with caring human beings and horses is a book I can get lost in. I believe we are where we are supposed to be at any given moment. Ruby returns home after 8 long years of being on her own, finding her way in the world, only to question if she returned home too late. Or did she? Horses, children, in-laws, doctors, life as we know it all rolled into a warm inviting family story. Another fabulous historical story by Cheryl St. John. You keep writing and I'll keep reading.

Sally says

I loved this book by Cheryl St John. Ruby Deering left home at a young age to pursue her dream. She becomes a singer in Western towns traveling by train from town to town. Nash Sommerton married Ruby's sister to pursue his dream of owning a ranch. Will Nash and Ruby find forgiveness with each other?

Ruby comes back home to ask her mother and sister to forgive her for leaving them. She finds out that while she was gone, her mom and sister have died, her brother-in-law is living in her house, and she has a niece and nephew. Can Ruby and Nash forge their differences, let go of past mistakes, and make a life together?

Nash wants to own a ranch. He decides to marry Ruby's sister to help her and her mother out. When they die, his parents help out while he makes a go of the ranch. Once Ruby comes back home, he's afraid she'll take the place back. Can they come to an agreement? Can Ruby forgive herself for leaving her family in a bind even though she was a child when she left?

This is a wonderful story of forgiveness, letting go of the past, but realizing the past shapes who you are and makes you the person you are now. Have no regrets for your past, but move forward becoming the person you were meant to be. The descriptions in this historical novel took me back in time. The characters became friends I didn't want to leave at the end of their story. I admired the qualities of Ruby and Nash that made them who they are. Whether Ruby was standing up for herself, an orphan girl, or an abused horse, she

followed through what she started and stood up for what she believed in.

Cynthia says

This story started off with a bang and kept right on moving. The author keeps a pretty fast pace with something to always keep your attention. This might be a clean read but have no doubt you will feel the passion not only of the two main characters but the whole family. This is a story you will get lost in the author gives you such wonderful character with stories inside of stories that keep you saying lord what else can happen as she shows you just what she has planned for this characters. These are characters you can relate to with normal lives of years gone by. The author gives you a story based on honor, love, caring, giving, forgiving that makes this a wonderful romance as she shows you that this is what this country was based on many years ago. This is a story based on forgiving not only of others but of ourselves, of second chances, starting anew, and rebuilding lives.

Ruby lost the one person that was the most important to her at a young age. Never getting over that and not fitting in with her family she decides to run away be a singer and actress. It wasn't easy for her it wasn't long before she knew she made a mistake but was too proud to return home. Eight years later she sucks up her pride and returns only to find life as she knew it to have changed with those she loved gone. She can't ask them to forgive her and cannot forgive herself for not returning in time. What she does find is her sisters widowed husband isn't so forgiving and she has a lot of proving herself that needs to be done. Ruby has never run from a challenge and she isn't about to now. She is bullheaded and strong will enough to make a new life for herself and help take care of the family left behind. I really like Ruby no matter what she set her mind to she put her best foot forward never asking for help. No job was too big if she didn't know how to do it she worked it out until she got it right. There is a strong pull with her and her brother-in-law these two drive each other crazy in many ways. Ruby was a delightful woman who I know her mother was very proud of, one of the most things that made her dearest was she might have ran away but she always sent money home for her mother. Most people would not have done this it really shows the kind of woman she truly is.

Ruby isn't the only one with guilt and broken promises Nash has a few of his own. Life is too short as he finds out. He thought he had years to make a passionate marriage with his wife what he found was you should not put off until tomorrow what you should have done today for tomorrow might be too late. Even before he ever set eyes on Ruby he disliked her for not being there to help her family. He doesn't trust her and makes life hard for her. He put his blood in this ranch that he got through marriage to her sister with her returning he may lose it all. What he finds with each day that passes is Ruby teaches him something new, he just cannot get her out of his mind. He doesn't have room for her in his life not with her past of high tailing it out when things get tough. I really liked and respected Nash for his strong will, caring ways, he admits when he is wrong, family comes first, he works hard to make a good home, he is about honor, and family. All he wants is his life back to normal with his family under his roof. From the first moment he sets eyes on Ruby she puts his world in a spin, he finds his self down for the count....ohhhhhhhhh that was just too funny.

