



Pale Moon Walking

Paula Altenburg

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Where the outlaws are out of this world...

US Marshall Sam Kyote has been sent to the dry old town of Coyote Bluff to recuperate from a top-secret government experiment that's left this law man a little...well, *different*. But Sam's about to find out that the town of Coyote Bluff has a whole lot of secrets. Most of which lead to Libby Mayden-the sexy, long-legged, and tight-lipped sheriff who saved his ass from an alien ambush.

The last thing Libby needs is a US Marshall poking around her town, especially one who's hotter than the Nevada desert sun. She can't let Sam find out most of her town are wanted outlaws. Between the aliens, the gunfighters, and a searing sexual attraction to Sam, she's in a whole heap of trouble. And Libby'll stride both sides of the law-and Sam-until she's forced to choose between self-preservation...and her heart.

Pale Moon Walking Details

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From Reader Review Pale Moon Walking for online ebook

Karen says

I received a free copy of this book from netgalley and lately my reads from there have not been great, this was the gift in the group.

Summary: Basically you have aliens, the wild west, a guy that the government has been experimenting on (with alien blood) and a chick sheriff. Yeah and a little chemistry to keep things interesting. I know it sound awesome right? It was!

I'd like to point out that first this book is well written. You start to appreciate that when you get a couple of books in a row that aren't. Second the concept, see above, was actually fulfilled. Sam, one of the main characters, was interesting and likable, plus the whole alien blood making him manifest his new talents was pretty cool. Then you have Libby, she does the whole tough girl stay away from us thing well, but I still liked her as well. Even though the aliens were called Sky People (yikes!) I found the story building rich and was caught up before I knew it.

A romance with a scifi twist, well worth the read, enjoy!

Paula Altenburg says

It's mine. I'm giving it 5 stars because I love the cover so darn much.

Marta Cox says

Having previously read and enjoyed this authors Demon Outlaw series I know full well that Ms Altenburg has a unique take on what living in the old Wild West could have been like. Now with this book she not only gives us cowboys in an historical setting but adds in aliens! Yep you read that right aliens although her characters refer to the not so little green men (think blue and large) as the Sky People. Ok so here we have to add in the government and a secret unit dedicated to exploring the unexplained and you start to see that yet again Ms Altenburg has crafted a wholly unique concept and just let her imagination run wild and boy is she doing a fabulous job!

Sam Kyote is a Marshall and sworn to protect his country. What he hadn't expected was to find himself the victim of an experiment that seems to have gone somewhat awry! So now he can see in the dark and has the ability to pluck ideas out of minds and create realistic visions . Not sure what else might manifest and who to trust with his new found abilities he heads out West to Coyote Bluff ostensibly on sick leave but in reality to discover just how far his new talents actually go.

Libby is the sheriff at Coyote Bluff but as the daughter of a notorious outlaw has no wish to have some strange federal lawman sniffing around her town. Not all her citizens have always been exactly law abiding but these days it's a sleepy place with just the occasional hic up. Yes there are plenty of secrets that Libby is guarding but one of them involves the Sky People and from the first time they meet it's clear that Sam is no ordinary Marshall! The attraction this couple share is instant and off the charts but there's a whole host of interfering townsfolk to deal with and besides it's Libby's business who she becomes an "adventuress " with! Oh yes things escalate pretty quickly but this stubborn couple are about to face a whole load of danger as corruption from Washington comes knocking at the door!

I really felt as if I'd traveled back in time to the Wild West with this story. From gunfights to the odd posse, saloons and preachers this just felt so evocative of a time long gone. Ok now the alien angle was a bit unexpected and if frank I didn't feel it was explored quite enough but it sure did add to the general sense of fun. This book had action but always felt light hearted with the relationship between the couple definitely taking centre stage. I loved the supporting characters and thought a skillet wielding harridan to be inspired , not to mention a preacher with a surprising way of dealing with errant members of his congregation ! Oh yes the author certainly seems to have fun here and there's even a huge reveal at the end but I really wanted to know a little more such as how and why? I'm not sure if there are more books to come or if this is a standalone but hopefully if it is the beginning of a series more answers will be forthcoming. It was hugely entertaining and as usual this author kept me enthralled with her words. If you are looking for a romance with a difference then perhaps give this book a go and enjoy the ride !

