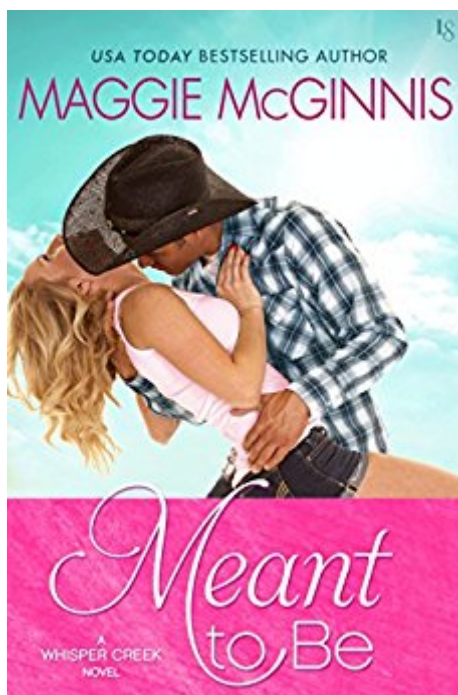


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Meant To Be: A Whisper Creek Novel



Synopsis

Hailed by Christie Craig as “a witty new voice in contemporary romance,” Maggie McGinnis takes readers back to Montana’s sexiest dude ranch, where anyone can start over, and falling in love is just a beautiful twist of fate. At twenty-eight, Shelby Quinn is already a has-been. Scooped off a country stage at sixteen and remolded into glittery pop princess Tara Gibson, she toured the country for a decade, playing to sold-out stadiums while slowly losing her soul. Now her sales are waning, and when her beloved father dies in a fiery plane crash, she finally comes apart at the seams. Alone and brokenhearted, she hides away at Whisper Creek Ranch, never expecting to meet a man who understands her in a way no one else ever has. Cooper Davis was one of Boston’s top detectives until a bogus investigation cost him his badge, his family, and almost his life. Now he’s wrangling horses and guests at Whisper Creek Ranch, while keeping one eye firmly on a super-secret VIP holed up in a private cabin • a beautiful, soulful singer who knows what it’s like to lose everything. Cooper and Shelby both have ample reason to guard their hearts. But if they can learn to trust each other, something magical awaits them under the big skies and bright stars. Maggie McGinnis’s sweetly sensual Whisper Creek novels can be read together or separately: ACCIDENTAL COWGIRL | A COWBOY’S CHRISTMAS PROMISE | ONCE UPON A COWBOY | UNLUCKY IN LOVE | MEANT TO BE | TAKING A CHANCE Praise for Meant to Be “One of my go-to authors for contemporary romance. . . . She knows how to entertain readers with a story that provides plenty of emotion, witty banter and a hot romance that does justice to the couple’s strong chemistry.” • Harlequin Junkie (top pick) “McGinnis made me fall in love with cowboys from the very first book, but an ex-cop turned cowboy? Well, the hotness scale tips dangerously toward love at first sight (or page?). Add the love for country music and the fact that he plays the guitar and, well, I’m a goner.” • Roberta’s Dream World “Sweet and emotional . . . I have loved every book in this series, but there was something extra special about Meant to Be, making it a fast favorite in this series.” • Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews “For those readers who prefer romantic yet clean romance stories, this is an adorably sweet, wholesome read worth one’s time. . . . Another wonderful addition to a charming series featuring hot cowboys and the spunky heroines they fall in love with.” • RT Book Reviews Includes an excerpt from another Loveswept title.

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Customer Reviews

This is a rather sweet and clean romance. The premise is that Shelby Quinn is a pop star who has basically given over her entire life to the music company. She doesn't like the music she plays and the image of the pop starlet that they have created for her. She would prefer to play the country music that she used to compose with her father, a country-music star who has just died in a plane crash. She's 28 and doesn't know who she really is because she's been playing the role of a Britney Spears (without all the craziness) for so long. So she's sent off to the Montana ranch of Whisper Creek which is populated by hot cowboys who have achieved a HEA in the previous books in the series. There she meets Cooper Davis, a Boston policeman who has come to the ranch to be a cowboy. Cooper has been involved in a terrible police scandal in Boston involving crooked cops who gave drugs to teenage runaway girls to run a prostitution ring. He reported it and they tried to pin the crime on him. Although he was acquitted, his testimony sent his cousin to jail and his father hasn't forgiven him. So he's come out to Montana to start over. Somehow, in a way that is never explained, this cop, son and grandson of cops, also has great cowboy skills. Just go with it. He's asked to keep an eye on the celebrity guest

