



A Different Shade of Blue

Hildie McQueen

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A Different Shade of Blue:

When Nora Banks hides in a hayloft to find a moment of peace, she doesn't expect the man she's loved from afar for years to climb up and join her, or that both their fathers find them in such a compromising situation.

The last thing Grayson Cole wants is to be attached to the only woman that's affected him since his late wife. Now that everyone expects him to marry her, can he risk that kind of pain again?

Neither Nora nor Grayson plan to go through with the marriage, not when their pasts are obstacles too great to overcome. But when the tides turn and those that demanded the wedding now try pull them apart, they decide to fight it.

A Different Shade of Blue Details

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From Reader Review A Different Shade of Blue for online ebook

Tonileg says

Historical Western romance with a widower finding love after being found in a 'compromising' position with the small town school teacher.

I liked this story, although it does deal with death, murder and rape so not a 'fluff' romance story.

Grayson Cole is grieving for the future that was stolen from him when his newly wed wife dies tragically only two weeks after their marriage. Time jump five years and we meet the teacher,

Nora Banks who is avoiding marriage because of her childhood rape. Nora and Grayson get forced into an engagement which gets broken off and then reinstated so many times that I lost count about half way through the book. To complicate things, Bronson (Grayson's identical twin brother) has a crush on Nora as well.

There are a lot of deaths (accidental, medical and murder) in this story, Grayson and Nora should have lots of children immediately so they can repopulate the small town!

164 pages and kindle freebie

2 and half stars

M.A. Nichols says

This was a sweet enough book, but just had too many issues for me to really enjoy it. The story is implausible and hard to swallow, and aspects of it seemed incongruous with the time period, but most of that could have been overlooked if the story just didn't feel so shallow. The hero and heroine really have no basis for their relationship, other than their mutual attraction; it even says in the book that they've avoided each other for years, and they really don't spend much time together while the story is going on, so basically they just really like making out with each other.

There is a "mystery" with the heroine that is threaded throughout the book, hinting that she suffered some great trauma, but from the first mention of it, it was obvious what happened. It became ridiculous the way the heroine and her brother spoke of it, yet danced around the topic in a way that tried to make the reader curious about it, except the reader already guessed it ages ago. And when it finally came out, the discussion between the hero and heroine felt very stilted and out of place.

On top of that, the writing isn't good. I don't mind the occasional typo or issue--life isn't perfect and I don't expect it from this type of book--but there were so many that I'm not sure what the editor was doing when they edited it. And the author seems to hate using commas, causing a lot of confusion at different points in the book when various clauses bled together. Some sentences were so poorly worded that even after reading it several times (even reading it aloud at times), I still couldn't quite figure out what the author was trying to say. And at various times the dialogue felt so stilted and awkward that it sucked the life out of the story.

***Content warning: I don't know whether to classify this as a "clean" romance or not. There is sex in it, but it's not explicit at all. It's obvious what's going on and there is a sex scene, but it's skimmed over to the point of being almost non-existent. Frankly, the whole thing is another bizarre and ridiculous choice by the author. It's not enough to make it of any interest to someone looking for a hot and heavy romance, but most people who like clean romances won't like it. It served no purpose and was out of character for the heroine and out of place in the time period. I wouldn't have picked it up, if I had realized it was in it.

Shweta says

[For ex, I saw a lot of emphasis on Grayson's emotions how he felt after his loss etc etc. I felt No

Melinda says

This book is the story of Nora and Grayson. We see glimpses of life for the other Cole brothers as well as Nora's brother Mitch. Setting up for future books in the series. I admit I have already fallen for the Cole brothers and look forward to their stories. Nora and her brother Mitch share a dark secret that has kept both from allowing themselves to find love. Grayson having found love once in his life and having lost his wife to death through an accident, is not willing to face the chance of losing his heart again. Each is fighting their own internal battles, but when caught in the barn, rumors start flying about this play boy and sweet Nora. Her family insist on an engagement. Thus starts their story.

