



## Heartbreak Trail

*Susan K. Marlow*

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The second in the Circle C Milestones series

Andrea Carter can ride, rope, and cut out cattle with the best of her brothers' ranch hands. Yet, her mother has always held the family's youngest daughter back from fully participating in ranch activities. With the approach of her fifteenth birthday, even the ranch boss, big brother Chad, can't deny that his baby sister is better at ranch skills than some of his cowhands. When Andi announces that her quinceañera birthday wish is to join the upcoming cattle drive, her family is stunned. But after further discussion and multiple newspaper clippings about spirited women who balked at society's expectations, even Mother agrees that the only way to get this cattle-drive notion out of Andi's head is by letting her and her cousin Levi go along as Cook's helpers. Andi is elated. What can go wrong on a two-week drive to Los Angeles? Andi quickly discovers that a cattle drive is a dirty, dangerous business with little sleep and the same food day after day. Between late nights, dust, mosquitos, and an abrasive cowhand trying to win Andi's attention, it is definitely not a holiday. Andi grimly determines she will stick it out. When a river crossing goes wrong and Chad is shot in a gunfight with suspicious men who have been shadowing the herd, Mitch the trail boss finds himself dangerously shorthanded. Andi and Levi can no longer just give Cook a hand. It's time to pitch in and help Mitch get their cattle to market?any way they can.

## Heartbreak Trail Details

Date : Published July 27th 2015 by Kregel Publications

ISBN : 9780825443688

Author : Susan K. Marlow

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Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction, Animals, Horses, Fiction, Young Adult, Adventure

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## From Reader Review Heartbreak Trail for online ebook

### Brenda says

Heartbreak Trail continues the story of Andrea Carter and life on the ranch. She loves to rope and ride, and is actually better at it than many of the others on the ranch, thing is she is a young girl turning fifteen and her mother wants her to be more ladylike. When Andi tells everyone her birthday wish is to join a cattle drive, and surprisingly her mother agrees to let her go if she will agree to help the cook. What sorts of adventures take place on the drive? One thing you can bank on is that Andi will be right in the midst of the excitement!

As the second book in the Circle C Milestone series I would recommend reading the series in order to fully understand the characters of the story. This is such an easily readable story that once you start reading it you become absorbed in the story and the characters. I could understand why Andi wanted to go on the cattle drive, but she soon realized the hard work involved, realizing it wasn't going to be all fun. I watched Andi's frustrations, but also watched her grow and become more mature while on the trail. Speaking of which, Ms. Marlow really makes you feel like your right along for the ride, experiencing the various aspects that went on during the cattle drive. Filled with plenty of action as well as suspense blended together with Andi become more mature and "growing up" makes for a page turning read. Truly a wonderful christian story that will appeal to the age range it's intended for but honestly would appeal to young and old alike. Anyone looking for a wild west adventure that will transport you back to simpler days and allow you to feel like they have stepped back in time is in for a real treat with Heartbreak Trail.

A complimentary copy of this book was provided for review.

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### Tammy G. says

Susan Marlow is a new author to me. I chose this book because I wanted something a little different to read this summer. A change of "page," so to speak. However, when I chose this book I didn't realize it was the second in the Circle C Milestones series.

I delved right in and was pleasantly surprised at the story....

Andrea Carter is fourteen years old and quite the ranch hand. She can ride, rope and help with the cattle. Rather fearless too.

Living in Texas I know important a quinceañera or 15th birthday celebration for a girl can be.

So when Andi decides she wants to join the cattle drive for her special birthday...she gets her wish and her parents let her go on the cattle drive as a cook's helper. And Andi learns something about herself in the process.

Most girls want to dress up and be fancy for their 15th birthday celebration but not Andi...hand her a cowboy hat, boots and off she goes.

This is quite a fun read. Each chapter begins with a short journal entry from Andi and then the chapter is the story.

This is a great read for preteen-young teen (8-14) girls. I'm an adult and enjoyed learning about cattle drives, cooking on the range and sweet friendships. And a sweet surprise for Andi at the end of the story.

A delightful story!

