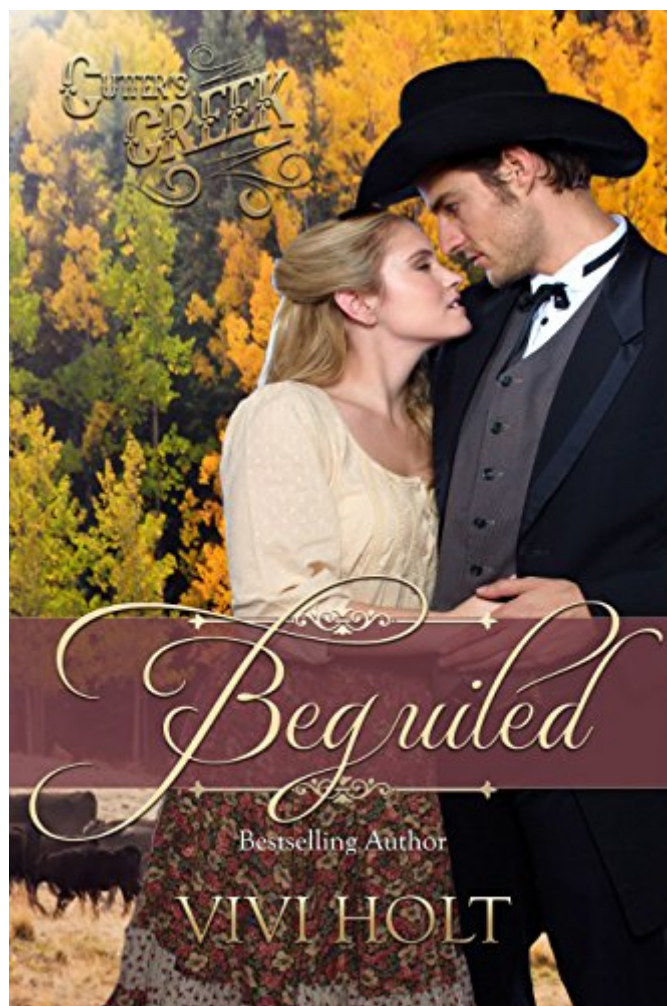


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Beguiled (Cutter's Creek Book 22)



Synopsis

When Scarlett Johnson, a sporting woman from the Rosita Saloon, is chased by a scoundrel from the only place she can call home, she boards a train bound for the western frontier. But a chance encounter with a regretful Mail Order Bride gives her an idea - what if she could impersonate the woman? Even if only for a few days - for a warm bed and a hearty meal or two. She won't marry the man, but maybe she could hole up on the ranch for a while, just until she figures out a way forward. Joe Baker, a cowboy working on the Moore ranch, waits in Cutter's Creek for the stage coach to deliver his Mail Order Bride. But when she arrives, she isn't the woman he expected her to be. She's beautiful and colorful and makes his heart pound. But is she the bride he sent for? Will Scarlett's ruse be exposed? Or will she beguile the man she has no intention of marrying? When secrets from the past come back to haunt them, both Joe and Scarlett have decisions to make, and Scarlett's life will be thrust into danger. Can they find love? Or are they destined to be torn apart by circumstances beyond their control? Journey back to Cutter's Creek where old friends await, good always triumphs over evil, and love overcomes all else in the old west.

Book Information

File Size: 5448 KB

Print Length: 192 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: July 20, 2017

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0744H57NS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #10,230 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #59

in Kindle Store > Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction > Westerns #60 in Kindle Store

