



# Mail Order Cowboy

*Laurie Kingery*

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**Mail Order Cowboy** Laurie Kingery

With beaux scarce in post–Civil War Texas, practical Milly Matthews and her "Spinster Society" friends have their hands full protecting their ranches. Their only hope: advertising for mail-order grooms. But aristocratic British cavalry officer Nicholas Brookfield isn't exactly Milly's idea of a cowboy—or a man she can trust. And the more Nick proves himself as a ranch hand, the more he must hide his past from the woman he longs to make his own. Now Milly and Nick will need all their courage to face hidden dangers...and believe in a love that can answer all their prayers.

## Mail Order Cowboy Details

Date : Published November 9th 2010 by Love Inspired Historicals (first published November 1st 2010)

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Author : Laurie Kingery

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# From Reader Review Mail Order Cowboy for online ebook

## Aerykah says

Quite good!

One thing that I really liked: Though it (the relationship) seemed to be going overly fast at the beginning, I liked that it slowed down and they didn't just go get married the first time they laid eyes on each other.

Over all, a good read. I'm looking forward to reading the rest of the series. :)

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## April Suter says

I love this opening...

Simpson Creek, Texas, July 1865

"The problem, as I see it," Millicent Matthews announced in her forthright way, looking around the edges of the quilt at the members of the Ladies Aid Society, "is that we unmarried ladies are likely to remain so, given the absolute lack of single men who've come home to Simpson Creek from the war. The few men who did return were already married, and while I'm very happy for their wives, of course--" she added quickly as one of the town's matrons looked up "--the rest of us will have to leave or remain single unless Decisive Action is Taken."

The women agree to advertise and few very special men show up in town. One is a British cavalry officer, could Nick become a Texan cowboy and be the answer to Milly's dreams?

279 pages

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## Claire Noyes says

Decent, not engaging. Able to set aside in the middle.

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## Jessie Anne says

Really disappointing. This book started out on a promising premise - a mail order groom - but had NO idea what it wanted to be when it grew up. It had, among other things, British lords, Indian attacks, flash-backs to a war in India (so, 2 types of Indians) and a failed romance with the daughter of a raja, post-civil war race tensions, the KKK, a heroine that is "poor" but constantly has new dresses, a barn raising, and various neighbors that act so inconsistently, you have no idea what their characters are supposed to BE.

Liked the premise....waiting for someone else with less ideas and more skill to write it.

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## Lisa Johnson says

Title: Mail Order Cowboy

Author: Laurie Kingery

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Milly Mathews is a young woman who wants to get married, but has very few options in her hometown so she creates a group of other like-minded women. They decide to place an ad in the newspaper, inviting men who are interested in marriage to begin corresponding with the group. The ad meets with immediate success as the first man arrives in town without even answering the ad! The man in question is Nicholas Brookfield and his curiosity is piqued by the ad. He wants to meet the woman in charge of placing the ad. He meets Milly, but before they can get beyond a brief introduction Milly is called out to her ranch due to an Indian attack.

Upon arriving home where Milly lives with her sister Sarah, they discover the barn has been burned down, their livestock stolen and their only experienced ranch hand injured. The two women are at a loss as to what to do, but are determined not to sell out to their sneaky neighbor. Nick volunteers to stay and help out until the foreman gets back on his feet. A family of freed slaves agrees to work for Milly in exchange for room and board, but some in the town then begin to treat Milly differently. Milly and Nick begin to develop a relationship, but will Nick's past come back to haunt him? Will the town accept these freed slaves or will Milly send them away?

One thing I consistently find enjoyable and satisfying about these stories is that faith is always in the forefront. While this story wasn't my favorite, it does have a good plot and two likeable main characters. They pray in the good times and the bad for God's guidance and protection. The plot just wasn't to my liking. I will be reading more of these little books as they are a nice way to spend an afternoon and they bring faith to the focus.

My rating is 3 stars.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received one or more of the products or services mentioned above for free in the hope that I would mention it on my blog. Regardless, I only recommend products or services I use personally and believe will be good for my readers. 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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### **Vickie McDonough says**

The premise of this book--mail order grooms--intrigued me from the start. I enjoyed reading about the Spinsters Society and the members' plot to get husbands by advertising for them. Millie's determination to keep her ranch and protect it from marauders is admirable, and finding a partner and possible husband in a British cavalry officer was an unexpected surprise. Mail Order Cowboy has humor, adventure, romance, and an inspiring message of forgiveness. It was a delight to read.

