

# **Captivating the Cowboy**

Jenna Bayley-Burke

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Fashion designer Jules O'Connor is counting the days until she leaves the three-stoplight town of Opal Creek to start her life in New York. She's finally going to be able to focus on building her career instead of layer cakes. One of the things she will miss about her current job waitressing in her small town is getting to witness sexy rancher Slade Weston attempt to find "the one".

Fourth-generation cattle rancher Slade Weston is looking to settle down, but not even NotMyFirstRodeo.com has found him a match. When Slade's string of first dates in the restaurant where Jules works gets comical, she offers to be his wing-woman. He can use all the help he can get. Friends turn into friends with benefits, but Jules doesn't want to be a wife and mom, and Slade sure as hell doesn't want to move to New York City.

With no strings to get tangled in, Jules is free to follow her dreams. But as their attraction grows deeper, both wonder if they need to rethink their dreams of the future

Each book in the Not My First Rodeo 2 series is a STANDALONE story that can be enjoyed out of order.

Books in series:

Captivating the Cowboy Roping the Rancher Seducing the Sheriff

#### **Captivating the Cowboy Details**

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### From Reader Review Captivating the Cowboy for online ebook

#### Bernie says

Captivating the Cowboy is another lovely romance in the Not My 1st Rodeo series written by author Jenna Bayley-Burke.

#### **Bette Hansen says**

I absolutely LOVED this story!! It's a whole lot of goodness packed into a little more than 100 pages making it a fun, sexy, quick read that will grabbed you by the heart from the first page.

For the last ten months Slade Weston has been on one bad first date after another. After losing his wife more than two years ago he's ready to move on with his life. Running a ranch and raising two small children doesn't leave a lot of time for dating so he signs up with Notmyfirstrodeo.com to help him along. Strangely though none of the women the site sets him up with have any appeal. Not like the sassy charismatic waitress at the local diner! Too bad Jules Conner has her sights set on leaving Opal Creek in the dust and heading to design school in NY as soon as her younger sister graduates high school. Until then maybe a little fun between the sheets might be just what they both need. Can they both walk away from this when the time comes with their hearts unscathed??

You definitely want this on your tbr list! I highly recommend it.

#### **Dottie says**

This is one of those books that are so hard to describe for fear of giving away an incredible story. A sexy romp with Slade Weston who is a widower close to two years with two children and the need to get married and have more children. Jules O'Connor last thing on her list is marriage and children, she designs clothes and "cakes" for her uncle's Cattlemen's restaurant, only till she can get to New York to design school. Jules has issues not having a mom and feeling she never belongs anywhere, an inconvenience to everyone that is until Slade. Every Friday night Slade brings in a different women until one night he leaves with one and returns alone. Jules jumps on the opportunity to find out why and this is the beginning of a sexy, loving, warm, happy, enjoyable book that takes you on the fantastic journey between Slade and Jules. Sometimes what we think we want in life is not really what we want and Jules finds out there are things bigger than us that can change our life for the better. I cannot even put in words how much I enjoyed this book, I fell in love with Slade from page one and your heart will truly hurt for Jules but Ms. Bayley-Burke has put so much emotion into this story you will not be able to put it down. If you never read a book by her you will go back and get them all, she is an amazing author that has written a book that is a keeper. Don't miss this its more than 5 stars.

#### **Christine says**

I really enjoyed this up until the last chapter, when the plot hit warp speed and done and over way too fast. Sadly it's just a case of short story syndrome. The heroine made a decision all too quickly and before you even had a chance to process what just happened, you're hit with the epilogue. I wish there had been a few more chapters in-between that slowed the pace just a bit.

#### Lisa says

This is a fun, light-hearted romance that is a quick read. However, I loved reading it. This is the story of Slade Weston and Julianne "Jules" O'Connor. Slade is a widower with two small children, April and Gus. His goal is to remarry and find a mother for children. Jules, on the other hand, has been accepted to a prestigious designer school in New York. She plans to leave this small town and become a dress designer.

