



Hank & Chloe

Jo-Ann Mapson

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A gritty, funny, suspenseful first novel--a contemporary Western romance set in the dwindling rural canyonlands of Southern California. The heroine is Chloe Morgan, a 33-year-old part-time waitress whose only loves are Hannah, her German Shepherd, and Absolom, her beloved horse. Until, that is, she meets Henry Oliver, a professor of folklore at the local college who has his own reasons for holding back.

Hank & Chloe Details

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Author : Jo-Ann Mapson

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From Reader Review Hank & Chloe for online ebook

Denise says

"An earthy, tender tale of an unlikely romance"--I needed a romance for Valentine's Day. This is a good one. Another plus--there's a sequel!!

Carol says

Chloe is a part-time horse trainer, part-time waitress. She connects with Henry, a professor of folklore at the local college where she boards her horse. Chloe and her dog live in a primitive cabin with no water or electricity (she likes it that way) in a canyon that makes me think of Trabuco Canyon. What does she want more...her independent solitary life or Hank?

Linda says

A funny, tender, sexy Western love story about Chloe Morgan, a part time waitress and part time horse trainer who meets college professor Hank after she has tried to save the horse which belongs to his office mate. Chloe has been brought up in foster homes and is independent and tenacious, while Hank has been hen-pecked by his mother and haunted by the death of his sister; they both find it hard to make permanent attachments. This is a first novel, although the author has written short stories.

Katie says

While I did like this book and read it pretty quickly, I'm only giving it three stars because it has a lot of language which I found distracting and also it has way too many "romantic scenes" if you know what I'm saying. I felt like the swearing and these scenes were an escape of sorts so that the author didn't have to deal with harder conversations between characters and sometimes it was hard to see why (beyond the sexual attraction) the two main characters loved each other. The ending was a little abrupt too--sort of another escape from having to have an important dialogue scene.

Terry Tschann Skelton says

I really enjoyed this story. Chloe is a great character . . . hard and determined as someone who's gone through numerous foster homes can be. Hank is less formed, but still believable. I lived in Modjeska Canyon near where this story takes place. I know the environments: both the rural, hardscrabble one and the upscale Irvine/South Coast one. I too have gone back and forth between the two. I also worked at Juvenile Court in Orange County so I have some awareness of what the kids who go through the foster care system

have to deal with. This woman knows her stuff. Kudos. Can't wait to read Loving Chloe. The only thing that bothers me is that it took me so long to find JoAnn Mapson.

Peri Schacknow says

Meh. I decided to read this after loving Mapson's "The Owl And Moon Cafe", and was somewhat let down. I liked her development of the characters individually, but I'm afraid I never bought the attraction between them together as a couple. By the end, I admit I was somewhat intrigued as to what would happen to them individually, and whether or not they would make it together, but more as an interested observer than anyone with a concerned stake in the game. I suppose I will eventually pick up the follow up, "Loving Chloe", to see where that takes Chloe and Hank, but I really wish I cared just a little bit more.

Carol says

This might be the most I've ever loved a book I didn't like so much. Not sure if I can explain that. This book contains one of the most thoroughly described settings I've ever come across. It made me feel like I was living in this small California community along with the characters. I could see the rocks and paths and shacks described in the book, and could ride along with the horses, even though I know precious little about any of that. So an A+ job on settings and descriptions. The characters I grew to care about, even if I wasn't sure I exactly liked them or not. But then, that's just like real life too, isn't it? Huh. Guess I'm changing my rating from 3 to 4 stars upon that realization.

Diana says

I have read other Jo-Ann Mapson novels and just read this one.....her first novel. Mapson does such a wonderful job making her characters come to life. The settings of her books are always described in a way that it is easy for you to imagine them. The main character, Chloe, lives in the canyon land of Southern California. She is a very guarded woman and then meets Hank. just a good read.

Rebecca says

I read this book years ago -- probably not too long after it was published and I still remember the title, the characters and the story with great fondness. I remember thinking that I was completely satisfied when the book ended and wishing I had another book like it to read. Additionally, I was living in Southern California at the time and working in Irvine where the novel takes place, and was astonished to learn that a completely different rural world existed just a few miles away and I had never had any idea it was there. I was tempted to give it 5 stars for these reasons alone; however it just does not have the gravitas that I feel a 5-star rated book needs to have.

Laura Drake says

Mapson is my new favorite author. I'm glad I read a couple of others of hers first though, because the emotion is so raw in this one, that if I didn't know that she would bring a satisfying ending, I'd have had to quit it.

The characters are so real, so well-rounded -- I'm in awe of her ability.

Wonderful book.

Taci says

I loved Chloe - she was smart, strong and gritty with an interesting story. I hated Hank - he was ridiculously self-conscious and flavorless. Mapson writes great female characters, but her dudes are generally lacking...Hank even more so than usual.

Mary says

Oh I loved this story. A love story, but so filled with more than that alone. Chloe is a lady who has known so much hurt during her lifetime and has decided that there is only true love found with animals, including her horse who is slowly dying and her dog who she took in and saved. She lives on the edge of homelessness and says that is who she is and how she is happy. Then she meets Hank who is totally opposite in lifestyle. It is not always smooth going between them but the chemistry is strong, but is it strong enough? Read to find out.

Joan Horkey says

Tough cow-girl meets handsome professor. Not very exciting.

Sue says

Chloe Morgan - waitress, horsewoman. Hank Oliver - Junior college professor of mythology. They meet after Chloe had pulled an all-nighter helping a friend's horse with a difficult foaling. The friend was a co-worker of Hank's and Chloe ended up with Hank's good shirt when she needed to change clothes. Hank wanted his shirt back and found out where Chloe worked. Both Chloe and Hank had pasts that made trusting in a relationship difficult. Could they work it out?

Re-read in 2012, having not remembered anything about it. Plenty of course language and sex - described in detail - put a real damper on this for me. Not a bad storyline if you take the extras out.

Carole Beers says

The book is cleverly written but almost relentlessly intense and hopeless, at least for the two main characters. Bad things happen to them, they make bad things happen, and yet never seem to learn, grow or benefit from these experiences. What are their goals? They drift in a sea of often lovely or shocking writing yet never quite reach shore. Yes, a "happy" ending is indicated. But often I felt distanced. I think that is because taken as a whole, the book is too self-consciously "literary". I dearly love Jo-Ann Mapson's later work, such as the rich, layered and deeply characterized "Blue Rodeo," and its spinoffs. Characters really grow, relate, and choose interesting paths. Not so in "Hank and Chloe."
