

RT BOOKCLUB MAGAZINE REVIEWS

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--Please also refer to the BOOKS tab, then view "Awards"

December 2011

DUTY TO PROTECT

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense

★★★★★ 1/2 RT Rating

**RT Bookclub Magazine Reviewer's Choice Nominee
Best Love Inspired Suspense of 2011**

DUTY TO PROTECT (4.5) by Roxanne Rustand: After testifying against a powerful drug cartel, Emma White and her family were placed in the witness protection program. Over the past few years, both of her parents have been targeted and killed. Emma appears to be next. Fearful for her life, Emma stows away in Jake Kincaid's truck. After hearing her story, Jake vows to keep her safe. Emma does not want to place his family in danger, but she may have no other option. A riveting page-turner with the promise that forgiving others and turning one's worries over to God will help in making a new start. *Reviewed By: Leslie McKee*

November 2011

THE LONER'S THANKSGIVING WISH

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Steeple Hill Love Inspired

★★★★★ RT Rating

THE LONER'S THANKSGIVING WISH (4) by Roxanne Rustand: To satisfy the conditions of her grandfather's will, Mei Clayton has returned to the hometown and family that never seemed to accept her. Both sides of her family are at odds and Jack McCord, Mei's high school crush, is linked to the wrong side. He may be able to get on her mother's good side when he offers to track down Mei's missing brother. Someone seems determined to run Mei out of town. Can a Thanksgiving meal mend the rift in her family? At times, many feel that, due to their differences, they do not belong. Rustand reminds us that God always has a plan, even if it is not obvious to us. *Reviewed By: Leslie McKee*

October 2011

A HOME IN HILL COUNTRY

Harlequin Heartwarming series

(Newly revised for the Heartwarming line, but originally published as BACK IN TEXAS. Here is that original review)

BACK IN TEXAS

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

★★★★★ RT Rating

When Ryan Gallagher, injured from the military, returns home to help save his family's ranch, he soon finds out he's not the only one who's come home. His first love, the woman who broke his heart when she left him, Kristin Cantrell, is also back. Divorced, she's hoping to start fresh. Still attracted to each other, in spite of the years that have passed, Ryan and Kristin are forced to deal with Ryan's father and his disapproval of their relationship. Although the story of *Back in Texas* (4) by Roxanne Rustand isn't new, Rustand freshens it up with a mystery surrounding the death of Kristin's father and the money missing from Ryan's family's ranch. A solid read. *Reviewed By: Alexandra Kay* Originally published: October 2005

July, 2011

HOME AT BLACKBERRY HILL

Harlequin Heartwarming series

(newly revised for the Heartwarming line; originally published as A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT. Here is the original review).

A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

★★★★ RT Rating

After Abby Cahill takes a temporary position as director of nursing at a small-town hospital, she's left without a place to live when the apartment she rented burns to the ground. Luckily, she finds help in the form of wildlife biologist and part-time fishing guide Ethan Matthews, who offers Abby a place to stay in return for helping him out while he recovers from an injury. But things get a little complicated when Ethan's animals start mysteriously escaping, and Abby is framed for a theft after a fundraiser. *A Temporary Arrangement* (4), by Roxanne Rustand, is an entertaining read. The characters are well developed, and the dialogue is good. The book offers a fascinating peek into the return of wolves to their native habitats. *Reviewed By: Alexandra Kay* Originally published: August 2006

June 2011

SECOND CHANCE DAD

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Steeple Hill Love Inspired

★★★★ RT Rating

SECOND CHANCE DAD (4) by Roxanne Rustand: Widowed physical therapist Sophie Alexander is currently temping as a county health-care worker. Dr. Josh McLaren is wallowing in guilt over the death of his wife and unborn son, and doesn't want Sophie's help. However Josh is drawn into Sophie's life, especially after he meets her 7-year-old son Eli, who suffers from Asperger's. That is, until Eli gets hurt and Josh once again blames himself. The second in Rustand's Aspen Creek Crossroads series is an emotional story of two people whose pasts cast dark clouds on their futures until God brings them together and love shines through. *Reviewed By: Susan Mobley*

