



Texas True

Janet Dailey

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"Big, bold, and sexy, *Texas True* is Janet Dailey at her best!" --Kat Martin

He's the one who got away.

The cowboy who claimed her heart before taking off on a tour of duty, planning never to return. But Beau Tyler is back, and Natalie Haskell feels defenseless against the powerful pull of the brawny soldier. Especially when she finds herself suddenly widowed and needing the shelter of his strong arms.

She's the hometown sweetheart.

The girl Beau left behind but never forgot, despite his battle-scarred soul. Now Natalie is the real reason he's staying on at the ranch, despite rumors that he was somehow involved in her late husband's death. Because something in Beau has stirred to life again--something he believed his painful past had destroyed. And not even wild horses can keep him from the woman he still loves

Texas True Details

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From Reader Review Texas True for online ebook

Marsha Corley says

I've read all of Janet Dailey's Calder series and enjoyed them. I've been waiting for her to release a new book for some time so when I found this one at the library, I was excited. I found the book interesting until I got about half way through it. As it seems with many romance writers, when they tend to delve into other genre such as mystery, the book begins to lack credibility. Beau is touted as being this hotshot DEA agent, but when he is questioned by the Sheriff he asks "Do I need a lawyer". That is just a dumb statement to come from a seasoned cop. He is interrogated while not under arrest, but he is told he can't leave the interrogation room. Any cop knows that unless someone is under arrest, they are free to leave at any time. Additionally, the idea that Slade had been shot with a 50 cal. bullet and there only being a hole in his head that Lute decides to shoot another bullet through using a .30 cal at close range is nothing short of stupid. Either of these bullets would have come close to obliterating Slade's head. So, with all these things combined, for me, the story fell apart and I found myself skimming to the end.

Monique E. Lacroix says

Not for me

Some people would love this type of book, I don't. Reading for me is to relief stress. Too much in this book has the opposite effect.

The book is fairly well written so no problem there. I just wish there had been a mention of violence in the description.

Judith Sherrod says

Texas True

Janet Dailey, excellent author. I have read many of her books through the years. Her Americana series and her Caulder series being some of them. The Tyler's of Texas is looking to be just as delightful. Love, murder, greed and treachery leads to a very interesting read

Krystina Schuler says

Part Romance, part murder mystery. I liked this story overall, but I found the romantic story taking a backseat to the murder mystery. As a first book in the series it lays the groundwork for the complicated web of relationships in Blanco Springs and its seedy underbelly. The Tylers find themselves at the center of it more than they'd like. I liked Beau and Natalie, but I didn't find their relationship as compelling as that of Sky's in the next book (I read them out of order).

Pauline Frost says

Another series you can get hooked on. The life of a rancher and how difficult it can be if you do not fall in love with the land and the struggles of working hard. It will draw you in from the start, but cannot wait to read the rest. It is a stand alone read but why stop at this one when you can read about the rest of the major players.

Alisha says

I loved this book, and saddened that Janet won't be writing any more.

Rafaela says

This is the first book in the Tylers of Texas series. Enjoyed the book. Beau Tyler is back and things have definitely changed in his hometown. The biggest change of all is the girl he left behind. Natalie Haskell is now married, and the town veterinary. Is she happy? Are there sparks? Although I enjoyed this book, and will read the rest of the series. It is not the same caliber as the Calder series, which I have read over and over through the years.

Karla says

I only read this book for a reading challenge. It was the most painful 260 pages of my life. The writing was mediocre at best.

Amy says

another great book by this author. onto the second one.

Darlene Torday says

I remember reading her first book and when I read this one I did not realize she had died. It saddened me to know she will no longer be writing books I would enjoy reading.

This is one of her best in my opinion. I think the ones set in Texas seemed to be her niche and I really enjoyed this one. She had me guessing until the true killer was revealed. It was a surprise to me as I would not have guess who it was but when revealed I realized it made sense.

Dave M Funderburk says

A true Janet Dailey book.

This is on par with her Calder Series of books. I hope and pray she had more written about The Tylers before she passed away. I have every book she ever wrote from 1981 til now and am going to miss her terribly.

Jennifer Robb says

I can remember reading Janet Dailey while in high school (with my friend Donna M.) though then it was the Calder family rather than the Tylers.

What I liked about this book: I liked the Tyler family and the way they treated their loyal employees. Natalie's devotion to her job in going out on various calls at all times of the day or night and also being willing to help locals by donating her supply of antivenin etc. I did not guess who the real killer was until it was revealed.

What I didn't like about this book: The brothers seem too often to order others around (including each other). They seem to have to call life flight an awful lot as well as having a lot of violence surrounding their ranch and town. Natalie and Beau carry on with each other while she is still a married woman (though the most explicit parts do happen after she's decided to divorce her abusive husband). Lute's sense of entitlement and unwillingness to work at a menial job.

Overall, Dailey's prose didn't draw me in the way I remember it doing years ago.