In order to find a wife, Slade comes in every Friday to Jules's uncle's restaurant where Jules works. When Slade explains what is going on to Jules, she calls it "Project Replacement Wife." Still, she suggests that Slade come up to her room, and he does. She doesn't want become serious because she plans to leave. When Jules explains that to Slade, she adds, "You're everything I don't want."

It's words like those that make me adore Jules. She is up-front, sassy and brash. She's had a hard life with her mother moving around all of the time, and she considers herself trash. Therefore she doesn't believe she belongs with someone like Slade.

Slade is a good man who desperately wants to get married. However, he find himself caring more for Jules than for anyone of those various other women he goes out with every Friday. He is a fifth generation cattle rancher who is from a wealthy family. Will ,easily, sees through Jules's façade and realizes that, underneath, she is a good, caring gentle woman.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Jules and Slade are both loveable characters. And even though they appear to be opposites in every way, even in their goals, they are more alike than they realize. I couldn't help rooting for them as I was reading. Along the way, there were a couple of sad places, but mostly there was fun and humor and wonderful, loving people. This is a perfect book to brighten your day and make you smile. In fact, I can't wait to read about the other brothers!

#### **Donna Repsher says**

I received an ARC of this novella from the author in exchange for an honest review and here it is: 3.5 stars.

Slade Weston is a wealthy widower with two young children and for the past 10 months he's been at Cattlemen's, an upscale restaurant, with a different woman every Friday night, a fact that has not gone unnoticed by Jules Conner, the hostess at Cattlemen's. When one of his dates ends early, Jules assumes he's left and seats another couple at his table, only to have him return minutes later and let her know that he wasn't leaving without eating his dinner. She re-seats him at a more private booth behind the bar and then joins him and begins to ask him about his serial dating habit. When he explains his situation and need for a wife and mother for his two children, and his use of the dating site NotMyFirstRodeo.com," she immediately begins to give him dating advice and learns that he's noticed that in all the time he's been coming in, he's

never seen her in the same dress twice. She explains that she makes her own dresses and she's soon to be leaving for New York to attend a prestigious fashion design school and that she cannot wait to leave this small town behind. It's clear that these two are attracted to one another but Jules is most certainly not interested in ranching, raising or having children and being stuck in this small town. She does, however, have a very blunt manner and a smart mouth, and she puts it to good use when she invites Slade upstairs to her apartment when the restaurant closes, makes no secret of her sexual interest in him, learns that he's not had sex in the past 10 months and offers herself up to him. When he discovers she's naked beneath her dress, he's all in, literally and figuratively, and although the author can certainly write a hot and steamy sex scene, this reader found the fact that Jules eschews underwear and stockings at her job rather questionable.

What begins as a one-night stand soon becomes a regular Friday ritual between Slade and Jules, and at this point in this short novel, this reader found Jules' behavior and easy admission that she's probably had sex with half the men in town rather sluttish and skanky. It was difficult to understand why a man seeking a wife and mother for his two young children would be attracted to her, aside from their many erotic sexual encounters, during which talking is the last thing they do.

It's only when Jules is hired to make bridesmaid gowns and update a heirloom wedding gown for an upcoming Weston wedding and has to visit the Weston ranch for fittings that we begin to learn more about her and see her in a different light. It's also when Slade's small daughter, who barely ever speaks and is exceedingly shy and reclusive, comes out of her shell, approaches Jules and starts to speak, that we begin to see past her smart mouth and slutty behavior and begin to understand why she behaves as she does.

There's certainly more to this short novel and more depth to Jules' character than one might have guessed from her initial introduction, and I only wish the author had portrayed her as more likable and sympathetic from the very beginning, just as she did with Slade.

#### Pennie Morgan says

I wasn't just captivated by the cowboy, I fell in love with the cowboy and the designer/baker/perfect woman for him. This story melted my heart and had me flipping kindle pages so quickly I had this read before I knew it and tears streaming. Slade and Jules were absolutely perfect for each other even though neither was looking for what the other brought to the table. I had read the story about the other Weston sibling who used the website Slade was using to find a wife and so some of the characters were familiar. I recommend both of these books!

\*\*Received this book in exchange for an honest review\*\*