



# Colorado Promise

*Charlene Whitman*

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Book One in the Front Range series – Historical Western Romance

In this passionate sweet Western Historical Romance, author Charlene Whitman introduces Emma Bradshaw—a high-society young woman from New York, who is forced to move out to the untamed Front Range in Colorado and finds that true love can withstand all the dangers the West can throw at her.

Greeley, Colorado, in 1875 is a town built on a promise . . .

. . . but to Emma it is a desert prison in the middle of a hostile and dusty prairie. Emma had hoped to go to Vassar College, to pursue her dreams of becoming a botanical illustrator. But when her father, struck with “Western fever” moves the family out West, Emma’s dreams are shattered. Her only consolation is that her childhood friend, handsome Randall Turnbull, has moved to Greeley to work for his railroad baron father. Her heart sparked by his comforting presence, she hopes Randall will fall in love with her and marry her.

But promises often turn bitter . . .

. . . as Lucas Rawlings, veterinarian and horse lover, well knows. Lucas has lived on the Front Range for three years at Sarah Banks’s horse ranch, after stumbling down from the Rockies consumed with grief. Since losing his precious wife and baby in childbirth, he doesn’t think his heart can bear ever loving again. But Sarah, a half-Cheyenne with a medicine woman for a grandmother, has a vision showing it’s time Lucas married again. He scoffs until he rescues Emma in a sudden hailstorm and their lives become intricately entwined.

Emma must choose—and fight—for the man she loves, at the risk of all she loves . . .

Emma yearns for the comfort and familiarity of Randall’s company, but Lucas’s easy confidence and gentle ways snag her heart. Facing a new life beset by grasshoppers, drought, and blizzards is hard enough. But when murderous ranchers try to force Sarah off her land, and her brother takes up dangerous company, the lives of her family and the man she’s come to love are threatened. It will take a miracle—and the strength and promises of true love—to come through unscathed in this untamed land.

Colorado Promise is the first book in the Front Range series—a rich full-length novel full of sweet, heartwarming, and chaste romance. Watch for Colorado Hope and Colorado Dream in 2014!

## Colorado Promise Details

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Author : Charlene Whitman

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# From Reader Review Colorado Promise for online ebook

## Lilian Gafni says

I didn't know I could fall in love with Western Romance and so I did. Colorado Promise, a beautifully written story, is a breath of fresh air from the horrors, killing and violent novels we've been exposed to. That is why the minute I began reading Colorado Promise I felt a sense of peace descending on me as I read the first chapters. By then I was hooked on the characters, and the plot.

Emma Bradshaw is looking forward to leave home for Vassar College in New York, circa 1875. As a serious botanist and watercolorist describing wild flowers and herbs, Emma hopes someday to write a book detailing the various plants she loves. For a city girl from a well to do family, she has a comfortable life, yet feels restrained by her father's pressure for proper behavior allowable for a proper lady. Her mother frets all the time about the household, the servants and her charities, and constantly reminds Emma that she has to marry a proper man. The candidate already been picked by her father is none other than her childhood friend Randall Turnbull, heir to the railroad and prearranged by both their fathers. Her arrogant and married brother, Walter, is also pressured into bringing into the world a grandchild for his parents. His wife Lynette has had several miscarriages and Walter fears for his pregnant wife.

But when Emma is called to a family meeting her whole world collapses to find that her entire family, including her, would be moving to the small town of Greeley, Colorado. Her hopes and aspirations to evade her stifling family has suddenly vanished. Without protesting, she must now obey her father and leave her familiar world behind. Along the ride out west is Randall following as an escort for Emma.

The move out west brings all the struggles and tribulations of settling in a new state as opposed to the colors of the big city—as any citybred girl could find. She begins to hate the prairie, the desolation as opposed to New York's bustling metropolis, and the dust settling on country folks, animals and buildings. The only thing that keeps her motivated is to beg her father to return to New York.