April 2011

MURDER AT GRANITE FALLS

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense

★★★★ 1/2 RT Rating



**RT Bookclub Magazine Reviewer's Choice Nominee
Best Love Inspired Suspense of 2011**

MURDER AT GRANITE FALLS (4.5) by Roxanne Rustand: Attempting to make a fresh start far away from her ex-husband, Carrie Randall takes a job as a teacher in Montana. The strange reaction some of the townspeople have to her apartment's owner, Logan Bradley, worries Carrie. But Logan steps in to help her after a prowler shows up outside her home and her ex arrives in tow. When a murder is committed, and Carrie and Logan are suspects, they realize they must do some investigating on their own. The fourth Big Secrets story is an intriguing mystery with some unexpected twists.

Reviewed By: Susan Mobley

November 2010**WINTER REUNION**by Roxanne Rustand

Steeple Hill Love Inspired

★★★★ RT Rating

WINTER REUNION (4) by Roxanne Rustand: Beth Corrigan was hurt when husband Devlin Sloane announced he was divorcing her. He returns to Aspen Creek, because of the stipulations in his mother's will, and he and Beth must work together to save his inheritance. He becomes involved in the lives of the people his mother was helping at Sloane House, his former childhood home. This makes him take another look at the reasons he left Beth. Will Beth forgive the hurts of the past and accept Dev back into her life? The first of Rustand's Aspen Creek Crossroads series is peopled with charming characters. It's a quiet romance that focuses on the hero's need for understanding and healing, both physically and spiritually.

Reviewed By: Susan Mobley

June 2010**END GAME**by Roxanne Rustand

Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense

★★★★ RT Rating

**RT Bookclub Magazine Reviewer's Choice Nominee
Best Love Inspired Suspense of 2010**

END GAME (4) by Roxanne Rustand: On the alert for the man who has assaulted and killed two women, county deputy Megan Peters is suspicious of new faces. One such face belongs to Scott Anders, and though he has an alibi, Megan senses there is something about him that's not quite right. She soon discovers Scott is an ex-cop and though his interest in keeping her from harm is irritating, she can't help but feel gratified. When the killer she's after begins taunting her, she also finds his interest may be life-saving. This third story in Rustand's Big Sky Secrets series has plenty of suspense. The hero's penchant for adopting unwanted animals adds a delightfully compassionate element to this well-crafted mystery. *Reviewed By: Susan Mobley*

February 2010**FATAL BURN**by Roxanne Rustand

Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense

★★★★ RT Rating

FATAL BURN (3) by Roxanne Rustand: Kris Donaldson's welcome to the ranch she inherited is less than auspicious. She's greeted by a rifle in the hands of new neighbor, Trace Randall. Though she plans to fix up and sell the place as soon as possible, Kris instead opens a temporary animal shelter for the county. Yet someone doesn't want Kris here, and soon her life and the lives of the animals in her care are in danger. Is this enough to convince Kris and Trace to put the past behind them and live in the present? This second story in Rustand's Big Sky Secrets series has a strong heroine with an imperfect past and a wonderful cowboy hero, but some of her situations could have been better illuminated. *Reviewed By: Susan Mobley*

September 2009

FINAL EXPOSURE

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense

★★★★ RT Rating

FINAL EXPOSURE (4) by Roxanne Rustand: It's been many years since Erin Cole has been to Lost Falls. The memory of her friend Laura's murder has kept her away. Now back to run her grandfather's store, she knows Laura's killer is dead, yet she still feels someone is watching her. It helps to have Jack Matthews and his nephew close by. Jack and Max have their own sorrows to struggle with but are willing to help when it becomes apparent that someone is after Erin. This first story in Rustand's Big Sky Secrets series has great suspense, an intriguing mystery and a number of intriguing characters.

