



Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold

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Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold is a story of family conflicts set in Colorado in 1885. Anne Wells has embarrassed her rigidly proper family since she was a child with occasional but grievous lapses from ladylike behavior. They blame those lapses for the disgraceful fact that she is a spinster at 28. Cord Bennett, the son of his father's second marriage to a Cheyenne woman, is more than an embarrassment to his well-to-do family of ranchers and lawyers - they are ashamed and afraid of their black sheep. When Anne and Cord are found alone together, her father's fury leads to violence. Cord's family is more than willing to believe that the fault is his. Can Anne and Cord use the freedom of being condemned for sins they didn't commit to make a life together? Or will their disapproving, interfering families tear them apart? Kindle Locations: 4,846.

Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold Details

Date : Published April 8th 2010

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Author : Ellen O'Connell

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Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Westerns, Western Romance, Historical Fiction

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From Reader Review Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold for online ebook

Val Shameless ?? Steamy Reads ?? says

Better Every Time...

Re-read: 3/7/17...This popped up on my feed today and made we want to read it. AGAIN.

Re-read: 7/4/15

5 AMAZING Stars

This book *really* took me by surprise.

Western/historical romance is one of my all time favorite genres, but I had never read or heard of this author before. I don't even remember what prompted me to read this, but it was just outstanding.

The writing and storytelling was fantastic and the characters were so well fleshed out and truly tangible in a way I haven't experienced in a while.

Annie and Cord were both original, unique characters.

They went through so much that brought them together...

...and then they *fought* to stay together.

Their quiet love story was so enjoyable to read and I loved every moment.

This is definitely going my my All-Time Favorites list.

Christina ~ Brunette Reader says

3,5 Promising Stars

The first thought crossing my mind when I turned the last page of this book was the realisation I had just dealt with a rough diamond. It's a debut, so I think it has the natural right to be so in a sense and fortunately the lack of finishing did nothing to lessen the impact of a story vivid and powerful in its raw essentiality, like the love, the people, the land and the times it portrays.

Set in an 1885 Colorado still dominated by a blind and unapologetic white privilege and despite being a

romance, the story is initially pervaded by a suffocating sentiment of hatred leading to the explosion of gut wrenching violence turning out to be the catalyst of the whole plot. Such destruction all at the hands of one man, Edward Wells, a misogynistic monster whose inhumanity has forced his daughter, Anne, to flee from home. Caught in a compromising position with Cord Bennett, a reviled half-breed, she is then forced to marry him.

What begins under dire circumstances, in the span of more than a year, develops into a credible love story, at times awkward, at times wary, at times touching like the protagonists, two people not used to affection and acceptance, one for always having been an outcast and the other for always having been caged by an unloving family. But the fragile bond forming is threatened by a prejudiced, petty town and a vengeful father (I use the term loosely referred to this individual) who won't allow such union to peacefully be.

If I had to rate this books according to how I felt when I was just about halfway through, the stars wouldn't have been a rounded-up four, possibly barely three, as while the punch in the story was there since the opening scene, the writing in the first part showed a wooden and stilted quality that truly hindered me from appreciating the reading. Around the middle mark though, the author seemed to gain confidence in what she was doing and became less mechanic, the pace speeded up shifting into a higher gear, the dialogues started to be more frequent and meaningful, the meticulous descriptiveness curbed and tightened finally taking advantage of some badly needed pruning. At the end, what prevents me from a higher rating is only the heavy tendency towards the telling without showing, too evident even for a debut, which traversed the entire narration, ruining also those two twists that were instead supposed to be the most thrilling scenes, making them fizzle out to anti-climatic recounts of previous events.

On the whole quite impressive for a first effort, Ellen O'Connell's rendition of the western historical setting is intense and engaging, capable of engendering strong emotions. It's a western epic that draws momentum not much from imposing cattle moves or breakneck outlaws' chasings, but from the everyday struggles, routine cores and difficulties. And strange to say about a romance, but for once, the toned down idealisation casted another kind of spell altogether, maybe less romantic or alluring at a superficial glance, though leaving me with the sensation I might have just witnessed a story really happened in a far time and place to flesh and blood people. I'm glad I read it just for this.

