



The Maverick's Ready-Made Family

Brenda Harlen

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From Reader Review The Maverick's Ready-Made Family for online ebook

Susan says

Good book. Clay has come to Thunder Canyon for two reasons: one, to keep his brother Forrest company as he works with a veteran's group, and two, to get away from the gossips in his Texas hometown. They and his infant son are living at Antonia's boardinghouse. Clay finds that he really likes Antonia, who is also very good with his son. She is also very pregnant and not interested in forming any relationships. I liked both Clay and Antonia. Antonia had been deserted by her boyfriend as soon as he found out she was pregnant. But she is very independent and quite determined that she can handle being a single mother. She also finds that she is very attracted to Clay, but blames it on her hormones. As she gets to know him, she discovers that she really likes him, and those feelings start to strengthen. She also knows that any relationship they have will end as soon as she has her baby, since he has stated that he has no interest in going through that again. I liked her independence, though she certainly seemed to go overboard with it at times. Clay is a great hero. I love the way that he stepped up to being a dad, even though it had not been in his plans. He obviously adores his son and I love seeing him be a daddy. He also has no intentions of having any sort of permanent relationships, intending to devote his time to his son. He is just as attracted to Antonia as she is to him, and loves getting to know her. He is still thinking about a no commitment relationship up until she goes into labor. I loved seeing him work at convincing Antonia of his love, and his proposal at the end was terrific.

Susan Dalley says

This was pretty cute.

Diana says

I Love,Love,Love this story. Antonia,a seven month pregnant woman who has been left to do the pregnancy by herself by the man she loved who she thought loved her and Clay, a new Daddy of a 6 month old boy whose Mother abandoned him and doesn't want a thing to do with him. The coming together of these people and the problems they have to work through on both sides is a fantastic love story and a work in progress from the very beginning. Antonia,Little Miss Independent as her brothers call her, has decided to have a fling with Clay as she knows there is no way he could love a pregnant woman carrying someone else's baby. Clay is still trying to figure out his way with taking care of a little one on his own. So he doesn't know that he can handle another baby and a wife. His speech at the very end where he is trying to win her over is just soooooo Awesome. I had to read it over again and again. Wish someone had said that to me back when I was single pregnant woman. Recommend this book to everyone.

Kim hansen says

Such a sweet story.

Laura V. says

Cuenta la leyenda que en tiempos donde Cristina aún no cerraba la importación, los harlequines eran los únicos libros que llegaban a mi campechano pueblo. De hecho, tengo un cajón repleto de ellos. Mis favoritos son los Julia.

Este libro es una joyita. Ultimamente me va re mal en mis lecturas, así que me dije *Debo volver a mi raíces* y encontré este. Y fue tan tan lindo *.*

(Amo las historias con bebés)

Tenemos a **Antonia**, una muy embarazada casera de un ¿hotel? y a **Clay** un reciente padre (soltero) de un hermoso bebé de cinco meses y algo. Me gusta la interacción de ambos, la manera en la que inician una relación y cómo de a poco se van metiendo la piel del otro.

Clay sabe que no está interesado en ser padre de otro niño cuando todavía no se ha hecho la idea de serlo del que ya tiene. Y Antonia dejó de esperar que alguien quisiera serlo. No espera nada de él. Y Clay lo sabe. Pero... *¿por qué la idea de no formar parte de la vida de Antonia lo pone nervioso?*

Mi pega son los parientes de ambos, que no conciben la idea de una persona pueda criar a un hijo solo y pretenden que se *consigan* una madre o un padre para sus hijos lo más rápido posible. **Es una idea muy retrógrada. Y ofensiva** de hecho.

Pero ambos **me tuvieron sonriendo por un rato** y eso se agradece. Así que por las sensaciones transmitidas por una historia disfrutable le premio con miles de estrellas.

Harlequin Books says

Miniseries: Montana Mavericks: Back in the Saddle

Category: Heart & Home

Carmen says

"Why didn't the hostess give us menus?"

"Because I preordered our dinner."...

"Don't you think that was a little presumptuous?"

"More than a little," he admitted, smiling at her across the table. "But I think you'll be pleased with my choices."

"What did you order?"

"Everything on the menu."

LOL That was such a cute scene.

ANYWAY.