I was gifted a copy in exchange for an honest review

Four and a half from me

Dragana says

Historical western novels never attracted me, because I don't like that era (too dirty and rough for my taste). But lately I've given some paranormal novels set in this period a try and I actually quite enjoyed them. So when I saw that *Pale Moon Walking* is western historical with aliens I was intrigued to read it.

LIKES

- * **Alternate history** is one of my favorite aspects of speculative fiction. I like to see what would have happened if some great events in history occurred differently. In *Pale Moon Walking* aliens crash-landed in 19-th century North America.
- * **Small town setting** with a bunch of colorful meddling characters. Coyote Bluff is a little town in Nevada. I was charmed by the most of the town inhabitants and their little quirks. Like the preacher that likes to box with brawlers after the service.
- * **Magic based on illusion** is not something I meet often. Usually when someone mentions magic I think of complex spells or big fireballs. It's interesting reading about a hero who is not almighty wizard. (Except for *Shades of Milk and Honey* I don't remember reading about illusions-only magic before.)
- * **Strong kick-ass heroine** has a perfect representative in sheriff Libby Mayden. You intermediately know she had to be tough to become a sheriff in the Old West. And Libby has awesome shooting skills and battle scars to prove it.
- * **Romance** between two strong, independent character was pretty well handled. Libby realizes that she does not have to be strong on her own. On the other hand, Sam does not make her submit completely and gives Libby a freedom she needs.
- * **Surprises.** I pegged down *Pale Moon Walking* for a typical western paranormal romance. So imagine my astonishment when a couple of unexpected twists to the story just happened out of the blue...

DISLIKES

- * **Bare minimum of world-building.** Western is a time period that is known to everyone, but I wish that there were more details how the presence of aliens aka. "*Sky People*" influenced everything.

* **Sex scenes** had very detailed descriptions. I usually do not mind it, but Paula Altenburg decided to give it a breath of authenticity by using words with western feel and it was big fail IMHO. "*Man's weather vane*" is an euphemism I do not wish to read ever again.

IN THE END...

Pale Moon Walking was a whirl-wind romance between two strong characters in the time of aliens and gunslingers. I enjoyed it as a perfect break from more complex epic fantasy novels. Recommended for fans of paranormal or historical romance novels who don't mind western setting. More demanding fantasy fans are probably going to find world-building lacking.

Disclaimer: *I received this ebook from NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review. This review is also posted on my blog Bookworm Dreams in a little bit more styled edition.*

Andrea says

I love the cover. I can picture Libby and Sam as those two (models?) in the cover.

The story is set in 1877, which have I know that before getting the e-book I probably wouldn't have read it, because I mostly read Contemporary Books. So I confess what drew me in was the cover. And I KNOW that sometimes appearance can be deceiving but in this case it didn't.

Back to the book... I could picture that old west setting with the heat, its people and the buildings that is described in the book.

What made this book really interesting where the Sky People, Marshal Sam Kyote, Libby Mayden and Max Mayden. The book start with Sam having a non-human blood transfusion, which creeps him out as it's to be expected, and getting an especial ability that later on ends being really helpful. He goes to Coyote Bluff on a sick leave and there she meets badass, amazing with any gun, Sheriff Libby Mayden, and from there all things just get better.

Almost everyone in this book had some kind of secrets, which is something I love reading about, secrets where you slowly discovers them. I'm not going to talk more about it because I can do it without giving spoilers.

The romance between the two main characters was funny to read, both of them where extremely stubborn. And even though we are told that Libby is independent we find out she has a bit of self-esteem issues thinking she isn't feminine and that no one would ever want her. It did bothered me a little bit at the beginning since she was supposed to be independent, strong and all that, but after some thinking I could understand it, since she was raised by her father and his father's men, basically around men, always wearing men clothes and not having a suitor before Sam.