But a stranger that might keep her down on the farm is Lucas Rawlings, a dashing widower with green eyes. When Emma begins to fall in love, a change in her heart and soul begins to take hold. She falls in love with the prairie, "The stark beauty of the endless rolling land, the slowmoving wide river, and the majestic mountains changing color each day invigorated her spirit in a way she'd never experienced before."

Her dilemma now is whether to marry Randall for convenience and please her parents, or give way to her heart in the arms of the intoxicating Lucas? But an event in the small town of Greeley will change the course of her life forever.

Ms. Whitman's writing on the page pleases the senses and the mind. Words roll on the tongue and fill the reader with wonders of the countryside and olden times of living wild on the frontier. You can feel and smell the scents of wild grass, the ranch warm fires in the evenings, and cattle mooing in the background. A most enjoyable book that merits five stars!

I was given a copy of this book by the author for a review.

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## **Dpic says**

nice story

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## **Cindi says**

With her debut novel "Colorado Promise," the first of the Front Range series, Charlene Whitman is sure to become a favorite among fans of historical romantic fiction. Well-drawn characters, a solid plot and just the right mix of action and romance makes this story set in Greeley, Colorado a page-turner. Readers that enjoy tales of strong men with a touch of compassion and women who know their own minds will love this inspirational story about life near the Rocky Mountains in the late 1800s.

While it isn't clear from the ending of "Colorado Promise" if Emma and Lucas' story will continue in future books in the Front Range series or if readers will be introduced to other characters entirely, it doesn't really matter. Whatever story is told in future books in the series, they will be worth reading. Charlene Whitman is an author to watch for future interesting Christian fiction.

Read more of this review at Examiner!

<http://www.examiner.com/review/charle...>

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## **Kelly says**

### **Great start to the series...**

Colorado Promise is a sweet western historical romance centered around Emma and Lucas. Emma relocates with her family from New York to Colorado. She struggles with the change in lifestyle and the strict rules set forth by her family. She longs to be free and live her life as she chooses. Enter Lucas, the charming, good looking, cowboy who knows just what Emma needs. Although he has his own struggles to overcome, he is drawn to Emma in a way that frees him from his past and wills him to move on with his life.

The story between the two characters, as well as the supporting characters, was good and normal of those times. There were times when I felt there was too much filler or descriptions to where I skipped forward a few paragraphs just to get back to the meat of the story. All in all, though, it was a good story and I look forward to reading the other books in this series.

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## **Joyful says**

This passionate sweet chaste historical western romance is Book One in the Front Range series. Emma Bradshaw is a high-society young woman from New York who is forced to give up her dream of going to Vassar College to become a botanical illustrator when her father moves the family West. Emma thinks that Greeley, Colorado, is a desert prison in the middle of the hostile and dusty prairie. Her childhood friend, handsome Randall Turnbull, has moved to Greeley to work for his railroad baron father. She hopes Randall will fall in love with her and marry her. Lucas Rawlings, veterinarian and horse lover, has lived on the Front

Range for three years after stumbling down from the Rockies consumed with grief from losing his precious wife and baby in childbirth. He doesn't think his heart can ever love again until he rescues Emma in a sudden hailstorm and their lives become intricately entwined. Can she find true love and overcome the dangers of the untamed Front Range? Will Emma choose the comfort and familiarity of Randall's company or Lucas's easy confidence and gentle ways. She faces a new life of grasshoppers, drought, blizzards, and murderous ranchers trying to force Sarah off her land. Then when her brother takes up dangerous company, the lives of her family and the man she's come to love are threatened. Will she have the strength to overcome in this untamed land?

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### **John W. says**

COLORADO PROMISE By Charlene Whitman is fast moving storyline that comes alive as if readers are watching a movie. Readers will embrace the well-developed characters and enjoy the well researched historical storyline. The entire FRONT RANGE SERIES is a must read.