This won't be my last book by this author for sure; the potential growing within the space of the book itself was more than enough to make me want to visit her prose again, most likely further improved in her following novels.

Alp says

I'm mentally kicking myself for taking too long to pick up this one. It was a very good and entertaining read! My feelings were all over the place, of course, in a good way. Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold is one of those books that will stay with you for a long time after you've finished reading them.

This was a story of two people from completely different worlds who were thrown together under terrible circumstances, but it turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to them. They both surprisingly found peace and comfort in each other's company. In Anne, Cord found a strong, courageous, and compassionate woman who never gave up on her life. Not only did she make him a better man, but she also made him want to do more and be more just for her.

And in Cord, Anne found a good-hearted, quiet, honest, and dignified man who protected her with his life but wanted nothing in return. He made her happy and gave her freedom. She could be herself when she was with him. She saw how unfairly most of the townspeople treated him just because he was half Indian, and

that made her wanted to do anything for this loner.

For them, it was a blessing that they ultimately found each other. Having someone who truly cared about them and someone they could confide in was more than they could ever ask for.

However, little did they know that the cruel fate that awaited them was about to step in and change everything they had together. But their love was worth fighting for, and they would never give up on each other no matter what.

I loved both main characters. They were totally made for each other. Cord is a very good man. I loved how he cared about Anne and how he was ready to do anything just to see her smile. I always admire men who speak less but do more, and Cord was no exception.

I was first shocked and confused and then upset that his brothers really believed that he could do such terrible things. How could someone who should know him better than anyone else thought the worst of him? At first, I didn't get why Cord didn't even say a single word. Why kept it all to himself all the time. I must admit I got a little frustrated with him, but the more I read, the more I understood him. He wasn't the kind of man who cared to explain himself to anyone for the sake of his reputation. It didn't matter to him whether people, including his family, would misunderstand him because the facts and his actions would speak for themselves eventually.

Cord is definitely the man of my dreams!

Anne is a strong, kind, considerate, clever, brave, and reasonable woman. I admired how she took care of Cord and never abandoned him, especially in his hour of need. I admired her strength, spirit, and courage. She's such an inspiring female lead character! And I was so happy that she finally lived a happy and fulfilling life with a man she loved who loved her back with all his heart. Both of them deserved that after all what they had gone through.

I really enjoyed the romance aspect of this book. It wasn't love at first sight but it was so romantic. It took some time for them to get used to being around each other. I loved how they developed the bond between them and it grew stronger and stronger with each passing day.

Another thing that made this story work for me was the animals, especially the horses. I loved reading everything about them. The author did a great job of providing plenty of information about them (such as horse breeding, training, racing, and how to take care of them).

All in all, I enjoyed reading this one immensely. The story is quite long, but I can tell you that it's definitely worth it! I would recommend this to fans of historical western romance.

I hope you enjoy it!

Karla says

5++ Stars! I could read this book a 100 times and this story would never get old!

Hero meets Heroine under harrowing circumstances and they stand united and committed to each other

throughout the book no matter who or what gets in their way. No questions asked, always have each other's backs, soul mates through and through. Just beautiful! Made my heart swell!

That's it, in a nutshell. It met up to the hype, friend's recommendations, and exceeded my expectations!

Every time I think about this story I picture Anne and Cord riding knee to knee, always connected through an invisible bond that leads right to their hearts!

Bibi says

****Spoilers****

I discovered this little gem of a book from reviews by Danielle Lori and Val ?? Shameless & Bitchy Skanky ?? Steamy Reads Mrs. Danvers-Tate-Snow. Thanks, ladies.

Where to start with this book.

First off, I savoured the reading of Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold, prolonging the experience as much as I could. Secondly, everything I thought I knew about racial prejudice, this story amplified to a thousand degree.

Annie and Cord, our MCs. Annie is white and Cord is half Comanche, living in 1880s Colorado. Theirs is a love that survived the most arduous of circumstance.

Annie was subject to a misogyny so evil, it left her little choice but to rebel. Cord was regarded as less human and more beast, all because he was half Native American.

What this book most illuminated, to me, is the mindset of the racist individual. How prejudices are formed without logic. How, even with overwhelming evidence to the contrary, racists feel justified by their beliefs. Actions that are judged innocuous if done by a white person, have different nuances when done by a POC.