The problem I had with this book (and this is why I'm not giving it the five stars) is that I feel like the book is inconclusive and there where parts I think are pointless. We never know where the "tool box" is, the one everyone is looking for.

What's Sam's new purpose after the problem in Coyote Bluff is over?

Also I feel Judge Roy Rowde went through a lot of trouble just to end in point cero, where he started. He didn't get what he wanted.

And...Will the sky people give up on everything or will they keep searching and causing trouble??

Aside from that, the book is pretty good, funny, with a lot of action and anyone could read it as a light read.

This is the first book I read from this author and I'm really impressed. I started reading this book without any expectation and ended up liking it so that's a win-win, right?

Yes.

****ARC received via Netgalley.com, thanks Netgalley and Mrs. Altenburg for the e-copy.****

Tanya says

Rating: 3 to 3.5 stars

This is a historical, which I didn't realize when I requested the ARC, but it was a good one. I tend to be super picky on historicals. Here we have the latter 1800s, and our hero, Sam, is a marshall with a secret division of the government basically assigned to the paranormal. He, unknown to him at the time, gets a little testing done on him when something is injected into his blood, causing him to develop some unusual skills. Libby is the daughter of an outlaw, currently stationed in a small western frontier town as sheriff. She is highly unusual as she is a gunslinger in her own right, and a female sheriff in the wild west, definitely not a weak heroine. Sam is sent west to learn to deal with his new abilities, and ends up in Libby's town. Also in their town is a group of aliens. So, we have here a historical western with scientific experimentation on soldiers and aliens. The setup is unique to be sure, and quite interesting. I loved that part, and liked the interactions between Sam and Libby as well, their strength and their internal dialogue, their respect for each other. The "mystery" had enough players it wasn't obvious all the time. In fact, a couple times I was lost for a chapter or two, so in fact a few too many twists and characters.

What I found not as engaging was that the story seemed to wander a bit, had a few too many POV changes and twists to keep track of, and some things were never fully revealed or explained but rather just kind of left hanging at the end of the story. That took away quite a bit from the book. I would definitely read more from this imaginative author though.

My thanks to the publisher via Netgalley for an advance copy of this book to read and provide an honest review.

Denise Van plew says

Well this was a unexpected pleasant surprise. I was most curious on how one with this type of story line would read especially since I do love all the elements. Maybe not so much anymore with Sci-FY unless it really pulls at me but read plenty years ago. this author though had the right combo because it pulled at me. An officer used in a special division but now told to go out west. Sam is also able to do things that many can not thanks to events beyond his control. His neighbor though will be lovely and have a history that doesn't get in the way though of doing her job which also happens to be in law enforcement. Many people are also very loyal to her and the community tight knit. One thing is for sure trouble will come calling and with

secrets and hidden truths coming out it is quite intriguing seeing how these two meet them face to face. The one too that sent the trouble will have his part in the story but do love the surprise that will later await him. These two are very good together with tantalizing way she does build their relationship. It does start out with a bang though with Sam finding out right away that Libby is not in the shy department but very much a woman who can handle herself and a gun. The out of this world men too interesting very interesting. By the time I have quickly inhaled this novel I am taken aback on how well I liked it leaving a satisfying feed for my reading fulfilled for the moment.

Stacy says

The wild west meets aliens in PALE MOON WALKING. PALE MOON WALKING takes place in the wild west era and I wasn't really expecting that for some reason so it was a surprise. I didn't think I was going to be able to fully enjoy it because I usually enjoy a more present day read, but I did end up liking the story.

Libby is the sheriff of Coyote Bluff and happens to be the daughter of the late leader of a gang of outlaws. She is extremely independent and knows how to handle a gun. There are a lot of former gang members that have made their home in Coyote Bluff so when a US Marshall comes to town she assumes he's up to no good. Sam is of course a US Marshal, but he is on a leave of sorts. He happens to make his new home in Coyote Bluff, but things quickly take a turn towards the dangerous side when he is attacked by aliens then is saved by the beautiful sheriff that dresses like a man, but he sees her as only a woman he wants to get to know.

