



Before the Leap

Liz Isaacson , Elana Johnson

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The ranch foreman, a fiery new designer, and an old flame that could burn them both...

Jace Lovell only has one thing left after his fiancé abandons him at the altar: his job at Horseshoe Home Ranch. He throws himself into becoming the best foreman the ranch has ever had—and that includes hiring an interior designer to make the ranch owner's wife happy.

Belle Edmunds is back in Gold Valley after she lost her job at a prestigious design firm in California. She's working for a conglomerate, but she's desperate to build a portfolio that she can use to start her own firm in Montana. She applies for the job at Horseshoe Home, and though Jace and Belle grew up together, they've never seen eye to eye on much more than the sky is blue.

The spark between them now that they're adults can't be denied, and as Jace and Belle attempt to work together, they also fight their growing attraction to each other. But Jace isn't anywhere near forgiving his fiancé, and he's not sure he's ready for a new relationship with someone as fiery and beautiful as Belle. Can she employ her patience while he figures out how to forgive so they can find their own brand of happily-ever-after?

**This is Book 1 in a brand-new series! See below for the order of books Liz has written. All books are standalone romances, but are tied to a specific place to create a series.

Gold Valley Romance (spinoff series from Three Rivers Ranch):

Before the Leap (Book 1)

After the Fall (Book 2) - *coming February 20, 2017*

Through the Mist (Book 3) - *coming April 3, 2017*

Three Rivers Ranch Romance:

Second Chance Ranch (Book 1)

Third Time's the Charm (Book 2)

Fourth and Long (Book 3)

Fifth Generation Cowboy (Book 4)

Sixth Street Love Affair (Novella)

The Seventh Sergeant (Book 5)

Eight Second Ride (Book 6)

Christmas in Three Rivers (Novella collection)

The First Lady of Three Rivers Ranch (Book 7 - can also be read first!)

Lucky Number Thirteen (Novella) ~ *coming March 6, 2017!*

Before the Leap Details

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Author : Liz Isaacson , Elana Johnson

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From Reader Review Before the Leap for online ebook

Courtney says

"Before the Leap" is a beautiful tale about Tom's (from the Three Rivers Ranch series) brother Jace and a lovely lady names Belle. Now if you haven't read the previous series I will fill you in a smidgen so you understand a little bit more background; in Liz Isaacson's fourth novel in her other series- "Fifth Generation Cowboy"- we had learned about Jace trying to gain the momentum to purpose to his girlfriend of two years named Wendy and how throughout the novel he just couldn't gain the courage to do so.

When reading this story you will read of heartbreak, humiliation, and finally joy filled with an abundance of happiness. There have been a multitude of hurts for both Jace and Belle, but with the love of the Lord they just might find what they've been missing all along in one another. My only complaint found within this novel would have to be that I wish it would have been more Christ centered, other than that Ms. Isaacson has another hit on her hands.

I would just like to say that there are over 6 books in this series (so far), and I am not normally a fan of series that run this long (unless they really hold your attention); however, Mrs. Isaacson grabs your attention with the multiple characters throughout the many novels and manages to keep them all tied together without having to repeat herself a multitude of times throughout each story. Wonderful job, if you enjoy one, you will enjoy all of them.

Deborah Andreasen says

Love at it's sweetest

Very sweet love story about two people who have a lot of hurts to overcome before they can find true happiness. There was almost a little too much back and forth between arguing and then getting along. Other than that, I really enjoyed this book. Great clean romance.

Crystal says

Growing up together, Jace Lovell and Belle Edmunds never saw eye to eye on anything resulting in many sparring matches. When Belle returns home and is hired by Jace to remodel Horseshoe Home Ranch their casual jabs at each other still exist, but now there's something more- a strong attraction that draws them together and that neither can deny exists. Although he is more than interested in Belle, Jace is gun shy about beginning a new relationship after being gilted at the altar just a few short months before. Recognizing the remnants of hurt and vulnerability this event caused, Belle steadfastly demonstrates her commitment to him by taking things slowly and making life changes to show Jace she wants something deeper. In the end, Jace has to decide to trust her with his heart if he wants any chance of a future with Belle.