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### **namericanwordcat says**

This book was very engaging historically and in terms of the fun twist on the mail order bride theme. In post Civil War Texas, there are not enough men of marriageable age so the unmarried ladies place an ad in the paper and so the series begins.

Our heroine is a capable kind of female and our hero is a third son of a British lord making a new start in America due to a bit of scandal while he was a soldier in India.

They are very likable and the love story is decent. This is an inspirational romance so a great deal of the development of their relationship is in the spiritual realm. We get a strong building of a foundation of a future marriage and realistic looks at resolving a number of conflicts.

Most compelling to me about this book though was the historical detail. Kingery does a wonderful job of managing a very complex moment in history. We are in post civil war, the end of slavery, the forced removal of Native Americans from the land, the migrations of ex slaves westward, the start of the KKK, and the British relations with their Colonies (like India) and the reality of the weight of the class system in England.

All of this background makes of a great setting and a book worth reading.

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### **Jessie says**

Really disappointing. This book started out on a promising premise - a mail order groom - but had NO idea what it wanted to be when it grew up. It had, among other things, British lords, Indian attacks, flash-backs to a war in India (so, 2 types of Indians) and a failed romance with the daughter of a raja, post-civil war race tensions, the KKK, a heroine that is "poor" but constantly has new dresses, a barn raising, and various neighbors that act so inconsistently, you have no idea what their characters are supposed to BE.

Liked the premise....waiting for someone else with less ideas and more skill to write it.

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### **Mona says**

I received this book through Goodreads FirstReads

I enjoyed this book. It was a sweet romance and reminiscent of some of my favorite TV shows such as Little House on the Prairie and Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman.

The author writes in a very readable style, using accessible language. Everything from the setting to the characters, dialogue, and costumes were depicted very authentically.

My ethnic origin is Indian so the historical reference of the British in India was especially interesting and familiar to me.

The author's note at the end about how she came up with the idea for the story/series was helpful and I look forward to the next book in the series.

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## **Barbara says**

This Christian historical fiction book has interesting characters and is a quick and easy read. This time, instead of mail order brides it's mail order grooms, and the effect this has on the town is big. Set right after the plot involves clean romance, faith, hatred, bigotry, indian uprisings, and neighbors helping neighbors during a crisis. This is the first book of the Brides of Simpson Creek series, and I hope to read the other two.

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## **Mariah H says**

I really liked the whole series.

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## **P.Reviewer says**

I received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

"Mail Order Cowboy" by Laurie Kingery is one of those romances that I never usually pick up. I'm more into hotter, angstier stuff, but I do like a sweet romance once in a while. I had mixed feelings about this one. The storyline is refreshingly original, and the idea of a woman choosing a man through a mail-order is empowering and different than the usual genre conventions in historical romance. I just wish there was more. The characters (Milly and Nicholas) were interesting, but I was often irritated by the heroine. Milly was endearing up to a point. As the book went on, she became more and more childish and needy. She sounded more like a 15-year old teenager to me than an actual adult. She would constantly ask herself dumb questions, such as, "Did he have any idea how he affected [me]?" I liked her at the beginning, but after she started falling for Nick, she became so annoying and needy. I liked Nick, though. I usually feel more of attachment to the heroine and her goals in romance novels, but in this one, I liked Nick much better. He came off as more of an adult, and he was really sexy! The Texas setting was gorgeous and the Texan way of speaking was incorporated really naturally into the dialogue. The tidbits about the British in India were also interesting.

Overall, this was a heartfelt romance that was nicely written. I would have rated it higher had I not been so irritated by the heroine throughout the novel. But I would definitely recommend this, and if all inspirational romances are this sweet, I think I'll read some more in the genre!

Verdict: 3 stars

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## **Barbara says**

I liked this book more than I thought I would. With the Civil War having ended, marriageable men are scarce in Texas, and a group of Christian women decide to place an ad in a local paper asking for mail-order grooms, a nice twist on the tired plot device of mail-order brides. Milly, the instigator of the ad, finds herself with British Cavalry officer Nicholas Broomfield, who's not technically a cowboy but who promises to learn how from her ranch hand, Josh.