Reviewed By: Susan Mobley

August 2009

SAVE THE LAST DANCE

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★ RT Rating

SAVE THE LAST DANCE (4) by Roxanne Rustand: When veterinarian Kate Mathers' husband Jared is critically injured in a hit-and-run accident that might have something to do with his legal practice, she waits by his side to see if he'll recover. At the same time, the police question the presence of a woman who died in the accident and a gun found in the car. While waiting for Jared to wake, Kate tries to renew her trust of her husband. Rustand seamlessly weaves together the past and the present to tell Kate and Jared's moving story, adding on an exciting ending. *Reviewed By: Alexandra Kay*

May 2009

DEADLY COMPETITION

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense

★★ RT Rating

DEADLY COMPETITION by Roxanne Rustand: On the run, Mandy Erick ends up in Loomis, La., where she gets a job as a nanny and housekeeper for Clint Herald and his little niece. As Mandy's refusal to share her past with Clint puts her more in the public eye, the attraction Clint feels for her makes her long to be honest with him. Yet all these things may be moot if her ex-boyfriend finds her, because he has no plans to take her back -- alive. Rustand's novel has plenty of suspense and picks up seamlessly from the previous Without a Trace story, but it is disturbing that the heroine's self-centered concern puts a child in danger. (*Note: this element was required as part of this six author series.*) *Reviewed By: Susan Mobley*

March 2008

WILDFIRE

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense

★★★★ RT Rating

Ranch owner Tessa McAllister suddenly experiences quite a bit of trouble. She's shot, but the bullet only grazes her. Then she has to save the life of a man injured in a motorcycle accident who turns out to be her former love, photojournalist Josh Bryant. While he heals and waits for his bike to be repaired, Josh stays at the ranch. Can they find out who's behind all this trouble? Roxanne Rustand's *Wildfire* (4) is a riveting story. *Reviewed By: Robin Taylor*

February 2008**VENDETTA**by Roxanne Rustand

Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense

★★★★ RT Rating

Cole Daniels just bought property that the McAllister family had owned for decades. From the start problems exist between him and Leigh McAllister, the new vet in the area. Cole's primary goal is to discover why his father died in prison after being convicted of murder. Leigh's conflict is her once-broken heart when it comes to Cole. Also, someone doesn't want her there, and all sorts of things are happening to her clinic. Who really has the *Vendetta* (4) -- Cole, or someone else entirely? Roxanne Rustand delivers a quick read with strong suspense. *Reviewed By: Robin Taylor*

November 2007**HARD EVIDENCE**by Roxanne Rustand

Steeple Hill Love Inspired Suspense

★★★★ RT Rating

Janna McAllister has the opportunity to care for her mother while also restoring the family's defunct vacation lodge in Roxanne Rustand's *Hard Evidence* (4). Their first customers are a father and son, Michael and Ian Robertson, and they prove to be a godsend for them both in this warm and enjoyable mystery. *Reviewed By: Robin Taylor*

SECULAR TITLES**September 2007****LONE STAR LEGACY**by Roxanne Rustand

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★ RT Rating

After her husband's death in a car accident, Beth Lindstrom moves to Texas with her young daughter to fix up and sell a house she inherited years earlier. She gets help in the form of a neighborly veterinarian and his nephew, Joel McAllen, a police officer on leave from work after a tragic incident. But Beth's problems follow her to Texas in the form of threatening phone calls from an unknown source looking for some money her husband supposedly embezzled before he died. Readers will surely enjoy the well-developed plot of *Lone Star Legacy* (4), by Roxanne Rustand. The author delivers warm, colorful characters and sparkling description. The backstory surrounding Joel's leave from work could have used more explanation, but it won't detract from the enjoyment. *Reviewed By: Alexandra Kay*

August 2006**A TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT**by Roxanne Rustand

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★★ RT Rating

After Abby Cahill takes a temporary position as director of nursing at a small-town hospital, she's left without a place to live when the apartment she rented burns to the ground. Luckily, she finds help in the form of wildlife biologist and part-time fishing guide Ethan Matthews, who offers Abby a place to stay in return for helping him out while he recovers from an injury. But things get a little complicated when Ethan's animals start mysteriously escaping, and Abby is framed for a theft after a fundraiser. *A Temporary Arrangement* (4), by Roxanne Rustand, is an entertaining read. The characters are well developed, and the dialogue is good. The book offers a fascinating peek into the return of wolves to their native habitats. *Reviewed By: Alexandra Kay*