The author gives you a well told story with a wonderful plot. She keeps this book hopping with never a dull moment. You will find yourself laughing one minute and sad the next as she gives you a heartbroken story of lost, love and life. This was a book I had trouble putting down just when I thought it would get to a part what it would be easy to close the book the author throw another twist and I found I had to find out what happen. I enjoyed this books so much I picked it as my favorite read this week. She gives you wonderful characters that tear at your heart as others bring smiles to your faces as you chuckle your way through the read saying OH MY a few times. From the first page my heart was beating fast as she brought a little suspense in with

the story. This is a well written with the word flow easy as your race across the pages to find what she has in store for these characters. There will be a lot you won't see coming as she hits you with a few spins. I am sure you will enjoy it as much as I did. I can't wait to read the next book by this author I am sure it will be a wonderful story filled with an outstanding thrilling tale.

Kathy Heare Watts says

THE RUNAWAY SINGER AND THE WIDOWED RANCHER

I loved this story and all the emotions, love, regret, forgiveness and acceptance. Singer Ruby Dearing left home at sixteen and is tired of her stage life and being on the move. It's time to go back home to her mother and sister. Nash Sommerton is existing, running the Lazy S horse ranch and coping with the harshness life has thrown at him. The story kept me captivated and the pages turning with heartwarming dialog, a cast of delightful characters, and emotional moments. Life changes, you can not undo what has happened, sometimes you realize that what you were running from, is what you yearn for the most. You can go home, but life changes, and so do situations. How you handle them is what makes you stronger. Disclosure: I won an e-copy of this book in a giveaway. All thoughts, opinions, and ratings are my own.

Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says

After leaving home eight years ago to follow adventure and be a singer, Ruby Dearing is done with that life and returns home to her family farm. Only things are different when she arrives and Ruby is confused. When she is surprised by a stranger and promptly clobbers him over the head with a frying pan, then ties him to a chair, Ruby has no idea what she is in for.

Waking up with a splitting headache and being tied to a chair in his own home is not what Nash Sommerton was expecting. When he explains to his sister-in-law who he is, she is in denial at first. Finding out her sister and her baby, she never knew about and her mother have all passed away in the eight years she's been gone is a shock to Ruby's system. However, Ruby is determined to make a life for herself on family land, and Nash will have nothing to say about it.

Nash Sommerton has his own feelings about the woman who abandoned her family all those years ago, but slowly she is set out to prove all his preconceptions about Ruby are wrong. Ruby is no shrinking violet and when she sets out to do something, she throws herself into it like a pro. When Ruby discovers that Nash has children who reside with his parents while he takes care of the ranch, she sets out to prove she is worthy to care for her niece and nephew. For as much as he would like to shrug Ruby off, she is getting under his skin. Ruby's attraction to Nash is tempered by her believing she would be doing a disservice to her sisters' memory if she continues on the path in front of her, but sometimes things are set in motion for a reason.

SEQUINS AND SPURS is the first book I have read by author Cheryl St. John. This is a wonderful second chance at love tale that truly tugs at the heart. Nash is big and brooding, a hard worker who will stop at nothing to achieve his goals. Ruby is a force to be reckoned with. Considering her homecoming was nothing she expected, finding her family decimated and herself now alone, she doesn't let that rule. Ruby picks

herself up and surprises all those around her. I really enjoyed this story and I think all who have a gander will as well.

Gail says

The heroine has returned home after many years away chasing dreams. She accomplished most of them but tired of life on the road and wanted to return home and mend the bridge she burned when she left home at 16. But home is all different and nobody is there, until a man comes in late at night. He scares her, she clobbers him with a skillet and ties him up. He tells her he lives in the house now, he's her sister's husband, and her sister and mother are both buried out on the hill. She doesn't want to believe him, runs out to the hill, so he smashes up the chair she tied him to and gets free. Needless to say, they are not on the best of terms with each other. The hero-- the heroine's brother-in-law-- is worried she wants to lay claim to part of his ranch. She learns she has a niece and nephew, and the romance commences. It's a nice story. I thought some of the conflict St. John threw in was sidled past lightly. The angst level could have been much higher, but it was good as is. I liked it.
