

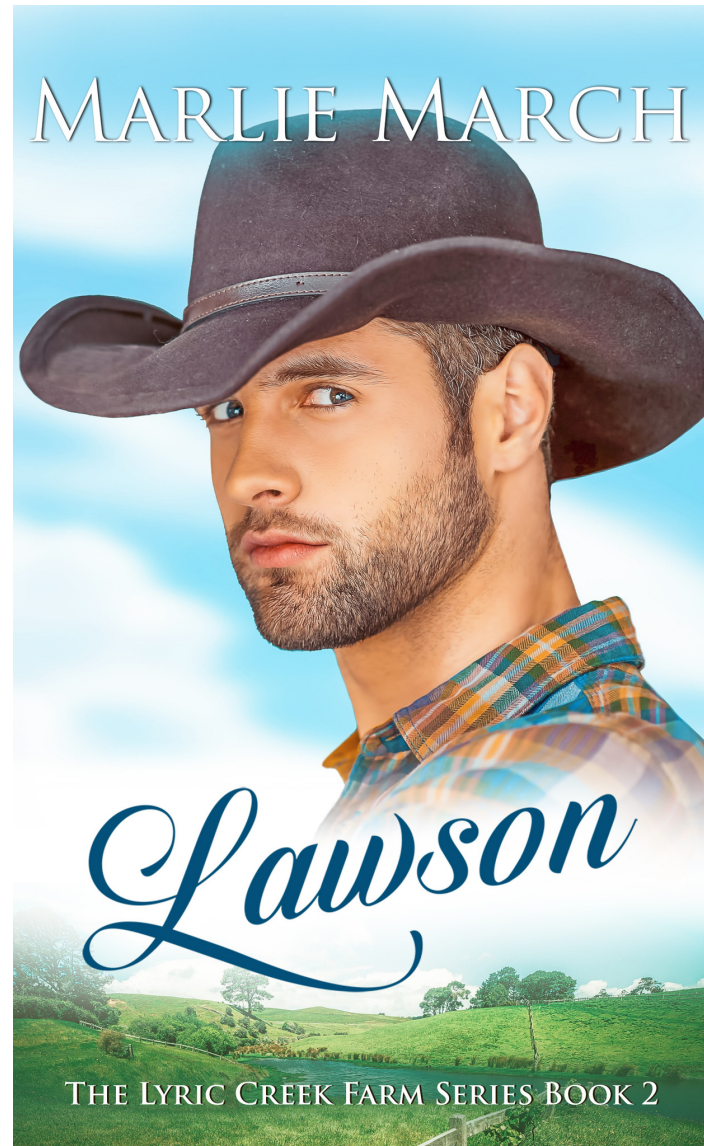
MARLIE MARCH

LAWSON: THE LYRIC CREEK FARM SERIES BOOK 2

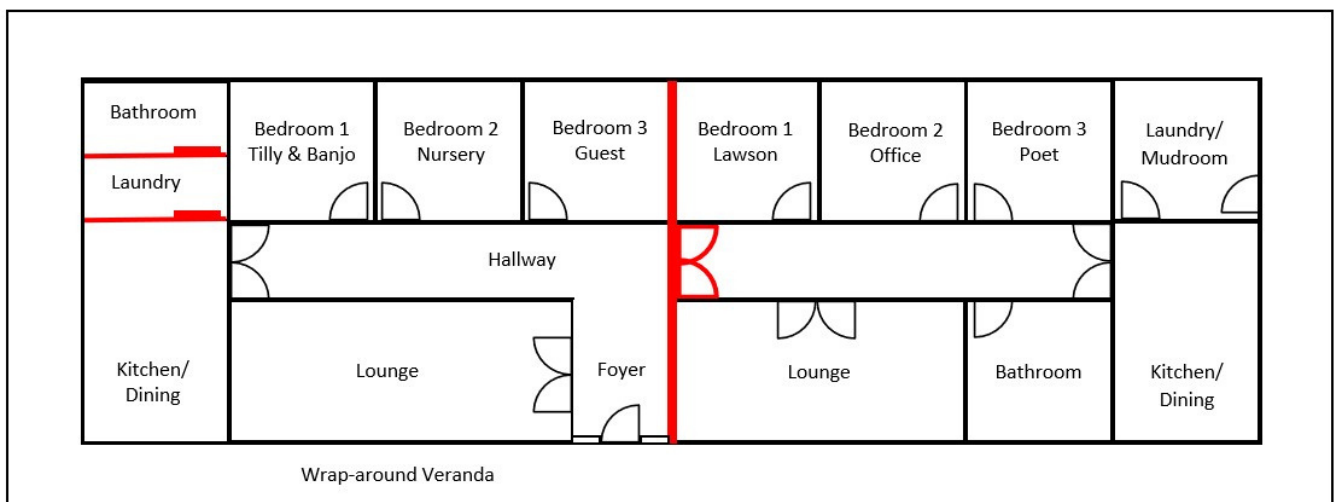
THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Lawson Blake's story is set on the Lyric Creek Farm near the fictional town of Lyric in the Victorian high country about two hours drive north of Melbourne, Australia.