The romance between Sam and Libby was fun. Libby is more of a spinster and Sam wants more. They both surprise each other throughout the book and are pretty hot together. Libby has a lot of soul searching to decide if she could live without Sam and I enjoyed being in her head as the story evolved.

I had a few small issues with PALE MOON WALKING. There are a lot of characters introduced and for some reason I had a hard time keeping some of them straight. I thought that the author dropped the ball on explaining some things about the world which made things a little hard to understand and made me feel like I missed something. Also, I didn't feel like the end cleared everything up. I am not sure if this will be part of a series, if so, then it wouldn't be that big of an issue. If it isn't part of a series I am left with a lot of questions and a feeling of being incomplete.

* This book was provided free of charge from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Eva Millien says

Sent to recuperate from a top secret government experiment, US Marshall Sam Kyote finds himself in a fight for his life in a town full of secrets and one sexy, long-legged and tight-lipped sheriff in this thrill-tastic paranormal romance.

Libby doesn't need a US Marshall poking around much a less a searing sexual attraction and the reader can't help but get caught up in all the excitement as Libby is forced to choose between self-preservation and her heart. The chemistry heats up the pages and the sex scenes are hotter but this is one combustible relationship that is sitting on a powder keg of secrets and spark inducing attitude with these strong captivating characters demanding your attention while they light the fuses and the fast paced, smooth flowing plot keeps the adrenaline pumping with suspense, excitement and romance.

A town full of secrets is definitely keeps tensions and expectations high but when you add in gunfighters, aliens and power hungry politicians you get a never ending supply of excitement and thrills that keep you on the edge of your seat especially as Sam and Libby's not sure just which one of them is the target, not to mention that the townspeople have a little mischief in the works. The well written scenes and details capture the imagination and make it easy for the reader to get drawn into the story while the intriguing events keep them glued to the pages with the effect of the experiment on Sam adding a bit of mystique and spice.

Paula Altenburg has a gift for bringing cowboys with a little something extra to vibrant and sexy life and this fascinating story has a searing combination of cowboys and aliens that will rock your foundations as it did mine. The conclusion was a very special and romantic touch, but as I can just picture Pete seeing that illusion (sorry I'm not gonna give away any spoilers) it gave me quite a few extra chuckles.

4 ½ STARS

Jacqueline (Fall In Love With The Sound of Words) says

Out of this world...is a perfect description for this ebook. I have never read anything by Paula Altenburg, but I have to say she is a very interesting author! This stories premise is, as far as I know, really original and intriguing. Hush hush alien invasion set during the wild west, where everyone is really trigger happy is the set up for one majorly intense story.

However, while I did enjoy it, there was a lot that Ms. Altenburg dropped the ball on. I have no idea if this is a series or a standalone, but it reads as if I am starting in the middle of a series. There were a few instances where I was confused about a character I have apparently somewhere before, but I don't remember. Or she just doesn't spend much time explaining things. Still despite the very little explanations and lack of excitement, this was a very good escape from reality.

Gigi staub says

Where the outlaws are out of this world...

US Marshall Sam Kyote has been sent to the dry old town of Coyote Bluff to recuperate from a top-secret government experiment that's left this law man a little...well, different. But Sam's about to find out that the town of Coyote Bluff has a whole lot of secrets. Most of which lead to Libby Mayden-the sexy, long-legged, and tight-lipped sheriff who saved his ass from an alien ambush.

The last thing Libby needs is a US Marshall poking around her town, especially one who's hotter than the Nevada desert sun. She can't let Sam find out most of her town are wanted outlaws. Between the aliens, the gunfighters, and a searing sexual attraction to Sam, she's in a whole heap of trouble. And Libby'll stride both sides of the law-and Sam-until she's forced to choose between self-preservation...and her heart.