hiding out in one of the ranch's cabins. They meet and fall for each other. Their burgeoning romance is very sweetly done because they become friends first. Their sexual relationship is handled like a 1950s movie with the door closed behind them. Although we do have this supposedly very careful cop/cowboy abandon a gas grill with hamburgers cooking to go in and spend the night with Shelby behind that closed door. That detail bothered me a bit. It's not enough that they have a growing friendship; it also turns out that Cooper has a wonderful singing voice and just happens to love country music and can play an endless list of those songs, including all of Shelby's father's songs on the guitar. I guess he acquired that skill in Boston while he was learning to ride horses and work on a ranch. If you can ignore some of these niggling questions and get used to the idea of a woman in her late 20s who lets herself be handled without every voicing a protest even once, the relationship that develops between Cooper and Shelby is quite sweet. It all gets resolved rather easily and without much that is believable and that provoked some metaphorical eye rolls as I was reading it, but I still thought it was worth the read. I received a free copy from Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

I absolutely loved this story! Maggie McGinnis is an author that can keep the story clean, and yet....make you feel every single emotion her characters are going through, at any given time. Through her excellent descriptions and exquisite dialogue, both her characters, and the story itself just seems to come alive right before our very eyes. I love all the people that live in Carefree. They are all so warm and caring. And I think it's wonderful to be able to catch up with all of the characters from the past, without losing focus on the main characters of each story. By the way...I also loved Cooper's little sister. What an absolute sweetheart she was. I absolutely loved the dialogue and the fun banter between Cooper and Shelby, it just felt so real and honest. The way they came together in support of one another just melted my heart. I felt their struggles, heartbreaks and joy, and I felt myself rooting for them all the way through the story. I was a little bummed out thinking this was going to be the last book in this series, but I see there's another one coming out in Nov. of this year. So YEAH for that!!!! I just hope this series doesn't end anytime soon, that would break my heart. This is one of the best series I read, and it a clean romance at that, and that's a big plus in my book! Can't wait to read more from this author in the future.

Where have I been and how did I miss this series before now? Sigh... better late than never. I have catching up to do in the series. 4.5 stars from me. Story starts off with Shelby over her head in grief

at the loss of her beloved father who died in a plane crash. Shelby is a "pop star" because that's what the record label turned her into at a young age, she's got one more album to complete her contract and her heart isn't in it and hasn't been. Raised by her singer/songwriter famous Daddy, they travelled the country on a bus, singing songs and living life. Shelby has some wonderful memories. She knows she sold out and with the death of her father, it weighs heavily. Her manager (ugh), I'm going to call her that.. because I didn't like her and thankfully she isn't a predominant character, sends Shelby off for a month to recoup. She's supposed to be incognito. Away from cameras, press and the pap's. She sends her to Whisper Creek Ranch. Kyla who runs WC taps Decker to kind of keep his eye on this mystery woman they are getting. They don't know who she is and she's going by her real name Shelby. Not her stage name. Kyla sticks Decker in the cabin next to Shelby. Cooper is an ex cop who literally lost his job, family and reputation because of a case he investigated. Looking for a soft place to land, he ended up here in the middle of Montana. Wrangling horses and breathing in the fresh air. Decker tries to draw her out, she's still shut up in her cabin most days, even with the gals on the ranch who draw to draw her out, it's the onsite Vet and a runt piglet that brings Shelby around. The piglet and Decker. That and a trip to town to the music store that gets Shelby in the backroom alone and she picks up a guitar and plays one of her Dad's song, recognized by the shop owner. Decker talks Shelby into doing an open mic night, Decker can hold his own with a guitar too and sing. She relents and they sing one together. Shelby is doing better, Decker tells her about his problems back home, and he has to leave the ranch and return to Boston for legal reasons. What transpires here leaves her hurt and feeling helpless. The girls at the ranch try to help, meanwhile her month is winding down. Things hit the fan at the record label and Shelby returns a week early, ready to get this last leg of her tour over with so she can start her own life... her life. Not the record label. So what happens that Shelby is called back? What happens with Decker and the huge legal problems? Will they see each other again? All for you to find out when you read this book. I loved this story. Loved it. Loved the dialogue between Decker and Shelby, it's raw and honest. She's grieving. Rightfully so. I felt like her grief was portrayed in a realistic way. The story flowed well, and focuses around the two of them. I like that in a book like this. The little twists and turns, all made this book just a cut above the rest. Ranch residents, like Kyla are there but are in the background, but not invisible. I loved them too. And the piglet!! My one big regret here is I didn't know about this series sooner and I will back read the other books. Maggie McGinnis is a new author to me but she's certainly going to be on my to read list. Thank you Maggie!!! Great book!!! **arc from NetGalley and Loveswept in exchange for a fair review**

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