The Blake Homestead undergoes some changes in this second book as per Muse Madden's advice: "By putting a wall or doors halfway down the corridor, you can divide the homestead into two separate homes. The first would be for Poet and Lawson. It will have three bedrooms and won't have to be altered unless you want to do some updates. The second would be for Tilly and Banjo. I suggest using the billiard room as a long kitchen-diner with a laundry and bathroom at one end. The leadlight foyer door can be used for its intended purpose as the entrance to the home without having to damage any external walls to put in another door elsewhere. This dining room could become the lounge area, and with the three existing bedrooms opposite, you could have a sizeable separate home."



THE PLAN OF THE HOMESTEAD



MUSE'S TINY HOUSE

"We're here," Muse announced. "Watch your head when you come inside."

Lawson admired the painted metal body of the tiny house but noted that the roof had been altered to a high pitch which allowed a loft sleeping area at one end. He had no trouble standing upright in the living space, but he had to duck when in the kitchen and bathroom because they had been built underneath the loft. "Gee, you really do live in a shipping container."

"Sure do," she answered proudly. "Make yourself at home."

Muse lay in her bed giggling as Lawson tried to wriggle out of his clothes in the cramped loft space. "We might have to stick to the missionary position tonight. Don't want you hitting your head again."

Lawson growled as he took her in his arms and nibbled her ear. "There's nothing wrong with missionary, but I'm sure I can be a little more inventive."

"Prove it," she dared him...and he did...twice.



FARMING DIVERSITY & SUCCESSION PLANNING

Drought, fire, and flood, together with climate change and high-interest rates have in the past brought many farming families to their knees, some even losing their land altogether. Succession planning is essential to prevent disharmony and to protect the family legacy, but many of the previous generations refuse to relinquish any control to plan for, not only their own future but also the futures of their children and grandchildren. Sad but true.

I spent the first fifteen years of my working life as a Credit Manager. I've always had some sort of side-hustle on the go and have had hundreds of ideas for businesses along the way. In my opinion, people who own land are in the best position to create alternative income to the traditional farming practices but very few farming families are prepared to take the risk.

I'm not suggesting that they relinquish doing what they have always done but adding another string to their bow could be very profitable.

In 'Lawson', I have explored just one idea about creating farmstay accommodation, which includes animal-assisted therapy programs. In reality, to set something up like this would be extremely costly but to create an area for people who want to live a simpler, greener, safer lifestyle in their own tiny houses wouldn't cost much at all and would provide a passive income for the landowner.

When I was running our two Airbnb apartments, I met many interesting people. Not all were overseas travellers. Many had just made the three-hour drive from Melbourne. My hundreds of previous guests had one thing in common: their desire to hear about the region from a local. Everyone wanted to know my best tips and suggested day trips. It got to the point where I had to create my own booklet for future guests to read and take with them.

In a post-covid world, many city-dwellers look forward to having weekend getaways. You just have to look at the rising sales of caravans for evidence of this. Farmers could take to social media to find interested people or submit unusual experiences on Airbnb. They could stock their dams with yabbies or provide wood for open fires to add to the experience. They could give talks about their family history and show off heirlooms and photographs of the past. People are interested in all sorts of things. Believe it or not, guided walks through old cemeteries are extremely popular.

Whether you are a farmer or you live in a studio apartment in the city, there is always a way to create an experience as a side-hustle, whether it be with a huge project like the Blake family are doing in 'Lawson' or whether you create a walking tour of your local area. Anything is possible if you are prepared to spend the time and take the risk.



The Wedding

Muse's wedding dress:

"It was made with a French jersey that draped effortlessly over her curves. The material had soft pink and burgundy sweet pea florals and sage green leaves printed onto a white background."



The Bouquet

Tilly placed the small bouquet of white sweet peas into her hand. "Now you're ready, Muse Madden. In only fifteen short minutes, you'll become Mrs Muse Blake."



The Ring

"That's an emerald cut diamond trilogy on a rounded rose gold band. Two carats in total."



Well, that's it for this 'story behind the story.'
I hope you enjoyed visiting Lawson's world.

Poet will have her own story written in
The Lyric Creek Farm Series
which will be published in 2022.

I love hearing from readers, so please leave a
review and subscribe to my website.

Much love, Marlie March.