February 2006**A MAN SHE CAN TRUST**

Harlequin Superromance

by Roxanne Rustand

★★★★★ 1/2 RT Rating

**WINNER... RT BOOKCLUB MAGAZINE'S REVIEWERS' CHOICE AWARD
FOR BEST HARLEQUIN SUPERROMANCE OF 2006**

Jill and Grant Edwards have been separated for six months when Grant has to move back to town for a few months to run his dad's law office while his father is in the hospital. Still smarting over the failure of their marriage, the two are forced together by threats from the ex-husband of one of Grant's clients. Dealing with the danger gives them time to put their marriage back together and allows Jill to discover that she really can trust Grant after all. Roxanne Rustand's *A Man She Can Trust* (4.5) has great characters and an interesting plot. Rustand makes the book even more interesting with an attraction between Grant's father and a nurse at Jill's hospital. A great read! *Reviewed By: Alexandra Kay*

October 2005**BACK IN TEXAS**by Roxanne Rustand

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★★ RT Rating

When Ryan Gallagher, injured from the military, returns home to help save his family's ranch, he soon finds out he's not the only one who's come home. His first love, the woman who broke his heart when she left him, Kristin Cantrell, is also back. Divorced, she's hoping to start fresh. Still attracted to each other, in spite of the years that have passed, Ryan and Kristin are forced to deal with Ryan's father and his disapproval of their relationship. Although the story of *Back in Texas* (4) by Roxanne Rustand isn't new, Rustand freshens it up with a mystery surrounding the death of Kristin's father and the money missing from Ryan's family's ranch. A solid read. *Reviewed By: Alexandra Kay*

July 2005

ALMOST A FAMILY

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★ RT Rating

Newly divorced, hospital administrator Erin Lang moves to a small town to raise her adopted children, only to find that her deceased cousin's widower, Connor Reynolds, has also moved there. Erin was always attracted to Connor, but she tries to stay away so that he won't learn the secret she's been keeping for his late wife. *Almost a Family* (3) by Roxanne Rustand is an enjoyable read. The characters are appealing; Connor, especially, is hard to resist. The addition of a murder mystery at the hospital where Connor and Erin work adds a nice twist, but the guilty party is obvious. *Reviewed By: Alexandra Kay*

September 2004

OPERATION: TEXAS

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★ RT Rating

Celia Remington has been managing her family's ranch for years with little help. But when she and her daughter are threatened by drug runners, it's time to turn to DEA agent Brady Coleman for help with *Operation: Texas* (3). Now Brady must stay undercover and catch the smugglers before someone gets hurt. There are no real surprises in store, and a subplot involving a farmhand's reunion with his granddaughter has more energy than the main romance in Roxanne Rustand's novel.

March 2004

OPERATION: SECOND CHANCE

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★★ RT Rating

Joe Walker is determined to clear his name and collar those who sent him to prison. But to do that he needs to get close to Abby Hilliard, whose deceased husband was part of the illegal activities for which Joe was convicted. He thought Abby was involved too, but her kind-heartedness quickly dispels that theory. However, falling in love with her could get them both killed. Roxanne Rustand's *OPERATION: SECOND CHANCE* (4) offers plenty of compelling intersecting plotlines—there's Joe's imprisonment story, his relationship with his estranged daughter, Abby's bond with the girl and, of course, Joe and Abby's relationship. *Reviewed By: Pamela Cohen*

November 2003

CHRISTMAS AT SHADOW CREEK

by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★★ RT Rating

Joanna Weston had a hell of a year and the last thing she's looking for is romance, but try telling her heart that once she meets Ben Carson. Ben isn't looking for a relationship, but apparently no one bothered to tell his heart either. Now Joanna and Ben must find a way to deal with their emotions, without anyone getting hurt. Readers will enjoy spending *CHRISTMAS AT SHADOW CREEK* (4), thanks to Roxanne Rustand's creative storytelling and the special touch she brings to her characters. *Reviewed By: Pamela Cohen*