\*This book was provided for review by Kregel Publications\*

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## **Mazzou B says**

It was through book reviewing for Kregel publications that I first discovered author Susan Marlow. Ever since reading my first book of hers I have been pleased by her wholesome books, not to mention her above-the-average writing skill. To me, Susan has an honorable view of literary and holds to a standard which most authors (yes I am including Christian novelists) don't keep in mind at all anymore. The books I have thus read by Susan Marlow remind me of the historical fiction books I practically devoured as a child and teen! It is good to see new books coming out that I can feel right about giving to my younger siblings to read!

Heartbreak Trail is yet another book in the Andrea Carter series and it features a now growing up Andrea! At fifteen, the lively and tomboyish girl experiences many more adventures and learns from her own mistakes. Having just turned the age which made her close friend begin thinking of getting married and settling down, Andrea is determined to continue her adventurous ways and begs to be allowed to join her brothers and their workers on a special herding trip. While on the trip, Andrea stays true to her usual liveliness and outdoor skill but suddenly becomes attracted to a young hired worker. The reader can't help but wonder what will come of that!

As always, the author of these books skillfully weaves an exciting tale while keeping good morals and a Christian foundation.

Your children and teens are bound to love this book!

I received this book from the publisher in exchange for my honest review. Thanks!

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## **Meagan Myhren-bennett says**

Heartbreak Trail  
An Andrea Carter Book  
Circle C Milestones 2  
By Susan K, Marlow

Andi (Andrea) Carter is determined to take a part in this year's cattle drive. And with her 15th birthday fast approaching this may be her best chance to finally get her wish. But some wishes may be best left unfulfilled.

Cattle drives are not all fun and adventure as Andi and her younger cousin Levi are about to discover after being assigned as Cook's helpers! Andi's dream has been to take part in driving the cattle or managing the horses not gathering wood and washing pans.

Dust, biting mosquitoes, bed rolls on the hard ground, and a hard wagon seat what more could a girl want? But when a dangerous river crossing takes a wrong turn lives are in the balance and the drive is suddenly short-handed. Can Andi and Levi cover this shortage and help get the cattle to Los Angeles?

Heartbreak Trail is just that as the hardships and the dangers of driving cattle to market are experienced through Andi's eyes. Fans of Andi will love her newest adventure as she learns some important lessons about life on the trail and about herself. Andi is about to grow up in ways she never expected.

Tweens and teens will delight in this determined young woman. This book would be an excellent addition to any home or school library, and with school just around the corner this would be a great choice for any historical fiction book reports that may be coming up!

I was provided a copy of this book through Kregel in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Maureen Timerman says**

Andrea Carter is growing up in the second book in the Circle C Milestone series, she is about to turn 15, and her mother wants her to have her quinceañera, a Spanish right of age, and a big party for her. Her mother lets her decide what kind of a party she wants, and being a tomboy she decides she wants to go on the trail to deliver the cattle to Los Angeles.

You can imagine how her mother feels; she had helped drive cattle in her youth and knows how much hard work is involved. Andi has a romantic idea of how it will be on the trail, and when her wish is granted, we soon see reality set in.

Come along on the trail with Andi and Levi, her twelve-year-old nephew, and experience with them the ups and downs. There are a few chuckles, some deep sadness, and a lot of hard work ahead.

A wonderful read for a young teen, full of action and adventure, they won't be able to put the book down. I received this book through Kregel Publications Blogger Tour, and was not required to give a positive review.

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### **Jesseca Wheaton says**

Oh goodness! This book was amazing! I absolutely loved it! I finished it in a couple hours it was so good! I had already read bits and pieces of it, so I sorta knew the storyline, but reading it all together was a lot of fun!

I really liked seeing more of Levi, and of course Andi was a lot of fun. But that ranch hand? \*shudders\* I was trying to figure out how in the world they were going to wrap up the rest of the story with only a few pages left! But Mrs. Marlow did an amazing job, as usual!