Ms O'Connell writes in the 3rd person omniscient, giving this story a depth that would have been absent from a single perspective. Placing the reader in Colorado, making us wish we could reach in and slap some of the characters from their stupidity.

Despite EVERYONE's disbelief, their love trumped all the hate (thanks, Hilary C.) Annie was unwavering in her love for Cord. She believed in him fiercely and slowly, Cord relented, becoming less aloof and loving her with his all.

Eventually, the haters were silenced, realizing that it was indeed possible for a white woman to love a Comanche "half-breed" (Gaaaaaahhh).

This was a great love story and Ellen has just gotten herself a new fan.

Danielle says

Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold was completely unexpected. It's one of those stories that touches your heart, and has you thinking about the characters for days to come.

I really didn't think this author was gonna be able to pull it off, being that they both agree to a marriage and are amicable to each other before twenty percent, and this was a **long** book. I can't stay invested in an everyday relationship—there has to be tension between the characters, not just plot-wise. But I was **so** wrong. I absolutely **loved** this story.

I think I fell in love with the hero the moment he opened his mouth and said, "Mornin'." **Seriously**. He was a dark-edged character who's vitality literally radiated off the pages. And he's definitely made it to my Hero Hall of Fame list.

The moment I started this book, I couldn't stop reading. It begins right away with Anne the heroine on the run from her father who's trying to force her to marry some despicable man. It so happens to be the hero's hay she's sleeping in. She didn't know Cord lived there, but she's known him vaguely for being the half-Indian man with a violent streak.

So while they get on amicably pretty soon, there is so much more to this story than that. Their relationship built over time was heart-warming and so true to a budding romance. I loved every minute of it.

My heart hurt so much for Cord and the prejudice he went through being a half-breed in a white man's world. The cool thing about him, though, was that he was a **man** in every sense of the word. He handled the hate without a care in the world. He was true to himself, and while he thought Anne could do better than him, it wasn't because of the color of his skin, but because of the backlash *she'd* receive from society. It was great to see how tough someone could remain with all that hate thrown at them.

Anne was a white woman, and while she was looked down on for marrying Cord, she never let the hate get to her. I was rooting for her often when she'd call someone out or stand up for Cord. And I was so emotionally invested in this story that I'd feel offended myself; it sucked me in completely.

The plot was perfection; it kept me invested over FOUR HUNDRED pages. And while the story could use a good editor, it didn't detract me much from the story.

Ellen O'Connell wrote a story about a forbidden love in an already hateful world. Full of human relationships, that true kind of love that exists beyond infatuation, and life in the 1800's, *Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold* was a fabulous tale that I won't soon forget.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

As he finally stopped fighting sleep, he wondered if maybe just occasionally the gods designed a woman fit for a king or a prince and then gave her to an ordinary man. Maybe they did such a thing once in a while, knowing an ordinary man would treasure her more, love her better.

Maybe they even let him keep her — for a while.

Wow! Where to begin... well, I'll start with that quote. It's one of my favorite hero quotes from any book I've read, and in just a few sentences shows us Cord's hope and his heart. And reading it again for the umpteenth time, knowing what led up to it, I'm having a hard time holding back the tears.

Cord Bennett is an outcast, a savage, a pariah. He has no real friends, and even his family is afraid of him. Under different circumstances - that is to say, if he were like the other, 'normal' men in town, the things he's done would be understandable, but his father was white and his mother was Cherokee, so Cord is – **gasp** – a half-breed, and nothing about him is the least bit acceptable.

Anne Wells isn't the proper young woman her parents want her to be. She's not a ravishing beauty or in the least bit biddable. She's stubborn, and again– **gasp** – she thinks for herself, so when her father arranges her marriage to a man who is all kinds of repulsive, Anne not only makes her displeasure known, she does everything she can to make sure the wedding never takes place. When Anne's father stoops to an all time low, thinking he can force her into agreeing, Anne knows that she needs to escape the hell that has become her life, before it's too late. But when she chose to hide in Cord Bennett's barn and ask for his help, she had never even considered that the hell she had escaped was nothing compared to that which she and Cord would have to endure together.