This was the first novel I've read by Isaacson, and can I just say that her novels will have a permanent home on my shelf! This story was rich in emotional turmoil, the excitement (and tentativeness) found in a budding romance, tension between the two main characters, forgiveness, and the redemption of second chances!

This review contains my own thoughts and opinions. I have not been compensated in any way from the publisher or the author.

Jennifer says

A beautiful story of getting a life back together after being let down. I like the way that the H/h have to work through their problems before they can get their HEA

Karen says

True Romance

Liz Isaacson wrote this great romantic story about Jace and Belle in this first book of the Gold Valley Romance series. If the other books in this series are as great as this one, I will enjoy reading all of them. Anyone who enjoys reading clean romance will enjoy this book.

Mary Baker says

I liked this book but kept waiting for it to end. I gave it 3 stars because I did like the plot and the characters; but, after a while, the story itself became tedious. Just as I thought the author had come to a resolution of the conflict and would conclude the story, something else would come up. The relationship between Jace and Belle was fun, but the story just went on for too long. I was running out of patience waiting for the protagonists to take "the leap." This is a good clean story, the kind I prefer. It was free on Kindle.

Mary Beth says

Before the Leap. . .and it is a long before.

Ranch foreman Jace Lovell has been angry since his ex-fiancée failed to show up for their wedding. He is angry and bitter at Wendy, frustrated and distrustful of himself that he never realized how unhappy she was and not sure he will know true love if and when he finds it, and embarrassed to be a topic of gossip since Wendy left him standing at the front of the church and all the town's people without giving him a hint she wouldn't be showing up.

While ranch life in a Montana winter is slower for the cowboys, Jace still doesn't look forward to hiring an interior designer to renovate the main house and all of the cowboy cabins. However, his boss's wife has decided it must be done.

Belle Edmunds has returned to her hometown after getting unjustly fired from her job with a big design firm in Sacramento. Her brother works under Jace. Belle remembers Jace from her time in Gold Valley, but the two always seemed to rub each other the wrong way. Jace would say something to her and she would return the insult or sarcasm. She never considered Jace to be much more than annoying. However, she lands the

renovation job for the ranch.

Belle and Jace spend time together as the renovation progresses, but the relationship takes weeks to progress from seeing each other for work reasons and a few hand holds to a cooling off period. Jace doesn't seem it safe to take the relationship to the next level, kissing, until Belle rents her own house and moves out of her parents's home. Then, as they become an exclusive item, Jace accuses Belle of not being authentic and changing herself for him.

Thus, ensues another cooling off period while Jace tries to figure out how he can be with Belle without hurting her. Wendy's reappearance in town prompts Jace to show up at Belle's door and demand she marry him. Belle turns him down flat and the two stop communicating at all.

Through therapy, Jace comes to terms with the abrupt ending to his relationship with Wendy and learns to trust himself again. Only then can he and Belle finally find their happily ever after.

The beginning of the story discusses forgiveness, how Jace forgave his mother for walking out on their family and how Belle has not forgiven her ex-boyfriend for not standing up for her. However, readers never see Jace forgive Wendy. He encounters her and learns how to interact with her and to manage his reaction to her, but there isn't a continuation of the forgiveness theme. Belle seems to continuously forgive Jace for his missteps.

I'm not sure how realistic this is. She doesn't make excuses for him like abused women do, but she locks herself away and pines for Jace. I certainly wouldn't have the patience to wait on him. Although it is satisfying to see the characters get their happily ever after, I don't know if I will read more books by this author, unless the women come across as strong enough to forgive their men while refusing to settle for being treated as if their feelings don't matter.

Ladyp says

Jace Lovell is a rancher through and through. But he was jilted at the altar a few months' prior and he doesn't know how to forgive or forget.