Shirlene says

Virgil "Bull" Tyler died as a result of living on pain pills and booze after a paralyzing accident while working his ranch. His sons, Will and Beau inherited equal shares of the ranch. Beau and his father had a falling out and Beau had gone into the military and Iraq. He now worked in DC with the DEA but returned for the funeral. Will asked him to stay and help with the ranch but Beau wasn't sure that he wanted to. He saw his ex-girlfriend, Natalie Russo and knew it would be a difficult decision. Natalie was married now to Slade Haskell. She had given up waiting for Beau to return home after his mititary duty ended. Beau hadn't returned immediately due to his mental state after being a military sniper. He returned a different man and needed time to adjust upon his return.

Beau intended to stay for one day but decided to stay for a couple of weeks and help with the spring roundup. Will got bit by a rattlesnake and Beau took an indefinite leave of absence from the DEA to give Will the months he needed to heal.

The ranch foreman, Jasper Platt, was semi-retired but helped Beau with much needed advice. Sky Fletcher was assistant foreman and part Comanche. He had been on the ranch for 14 years. Will's plan was for Sky to take on the training of more colts to expand the income of the ranch. Sky had let his cousin, Lute Fletcher, come to work on the ranch but he was lazy and ended up getting fired by Beau when he almost caused the

death of one of the ranch mares, Lupita, who had just given birth to a stallion that was given to Erin, Will's 12 yr old daughter. Erin named the colt Tesoro, meaning treasure. Erin's mother was Victoria "Tori". Beau didn't know the reason behind her and Will's breakup. He had asked out of curiosity but was given no answer.

After Will was taken to the hospital due to the snake bite, Jess Warner's body was found on the ranch property. She had been shot in the head the night after Lute had taken her out for pizza. Jess worked at the local bar and sold herself for extra money. She had sex with Natalie's husband in his truck and had found guns under the hay in the bed of his truck. She knew that she was in trouble for the discovery and was packing to leave town. Slade paid her in cocaine which she sold to a local dealer for more money. Slade made runs into Mexico with guns in exchange for drugs. The owner of Slade's trucking company, unknown to most everyone, was Stella Rawlins, owner of the local bar.

Lute had found out that Slade's wife was Beau's ex and went to Slade to offer his services to spy on the happenings on the ranch and Natalie. Slade paid him cash every week for information. One of his messages told Slade that Natalie and Beau had gotten together when Beau had kissed her. Slade had gotten drunk while waiting for Natalie to return from a veterinary call one night and hit her, causing her to have a concussion. Natalie was also raped by Slade while she was unconscious. Natalie called Tori, a lawyer, who took her to the hospital and filed for a divorce along with a restraining order.

The county sheriff, Hoyt Axelrod, was investigating the death of Jess and asked Beau to help him if he found anything suspicious. Beau decided to look into the Blue Coyote and it's owners, Stella and her bar tender, Nigel.

Congressman Garn Prescott had given the been the officiant of Bull's funeral and Beau didn't understand that. Bull and Ferguson, Garn's father, had been bitter enemies. There was a piece of the ranch that Bull had sold to Ferguson and the boys wanted it back. It was that small piece of land that Ferguson had promised his father he would hold onto. None of the children understood the value of the land. Garn had a daughter that he tried to bargain with. He told Will that he would give the land to his daughter suggesting that Beau marry her to gain possession of the land. Will found that he like the daughter, Lauren, and asked her if she would like to help set up the books for the ranch. She hadn't been raised by Garn and was nothing like he expected her to be.

Lute was asked by Stella to keep an eye on Slade and finally to dispose of him. She told him that Slade had been the one who killed Jess knowing that would anger Lute. Lute had liked Jess. Lute saw this as a step up and set about a way to make it happen. Slade hadn't been the one to kill Jess. He just disposed of the body as instructed by Stella. All Lute cared about was a way to make more money. Lute wrote a note to Slade signed by Beau asking him to meet at the bog where Jess had been found. Slade headed there with a gun intending to kill Beau. He didn't get the chance because he was shot in the head. Lute had stolen Jasper's gun out of his truck. Jasper had just noticed it the day before Slade's murder.

Will was getting better and the swelling in his leg had gone down. Some pain was still lingering. Sky had returned from looking for horses and he had gone to see Lute. He told Lute to stay off the ranch and never to return. The damage he had done would not be forgotten. Erin had come to the ranch to stay for the summer. Will mentioned that a lawyer would be coming by the next day to read Bull's will. Beau wondered why it had taken so long. He went into town to check on Natalie. Slade had called him out but ended up being beaten with a few select punches by Beau who had been well trained. He and Natalie were sleeping together again. Will told him to make sure he was home the next day to meet with the lawyer.

Beau went into town and stopped by the Blue Coyote. He noticed that Nigel wasn't there and the place was busy. He left and went to Natalie's but she wasn't home. He headed for home himself.

