



## The Cattleman's Ready-Made Family

*Michelle Douglas*

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*A fresh start...?*

Tess Laing has suffered more heartbreak than most. So moving to Bellaroo Creek with her little orphaned niece and nephew is the start of a new life. Meeting tall, dark and deliciously handsome Cameron Manning starts an unexpected flutter in her heart...

*A new family!*

Cam is intrigued by Tess, and quickly becomes entangled in their lives when little Ty gets a clear case of hero-worship! They're the family he always dreamed of having himself—until the day a betrayal wiped his hopes in an instant. Perhaps now is the time to confront the past and discover a ready-made family is the key to this tortured cattleman finding a happy future...

## **The Cattleman's Ready-Made Family Details**

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Author : Michelle Douglas

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

### Desere says

The loss of a loved one can be very painful and life altering to the point where nothing seems real any more and your faith is so low that it will take a truly special event to restore your strength.

In the case of Tess that special event does not come in the form of something but rather someone.

That someone is I'll-knock-your-boots-off Cam. He is immediately intrigued by Tess and falls in love with her niece and nephew on the spot, not to mention the woman herself.

But both Tess and Cam have a past that can shatter their future. Betrayal, hopes, dreams, love and the hope of a family all come into play in this fabulous read!

The characters of both Tess and Cam were nicely written, and I liked that they are both tortured souls and that all their insecurities and heartache ties into their past, but also has a definite impact on their immediate future if not fully and completely addressed.

I have seen it happen in some reads where the past is tied in with the future but the characters do not actually square up with their past in order to take control of their future, but instead their love blossoms and little bits of the past are resolved at the end of the read but it still lingers in a big way thus the future is still kind of bleak, and I walk away from the read feeling empty or like I missed out on some vital piece of the puzzle. So very nicely done Michelle!

I loved, loved, loved the idea of kids being part of the deal in this read. It gave the book a very homey feel and certainly gave me moments of heartwarming family tied happenings. It was also a very unique touch to bring the main characters together, yes it has been done in other reads but usually it is their children before the romance gets set back into motion. In this case the kids are already there and they are more like the rope between Cam and Tess, pulling them towards each other.

The backdrop setting was terrific! I loved the town of Bellaroo Creek, it matched the theme of this read to a perfect tee, all family and stand together till the end no matter what or who comes our way.

The dialogue was heartfelt, sensual and caring. The perfect romance read for any fan of romance. I am taking away a message of loss can bring you down and betrayal can make your heart a dark place, but you need to pick yourself up, fight back and learn to trust again in order to gain happiness.

I highly recommend this read for all fans of Michelle Douglas books, her unique manner of story telling will leave you with feelings of joy, happiness, love and all things sweet.

4.5 star review

" No matter where she goes he will follow"

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### **Chiara Cilli says**

Awww fatemi fare taaaante fusa per il meraviglioso Cam ♥ Veramente, ma veramente bello! Finora il più bello della Douglas :D Mi è piaciuta tantissimo anche Tess, e ho adorato il modo in cui, pur essendosi appena conosciuti, entrambi riuscissero a leggersi dentro \*-\* e Krissie che ha preso una gallina che non fa le uova??? ahahahahah Cam era perplesso xD potrebbe essere che se hai dei bambini al seguito - dai 5 anni in su, diciamo - loro riescano ad agevolarti nella conquista di un uomo e vice versa??? eheheheheh in questo ultimo romanzo ho riscontrato anche più erotismo - Cam, dov'è andata quella mano mentre baciavi Tess, eh??? :P E la scena finale, quando Cam si appropria del microfono??? Woooow, straordinario ♥

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### **Susan says**

Good book. Tess has come to Bellaroo Creek for a new start for herself and her niece and nephew. She is determined to concentrate on their needs and do the best she can to take her sister's place. As a musician and city dweller she is pretty clueless about what life in the country is like but she is willing to learn. Her landlord and neighbor Cam is on hand to give her the help she needs. She is attracted to the sexy cattleman but has ruled out any relationships until she feels she has a handle on caring for the kids. She is also dealing with a lot of guilt over the death of her sister. I really loved Tess's enthusiasm for the new life they have started. I loved the way she had the strength of will to leave everything she was familiar with to give the kids something better than they had had before. I also liked the way that she tried to open Cam's eyes to the possibility of reconciling with his family. She fell hard for him but also didn't want to risk herself and the kids on someone who was planning to leave.