I really don't think I'll be able to explain why this story evoked such a deep, wide range of emotions... well, not and do it coherently, anyway. I was so angry at times, so heartbroken at others, sobbing so hard I was shaking and my chest hurt. Maybe it was just timing. Maybe had I read this another day, week or month, it wouldn't have affected me the way it did, but honestly, I don't think timing had anything to do with it. It was the characters, their story, their determination to live their lives in peace, their incredible strength of character and their pride. It was their unwillingness to allow others to break them, their ability to find happiness in the smallest things. But most importantly, it was what they found in each other; someone to share with. To share the work, the heartache, the joy, the secrets they'd kept buried for so long... someone to make being alone seem less lonely. And they saw in each other what no one else could see... Kindness. Honor. Generosity of spirit. And most importantly, through all the adversity, all the heartbreak and trials, they found in each other a *happily ever after* for the ages.

The bottom line - Cord and Anne captured my heart, and when their story broke it into a million pieces, they were there to put it back together again. The writing isn't flawless, but it's all of the things I mentioned... the sorrow, the joy, the sacrifice, determination and devotion... all of these things combined have made *Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold* one of my favorite stories ever, and Cord and Anne have more than earned their place of honor on my Top Couples of All Time shelf. If you love stories whose characters touch your heart, who pull you in and don't let go... if you want their trials and triumphs to really *mean* something, then you'll want to get your hands on this book as quickly as possible.

This is a beautiful story, one I won't soon forget. Thank you, Autumn. From the bottom of my heart, thank you, because without your encouragement and generosity, I probably would have never read this story, and what a horrible loss that would have been.

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

Wow words can express how much I enjoyed this book. Anne and Cord were amazing together. I loved how strong and brave they both were. Anna had such a cute, outgoing personality. Cord was the strong silent type but had a sweet side that he mostly only let Anne see. There was such a great build up to their relationship that it felt real. I will say that I wished for more blood when it came to the bad guys getting what was coming

to them. I felt they got off the hook too easy. But that is just me. I'm bloodthirsty! I wanted Cord or Anne to get to kill them, and nothing else would have been good enough for me. I think Ellen O'Connell did such a good job of building up the town, characters, and relationships that I was totally invested in, not just the main couple but their families as well. I am so glad I try this book!

KAS says

Wish it weren't so, but I am in the minority camp with my rating.

It has been a long time since I read a story set in the Wild West. Colorado, 1885, to be exact. I have been seeing five star reviews pop up on my feed for quite sometime.

Cord Bennett! The name just oozes confidence, strength, and sexiness.

? *"His daddy had brown eyes, but those eyes of his are yellow, yellow like a wolf's."*

? *"The color don't make no nevermind. What tells you he's the devil's own is there's nothing behind those eyes. They're empty, empty, savage, and cold."*

Anne's family, the townsfolk, even his own blood relatives believe Cord is as mean as a rattlesnake. But Anne ... no when Anne looks into Cord's eyes, all she feels is the heat that makes her body flush from her face downwards.

Cord and Anne are thrown together in marriage under horrendous circumstances, and despite the odds they try to make it work seeing as they have known each other since age ten and always got along. Their relationship is fraught with challenges.

So ... I tried mighty hard, and sure wish I would have loved this book like most others have. The first 20% of the book was pure fascination and I couldn't turn the pages fast enough, but then the storyline began to really drag for me. Thought many times of calling it quits, but wanted to see how it ended.

Maybe if the writing was more cohesive and flowed better, it would have been a much more satisfying read. An editor was certainly needed.

Like I stated earlier, I am in the minority camp. Mostly, you will find glowing, five star reviews for this book, so I would encourage you to read those. I did fall in love with Cord and Anne though. They are strong, willful, endearing characters who faced extreme hatred. I truly rooted for them!

KatLynne says

5 Fantastic Stars

"Take him and cut him out in little stars. And he will make the face of heaven so fine - that all the world will be in love with night" ...Shakespeare (Romeo & Juliet)

This book should come with a Warning alerting its victims that once started, you'll not want to stop until you've reached the very last page!