Lute had gone to meet with Slade having Jasper's rifle. When Lute arrived at the bog, Slade was already dead. Lute shot him in the same hole as the previous bullet and added a few more rounds. He wiped the gun intending to drop it off near the road. He intended for Beau to be blamed for the killing. He went to tell Stella that he had shot Slade but didn't intend for her to know that someone had beat him to actually doing the killing.

Lute was put in charge of Haskell trucking and took a trip to Mexico with guns. He was paid in drugs and headed back towards home. He had picked up some illegals to return to the US with. It was extra money for him. He also had been told that he would be paid well for a palomino colt. He planned on stealing the colt and his mother from the Tyler's ranch. He crossed the border walking and had gotten to the ranch and was hiding out. He set on of their buildings on fire to cause a distraction to get the colt. He ended up having to hit Erin over the head but Beau found her and she was going to be fine. Beau had put tracking devices on the ranch vehicles and found Lute's location. Bernice, the Tyler's housekeeper told Beau and Sky that she would call the sheriff as they were leaving the house heading to Lute's location.

Natalie had gone by the trucking company and was given Slade's dirty laundry. She couldn't sleep one night after she was told that the sheriff was going to try and convict Beau of murdering both Slade and Jess. He was planning on naming Natalie as co-conspirator in the murder using Slade's treatment of her and the fact that Beau and her were back together again as a motive for wanting him dead. She found a bank deposit slip in his jacket pocket showing almost \$100,000 and she was determined to show it to the sheriff as proof that he had to have been involved in some type of illegal activity to try and convince him to look at other suspects in the murders. She knew that she would have to wait until morning.

She headed to the sheriff's house first thing and he didn't answer the door. She walked around back and heard the phone ring. She overheard enough of what was said to know that it was the Tyler's housekeeper, Bernice. She then heard a woman's voice and she recognized Stella telling the sheriff that he needed to do whatever was necessary to keep Beau from talking to Lute. Natalie hid as the sheriff headed out and she followed him. Her phone was dead and she couldn't call Beau.

Beau and Sky had found Lute and called out to him to talk to them. Lute refused and tried to escape on his Vespa. He was shot in the head and died instantly. Sky was then shot in his side trying to get out of the open area he was standing in. Beau tried to figure out who it was and remembered Bernice's parting comment about calling the sheriff. Both Sky and Beau knew it was Axelrod who had just announced that he was running for political office and attempting to displace Garn Prescott. Sky had met Lauren Prescott and didn't know that she was his daughter. She had made a pass at him and Sky told her that she needed to be more careful who she picked up since there was a murderer loose in town. She thought Sky was the most handsome man she had seen since the death of her fiancée.

Beau got his truck between Axelrod and Sky and got him into the truck. Axelrod had snuck around them and had a gun on them. Natalie came up behind them with her rifle and threatened to shoot him if he didn't drop his gun. She said she was too close to miss. Beau and his phone with him and had recorded Axelrod's confession to the murders.

It was all over. Stella wasn't charged with anything. They were thinking that something would come up when Axelrod went to trial but she was safe for now. Beau and Natalie became engaged and were planning to marry in the fall. Her and Beau had both been cleared of all charges.

Sky found out that Bull had purchased a hundred acres of land next to his ranch and given it to him upon his death. Sky couldn't believe that Bull had cared enough for Sky to do something like that for him. Sky had admired the land but didn't realize Bull had paid attention.

Sky was surprised to learn that Beau had hired Lauren to help him work on improving the bookkeeping of the ranch. Lauren hadn't told Sky her name. They were about to meet again.

Jenny says

Easy read

Stephanie Jenkins Ortiz Cerrillo says

The Iraq war had many casualties and not all of them were actual deaths. Emotional deaths of soldiers is common after war. PTSD broke many men's spirits. This is the case with Beau, the young man that left his family's ranch for war and did not return back to the states. Beau was left forever changed. He vowed to never return to the ranch and to his high school sweetheart. He never wrote home to his family or his high school sweetheart, Natalie, that was waiting for his return. Beau ended up in D.C. and was a DEA agent for the following decade. He finally returns to the ranch to attend the funeral of his father. He vows to attend the service and get right back to D.C.

Natalie was left devastated when Beau never wrote and never returned from his tour of duty. She's married. She has her vet business. She's still in love with Beau no matter how she tries to convince herself she's not. She now knows that Beau does still love her too but she's married and doesn't believe in divorce.

Beau agrees to stay on at the ranch to help with the spring roundup. His brother, Will, gets bit by a rattlesnake and will not be able to work for weeks so Beau agrees to take his full two week leave from his job to help around the ranch. The second murder occurs in the short time that Beau has been home. The latest being Natalie's husband, Slade. The sheriff is determined to prove that Beau is the killer and is trying to prove that Natalie could be his accomplice. Can Beau and Sky, Beau's half brother, prove Beau and Natalie's innocence?

Another great Texas based Western from Janet Daily.