Cam had been dumped by his fiancee for his brother and the betrayal hit him hard. He was trying very hard not to be like his father and let his bitterness turn him into a grumpy recluse. He was planning to put his land under the care of a manager and head off to do charity work in Africa. Meeting Tess and the kids changes his attitude somewhat. He finds himself wanting to help them and enjoys spending the time with them. His attraction to Tess is completely unexpected as he thought all feelings like that had been destroyed along with his engagement. I loved seeing him interact with the kids and how they lightened his moods. I really liked the way that Tess was able to help him deal with his past and see the promise of a happy future.

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### **TashNz says**

Can I go and live in Bellaroo Creek please?

My first taste came with Michelle Douglas's The Cattlemen's Ready-Made Family. What a magical tale, heartwarming and just a fantastic good old fashioned love story based on two people gradually getting to know each other and slowly letting their guards down.

Tess has taken over the care of her niece and nephew because her sister has died in a car accident. We learn later that she's turned away from her prestigious career to live in the Australian country town of Bellaroo

Creek, where everyone knows their neighbors and say good morning in the street. Tess has won a contract to rent a farmhouse for \$1 a week. She thinks of it as a fresh beginning for her new family and a chance to settle the kids down and provide them what we all really want for our kids, a happy, stable and enriched environment to grow and nurture our little ones. When she arrives she meets Cam, the co-owner of the land who needs to talk her into signing back some of the land that has inadvertently ended up in the contract.

A friendship forms and grows and Cam and Tess reluctantly start to let their guards down. The kids become accustomed to Cam and a strong bond forms there too but when Tess learns Cam is about to leave town for an adventure in Africa.

One of the best aspects of this wonderful romance is the characters. Tess, Cam, the kids Tyler and Krissie. Tess just wants to do right by her sister. She's strong in so many ways, she just doesn't realise it. Cam is hardworking, salt of the earth kinda guy who's had personal loss too with his family. His good nature naturally causes him to help out around the place with the building of the chicken coups, the vege patch, mowing the lawns and the fact that he's hot is a total bonus! Tyler and Krissie are so well written they add to the story instead of detracting from it.

When I look at the cover of The Cattleman's Ready-Made Family, I feel warm inside. That's exactly how this story made me feel. If you need a break from the angst filled romances and feel like reading a great, no - a fantastically great, warm-hearted, soulful romance, you can't go past the Cattleman's Ready Made Family.

Bellaroo Creek: Three brave women, three strong men ... and one town on the brink - I can't wait for the other two books by Barbara Hannay and the amazing Soraya Lane.

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### **Harlequin Books says**

Miniseries: Bellaroo Creek!

Category: Home and Family

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### **Nas Dean says**

THE CATTLEMAN'S READY-MADE FAMILY by author Michelle Douglas is a Harlequin Romance release for July 2013.

Tess Laing leaves her musical career and her city life to move to a small town. She wants to give the perfect life to her orphaned niece and nephew.

She and her charges begin to depend more on their neighbor, Cameron Manning.

Cameron was on the verge of leaving the small town and go to Africa. He couldn't wait to get away yet he postponed his trip for a month to help his neighbor settle in. He was getting attracted to Tess and her family. But would it be enough to stop him from leaving? And would Tess take a chance to bring a man who may not stay for long, into her family?

Author Michelle Douglas has written a fun, engrossing and fast paced story in THE CATTLEMAN'S

**READY-MADE FAMILY.** There are hidden depths to Cameron and Tess's characters. The emotional and sensory details are exquisitely done. **THE CATTLEMAN'S READY-MADE FAMILY** has strong characters, snappy dialogue, and tender, sweet and exciting moments which will keep a reader riveted from the first page.

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### **Nancy Crocker says**

In *The Cattleman's Ready-Made Family*: Tess Laing has moved to Bellaroo Creek with her little niece Krissie and her nephew Ty after they were orphaned. She is hoping Bellaroo Creek is just what the three of them will need to start a new life. They are all three suffering the loss of Sarah "Tess's sister and Krissie and Ty's Mother". But Tess also feels guilty over her sister's accident. So grief stricken she could have prevented the accident had she returned home, she has given up the love and passion in her life because of that guilt.