I was drawn to this book by a review written by one of my friends, Denise, and immediately purchased. However, I put off reading it for weeks because I wasn't a big fan of Western Historical Romance, ... or so I thought.

Picking the book up one morning for a brief glance, I soon found myself completely immersed and didn't stop until the very end. It's very well written and totally engaging. I loved it!

I cried, I laughed, and at times my anger knew no bounds. I found myself shocked, surprised, holding my breath in fear as well as anticipation as the author, with her unique talent, drew me in completely and I quickly became invested. I think every emotion I own was brought to surface in these 418 pages. Cord Bennett, labeled Indian Breed or Half Breed, is a child from his father's second marriage to a Cheyenne. This sexy, quiet, dangerous man is my kind of hero!

Living most of his life surrounded by the "haters", he has been judged, mistreated and condemned. We see first hand the ugliness and the heartache of prejudice. But Cord has a way about him that evokes respect. He's the kind of man you want on your side if trouble happens and protection is needed. And I loved his quiet wisdom, his ability to not reciprocate the hate and fear evoked from ignorance and malice. I also loved his protectiveness of Anne.

This book begins with pain, fear, and blood. Twenty-eight year old Anne Wells is running from a father who is a monster. There are many aspects of Anne's personality I admire and she's now one of my favorite heroines. If ever the adjective "true grit" applied, it would be to Anne.

Colorado, 1885, we find a woman full of courage, fortitude, determination, tenacity, honesty, and tenderness. I was drawn to her plight from the very first sentence and as her character unfolds, I found myself liking her immensely with equal doses of respect.

This is a unique love story between a 29 year old white woman, labeled unladylike and not good enough and a half white, half Native American and their struggle against a society filled with prejudice and a family member filled with revenge. I loved it all and will enjoy reading it again and again. A definite keeper!

Note: The author offers a free chapter that was omitted from the book that gives the reader more insight on the personalities of Cord & Anne. You may download it from her website.

One of many favorite quotes:
(view spoiler)

Jill says

Not just a romance, but a love story, beautifully told

At twenty-eight Anne Wells should be too old to be running away from home. But her wealthy, controlling and abusive father wants her married, even if it is to a man as old and as mean as he is. After leaving home and sheltering from a storm in a barn overnight, Anne wakes up the next morning to a familiar pair of unusual, gold eyes watching her.

The long silence threatened to become awkward, so she ventured, "Good morning."

"Mornin'." His voice was deep, soft and as expressionless as his face.

"I suppose you wonder what I'm doing here in your barn?"

Set in Colorado 1885, *Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold* is Ellen O'Connell's debut. Cord Bennett, a 'half-breed' with a white father and a Cheyenne mother, has been shunned and misunderstood by family and locals alike. The only person who has ever shown him any real kindness has been Anne, having known each other since they were both ten.

This is my fourth read of this book since it was published in 2010, and my appreciation for this story has grown with each reading. I'm a huge fan of westerns and have read all the greats of the genre including Jodi Thomas, Lorraine Heath, Maggie Osborne, Penelope Williamson, Jo Goodman, et al. There is no doubt that Ellen O'Connell can be named among the greats of historical western romances.

There is a surprising depth to this story. Though the romance is the focus, *Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold* also deals with the details of life in Colorado in the 1880s, particularly Cord's business of raising horses, a marriage of convenience, family drama and racial prejudice.

Having read and loved all Ms O'Connell's books, one of the things that she does so well is write memorable *couples*. Often for me it's only the hero who makes an impact, but she's one of very few authors who writes heroines who are equal to their heroes. Protective, sexy Cord is the very embodiment of the strong, silent type. Anne is his equal, and as strong and as resilient and likable as Cord. A meant-to-be couple!

From the dialogue to the growing romance, the sex scenes, life on the ranch, this story is believable. If you're a fan of historical western romances or would like to read one, you won't find better than Ellen O'Connell and *Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold*. Highly recommended.

Steam: 2.5-3

Deborah says

Re-read 23rd - 24th June 2018

This is one of my favourite reads ever. In the eight or so years since I first read this I've lost count of the number of times I've returned to it.

When I originally read this I used to read historical romances exclusively. Now my reading tastes are wide open but this is still a classic and still one of my favourite books ever.