Clayton is taking care of his 6-month-old son Bennett. He's staying in a boarding house run by Antonia. Antonia is 8 months pregnant and the hot topic of the small town's vicious gossip. Who the father is, she isn't saying, and many people believe she got artificially inseminated.

At first drawn together because of their single-parent situations (or soon-to-be single parent), eventually they can't deny there's a huge spark between them. I'd say something like, "Will they learn to love and trust again?" But we all know that they will, so... moving on.

...

This book is the 2012 Reader's Choice Harlequin Special Edition Award for the Romantic Times Book Review.

PLUSES:

- It's not poorly written. The scene with the menu and him ordering everything is cute. Just the setup of a man with a baby and a pregnant woman falling in love is inherently cute. Well, I think it's inherently cute.
- Pro-adoption, "it doesn't have to be your biological kid for you to love the kid and be a parent" message.

MINUSES:

Okay. About ten years ago I read a really great pregnancy romance. Obviously, I was not on GR at this time so I have absolutely NO idea who wrote it or what the title was called. But not only was it heartshatteringly touching, but it was HOT. I mean, the sex was like *fans self*

So I'm probably holding this book up to an impossible and unrealistic standard.

ONE: It really annoys me when pregnant women dis themselves. It's hard enough for Antonia living in a town where people are painfully hostile to her ("how dare she come to church every week! It's sinful!" "How can she plan on raising a baby without a father!" etc.) but then to hear her describe herself as "huge, unattractive" and "an elephant" really grates my cheese. This goes on and on throughout the novel. It was painful, I really wanted her to stop putting herself down. You're eight months pregnant! Obviously you are not going to look like you did 8 months ago. And that's fine. Please love yourself.

And I hate fat-shaming and this smacks of "fat people are disgusting, because pregnancy makes you bigger than you were before you are instantly 'fat' and therefore unattractive. No man is going to want to fuck a pregnant woman just like no men want to fuck fat women - unless, in both cases, they're freaks/perverts."

It would take me days to fully unpack this, but it's very offensive on many levels. Believe me.

TWO: Not only is the town filled with malicious gossips who make Antonia's life hard, but her family isn't

great either. Her father and her older brothers DO NOT act in the way I'd expect men to act when their family member is pregnant with no man in the picture. They judge her, sneer at her, and order her to cook for them (!) etc. And Harlen isn't even portraying them as villains here. They never get reprimanded or get their comeuppance, she just has to live with this kind of treatment. It's horrible.

"'Cause we worked through lunch," Hudson said, a subtle plea in his tone.

"There's leftover roast beef in the fridge," she told them. "You can make yourselves a couple of sandwiches."

Ace frowned. "Isn't that your job?"

CARMEN: "Excuse me? What did you just say to her?!?!?! Did you seriously just tell your 8-months-old pregnant sister - who is babysitting a child right now - that it's her JOB to make YOU lunch? The fuck? You're grown! Make your own damn sandwiches. I didn't see 'your servant' in her job description."

And she MAKES THEM THE FUCKING SANDWICHES. WTF? And can I stress that these jokers were in no way presented as villains and they never get the beat-down from her, the hero, her good-for-nothing drunkard father, no one. Shit.

Hmmmmmmmm, what else?

Oh, yeah

THREE: I don't know what you would call this. But tons of statements like people meaningfully looking at Antonia's belly and saying,

"Don't you believe that every child should have a father?" this happens a lot.

and with Clay's situation, a lot of people saying stuff like

"A man needs a wife." and

"That baby needs a mother."

And this isn't part of the malicious gossip stuff, it's as if we're actually supposed to agree with them.

Can I just point out that both the mother of Clay's baby and the father of Antonia's baby are HORRIBLE people who hightailed it as soon as they could? The child does NOT need those people around. I am in the camp of having parents (or a parent) who loves you as being better than trying to force a relationship with some sorry-ass excuse for a human being who doesn't love or want the child.

Of course, this is a romance novel and the whole point is that they will eventually come together as a "complete" family, but I just want to say for the record that single parents are amazing and bust their asses to raise their kids.

...

How's the sex, Carmen?

It's okay. *shrug* It's not as described as I'd liked and it's very glossed-over. But at least they use condoms!

Yay!

...

Tl;dr - I don't think this is worth getting exciting about, but you could do worse.

ONE REAL STAR, ONE ROMANCE STAR

Kathy Wojo says

Great book in a great series