Cameron Manning has come to deliver the keys to the cottage and get the new tenant to sign the rights to the land back to him so he can plant the canola crops he has been committed to. Once he gets Tess's signature on the papers he is off to Africa for two years to help the Feed the World organization. He is instantly attracted to Tess, but refuses to even give into the attraction after being betrayed by his finance and brother. Estranged from his family, there is nothing keeping him in Bellaroo Creek. Soon Cam is drawn not only to Tess, but too Krissie and Ty. This is what he has always wanted. The family he feels he was cheated out of.

This is a heart warming story of people stepping up and putting their lives on hold, to help two young orphans overcome the loss of their parents. There is more to this story regarding the children that will just break your heart. You can't help but feel for these two little ones. It is also a story of forgiveness and moving on with life. It also shows a great community coming together and supporting each other, weather a welcoming luncheon or taking time out to clean the local cemetery. At times it is a very emotional book for a couple of reasons. And the last chapter was a real tear jerker.

I thought the author did a really good job of describing the scenery throughout the book. I felt at times that I was at the cottage in Bellaroo Creek. She even had me looking up a sultana cake recipe. And if there is a place like Bellaroo Creek, that has amazing rate for renting a cottage, then sign me up.

I must thank Michelle Douglas for sending me an ARC of this book. My review was optional.

4.5/5 stars

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### **Julie says**

Tess Laing's life used to revolve around her musical career. Having garnered great acclaim all over the world for her breath-taking talent, Tess had made plenty of sacrifices to reach the top of her profession. Tess had no qualms about turning her back on relationships and foregoing affairs of the heart – until a tragic accident had claimed the life of her beloved sister and her husband and left her solely responsible for the well-being of her orphaned nephew and niece. The sudden death of her beloved sister had shocked Tess to her very core and made her regret that she had prioritized her career over her sibling. Tess is determined to atone for the mistakes of her past and vows to give her nephew and niece the best childhood possible, so she

turns her back on her career and decides to start afresh in the town of Bellaroo Creek in the Australian Outback. Tess' main focus in life is her niece and nephew's well-being. She does not want nor need any reminders of her past as a musician. All she wants is to see her beloved charges smiling again. Tess has been selfish enough and now the time has come for her to put other people first. However, she hadn't counted on meeting the devilishly handsome Cameron Manning...

Cameron has had his fair share of heartbreak over the past couple of years. The gorgeous cattleman had imagined spending the rest of his life working the land with his childhood sweetheart Fiona – but his stepbrother Lance had other plans! Cameron had been shocked when Fiona had dumped him for his brother and he had been absolutely devastated when his own mother seemed to side with Lance! Cameron has had enough of being the subject of pity and gossip and of being on his own. He's had enough of Bellaroo Creek and wants to shake off the shackles of country life and go to Africa where nobody knows him. Cameron is counting down the days until he can leave Bellaroo Creek – but now that Tess and her adorable charges have come into town, the restless cowboy finds himself reluctant to leave the ready-made family which has managed to breach the impenetrable defenses he had built around his heart...

Thrown together by fate, Tess and Cameron soon find themselves falling madly in love with one another. But is Cameron willing to put his heart on the line for the second time and trust another woman again? Will Tess stick to her resolve to stay single for the sake of her niece and nephew? Or will she realize that the only way she can ever be happy is by grasping this unexpected chance of happiness?

The Cattleman's Ready-Made Family is a captivating tale of redemption, healing from the past, forgiveness and unexpected romance that tugged at my heartstrings and kept me mesmerized from start to finish. Michelle Douglas has written a terrific contemporary romance, full of tenderness and emotion, set in a town readers would love to live in, that is sure to bring a tear to your eye.

I loved Tess, who was a vibrant, strong and believable heroine with a heart of gold and Cameron was an irresistible hero guaranteed to make readers swoon with his heartfelt sensitivity and brooding charm. Michelle Douglas continues to get better with every book she writes and

The Cattleman's Ready-Made Family is an exceptional contemporary romance which readers simply cannot afford to miss!

The review was originally published on Cataromance.

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### **Laura V. says**

No me acuerdo lo *criticable*, eso no es una buena señal porque ni siquiera es memorable. Es muy meh, con un final demasiado azucarado.

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### **Kel says**

Loved it, perfectly paced for me

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**Helen says**

I loved this story it is heart warming and wonderful. When Tess moves to Bellaroo Creek with her niece and nephew to start a new life Cameron Manning her hunky neighbour who has a lot in his past to get over Tess is there to do it this is a sensual story as both Tess and Cam help each other come to terms with their past and fall for each other. A great story.

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