Anne Wells is twenty-eight year old spinster and her father has decided its past time she was married. George Detrick has her father's blessing. The problem is Detrick is not only older than her father but he's a dreadful man with horrible sons older than her.

Anne has refused and after locking her in her room didn't work her father started withholding food. Anne escapes before she's hungry enough to agree to the wedding. She finds herself in a barn belonging to Cord Bennett.

The Bennett's are a large family but the youngest two Cord and Marie are half Cheyenne and the prejudice they live with everyday is sickening.

Cord and Anne find themselves thrown together and find that they suit each other very well. In the beginning it's a case of them against the world even his family don't help or approve.

I LOVE this book. It's a beautiful romance but it's also funny.

Anyone familiar with my reviews will know I'm a complete sucker for a man who loves his partner so completely.

Maybe occasionally the gods designed a woman fit for a king or a prince and gave her to an ordinary man. Maybe they did such a thing once in a while, knowing an ordinary man would treasure her more, love her better. Maybe they even let him keep her—for a while.

Cord swallowed to control the lump in his throat several times before risking speech. If he lived to be a hundred and tried every day of the time, he'd never deserve to have this woman, not for an hour, day, or week, much less this whole past year.

Sophia Triad says

That was so awesome!

I was really wondering why all my friends in goodreads think that this is a very good book – especially because most of them do not share the same tastes in books and especially in romance books.

I think the main reason for the love for this particular book is that it is the book full of small satisfying victories.

Anne Wells and Cord Bennett have survived being different in a world of average people until they reached their late twenties.

Anne at this age is considered an old spinster and weird. She has already broken up her relationship with a descent (for the standards of that society) man and destroyed their engagement without hesitation. Now she refuses to marry the old, unloving, disgusting man that her father wants her to marry. She is locked in her room and starved for weeks until she manages to escape and end up in Cord's farm asking for help.

Now, Cord is considered an outlier in the respectable society of that small town in Colorado. The son of a rancher and a Cheyenne woman; he is someone that almost everyone fears – including his own half brothers and sisters. He has almost killed a few men, he has almost killed his own brother, he left the small town and apparently killed more men; until he came back looking like a savage and started looking after his farm and his horses alone.

When Anne and Cord met the morning of Anne's getaway; Anne understood how brutal her father is; how much people do not care and how many hypocrites are around.

Anne and Cord almost died that morning.

Anne and Cord were reborn after a few weeks. Mainly depending on each other.

And then the problems begin:

- Cord thinks that Anne is too good for him.
- Anne thinks that Cord cannot love.
- The small town thinks that Cord holds Anne hostage.
- Anne's father wants Anne back and locked up.
- Anne's mother wants Anne happy and back home.
- Cord's family thinks that Cord is a savage and can snap any moment.
- Everyone is afraid of Cord.
- Everyone ignores and feels sorry for Anne.
- Gossips and insults everywhere Anne and Cord go.
- Not enough money to survive the winter.
- Too much pride to ask for help.

As I have said before this is a book of small victories that if you add them up you will have an out of proportion joy when you finish this book.

While the civilized, well-mannered citizens and role models of the small town are busy hating; Anne and Cord are busy falling in love and gaining more and more friends.

The pages were flying when I was reading the book. Although it is a fairly long book, I could not put it down.

Anne is one of the most likable heroines: Fierce, determined, lovable. She radiates warmth and light. Under the hesitant protection and unspoken love by Cord, her inner strength will be multiplied and be offered freely to all the living creatures (men, women and animals) that need her help.

Cord is definitely husband material. He is loyal, protective and brutal with the people who threaten the peace of his family. He can only love once and forever.

Highly recommended book by almost everybody!

Baba says

"When you find peace within yourself, you become the kind of person who can live at peace with others."

- by Peace Pilgrim – (American teacher and spiritual leader and peace prophet, 1908 – 1981)

"There is no love without forgiveness, and there is no forgiveness without love."

- by Bryant H. McGill –

"His daddy had brown eyes, but those eyes of his are yellow, yellow like a wolf's."

"The color don't make no nevermind. What tells you he's the devil's own is there's nothing behind those eyes. They're empty, empty, savage, and cold."