Review:

I picked this up for review because the blurb sounded very unique and interesting and I was not disappointed. Right off the top of my head I cannot think of another book I have read lately that combines aliens and the old west. Though there are aliens, it is not over the top, the Author makes it seem plausible for the alien

spacecraft to have crashed-landed on our planet. I would have liked to read more about the reasoning/explanation/outcome of Marshall Kyote's being able to manipulate peoples perceptions, I understand how it happened, but I think there was a lot more potential there-I hope that makes some kind of sense...lol The Author did a great job of creating a small, out-of-the-way western town that is full of interesting and misfit characters. You really get a feel for the town and the people through the Author's storytelling. I really loved Libby, I love strong women characters and I think she is one of the strongest I have read. After running with her father's gang for most of her life, she is a force to be reckoned with and is an equal partner for Sam even in a time when it is not normal for women to be in a leading role. I have to say I am not usually easily fooled, but I was totally taken by surprise by who one character really was near the end of the book. Sam and Libby were great and I was sad to see their story end.

Expertly meshed story of the old west and aliens, with an engaging storyline and great characters!

4Stars

Received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Chelsea says

Received and ARC from Netgalley

I was surprised at the start of this book that it was set in the 1800s, my first impression was that it would be contemporary. I am a huge fan of historical novels so that made me happy. Overall, I think the book was great. I can't wait to read more books about the same place and people, if the author is writing more...I was unsure with how it ended if there would be another book written or not.

I loved the fact that Libby was an independent woman who could look after herself and could HELP Sam with what needed to be done. One of my favorite types of lead females are those who are badass and can take care of themselves without simpering and cowering and waiting for the hero to show up. This book did an awesome job of showing Sam independent, showing Libby independent and then showing them working great as a team!

One of the things I didn't like was how there wasn't a good explanation of the abilities that Sam could do. I also didn't know what abilities the Sky people had so it would have been nice to have a better comparison of the experiment vs. the people. Then I think I could have gotten a better idea of what Sam's abilities were. For example, at the end of the book when the Sky person was saying how impressive Sam's skills were...impressive as in better than Sky people abilities? Or impressive for a human to have certain abilities? If illusion was a skill of the Sky People then why didn't they ever use it when Sam and Libby were coming after them?

The only thing I was still unsure of was who exactly the Sky People were. Did they blend in to civilization? Were those searching for the box ones who were loners and not a part of civilization? Was there something significant that had the Sky People starting to search for the box?

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy.

PALE MOON WALKING is a brilliant blend of the Wild West and aliens and at the center a strong romance between two very tough, independent characters. We have gunslingers, small desert towns mixed with government conspiracies, military experimentation, and mysterious aliens. You'd think these ideas would make for a bizarre and confusing story but actually it fits really well together into a story of secrets, romance, and alien artifacts. I love a book filled with people who have secrets and watching these secrets unravel slowly as the story progresses finally to a big reveal.

I adore Libby Mayden, the tough sheriff of Coyote Bluff who happens to be an excellent shot. She is resourceful, smart, and handily works her way to a point of some respect in a position typically reserved for a man. Sam Kyote, is a Marshall who gets an experimental dose of alien blood which gives him powers. I quite liked his powers and seeing how he used them in a fight and to protect himself and Libby. They both fit well together and have a lot of cute banter about whether they should be in a relationship or not and just how they should work together. Like Libby and Sam, the secondary characters are wonderfully realized. The characters and Coyote Bluff feel real with colorful characters and full lives of their own.

In regards to the science fiction part, I wish there were a little more and this is from someone who doesn't really enjoy reading science fiction that much. I wanted to know more about the Sky People (aka the aliens) and the alien artifacts that are hanging around Earth. How have they influenced this world? Do more people have powers like Sam? The romance was heavy which was nice but I had more questions in the end which makes me hope that there is another story or two after this one. The ending wasn't really satisfying for me aside from Sam and Libby's happy ending for their relationship.

Sexual content: Graphic sex scenes

Elaine says

What a fantastic, unique story! Take one crashed alien spacecraft, scientists experimenting using alien blood, outlaws, a feisty female sheriff, crooked politicians and an alien enhanced US Marshall, set it in the Wild West in 1877 and you're in for a totally different but altogether brilliant story! Add in that almost everyone in the story has secrets to tantalise and slowly uncover then start to read it all to find that the author is skilled in making this all an engaging and amazing tale.