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### **Lindsey (Books for Christian Girls) says**

About this book:

*"Andrea Carter can ride, rope, and cut out cattle with the best of her brothers' ranch hands. Yet, her mother has always held the family's youngest daughter back from fully participating in ranch activities.*

*With the approach of her fifteenth birthday, even the ranch boss, big brother Chad, can't deny that his baby sister is better at ranch skills than some of his cowhands. When Andi announces that her quinceañera birthday wish is to join the upcoming cattle drive, her family is stunned. But after further discussion and multiple newspaper clippings about spirited women who balked at society's expectations, even Mother agrees that the only way to get this cattle-drive notion out of Andi's head is by letting her and her cousin Levi go along as Cook's helpers. Andi is elated. What can go wrong on a two-week drive to Los Angeles? Andi quickly discovers that a cattle drive is a dirty, dangerous business with little sleep and the same food*

*day after day. Between late nights, dust, mosquitos, and an abrasive cowhand trying to win Andi's attention, it is definitely not a holiday. Andi grimly determines she will stick it out. When a river crossing goes wrong and Chad is shot in a gunfight with suspicious men who have been shadowing the herd, Mitch the trail boss finds himself dangerously shorthanded. Andi and Levi can no longer just give Cook a hand. It's time to pitch in and help Mitch get their cattle to market?any way they can."*

Series: Book #2 in the “*Circle C Milestones*” series. (Review of Book #1 [Here!](#)) {This series is a continuation of this author’s other series “*Circle C Beginnings*” (for ages 6-8) and the original, “*Circle C Adventures*” (for ages 8-14). {More about this new series: *“Picking up the story line of Andrea Carter and the Price of Truth, Thick as Thieves sees Andi growing up just in time for her loyal readers to grow alongside her. The Circle C Milestones series will follow Andi from age 14 to 17, as she begins to tackle the more serious issues facing an older audience and--eventually--discovers love.”* } }

Spiritual Content- Philippians 4:13 at the beginning; Many Prayers; A Scripture is remembered; an 'H' is capital when referring to God; Mentions of God; A mention of a plague from the Bible; A mention of church; A mention of Heaven.

Negative Content- Minor cussing including: a ‘dadblasted’, a ‘shut up’, a ‘sucker’, a ‘what in blazes’, a ‘what in tarnation’, two ‘doggone’s, and two ‘dumb’s; A couple curses are said not written; Almost drowning (up to semi-detailed); Many mentions of deaths, blood, gunshots, injuries & wounds (up to semi-detailed); Mentions of threats of pain; Mentions of fighting & hitting (up to semi-detailed); A few mentions of eating cows & camels; A mention of saloons; A mention of throwing up.

Sexual Content- a blown kiss, an attempted kiss & a forced kiss; Being touched (barely-above-not-detailed, mostly the waist); A flirt makes Andi's insides feel whirly; A jerk says he's a good kisser; A couple mentions of a kiss; Mentions of beaus, good-looking cowboys & pretty girls; Mentions of protective & loyal cowhands over the Carter women.

-Andrea "Andi" Carter, age 14

P.O.V. of Andi

Set in 1883

168 pages

## Pre Teens- Two Stars

## New Teens- Four Stars

## Early High School Teens- Three Stars (and a half)

### Older High School Teens- Three Stars

### My personal Rating- Three Stars

I found this one to be good, but I didn't really enjoy it due to The Jerk. (Yes, capital 'T' and 'J'.) I was ranting about him out loud while I read. On the positive side, there were quite a few prayers, which was nice. I hope to see Andi growing in her faith as the series continues. :)

Link to review:

\*BFCG may (Read the review to see) recommend this book by this author. It does not mean I recommend all the books by this author.

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## Laura says

Title: HEARTBREAK TRAIL

Author: Susan K. Marlow

Publisher: Kregel

July 2015

ISBN: 978-0825443688

Genre: Historical Young Adult

Series: Circle C Milestones #2

Reviewed by: Jenna

The second in the Circle C Milestones series

Andrea Carter can ride, rope, and cut out cattle with the best of her brothers' ranch hands. Yet, her mother has always held the family's youngest daughter back from fully participating in ranch activities.

With the approach of her fifteenth birthday, even the ranch boss, big brother Chad, can't deny that his baby sister is better at ranch skills than some of his cowhands. When Andi announces that her quinceañera birthday wish is to join the upcoming cattle drive, her family is stunned. But after further discussion and multiple newspaper clippings about spirited women who balked at society's expectations, even Mother agrees that the only way to get this cattle-drive notion out of Andi's head is by letting her and her cousin Levi go along as Cook's helpers. Andi is elated. What can go wrong on a two-week drive to Los Angeles?

