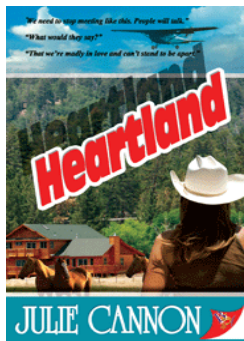


Book Review: April 7 2008

by Richard Labonte (Book Marks)



Heartland

Julie Cannon

ISBN: 978-1-60282-009-8

Trade paper, 248, \$15.95

March 2008

Lesbian Romance

Bold Strokes Books, Inc.

www.boldstrokesbooks.com

Q Syndicate

Book Marks

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Richard Labonte

Drop 10 fun-seeking lesbians onto a working ranch run by a butch mourning the loss of her lover, and you'd expect much randy action to follow. But the focus of this fluid romance is primarily on just two women. One is Shivley McCoy, who was able to create her working-vacation getaway spread with money willed to her by her late mate; the other is Rachel Stanton, a political strategist-for-hire stressed by too many mudslinging campaigns. There's nothing coy about the passion of these unlike dykes – it ignites at first encounter, and never abates...

...Cannon's well-constructed novel conveys more complexity of character and less overwrought melodrama than most stories in the crowded genre of lesbian-love-against-all-odds – a definite plus.

-Richard Labonte, Book Marks, Q Syndicate, has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-70s.

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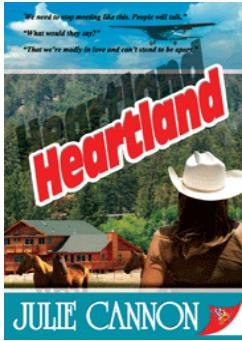
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Nann Dunne
Editor-in-Chief
& Publisher

Heartland has two well-drawn, completely different women as its protagonists. Rachel Stanton is a political strategist who feels as though she has gone from strategist to spin doctor. A graduate of the foster child system, her adult life and connections are as transitory as her childhood.

Shivley McCoy runs a dude ranch in Northern Arizona. She is a widow, having lost her partner of four years to cancer. The ranch, its horses, and its work, provide all she needs in life.

Rachel and Shivley meet when Rachel books a vacation at Springdale, Shivley's ranch. Actually, they practically run into each other on a dirt road a few weeks before, but . . .that wasn't really meeting!

Julie Cannon has created a wonderful romance. Rachel and Shivley are believable, likeable, bright, and funny. The scenery of the ranch is beautifully described, down to the smells, work, and dust. This is an extremely engaging book, full of humor, drama, and some very hot, hot sex!

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