The story starts with Marshal Sam Kyote discovering that he's been given a transfusion of alien blood. Whilst discovering the effects this has had he's also having dreadful headaches so is sent on sick leave by the scientist who did this to Coyote Bluff. The scientist also issues warnings to Sam and tells him to use the time wisely to find out just what effects the transfusion has on his life.

Over in Coyote Bluff the town's sheriff is Libby Mayden, a fast shooting, independent and feisty daughter of the leader of a notorious gang of outlaws. Libby grew up and travelled with her father and his men. She dresses like a man and doesn't think she's very feminine. Sam, however, has other ideas - he thinks she's very attractive and the feeling is actually mutual! Some of their interactions are hilarious!

The aliens are shape shifters known as Sky People. They crashed near Coyote Bluff but what are they after and who is working with them?

This is a great mixed genre story - science fiction, historical, mystery, thriller, humour and, of course, romance, so if you like any combination of these this book may well appeal. Personally, I enjoy all those genres and this book had me laughing out loud at times so I have no hesitation in recommending others to read it, too. So glad to have found another author to look out for in future!

Thanks to the publishers for kindly sending me a paperback ARC of this fantastic book in exchange for an honest review.

Sophia says

I've enjoyed this author's western paranormal dystopian series and was tickled to see this western sci-fi romance. Blending elements is a gift for this author as well as her tough characters that have the true western spirit. The book had some creative elements, an intrigue, and strong characters. The plotting was solid if slow developing and lagging in the middle, but things got pretty exciting toward the end and made up for it.

The story opens with US Marshal and Special Division member, Sam Kyote, discovering that he has been experimented on to make him capable of going up against possible 'out of this world' enemies and the humans that would partner with them. His enhanced abilities are to be kept secret particularly from a traitor in his own government organization so he is sent to practice with his new abilities and keep a low profile in the backwater frontier town of Coyote Bluff.

The locals including the town sheriff are all interested in their new resident, but Libby Mayden's curiosity runs to suspicion when intruders on Sam's land lead to a gun battle and the intruders act odd as does Sam. She has seen this oddness before and has hidden her secrets well. She has a past as the daughter of an infamous outlaw trying to live down her past. She never wanted all the things that most women desire- husband, home, and family, but her attraction to Sam is confusing her. He seems to accept her as she is and isn't intimidated by her ability with a gun and desire to do lawwork, but he does challenge her to reconsider the no relationship policy.

While Sam and Libby are figuring out the attraction between them, Sam sees that she is keeping secrets, but then so is he. The intruders and watchers at his ranch aren't human and he possesses non-human abilities no thanks to someone forcing alien blood and matter into him. He must thwart the alien threat and figure out if Libby's secrets are part of his latest mission. And he must really figure out how to get the hard, stubborn woman to accept they can be together.

Alright, so I really loved the world building the author set up and the intrigue going on as two different groups are plotting around Sam and Libby and seem to be working to influence their actions. The passion and playful back and forth between the romance pair was good as well even if they are only moderately developed. But, the middle of this book seemed to lag for me. I got distracted and put it down a few times. Then it picked up again and I was right back into it.

This small town with it's quirky characters was a hoot. I laughed at some of their antics particularly the hellion who terrified all the men and was dangerous when wielding her frying pan, the town gossip in Libby's deputy and the storeowner's wife, the pastor who used to be a prize fighter, and more.

The alien element was interesting because it was paired with a western. They crash landed and try to blend as they work toward their own goals. They aren't as prominent as I thought they'd be since the real challenge for Sam and Libby is a human enemy working with the aliens.

There is also another figure orchestrating affairs that is a mystery. He might be a good guy or he might be a villain. All the way through, he is one big puzzle. I was glad to figure him out early since I love it when I can work out a mystery. It was a neat surprise element in the story.

All in all, this was a fun and exciting read even with the lag in the middle. The blend of elements was well

done. I hope the author writes more of these. I would recommend this one for those who can enjoy tough yet passionate characters situated in a fun blend of sci-fi and western romance.

I got this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.