Andi quickly discovers that a cattle drive is a dirty, dangerous business with little sleep and the same food day after day. Between late nights, dust, mosquitos, and an abrasive cowhand trying to win Andi's attention, it is definitely not a holiday. Andi grimly determines she will stick it out. When a river crossing goes wrong and Chad is shot in a gunfight with suspicious men who have been shadowing the herd, Mitch the trail boss finds himself dangerously shorthanded. Andi and Levi can no longer just give Cook a hand. It's time to pitch in and help Mitch get their cattle to market?any way they can.

HEARTBREAK TRAIL is a very good story. I especially loved the suspense that is so heavily put in there. The suspense was laced into every chapter of this book and I loved that. It kept me glued to the story. I had to keep reading to see what happened next.

I liked Andi a lot and am glad to see more stories about her and the Circle C. This is a book I'll definitely want to read again. It's going on my keeper shelf.

A great story. Recommended.

5 stars. Available in ebook and paperback. 168 pages.

I obtained this book from the author in exchange for my honest review.

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### **Annie Kate says**

Andrea Carter is almost 15, a very special birthday in 19th century California. However, instead of a having a huge party to celebrate, Andi wants to go along with her brothers on a cattle drive.

It takes a lot of convincing, but with her brothers' help she finally gets permission from her mother to go--as Cook's helper, mind you, not as a ranch hand....

...

I recommend this Christian novel for young teens who love horses and history. It will keep them reading and maybe even rereading, filling their heads with hopeful dreams as well as a good dose of reality.

*Read my complete review at [Tea Time with Annie Kate](#).*

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### **Katrina K says**

Goodreads win. Will read and review once received.

This was an interesting and good read. I will say when I first started reading this book I was a little worried about how much religion would be in this book. It ended up not over powering the actual story. This book is definitely geared to young girls, but even an adult can enjoy the book. After reading this book I would love to try and read the first one sometime.

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### **Kathleen (Kat) Smith says**

No matter how hard Andrea Carter tries to fit in, she's like a square peg in a round hole. Growing up among her brothers on the Circle C Ranch, she wants to be just like her brothers, but at the same time struggles with what her mother, sisters and unfortunately most of her brothers want, which is for Andi to grow up and learn the things women are supposed to. To live a life in preparation for starting her own family and finding a suitable match. But no matter how hard she tries, she has a deep fondness for learning all about ranching and this time, she wants to be a part of the cattle drive.

Luckily for her, with her 15th birthday just around the corner, she might have an edge to getting what she wishes. Her mother and older sisters want her to begin planning her quinceaneras, her mother poses the question what would she like to do, and that provides just the opening that she wanted in order to try and convince her mother to let her go. She has even backed up her case with newspaper articles about other women who have bypassed the traditional roles for women and taken part of becoming ranchers and even blazing their own cattle drives. Even her own mother at one time, did just that, but she wants a much different life for Andi than what she has now.

Nevertheless, she gets her mother's approval to take this one final challenge and hopefully set all those ranching dreams to rest, once she understands and sees that being a part of a cattle drive is a far cry from

what she is imagining it will be and her first lesson begins with the fact, she won't be riding, her own horse, but instead be offering to help the Cook with riding in the wagon and preparing all the meals along the way. That is just fine until she learns a certain handsome new cowboy is about to join the cattle drive and he has his eyes set on impressing Andi at all costs. Will this be a dream come true or simply a wake up call for Andi as she gets her birthday wish?

I received Heartbreak Trail by Susan K. Marlow compliments of Kregel Publications for my honest review. I did not receive any monetary compensation for a favorable review aside from a free copy of the book and the opinions contained here are strictly my own. This is the second book in the Circle C Milestones series and once again chronicles the life of Andrea Carter as she is making the transition from childhood into adulthood by being a part of the Circle C Ranching operations. It's a coming of age story in a different manner than most because of the crossroads that Andi finds herself at. Still struggling with understanding her own wants and then realizing the bigger picture her choices play in what she wants to do, impact more than just herself. This is an exceptional series for young teens and I know it would have been one of my favorites growing up with a love of horses and a bit of the old west along the way. For this reason I'd give this one a 4 out of 5 stars.