Colorado 1885

This special love story between Cord Bennett and Anne Wells starts off with lots of pain, fear, humiliation, and blood. Don't let it put you off.

One morning Cord finds Anne in his barn. She's filthy, tired, scared, and extremely famished. Anne ran away from her home and came to him to ask for his help. Her father, Edward Wells, has been upset for years that she's not married. He thinks having an old maid for a daughter is a reflection on him somehow. Moreover, he thinks that Anne is a disgrace to his family. He orders her to marry Mr. Detrick – a very repulsive man. When she declines multiple times, her father treats her like an animal – no, let me revise that...even an animal wouldn't be treated like that! After her escape Edward Wells is searching for his daughter. But the search party turns into a lynch mob when they're arriving at Cord's ranch. They're beating him almost to death. What follows afterward is a long fight against small-minded people including their own families. It's a long way until they finally find their happiness.

The relationship between Cord and his half-brothers Frank and Ephraim is irritated - to say the least. For a few years Cord was gone and his brothers never forgave him for the years of worry and fear, and Cord resented their attitude and would neither apologize nor explain. And the remaining love and loyalty were not enough to bridge the deep chasm of estrangement among the brothers.

Years ago Cord had to come to terms what it meant being a half-breed in a white man's world. Anne is absolutely sure that the fright stories about Cord are not true, but the fact is he's more often than not unemotional and uncommunicative. It's difficult to get him to give a direct answer to a question. He seems unable or certainly unwilling to speak more than a few sentences at once.

It was striking to see how Cord and Annie had to struggle against a society filled with prejudice. I loved this quiet undertone that embraced Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold. Yes, there's yelling, shouting, arguments, fighting, and violence. But overall it's a beautiful and silent story. Maybe I feel this way because of Cord. Further, the ranch life is somehow lonely and silent. Don't get me wrong – it's never boring or uneventful by any means. Cord is a quiet man with a dry sense of humor, and he was so perceptive. I felt that his demeanor was his protective cover, and in order to not get hurt more, he became this emotionless, stoic, and withdrawn man.

On the other hand he acted a bit helpless at times when he didn't know what to do with Annie when she was angry with him. Jeez, Cord had to learn how to interact with her. He had no clue at all what proper communication meant. Way to go, Cord! Even Annie wasn't all that skilled when it came to communication. Overall it was kinda soothing to witness how their relationship evolved. Everything developed slowly but steadily. The main characters were always likeable and believable. Moreover, there were really good and witty dialogs as well! Anne was such a gutsy and strong heroine. At times she was so sassy – wonderful! I just had to admire this woman.

While reading this book my mind was flooded by many, many feelings. I was shocked, appalled, angry, disgusted. But I also felt relieved and happy, and I had to laugh quite a lot. Anne's father (it's a shame to call him father) was such a disgusting, repulsive, mean, and very, very EVIL piece of s*it. Such a vile creature of the human species. Oh, human race, my a*s!! Believe me, I wanted to massacre this guy inch by inch. He deserved a painful and slow death! And I am so a peaceful woman. But I was really close to cause self-harm (like tearing off my hair or smash my fist into a wall). My Kindle was extremely close to get thrown out the window! What her father did at the beginning of the story was unforgivable; what happened when I was about 72 % done with the story, however, that left me rather speechless! Jeez, that beats all! Bad, worse, worst doesn't come close to what I was feeling!!!

I felt extremely relieved that Cord was helping Anne to get out of her cage and finding her wings. No one could ever cage her again and Cord admired her courage and determination. By the way...so did I! Loved how Cord called Annie his Ti-gress, and the Ti-gress suited Cord in a way that's just beyond words!

What didn't quite work for me:

1. PROPER COMMUNICATION

It's so important to communicate and do it right and early. Gosh, Cord's half-brothers were so frustrating! Oh, heaven forbid that they could use their brains!!! So difficult, huh? Being subtle and being able to anticipate is so not their forte either!

2. There were a few misunderstandings between Cord and Annie as well. And a few times I had to say to myself "Oh, Annie, just act and speak up already! Ask for his kisses, ask for his caresses!" This woman had a sassy mouth but sometimes it'd have been better to use it for *different* reasons.