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### **Jessica says**

I enjoyed learning about the past of Greeley/Fort Collins in Colorado (I live in Denver, currently). A bit too much repetitive character self-contemplations that seemed to just go in a loop, over and over again. The story was intriguing, watching some characters evolve (adapt to the Wild West), while other grew to acknowledge their mistakes and wrongful first impressions.

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### **Ann Miller says**

I'm not a huge historical western romance fan, but I know a lot of readers are. The writing, plot, and character-development were good. The heroine was a bit weepy for my repressed mentality, but the wounded, intelligent cowboy? Delicious. And the chaste clinches fairly steamed. Could I put in an order for more of those, please? I am a fan of happy endings, which Colorado Promised and delivered.

Every dog thinks he's going to be the K-9 who melts my heart, but I haven't met that dog yet. Nor is this the historical western romance to melt my contemporary heart. But I highly recommend the book to those of you who have a soft spot for petticoats, adventure, and the wild west of yesteryear. 4.5 Stars

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### **Britney says**

Colorado Promise is the first book in Charlene Whitman's The Front Range series. This novel is an

enthraling historical romance and one I highly recommend! I was quickly swept away to the western frontier by Charlene's picturesque descriptions of the Colorado landscape. The fascinating characters and engaging storyline were beautifully written and a pleasure to read. I loved Colorado Promise and look forward to more books in this wonderful series!

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the author in exchange for my honest review, which I have given.

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## **Cindy Foster says**

### **Great story lacked sufficient editing**

This is the story of 18 year old Emma Bradshaw who was forcibly moved with her family to Greeley, Colorado from New York City in 1875. Raised as a proper young lady, she struggles with the raw frontier until she meets Lucas, a man 10 years her senior, who encourages her to follow her dreams. The storyline and plot twists keep the reader engaged to the end. However, the editing is seriously lacking. The phrases "blew out a breath" and "sucked in a breath" are repeated over and over, to the point that one wonders why so much emphasis is given to breathing. Again, I enjoyed the story, but spent quite a bit of time re-reading here and there due to the serious lack of editing.

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## **Molly says**

Good story line., although too much "filler" (thought angst of main characters). Need serious editing for wrong name used in parts and grammatical errors.

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## **Aty Behsam says**

I'm not a fan of Western Romance at all. I find a lot of Western Romance books quite boring, filled with cliché and unnecessary action, following unstable plots, which is the main reason I was very surprised by how much I loved this book.

This story got me thinking about how badly women were treated at that time, even intelligent women like Emma. This kind of situations helps me sympathize with the character, which is something every author wants, I believe; for people to understand and care for the characters.

As a writer who understands the value of dreams and plans for a better future, I found Emma a very realistic character. In the beginning of the story Emma lives in New York, planning to attend college and work as an artist. But, everything changes when her father disregards her wishes and tells the family they're moving to Colorado. This situation is something I can understand. I live in Iran, and as much as I hate to admit, even now I face standards putting limits to my imagination and my life; rules that force me to constantly consider living like a 'normal good girl would'. To get married with the 'proper man', have children, and forget about everything else. Like Emma, I have to fight for the life I want. So I could relate to the character Charlene Whitman has created.

Colorado Promise is a well-researched story. It frustrates me when someone spends so much time to write a story, yet doesn't bother to do enough research for it. But here we have an author who knows what she's writing. I loved her writing style as well. Good voice, good characters, and a solid plot make this book very well-written.

Is this a book only for women? I don't think so. There's enough action in the story to keep you turning the pages. There aren't so many authors who can make a good balance between the action and romance in a story, but I believe Charlene Whitman knows exactly when to slow down, and when to make your heart beat very fast.

I recommend this book to those are tired of unrealistic Western stories and need to read something that would give them a better idea of how that era really was.