The author nicely weaves in a subplot about racism when Milly takes in four former slaves as ranch hands; the subject is explored from the locals' reaction (some of the men are members of the KKK) and Nicholas' own experiences as a British officer in India, then held as a colony by the empire. Wisely, the author explores the issue through her characters without them preaching to each other or to the reader.

The plot is fun; the women hold a barn-raising for Milly and her sister, Sarah, ostensibly to not only provide for the sisters but to meet more eligible bachelors. Milly discovers her entrepreneurial spirit when she offers her skills as a seamstress to the owner of the general store. All the characters are somewhat flawed, but they don't fall into stereotypes. The book's cover states that this is part of the "Brides of Simpson Creek" series, so here's hoping the other novels are as much fun to read as this one.

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### **steph says**

I picked this book up on a whim because it said "Mail Order Cowboy" and while I've read quite a few stories about mail order brides, I've never read one about mail order grooms so this caught my eye. And was a good enough story to keep my attention span.

It's been less than a year since the Civil War ended and for many of the men in Simpson Creek, they did not come home. So the single ladies of the town decide to band together and form a group and place an ad in the paper inviting men to come out to Simpson Creek and meet them. What I liked the most about the group was that all the girls got along and they all played fair. When they got replies back they drew straws to see who would get the chance to write to the men but at the same time they agreed that when the men came to visit, they could choose any of the women. I liked that. There was a sense of sisterhood with this group which, knowing the Civil War had just happened, felt real and true to life.

The first man to see their ad, Nicholas Brookfield, third son of a British viscount comes into town and is immediately taken with Millie Matthews. Add in Comanche Indian attacks, racism against newly released former black slaves and ghosts from Nick's past and you have a really good love story set against the background of what I just mentioned.

Very well done. I kinda want to read the other stories in this series, just to see what else is in store for the brides of Simpson Creek.

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### **Anna Marie says**

It was time for an 'Inspirational Luvvv' book... and I figured I'd go for a Western.

Except that it was sorta Western. Sorta British. Sort of Bombay, India. Sort of Civil War in the South. It couldn't make up its mind WHAT it wanted to be. It was... hard to get a feel for, as a result.

\*\*\*All Spoilers, All the time.\*\*\*

Millie and her sister organize a ladies' group to advertise for husbands for their society, since the Civil War left their town in Texas with a shortage of men. The men are supposed to write a letter of submission and include a photo, but the first guy that shows up... Okay, frankly it made NO sense. Millie placed the ad, but it

didn't have her name on it - it was on behalf of the society. So HOW Nicholas knew to show up in town and ask for Millie is never explained. But he does - sight unseen, he doesn't even cast a glance at the other ladies when he walks in on their meeting. Which seems... odd.

Odder still, you have these good ol' girls, and Nicholas is British nobility who just happens (on a whim?) to show up for a mail order bride in Podunk, Texas?! And as if THAT isn't enough, later the author has ANOTHER British guy (from the SAME regiment) just happen to be in Texas post-Civil War. WTHheck!? And even weirder, Nick gets the ol' West town to build a stone fortress a la medieval times - I've never in my life...

At the same time, she has Millie hiring emancipated blacks, and a group in the town called 'The Circle' doing KKK-type stuff at her place. Cuz... there's time for THAT while building a castle keep and managing a marriage society and running a ranch and re-building a homestead and baking for the hotel and sewing for the mercantile and hosting parties, too. And as if ALL that weren't enough, she had to make Nick have malaria, so that Millie could take time off in the middle of ALL of this to nurse him to health. It just... was too much. WAY too much for one place/time.

In addition, the author tells us repeatedly that nobody has money after the war, but conveniently everyone has money the entire way thru the book - paying for pies, buying store-bought dresses, even paying to dance with their wives (like anyone would stop them?) It was really badly done.

And she CHEATS. All the bad guys in the book conveniently end up dead at the end. C'mon... let's not suspend reality or anything. Badly done, Kingery.

The characters were fine, but there was absolutely no chemistry. The 'inspirational' was laughable - consisted of a few sits in church, a brief prayer or two, and a few vague Bible phrases thrown around. The writing was solid, but... like I said, the author had WAY, \*WAY\* too many irons in the fire. Pick a twist and go with it. Add a secondary for spice, but SHEESH!

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