

COWBOY SUMMER

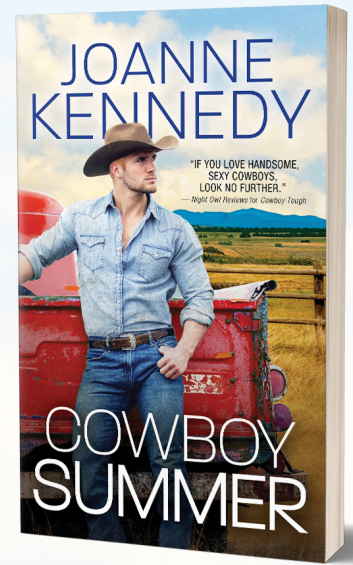
DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

Jess Bailey broke Cade Walker's heart when she left for the city—but she was just trying to find her own way in the world. When Jess's dad calls her home and tells her he's selling the ranch, she realizes she's about to lose the life she was born to live. And when she sees Cade again, she knows how much she's lost already.

As their nearest neighbor, Cade is always trying to help. But he's got his own ranch and his horse training business to think about. Even though his heart fills with hope for a second chance when he sees Jess, she left him once when things got tough. And she knows he moved on without her.

As the sale of the Bailey ranch looms over them, Jess and Cade start looking to the future. But can they ever trust one another again?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joanne Kennedy is the RITA-nominated author of ten contemporary Western romance novels, including *Cowboy Trouble*, *Cowboy Summer*, and *How to Handle a Cowboy*, which is one of Booklist's "101 Best Romances of the Decade." She lives in a secret mountain hideout on the wild edge of Wyoming with too many pets and a retired fighter pilot. A cancer survivor and confirmed nature nut, she loves to engage with readers, and shares Western life on her Facebook page at Joanne Kennedy Books. She can also be reached through her website, joannekenedybooks.com.

PRAISE FOR JOANNE KENNEDY

"Bring on the hunky cowboys."—Linda Lael Miller, New York Times bestselling author

"Wit and charm suffuse this well-plotted story about remembering what's most important in life." —Publishers Weekly for *Cowboy Summer*

"This sweet but sexy tale, the kick-off for Kennedy's new Blue Sky Cowboys series, is great for fans of Linda Lael Miller's contemporary romances." —Booklist for *Fearless*

"Refreshing and fun from the first page to the last. Beautifully done!" —Fresh Fiction for *One Fine Cowboy*

"A breath of fresh air... Kennedy is becoming one of my favorite authors."—Night Owl Reviews, Reviewer Top Pick for *Cowboy Fever*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *"Home in her heart was still the ranch... she might not want to be there every minute of every day, but the ranch was her roots and supported her still."* Jess feels conflicted about where she belongs – in the world she created for herself at her job, or the life she was born to, at the ranch. Do you feel your roots deeply or long for another life? If you moved away from your roots, are you glad you did?
2. When Jess first gets to the ranch, *"all the empty places inside her filled with peace and pleasure, as if she'd downed a whole pitcher full of blue skies garnished with wildflowers and sunshine."* I feel the same way about Wyoming, even though I was born in New England. Is there a special place or type of landscape that makes you feel like you belong, like a beach or the mountains? Is it the place of your birth, or somewhere else?
3. Jess thinks, *"...she'd never been a real cowgirl... She'd tried hard and been willing to work, but roping wasn't one of her talents."* Is Jess right? What makes a "real cowgirl?"
4. *"(Amber Lynn) couldn't help who she was. Her folks had given in to ever tantrum instead of taking the time to teach her right from wrong. Now, she survived the only way she knew how—by manipulating people."* Is Amber Lynn a bad person, or a product of her upbringing? Have you ever known someone like her?
5. Molly believes in Amber Lynn and helps her find a new life that suits her skills. Why was Molly able to see the best in Amber Lynn despite the problems she caused? Does it take a difficult life to understand difficult people?
6. Jess believes Cade is cheating on her with Amber Lynn, and when she hears her stepmother making what sounds like a flirty phone call, she believes she's cheating on Heck. What in Jess's early life makes it so hard for her to trust those she loves?
7. After a training session with Redline, Cade realizes pursuing Jess will drive her away. How else are personal relationships similar to the process of gentling a horse?
8. Molly makes a surprise revelation at the end. Did this surprise you? Looking back, do you see hints that reveal what she was up to?
9. Molly says Jess is making the wrong assumptions about love. *"You can love each other half to death, and still be mystified by the other person half the time. The learning never ends, but it's the best part."* Is it more important to understand the ones we love, or to trust them? Is it more important to understand them, or to trust them?
10. Jess and Cade's story could have ended very differently. Could Jess have found happiness in her city career? Could Cade have found fulfillment without her, or could he have been happy moving for the sake of her career? What about Heck and Molly? Could they have been happy if they'd sold the Diamond Jack?