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## **Regan Walker says**

4 and 1/2 Stars - Inspirational Love Story with a Colorado Horse Doc and an Eastern Lady

Emaline ("Emma") Bradshaw dreams of attending Vassar and being a botanical illustrator, but her parents have other plans. They have heard of the new settlement of Greeley in the Colorado Territory where the evils of New York can be left behind. A group of their friends have already built homes there and they are eager to join them, so in 1875, Emma and her family take the train to Colorado.

Along the way, Emma reconnects with a childhood friend, Randall, who she finds suddenly an attractive man. Like her, he is from the East and is sophisticated and educated, and they enjoy each other's company. When Emma takes a fall off her horse and is rescued by Lucas Rawlings, the local veterinarian, she finds the handsome widower alluring, but she cannot imagine herself with the cowboy. Two suitors, each very different.

This is a story of change and choices, of resisting the plans of others to pursue your own dreams, your own life. While Lucas knows what he wants, he must face the ghosts of his past to have it. He still carries great pain from the loss of the first wife who died in childbirth. Emma, on the other hand, is too often manipulated into doing what her parents and others want instead of having the courage to defy them to pursue her own dreams. I loved Lucas (what woman wouldn't?), but at times I wanted to shake Emma when she caved to her parents' manipulations and said nothing. She was too concerned about what everyone else wanted for her.

Whitman takes a leisurely pace (400+ pages) to show us the West as it was a decade after the Civil War with tensions over Indians somewhat dissipated but prejudice still very much alive. We meet a town full of interesting characters, some wonderful and some not so, as one might expect. Whitman does a great job of fleshing them out and bringing life to a small Colorado town.

The story has an inspirational bent, too, particularly as regards the faith of the hero in the second half.

One could have wanted a faster pace, but still it's a great tale and a wonderful love story, well worth the read.



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## **Julie Morales says**

### **FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS**

Emma grew up in a privileged home in New York. She had everything materially that she could possibly want. There was one thing she didn't have though. She didn't have the right to make her own decisions, no matter how simple they seemed.

She was interested in botany and was scheduled to attend college in the fall when her father dropped the bombshell that he'd informed the school she wouldn't be attending; they were moving West. All of them. She's temporarily heartened when she meets up with an old childhood friend as they were boarding the train and found out he was going West with them. Randall was the best friend she ever had, and she knew as long as he was with her, she'd be OK. But did that mean she wanted to marry him? Did she even have a choice? She was about to find out.

The West was unfamiliar territory to her family, as it was for most people who headed out there back then. Some realized they weren't cut out to handle it. Others were able to adapt. Their lives had to change and they had to be willing to accept those changes. Would she be able to?

Lucas didn't think so when he first met her, thrown from her horse in the mud along the river, but there was a lot more to Emma than what he saw, and a lot more to Lucas than Emma realized. Circumstances kept throwing them together when her parents were doing everything they could to keep her away from him, but what's meant to be will be, no matter what we think about it in the end.

I love Westerns. I love Louis L'Amour and authors like that, but I love these too. Faith in God and love for one's family were the only things you had when nothing else mattered. This book shows it all. You see the danger and the hardships these people faced, but you also see their determination and love for each other. I'm getting ready to start the next book in the series and I'm sure I'll like that one just as well.

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## **Allynn Riggs says**

Historical Western Romance is not a genre I usually read but I did enjoy Colorado Promise for several reasons. First it is about the history of the Greeley/Fort Collins, Colorado area where I grew up. I learned some things about Greeley's early years such as it had a temperance law (no alcohol) and citizens had to go to Evans if they wanted to drink. Colorado Promise had what I consider a typical romance storyline - nothing wrong with that as I got what I expected. My only complaint is very small and doesn't appear until the last few pages when everyone looks "east" toward the mountains. Hopefully this typo can be corrected, at least in the e-book. Greeley IS east of the mountains so in order to look toward them a person would be looking to the "west." But as that is the only hiccup in this delightful read I would recommend it for those who enjoy the romance genre. There is plenty of history worked in unobtrusively and the story flows.

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