Gloria Brush, the wife of the owner who owns the ranch where Jace works, has decided to update everything on the ranch and she does mean everything!

Jace has to interview the interior designers for the job. Ugh could anything be worse, were Jace's thoughts on the interviewing process. As a man he didn't really understand why Gloria wanted to remodel.

Landon one of his best friends and a cowboy on the ranch sent in the last designer, for her interview. It was his sister Belle and wow Jace could have fell off his chair. Jace, Landon, and his sister Belle had all grown up together.

Jace and Belle have never seen eye to eye on anything but we all know that can sometimes be the best thing when it comes to love! A little spicy seasoning is what every man and woman needs to keep the spark alive! I love a clean romance and this is a wonderful romantic little love story. It does have its pitfalls here and there but what's a love story without a little chaos?

Is there anything that can keep Jace and Belle from getting together and taking that leap of faith?

There are more characters that one needs to read, that will help you to understand, why Jace has such a problem with love.

I unlike some other readers did not feel like this story moved too fast. I thought it was just right.

Kristen says

Fun and flirty and clean!

Tami says

This review is based on the ARC provided by the author and/or the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion.

Sweet inspirational romance. The hero and heroine are both getting over past hurts. I recommend this book to anyone that loves a good Christian romance.

Veda says

First book I have read from Liz Isaacson, and I liked the book. What I hadn't realized was this is the next series for her and has characters from her previous series Three Rivers, but that didn't stop from enjoying this big.

A great love story, sweet and nit over the top on sex or religion.

Teresa Christianson says

Jace has a lot of emotional baggage that he needs to deal with from when his mom left him, his brother and dad when he was young to his fiancé leaving him standing at the alter without a word almost a year ago. He is working on rebuilding a relationship with his mom after all these years. He has just stuffed his feelings and anger toward his ex and not dealt with them. When Belle comes out to the farm to interview for the remodel job he is shocked that she is back. They have always been like oil and water. Belle lost everything in San

Francisco when she was thrown under the bus so to speak for a mistake that was made and she didn't stick up for herself. Now she comes with the best plans for the reno and Jace is forced to work with her. Will their faith be enough to get them through all the hurt from their past and the hurt that Jace seems to keep inflicting on Belle? Will she be able to give him the time that he needs or will she give up on him? Will Jace be able to work through all his feelings and anger for his ex and his feelings for Belle before he loses her for good?

Joan says

[This was somewhat 'meh' for me. There was little real conflict and too many unanswered questions to make it a satisfying read. Perhaps I missed something, but there seemed to be a fair amount of foreshadowing with the partner at work - Calvin - who handed Belle a major contract, and I never found out just WHY Wendy left Jace at the altar or why Jace's mother walked away and left her boys. (and knowing the damage that can do to a young boy, I find it hard to accept that he would fo

Elena Johansen says

Easy problems to point to: lots of amateur writing mistakes, like using a word incorrectly or using the wrong word, excess stage direction, choppy or stilted dialogue paired with abrupt and unsignaled shifts in mood.

More complicated: I don't understand why these two people love each other? There's a little banter, some physical attraction and tension, and then they fall in love basically out of nowhere. Neither of them has much personality; Jace's obvious depression is a mental illness, but not a substitute for being an actual character. They fall in love because that's what people in romances do, but not because they have any actual compatibility, interesting interactions, or similar life goals/plans. Not at first, anyway. Also, they spend a huge chunk of the book taking turns giving each other the silent treatment, which is just not interesting to read.

That's a lot of negative, but there were a few good points for me. I like my romance heroes to be some variation of sweet, sensitive, or emotionally accessible, and Jace's willingness to show his vulnerabilities to Belle ticks that box nicely. Also the fight they have about how he (wrongly) thinks Belle is changing herself to fit into his life is a new one in my romance-reading experience, and I value originality. Many men would be more than happy to let a woman change herself to make a better partner in that way, and I think better of Jace for not doing that.

Coco.V says

FREE on Amazon today (9/16/2017)!