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### **Mrs C'S says**

Are you looking for the next book to read aloud to your children, or next book to purchase for your 8-15 year old, look no further! Heartbreak Trail is the book you've been looking for!

The setting is California during the settling in the 1880's near Fresno. Andrea Carter, a tomboy whose only interest is to rope and ride with her brothers, is seeking excitement and adventure. So her only gift desired is to go on a cattle drive. Finally her mother agrees.

Along this fast paced, action packed plot, Andrea, her cousin Levi, her brothers, and ranch hands encounter cattle rustlers. The life this girl, growing into a young woman who is noticed by a few cow hands, has experienced more excitement than most of her town friends have experienced throughout their adult life. Andrea is determined to do all she can to save the cattle and bring the thieves to justice!

With the study guide, this book would be an excellent tool to use in your homeschool, Christian school, or as a family read along. It would also be a wonderful gift for the 8-15 child in your life. Although this series was written for that age audience, it will be enjoyed by ones of all ages. Although this is part of a series, the plot does stand alone.

I enjoyed this book. It held my attention and I appreciate the clean, yet thrilling style of her work. I look forward to reviewing more from this excellent children's author.

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### **Rachel says**

I read this as a stand-alone, since I was unaware that it was part of a series. Andrea's life immediately drew me in, and I became quickly invested in her character. The way she ended up on the cattle drive was realistic, and her changing thoughts throughout the journey fit well with the tone and speed of the dialogue. I enjoyed Marlow's writing, and look forward to seeing more by her.

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## **Mary-ann says**

he second in the Circle C Milestones series

Andrea Carter can ride, rope, and cut out cattle with the best of her brothers' ranch hands. Yet, her mother has always held the family's youngest daughter back from fully participating in ranch activities.

With the approach of her fifteenth birthday, even the ranch boss, big brother Chad, can't deny that his baby sister is better at ranch skills than some of his cowhands. When Andi announces that her quinceañera birthday wish is to join the upcoming cattle drive, her family is stunned. But after further discussion and multiple newspaper clippings about spirited women who balked at society's expectations, even Mother agrees that the only way to get this cattle-drive notion out of Andi's head is by letting her and her cousin Levi go along as Cook's helpers. Andi is elated. What can go wrong on a two-week drive to Los Angeles?

This was an exciting book that any girl, or woman would love to read. It's full of action, and excitement. I love how the author connects you with Andi. This would be a good book for a girl of any age. It does center around a 15 year old, but even us older girls can appreciate this good read!

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received this book free from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review and the opinions I have expressed are my own. 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."

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## **Victor Gentile says**

Susan K. Marlow in her new book, "Heartbreak Trail" Book Two in the Circle C Milestones series published by Kregel Publications gives us a new adventure with Andrea Carter.

From the back cover: With her fifteenth birthday approaching, Andrea Carter can ride, rope, and cut out cattle with the best of her brothers' ranch hands. And now—despite her mother's objections—she wants to test her skills. After all what can go wrong on a two-week drive to Los Angeles? Using newspaper clippings about spirited women who bucked society's expectations, she finally convinces her family to let her go along, but only as Cook's helpers.

Andi quickly discovers that her longed-for adventure is definitely not a holiday. It's a dirty, dangerous business made up of late nights, balky cattle, mosquitoes, and an abrasive cowhand trying to win her attention. Though weary of dishing up the same food day after day, she grimly determines she will stick it out.

Then a river crossing goes wrong, and everything changes. Now is Andi's big chance to really pitch in, and help her brothers get their cattle to market?any way she can.

When do we grow up? When do others start to see us as growing up? These are the questions that are raised in this new adventure with Andi. She is fifteen now and for her birthday she wants to go on a cattle drive with her brothers. After all she is just as good as them. The fourteen days of this drive are going to help answer these questions and more. There is lots of adventure packed into this story as well as plenty of

suspense. I think Susan K. Marlow is an extremely talented writer who really knows how to tell a story that will grab you and keep you flipping pages. “Heartbreak Trail” is a very exciting book that will keep you engrossed with Andi and her family as you root for them to succeed. I am so looking forward to the next book in this series.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Kregel Publications. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. 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.”

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