Vicki says

Good characters

Really enjoyed this book. The characters were easy to like and understand. I look forward to reading more from this author and this series.

Sometime says

Some Spoilers...

This book was just OK. It started out good and had an interesting premise. But the characters just didn't seem to act true to themselves. Grayson is a big cheating pig who sleeps with married women and everyone in this conservative town just looks the other way and says awww Grayson! And our sweet little school teacher who would have to behave above reproach becomes a floozy who has no problem whatsoever with intimacy despite the fact that she was raped as a teen. What????!!? Things just didn't make sense. And Grayson's unwillingness to commit and his waffling just made me mad at him. I think Nora should've dumped him and gone for Bronson.

Deleted from my kindle

Julia says

Sweet

I enjoyed the sweet characters. I love that she introduces you to other characters and their soon to be mates. I'll definitely be buying her other books.

Teresa says

This was an easy to read, enjoyable story. While I enjoyed getting to know all of the characters, sometimes I lost sight of the hero and heroine. While set as a western it sometimes almost felt like more of a contemporary romance. There were a few editorial issues and some typos but nothing that couldn't be overlooked and continue reading. It had a decent plot and a bit of humor as well. Overall, I found it to be enjoyable enough to read more by this author.

Mary says

Sweet read

I enjoyed this story. I did find it a little irritating that Grayson was supposed to be a strong, determined man, but was so set against getting married again. I admired Nora's strength and determination to be an independent woman. However for her to have dealt with the problem from her past on her own without talking to anyone, did seem far fetched. At first it was hard for me to remember Ashley was a man, as I had only heard that name for a woman. I look forward to Grayson's brothers finding a woman worthy of them. I wonder though....if the sheriff is their uncle, wouldn't his daughter be their cousin???

Susan Porter says

A different shade of book

I just decided to read a book of "fluff" 'cause I was tired of the intense mystery/crime "who done it" books I usually read. Tried this thinking it would be just like the "romance/cowboy" books usually are. Was very pleasantly surprised by this book. It was very different than the insipid, dumb completely silly and unrealistic books I've read in the past. Unexpectedly great read. Not filled w/the predictable, silly plot-less book I expected. Just light enjoyable characters and plot that was satisfying to read. Very light and tastefully done sex, no graphic violence, no gutter language. Will definitely read more from this writer. A pleasure to read and enjoy.

Wende says

Nora and Grayson were not your typical couple in western books. Nora might have been sweet but she was no man's little doormat. She did not have a terminal case of the to Stupid to live disease that threatens so many of the western leading ladies lately. She is strong but true to the time period that the book was written in. Grayson was a broody hot mess of a man. He was trying to lock his heart away from future hurt. He tried but despite his better judgment Nora wormed herself passed his defenses. Be warned you will laugh out loud at the exploit that these two get up to. It is a book that begs to be read in one sitting.

Hildie McQueen says

I wrote it, so I think it's perfect. Hope my readers enjoy it.

Will Decker says

Not only did I find the editing lacking, but also the passion factor. The characters spoke as if they were in the modern era of time while the story is supposedly set in the mid 1800's. The plot was predictable and a bit boring. If there was anything exciting in this story, it would have to be the sparks that flew between Ashley and Grace, which would make a great intro into another story, maybe one with more passion and suspense. All in all, a light western romance that could use some color (figuratively speaking).

Hanna says

Lazy Author

This author made so many errors, within the first 10% of this book, that a few minutes of research could have avoided that I got disgusted and stopped reading. Two of the most egregious (noteto author: that means "shockingly bad"): she misused the word "quipped," which means "said humorously," not "said." A 6th grade usage error. And ranchland is not "lush," especially in the Intermountain West, where this is supposedly set. If the land were lush, which means "growing luxuriently," it would be used for farming, which brings in a far higher income per acre than arid Montana ranchland. I am glad for the author's sake that she has found her market. It does not include me. I prefer authors who respect their craft and their readers.

Amanda says

I normally avoid Westerns- mostly because they are 'clean inspirational romances' aka no smut. This had a nice touch of smut, and engaging plot.
