

Once Tempted: A Silver Creek Novel

By Laura Moore

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Sweeping passions, family drama, and searing scandal play out at the magnificent Silver Creek Ranch as the heirs to a powerful dynasty seize their legacy of love.

Oldest son Ward Knowles feels the sprawling California ranch in his blood. And now that the family business has expanded to include a popular resort, he's working harder than ever. Silver Creek is his legacy and his life, which is fine for the ruggedly sexy ladies' man and committed bachelor. Love and trust don't come easily for Ward since he lost his heart to a gold digger—until he meets a shy, unpretentious beauty whose sweet grace is about to turn his jaded heart into a hungry one.

Tess Casari has found sanctuary at Silver Creek, working as an assistant to Ward's mother, Adele. Grateful for her busy new life running the ranch's spa and resort, Tess can escape the heartbreak, humiliation, and secret shame of her failed marriage. The last thing she needs is temptation—especially from a man who reminds her so much of the husband who shattered her faith in love. But passion and destiny are about to change the rules for two people who have stopped believing in the healing power of love.

Praise for *Once Tempted*

"[Laura] Moore's first in her new Silver Creek series is packed with plenty of great, realistic dialogue and features two main characters whose actions and choices are easy to sympathize with. The glimpses of the hero's two siblings will leave readers eager for their stories."—*RT Book Reviews*

"When I read [Moore's] books, I'm transported to the peaceful countryside with ranch homes and barns dotting the landscape. *Once Tempted* has all that and more."—*USA Today*

"Ward is the perfect cowboy hero for a twenty-first century romance."—Heroes and Heartbreakers

"Moore is a fantastic storyteller ensnaring your interest from the first page."—Fresh Fiction

"*Once Tempted* is a sexy new read by author Laura Moore that not only gives us

a tantalizing tale of undeniable love but also is a great start to a new series that's sure to speak to contemporary romance lovers everywhere."—The Romance Reviews

From the Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Author One-on-One: Joan Johnston and Laura Moore

Laura Moore lives in Rhode Island with her husband, two children, and their Labrador retriever. Her recent titles include *Trouble Me, Believe in Me,* and *Remember Me*.

Joan Johnston is the bestselling, award-winning author of many contemporary romance novels and historical romances, including her most recent release, *Wyoming Bride*. She is currently a full-time writer living in Colorado.

What draws you both to writing western romances in particular?

JJ: I started out writing westerns because my father used to read Louis L'Amour westerns, and I'd lived in Wyoming and Texas. I learned to ride on an Arabian stallion in Morocco, where my father was stationed on an AFB, and then rode a Tennessee Walker in North Dakota, so I have some experience with horse behavior and horseback riding. The rest I learned by reading western novels and by doing extensive research in the west. American cowboys are our historic heroes, like knights in armor in England. I also write contemporary westerns because we think of men who stay close to the land as more rugged, capable individuals, and therefore more attractive.

LM: My heroes and heroines are often professional riders, trainers, breeders—horsepeople. To me, the values of these horsemen and women are the same, whether they live on the East Coast or West. These are people who love the land, the open spaces where their horses and stock can run, and who are committed to preserving this special way of life. I recently attended a talk given by the great Buck Brannaman (If any of you horse lovers are unfamiliar with him, please see the documentary *Buck*. It’s incredible.), and one of Buck’s mottos is ‘Horses and life, it’s all the same to me.’ I like to think all my cowboys and horsemen reflect this sentiment.

What do you think is at the heart of the appeal of romance novels? Is it the characters? The happy endings?

JJ: In a great romance novel, you identify with the characters, who are (or should be) in terrible trouble. The reason we're so willing to step into their shoes is because we know that, no matter how difficult their trials and tribulations on the way to true love, there will be a happy ending. Romances are fantasy—we know there's not always a happy ending in life—but it's great to escape into the possibility of happily ever after.

LM: I’m a helpless romantic. I *love* love stories. I love the process of watching people fall for each other and overcome fears and obstacles that that threaten their love. I love listening to a couple who’ve been married decades tell me how they met and what made them fall in love. I believe romance readers enjoy much the same thing. Opening the cover of a book they meet two people who are lucky enough to find their true love and who are smart enough to recognize how special and worth fighting for that love is.

How did you come to the decision between historical and contemporary?

JJ: I started out writing western romances because I thought it was easier to hide that all those emotions I was putting in the books came from inside me. Hard to imagine my modern-day self, making love on the plains after a buffalo stampede. It took a while to find the confidence to "open the veins and bleed" in a contemporary novel, where all those feelings are clearly mine. If you're writing love scenes, you have to get that information somewhere. Would you really have your hero do something you didn't like? Probably not. So readers, if the character likes peanut M&Ms or eats Raisin Bran for breakfast, the author probably does, too.

LM: I'm having fun meeting the challenge of having my hero and heroine find lasting love in the here and now. As anyone who's dated recently knows, it's not easy!

There's definitely a lot of me in my novels. They do eat what I like to eat—*Once Tempted* is set on a three-thousand acre guest ranch, and I gained weight just researching what the ranch's restaurant might have on its menu. Luckily, my hero and heroine found ways to work off the calories they consumed. But otherwise I don't really have the kind of problem Joan alludes to with writing contemporaries. I try to give my characters as much autonomy as possible. If they want to have sex a certain way and it fits their character and makes sense in the scene, I always try and accommodate them!

Review
"[Laura] Moore's first in her new Silver Creek series is packed with plenty of great, realistic dialogue and features two main characters whose actions and choices are easy to sympathize with. The glimpses of the hero's two siblings will leave readers eager for their stories."—*RT Book Reviews*

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About the Author
Laura Moore lives in Rhode Island with her husband, two children, and their Labrador retriever.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Winston Craig:

Book is to be different for each grade. Book for children right up until adult are different content. As you may know that book is very important usually. The book Once Tempted: A Silver Creek Novel ended up being making you to know about other information and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The publication Once Tempted: A Silver Creek Novel is not only giving you more new information but also to become your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to

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Nancy Fisher:

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Mike Hart:

A lot of people said that they feel bored stiff when they reading a publication. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the book Once Tempted: A Silver Creek Novel to make your personal reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading talent is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose easy book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the impression about book and looking at especially. It is to be initially opinion for you to like to start a book and go through it. Beside that the reserve Once Tempted: A Silver Creek Novel can to be your new friend when you're experience alone and confuse using what must you're doing of that time.

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