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Customer Reviews

Joe Baker, a cowboy on the Moore ranch in Cutter's Creek, sends away for a mail order bride and ends up with two women. Minnie sets out for Montana to be a stranger's bride, but is reluctant to go through with it. On the train from Iowa Minnie meets Scarlett, a woman running from the cruel owner of a saloon who thinks he owns her because she works for him. Scarlett listens to Minnie sobbing story about not wanting to marry a stranger. When the train arrives in Bryan, Montana, both women get off the train, but Minnie disappears and Scarlett is standing there when the stagecoach driver mistakes her for Minnie. Not having anywhere to go, and trying to outrun Mr. Grogan, Scarlett decides to step into Minnie's role as a mail order bride for Joe Baker. After all, she won't really have to marry him, just hide out for awhile until she can take off for San Francisco. Sparks fly when Joe and Scarlett aka Minnie get to know each other. Rustlers show up a couple of times, Scarlett confesses who she really is, and Joe forgives her and falls in love and promises to never let her go. Peace reigns until Minnie shows up wanting Joe to marry her as she has run out of money and has no place to go. Will Joe honor his promise to Minnie even though she broke the promise first? Will Scarlett end up alone again and on the run? Read this fine story in the Cutter's Creek series to find out what happens.

I was quite taken with this story. It was refreshing to see a mail order bride get cold feet and back out. What I liked most is how Scarlett changed her life after pretending to be the mail order bride. Life sure gave her a raw deal all the way through. Joe was a very nice cowboy, when he made a promise he sure stuck to it, but should he have to when his first mail order bride refused to show up to marry him? This story had heart and excitement, very well worth getting and reading. I loved it and I'm sure that you will too!

Love the Cutter Creek series. When a man of honor has two perspective brides what is he to do honor his word or follow his heart. Interesting choices to make. Great dialogue. Little suspense but not resolved.

I enjoyed this book. This book has wonderful characters and a wonderful plot. I had a hard time putting this book down.

Scarlett had a hard life yet was determined to make a better life for herself. Through struggles and hardships, Scarlett stumbled upon an opportunity that she couldn't pass up. A roof over her head and food she needed but she didn't expect to find a man that would

take over her heart. Joe sent for a mail order bride not knowing what to expect when she got there. Joe was a good one and believed in doing the right thing however sometimes doing the right thing is not what the heart wants. *Beguiled* is a delightful and well-written story that will have you believing in love. The story line is fresh and moves along at a steady pace while being engaging, captivating and attention grabbing. This story hooked me from the very start and I could not put it down. The characters are easy to connect with and well developed. Vivi Holt knows how to create a story with enough romance and action to keep the reader entertained and interested. This is another fantastic book from a remarkably talented author. Vivi Holt has become one of my favorite authors. This author has not disappointed me yet! Even though this is part of a series, each book can be read as a stand-alone. I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a delightful romance.

Scarlet Johnson had ended up in prostitution, but she hated it. When the owner of the brothel steals from her, she runs away. On the train, she meets a woman who was supposed to become a mail order bride but decides not to show up. The stagecoach driver mistook Scarlet for Minnie, and Scarlet decides to continue the ruse until she can decide where to go. However trouble always seems to follow her. Joe Baker had expected a more staid lady from the few letters he'd received from his intended, but the Minnie before him was flashy, talkative, and beautiful. He found her pulling at his heart in a way he hadn't expected. They were so different but complemented each other so well. I questioned a few things.

Scarlet's trunk was so small it fit on her lap, but then she had to drag it around behind her. They wouldn't have used a flint to light a fire in 1872, because they had matches by then. I couldn't understand why Joe didn't explain the situation to Minnie, because the whole thing was really her fault. Regardless, however, this was a good novel, one of the best in the *Cutter's Creek* series.

Beguiled is a nice storyline written with the idea of lives can change for the better, people with good hearts often make mistakes, and, forgiveness can mean everything in people's future. Life in the 1800's was difficult at best. When young women were forced to leave the comforts of their parents homes, it sometimes resulted in them becoming prostitutes. They didn't go out seeking that job, it was the only way they could live and it became a way out of living in an alley. The onset of Mail Order Brides rescued not only the purest of girls but some of the gals who lived less lustrous lives and took the opportunity to become a wife out west as a way out of poverty. I've read many Mail Order Bride books and this story is a bit different as Scarlett wanted a different life, took the opportunity

and then had to ask forgiveness for lying who she was. There is no great mystery in the book but it was interesting and an enjoyable read.

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