

# The Laws of Attraction by Mary Connealy

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## BETHANY HOUSE

#### Bestselling, Award-Winning Author Continues Her Adventurous Frontier Romance Series

"Connealy infuses this story with faith, humor, and plenty of adventure. Readers who enjoy inspirational fiction with suspense and a Western bent will find much to enjoy in this series."

-Booklist on Woman of Sunlight

Minneapolis, Minn.—With over 1.5 million copies sold to date, historical romance favorite Mary Connealy invites readers back to nineteenth-century Wyoming as she continues her WYOMING SUNRISE series. Highlighting strong western women in unconventional careers, this adventuresome tale brings the American West to life against a historical backdrop complete with budding romance, witty banter, and an absorbing mystery that readers won't want to miss in *The Laws of Attraction*.

. . .

Widow Nell Armstrong loves being a seamstress, but with few women living out west, instead of making dresses, she's found an annoying yet lucrative career producing chaps for the cowboys in her tiny Wyoming town.

When Brandon "Brand" Nolte—a widower and a hapless father of three girls—arrives in town with his daughters dressed in britches and sporting short, shaggy hair, Nell sees an opportunity to help. Brand has no idea how to dress the girls, and Nell finally has a chance both to create beautiful dresses and teach the girls to sew.

But Nell is much more than a seamstress, and soon the legal and investigative skills and knowledge she picked up alongside her late lawman husband become critical when a wounded stagecoachrobbery survivor is brought to town.

Due to her unique skill set, Nell is appointed one of the first female justices of the peace. Yet as danger closes in from all sides, Nell and Brand must discover why there seems to be a bull's-eye on their backs.



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# BETHANY HOUSE

#### **About the Author**

Mary Connealy writes "romantic comedies with cowboys" and is celebrated for her fun, zany, action-packed style. She has sold more than 1.5 million books. She is the author of the popular series Brothers in Arms, Brides of Hope Mountain, High Sierra Sweethearts, The Kincaid Brides, Trouble in Texas, Lassoed in Texas, Sophie's Daughters, and many other books. Mary lives on a ranch in eastern Nebraska with her very own romantic cowboy hero. Learn more at MaryConnealy.com.

# PRAISE for Connealy's Previous Novels

"A smooth, light read, full of emotion, humor, and surprises."

—All About Romance on A Man with a Past

"This is such a satisfying tale. I love the unique characters, showcasing faithful women as strong and educated with a spiritual softness. This is more than a historical romance. It includes suspense and plenty of danger, twists, turns, action, heart, humor, and sweet romance."

—Cover Lover Book Review on Inventions of the Heart

"This quirky, intelligent, and adventurous romance caught and kept my attention. I recommend for fans of prairie romance."

— Terrie Gillespie, author of Sweet Rivalry on The Element of Love

"With plenty of action, suspense, adventure, humor, and a dash of romance and inspiration, this book has something for everyone."

—Inkwell Inspirations on The Element of Love



# Author Interview with Mary Connealy The Laws of Attraction

#### Can you tell us a little about your new novel The Laws of Attraction?

The Laws of Attraction is the centerpiece of this three-book series. I wanted to write a story with a backdrop of Women's Suffrage in Wyoming, the first state to grant women the right to vote. In this novel, my heroine is a justice of the peace. Wyoming Territory allowed women to serve in public offices, to be on juries, own property—all sorts of roles beyond voting. And since Wyoming had the first woman justice of the peace, I decided to make my heroine the second.

#### How is this novel different from book one in the series, Forged in Love?

I had the women all work in nontraditional jobs. *Forged in Love*'s heroine is a blacksmith. To be made the town judge, however, would be considered quite radical back then. Although my heroine, Nell, the widow of a lawman, is knowledgeable when it comes to the law and investigations, really she just wants to be a seamstress. Still, the town council presses her into service, and she comes through and finds herself enjoying being called "Your Honor."

## Can you give us some context for the book's historical setting? What was happening around this time in U.S. history?

The story is all about what was happening in U.S. history. Women everywhere were fighting for the right to vote, which was a cause that moved to the forefront after the Civil War. The research I did was so fascinating, about Susan B. Anthony and the protests surrounding women's suffrage, and how this cause became linked to that of granting voting rights to former slaves. Somehow these two groups that seemed apt to work together, instead opposed each other with their trying to get one group's voting rights to pass before the other.

### What inspired the idea for a series that focuses on strong female protagonists in careers that were unconventional for women at the time?

In my research, I stumbled upon the name Esther Hobart Morris, the first woman justice of the peace in America. I read her biography, several of them, and anything else I could find about her. I knew I had to use this as the backdrop to a series.

#### Is this novel based on a true story?

Sort of. Esther Morris actually walks through the pages of the story. So, in that sense there is some truth woven into the fictional fabric of the book. But, as always, when the truth gets in the

way of my story, I immediately abandon it to make the story work—and to make it fun and entertaining.

#### What was one interesting thing that you discovered while researching for this story?

I loved the story of Wyoming being rejected over and over for statehood unless they took the vote away from women. Utah actually gave women the right to vote, but when taking it back was a condition of being admitted to the Union, Utah stripped away the right to vote. Wyoming absolutely refused. When word got out that "this year" it was going to pass, there was a riot in Washington, D.C.—protests against allowing it. One representative from Wyoming kept shouting the words from a telegram he'd received from the Wyoming legislature: "We will stay out of the Union a hundred years rather than come in without our women." Whoever was shouting this ended up having to climb a wall to escape the mob, but even as he climbed, he kept yelling the words over and over again. That piece of history made me smile.

#### What lessons do you hope people gain by reading *The Laws of Attraction*?

Mostly I just hope they have fun, that they come on an adventure with me. If I teach them any lessons, it's probably by accident.

#### Can you share what you're working on next?

The Laws of Attraction is book two in the WYOMING SUNRISE series. Book three, Marshaling Her Heart, is coming in October 2023.

#### How can readers connect with you?

Find Mary online at:

http://maryconnealy.com

http://www.Facebook.com/maryconnealy

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