November 2002**OPERATION: MISTLETOE**by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Harlequin Supperomance

★★★★ RT Rating

DEA agent Sara Hanrahan goes undercover in her hometown. Deputy Nathan Roswell isn't sure what Sara is up to, but one thing is certain—she makes his pulse race. But just as he opens his heart to her, Sara's case explodes, putting his love and hers on the line. Roxanne Rustand pens a winner with OPERATION: MISTLETOE (4). An interesting twist is how the murder mystery from Sara's past entwines within her current DEA assignment. *Reviewed By: Pamela Cohen*

June 2002**OPERATION: KATIE**by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★ RT Rating

Agent Zach Forrester is horrified when hours after his sister drops off her daughter with him for safe keeping, a bomb explodes. Running from an unknown assailant, Zach heads to his hometown. Dana Hathaway can't believe Zach has the nerve to show his face after leaving without a word. While his feelings for Dana are still strong, Zach knows falling for her could do more than break her heart—it could kill her. In spite of his failure to warn Dana of danger, and his nemesis' hazy motives, Roxanne Rustand weaves a stirring romance and a choice thriller in OPERATION: KATIE (4). *Reviewed By: Pamela Cohen*

September 2001**A MONTANA FAMILY**by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★ RT Rating

Returning home after many years, a spirited doctor finds herself struggling to balance a tenuous family relationship, opposition from the townspeople, and a blossoming romance with a handsome contractor. One wrong move may cost her everything including her one chance at true love. Interwoven storylines, strong secondary characters and tender passion makes Roxanne Rustand's A MONTANA FAMILY (4) a topnotch romance. *Reviewed By: Pamela Cohen*

April 2001**RODEO**by [Roxanne Rustand](#)

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★ RT Rating

When an injured bull rider decides to participate in the RODEO (4) from the business side he runs smack into a wall. Or rather an ex-lover who isn't about to turn over the reins, especially since she's never forgiven him for leaving her. But even as she pushes him away, her heart calls him back. Roxanne Rustand blends all the elements of a topnotch romance: passion, suspense, a rugged hero and a feisty heroine. *Reviewed By: Pamela Cohen*

2001

ORCHESTRATED MURDER

Multi-author trade paperback, for Iowa Public Radio

Not reviewed in RT Bookclub magazine

October 2000

THE HOUSE AT BRIAR LAKE

by Roxanne Rustand

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★ RT Rating

A sexy criminal lawyer visits THE HOUSE AT BRIAR LAKE (4) for peace and renewal. Instead he finds a sulky teenager and a feisty single momwhos disturbing his peace of mind. Shes awakened hidden feelings, but an ugly secret from her past may prevent them from enjoying a happy-ever-after. Roxanne Rustand's strong and engaging characters move smoothly and confidently through this charged storyline. *Reviewed By: Pamela Cohen*

February 2000

MONTANA LEGACY

by Roxanne Rustand

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★ RT Rating

1995 RWA GOLDEN HEART FINALIST

When a dispirited policewoman decides to explore her MONTANA LEGACY (4), a part-ownership in a ranch, the rugged rancher who owns the other half isnt exactly overjoyed to see her. Will her growing fondness for the land convince him that she would make a good partner? Bright new talent Roxanne Rustand fills the pages with multi-faceted characters, lots of sensuality and just a hint of mystery to keep the reader well entertained from first page to last! *Reviewed By: Pamela Cohen*

August 1999

HER SISTER'S CHILDREN

by Roxanne Rustand

Harlequin Superromance

★★★★ RT Rating

When her sibling suddenly dies, a personnel director finds herself guardian to HER SISTERS CHILDREN and owner of a rustic lodge . Unfortunately, her sisters ex decides to battle her for custody. Despite slow and uneven pacing, gifted new author Roxanne Rustand imaginatively strikes the right balance between emotional depth, intrigue, tears and laughter.

Reviewed By: Pamela Cohen