3. I felt that the story needed better editing. Sometimes it was a tad distracting.

Despite my minor censure it's still a 5-star rating because this book touched me in a very special way right to my heart.

There were so many memorable "quotes"/lines. I put them in a spoiler. Feel free to read them, since there're no spoilers included!

(view spoiler)

Again...I could add many, many more!

Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold is a very beautiful and emotionally-charged love story. It's well written and totally engrossing. Thank you, Ellen, for another wonderful story! Highly recommended!

I'd like to end my review of Eyes of Silver, Eyes of Gold by saying the following:

Cord's eyes may have been cold as silver once, but when Annie came into his life, his eyes became a warm gold. Annie was able to fill his eyes with love, and the emptiness and coldness were gone eventually. Annie's big grey/silver eyes melted with Cord's golden eyes.

Ridley says

I'll admit upfront that I read this book in response to its regular, suspicious pimping on the Amazon romance boards. No book out there has all five-star reviews, at least not legitimate ones, but I'd have to read it to know for sure. Now that I have read it, I'll say that maybe some of those accolades are honest. If you don't pay attention to writing skill or mind too much telling or info dump, the plot is compelling enough that a pure plot reader could enjoy a book like this just fine.

The action opens with a desperate, hungry and bedraggled Anne Wells on the run from her domineering father in 1880s Colorado. Determined to convince her to marry a much older man she finds repulsive, her father had locked her in her room and fed her starvation rations. Adamant that she will not relent, she'd taken off running the night before. She's just woken up on a pile of hay in a barn on Cord Bennett's horse farm and is ready to beg the man to help her escape.

Unfortunately for them both, her father arrives with a posse while she's in Cord's house. Enraged to find her with the half-Indian outcast, and with his chosen suitor's refusal to marry her because of it, he and some ranch hands explode in a fury of violence. Cord and Anne are married at gunpoint then savagely abused. While one man nearly rapes Anne, cutting her with a knife in the process, the other hands beat and kicked Cord before leaving him for dead. Content that he's left her a widow, Anne's father leaves her there to crawl back and beg for her family's help later.

Against all odds, Cord survived the beating, albeit just barely. Injured herself, Anne nonetheless musters the strength to drag him inside and nurse him back to health. Despite the inauspicious beginning and knowing their families and the community won't accept them readily, they decide to take the marriage vows seriously and try to make a go of it.

The plot itself is fairly compelling, although it relies almost entirely on external conflict. There's never a dull moment with these two. Between his loving but distrustful family, her openly disapproving and scheming one and a town full of naysayers, there's always some conflict they're fighting, sass mouthing or riding their way out of. It certainly doesn't want for drama.

Unfortunately, and I am honestly disappointed in this, what could have been a rather poignant tale of two people making it work despite the odds ends up being a lesson in poor writing and editing. Since the book is self-published, I don't know if she hired an editor. I'm going to assume she did not and ascribe many of the faults to that. A good editor would've recognized the potential in this plot while taking a red pen to the epic info dumps and the tendency to plainly tell instead of show.

As a result, the first third to half of the book is almost painful to read. I was so eager to keep reading it that I put it down for a month and a half, levelling my fishing and archaeology in WoW instead. It read like an extremely long and detailed synopsis rather than an actual story. She had a really exciting idea for a novel here, but took too long to start actually crafting it. Wooden characters vomiting bits of backstory do not an engaging story make.

Further bolstering my theory that this was unedited is how the writing changes and improves in the last third of the book. It was like I was reading someone's semester-long creative writing project rather than a cohesive novel. This was the author's practice run. She seemed to have trouble finishing it, lingering on a bit too long after the book-long father conflict arc concluded, but the writing was crisper, the dialog more natural and the characters more organic as the story neared the end.

The longer the book went on, the more enthralled I was with it. In the end, I liked the pairing of strong, quiet and gentle Cord with spirited, cheerful and determined Anne. The characters were generally well drawn, though I never did come to understand why Cord's brothers acted the way they did, beyond propping up the conflict arc. Ultimately, though, the dreadful first half drags the rating down. If you can look past amateurish writing for a good plot, then this book may work for you. As for me, if I didn't feel bound to finish and review it, I'd have quit a quarter of the way in.
