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At Wolf Ranch: A Montana Men Novel (Montana Men Series, Book 1)



Synopsis

[Read by Coleen Marlo] New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Jennifer Ryan kicks off her hot new 'Montana Men' series about the rugged ranchers of Big Sky country and the women they'll do anything to protect. Everything's bigger in Big Sky country, including the hearts of the Montana Men. After years on the rodeo circuit, Gabe Bowden wants nothing more than land of his own and a woman who will claim his heart for more than one night. When he has the chance to buy the enormous Wolf Ranch spread, he snaps up the incredible deal. Everything is set - until Gabe rescues a woman on the deserted, snowy road leading to the property and the half-frozen beauty changes everything. Ella Wolf rushes to her family's abandoned Montana ranch after her twin sister is murdered. She knows she's next - unless she can uncover a secret hidden somewhere at Wolf Ranch. The last thing Ella expects is to be rescued by a rugged rancher with his own agenda - a man who almost makes her forget how dangerous love can be. As an unlikely partnership sparks into something so much more and as a killer closes in, can Ella and Gabe learn to trust one another before it's too late?

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Customer Reviews

"A smart heroine, a caring hero, high stakes, and a suspenseful plot make for an entertaining read."
-Booklist "Jennifer Ryan's At Wolf Ranch will remind you that there's nothing sexier than a real cowboy. It's a winner from start to finish!" --Brenda Novak, New York Times and USA Today bestselling author

Everything's bigger in Big Sky country, including the hearts of the Montana Men. After years on the rodeo circuit, Gabe Bowden wants nothing more than land of his own and a woman who will claim his heart for more than one night. When he has the chance to buy the enormous Wolf Ranch spread, he snaps up the incredible deal. Everything is set, until Gabe rescues a woman on the deserted, snowy road leading to the property, and the half-frozen beauty changes everything. Ella Wolf rushes to her family's abandoned Montana ranch after her twin sister is murdered. She knows she's next—unless she can uncover a secret hidden somewhere at Wolf Ranch. The last thing Ella expects is to be rescued by a rugged rancher with his own agenda. A man who almost makes her forget how dangerous love can be. As an unlikely partnership sparks into something so much more, and a killer closes in, can Ella and Gabe learn to trust one another before it's too late? --This text refers to the Digital edition.

This is my first Jennifer Ryan book but it certainly won't be my last. *At Wolf Ranch* starts off with a bang and it keeps on going as the heroine, Ella Wolfe is on the run from her vicious uncle whom she just saw murder her beautiful twin sister Lela. Knowing that she is next, Ella flees to Montana to hide at the family's ranch having no idea that her uncle has already sold it to cowboy Gabe Bowden. Gabe is finally on the edge of having his lifelong dream of owning his own ranch become a reality when late one snowy night he comes across a beautiful woman walking on the highway in the middle of a blizzard. He picks her up basically saving her life and takes her to his ranch while she recovers. It isn't long before he learns that his guest is none other than New York heiress Ella Wolf, in fear for her life and currently the prime suspect in the tragic death of her sister. As Gabe and Ella work together to unravel why Ella's uncle killed her sister, they find that her murder is only the tip of the iceberg in a long line of crimes committed by her uncle in his attempt to take over Wolf Enterprises. Having only each other to depend on as they are trapped in a relentless blizzard, Gabe and Ella try to fight their increasing attraction to one another, knowing they are too different to have any chance at a future together. But sometimes romance finds you right when you least expect it; the chemistry these two have is too hot to deny. The question is, can they find the proof they need to put her uncle behind bars before he finds Ella and silences her forever? This book has everything you look for in a great western romance... a handsome cowboy hero who will do anything to protect the woman he loves, a smart, beautiful heroine who is determined to avenge the death of her sister, a plot that keeps you guessing and enough hot sex to keep things interesting. Next up in the series is *When It's Right* where Gabe's brother Blake meets a woman in trouble who will change his life

forever. This one comes out March 31, 2015 and if At Wolf Ranch is any indication... it will be another winner.

I feel like I've been waiting forever for a new Jennifer Ryan book, so I was so excited to finally start the Montana Men series. So far, the only time I wasn't completely won over by her books has been with *The Return of Brody McBride*. I didn't like Brody and what he put Rain through. But I digress...Gabe and Ella's story had many of the aspects that make a Ryan novel amazing: A fierce, loyal and sweet guy, a brave, dynamic and strong woman and enough mystery, action and romance to keep you interested. I loved Gabe's brothers (can't wait for Blake and Dane's stories!), the bad guy was ruthless and cruel, so it was great to see him get trampled with justice in the end, and we even got to hang with Sam Turner again for awhile. Really, this book was as captivating as any other masterpiece Ryan has penned.BUT...The thing that brought this rating down was the way both Gabe and Ella were constantly going on and on in their heads over how their relationship couldn't work because they both came from such different places. I mean, it was ridiculous. They'd think it, they'd discuss it for a second, then they'd shove it in a dark corner of their minds and tried to forget it until they had no other choice. And without giving away TOO many spoilers (hopefully), I must say that the way they resolve this problem was done too fast and in such a way that I was severely disappointed. It made Gabe seem weak and dare I say a bit cruel? He held back far too much. There was no fighting for his woman, instead he waited for her to come to him. He lost some serious swoon points there for me.Maybe my rating seems a bit harsh considering how much I enjoyed most of the book, but in my opinion if you peak too early in your story and are left with a subpar ending you lose too much of the greatness for it to be what it could have been. I still plan to faithfully read every book by Miss Ryan from here on out, but this will be one of only two I may not be revisiting in the future.

Having read and loved Jennifer Ryan's "Dylan's Redemption" I was looking forward to reading more from her, even though these two books belong to a different series.I have to admit that I'm torn about this book and the rating because some parts were great, while some others made me wonder if it was the same author who wrote *Dylan's Redemption*. I will start with the parts I liked.The first part of the book is intriguing and the first pages hooked me. The building tension in the first chapter grips the reader's attention and won't let go.When Gabe enters the story, I immediately liked him and his brother, and I was looking forward to read how his and Ella's paths would cross.I'm not always a fan of insta-love, but I liked the chemistry that sparked between them almost at first sight. I

liked how Ella, in spite of her condition, still tried to make it on her own without Gabe's help, and how he didn't let the stubborn woman out of his sight. I like a protective hero who takes care of women and treats them right; the fact that he's a cowboy is definitely a bonus. What I didn't particularly like about him was his constant mantra "she's out of my league, we can't be together but I love her." At first it made sense that he would think it, but after a while it became too much too often. He sounded a little too whiny for the rough and tough cowboy I'd thought he was, and it became a little repetitive. Another thing that didn't work too well for me was that it was a little too easy for Ella to solve the crime and get back to her uncle for what he'd done. Lastly, I felt that, even though this will sound a little prudish, there were too many and too descriptive sex scenes that after a while became a little annoying. At some point I felt the story dragged a little and these scenes only made it slower for me, instead of more enticing. Anyway, despite my personal opinion on some things, I enjoyed this book, and if you like stories with hot cowboys, a bit of suspense and steam, you should definitely pick up a copy. ***I received a complimentary copy in exchange for an honest review***

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