



An Unsettled Range

Andrew Grey

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The last thing Liam Southard expects when he flees his abusive father is to be taken in by a couple of gay ranchers. Soon he has a new job and a new perspective on his sexuality, and his life starts to turn around. Then someone pulls a gun on him.

In Troy Gardener's defense, the gun thing was a mistake. Between his marriage falling apart and living in his uncle's isolated hunting cabin, he's been a little edgy. He wants to make it up to Liam, and once he discovers how much they have in common, he wants even more. But with Liam's father popping in unexpectedly and a mining company threatening the ranch's water supply, the only guarantee is that life is never going to be boring.

An Unsettled Range Details

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From Reader Review An Unsettled Range for online ebook

Sabrina (Soter) Sally says

3 e 1/2

“Non sai che tutto ciò che è accaduto oggi non sarebbe potuto succedere senza di te? Ero morto dentro e tu mi ha restituito l'anima. Ero talmente pieno di vergogna da non riuscire a vedere oltre me stesso e tu mi hai cambiato.”

Ormai avendo letto parecchi libri di Andrew Grey conosco, e apprezzo, il suo schema: abbiamo sempre un gay non dichiarato che si ritrova in crisi nell'accettare la sua omosessualità, problemi familiari vari, omofobici e, nel caso di questa serie, problemi idrici nella prateria! XD Rispetto ai primi due libri però questo mi ha coinvolto di meno, anche se mi ha fatto piacere rincontrare la "chioccia" Wally e tutti i suoi amici che accolgono Liam nel "paradiso dei gay" XD Liam è un bel personaggio, ha un passato difficile, ma è coraggioso e determinato e affronta Troy e la loro relazione senza nascondersi né vergognarsi. Troy invece ci mette un po' di più a "carburare" come personaggio, e soprattutto all'inizio soffre di un grave caso di "martirio/depressione post-outing" XD Certo dichiarando la sua omosessualità dopo anni di finzione ha perso tutto: il lavoro, la casa, la moglie e soprattutto la sua amata figlioletta. Per fortuna incontrerà tante persone che l'aiuteranno a risolvere i suoi problemi ed amare di nuovo (dopo aver chiarito il piccolo equivoco del fucile! XD). Anche se la mia serie preferita di Grey resta "Of Love" sono comunque curiosa di leggere il prossimo "Una prateria straniera" dove avremo un protagonista musicista! ;D

Alex says

Overall

I'll be honest, I have a love/hate relationship with Andrew Grey novels. I'm pretty much always mediocre about them, but for some reason I can't resist reading them. I was mediocre on the first in this series, and yet when the chance came to pick up this one, I did. I have all of the Farm series. I swear, it's a compulsion or something. I know it's the soft squishy feelings that fill his books, the perfectly happy endings, the absolutely escape from reality.

Even when I'm sighing and rolling my eyes through the pages, I can't help enjoying it just a little. I also realize that a chunk of my eye rolling comes from reading a fair number *cough*8*cough* of his books and knowing pretty much how the story is going to go.

That said, this is my ninth book, with 10 and 11 in the wings. He definitely has a certain rhythm to his books, and *An Unsettled Range* follows course. Fans of Grey will like this, undoubtedly, naysayers will...well I wonder why they'd pick it up in the first place.

I liked the first in the series better, and I didn't read the second. Without further rambling...

Strengths

The mining company plotline is a nice mellow threat that lurks in the background and keeps all the characters moving and interacting. It felt pretty realistic, and any issues I had could pretty much be resolved with, "Well, it IS the government."

I love Grey's families. The children are there, important and involved without overwhelming the story or being forgotten. Here, Sofia is cute and precocious, an absolute 5 year old who holds grudges but also easily forgives. Jeanie is not-surprisingly likeable and while she's never portrayed as an evil woman, you can't help but feel bad for her and frown disapprovingly in the same breath. At least in the beginning when Troy is hurting. Telling what happens later would be a spoiler. Sort of.

I liked that the sex scenes spiced it up a little. While they were definitely tender and sweet, they had a taste of dominance and aggression. Not much, but the small touch was appreciated.

Weaknesses

For those familiar with the Farm series, you'll find Liam's story too close to Stone's story. The two series really mirror one another in some ways, although the first story in this series had more original content than I felt this one did. Readers unfamiliar with the Farm series shouldn't have a problem.

The relationship moved very quickly. Not much time passes before they are baring their souls and promising their love and devotion. I had trouble buying it, one because they both came from such tough spots, but also it's hard to believe anyone's relationship evolving so quickly. I know it happens, but this felt too Insta-Love for me.

Grey's writing doesn't make me want to plunge out my eyes with a wine corkscrew, but it does lack a certain originality. The language tends to explain an emotion behind an action that clearly expressed what the emotion was; gives excuses or reasons behind a behavior or reaction when it's either unnecessary or repetitive (or diminishes any mystery a person may have); or draws out a line that could easily be half as many words. While it's not bad, it leaves the story feeling cluttered and somewhat dragging.

Requested this book for review.

Be sure to check out my other reviews on my blog.

Jane Stewart says

2 ½ stars. The first half was ok, but I lost interest.

I skimmed the last 40% to see what happened.

So many gay male romance stories are mostly about the angst and conflict of being gay in an unfriendly world and coming out of the closet. This story was mostly that. I'm tired of that story. I prefer stories about other things in their lives. There were other things in this book, but not enough.

The romance is two guys meet and fall for each other in a wonderful way that they never experienced before.

It's a short book, half the length of a regular novel.

I received this book at the RT convention.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 174 pages. Swearing language: strong including religious swear words, but not often used. Sexual language: moderate. Number of sex scenes: 3. Setting: current day western

Tamara (?) says

The only reason I've continued with this series is because this book got third place in M/M Group Member's choice Award 2012 in the category Best Story Featuring Cowboys. I thought maybe this one is better than the other two in the series. I was wrong.

It's not the book itself - though I did wonder several times what crawled up Wally's ass, and it seemed to me Liam would have loved anyone who loved him back.

It's the things I've noticed through every one of Grey's books - the preachy tone whenever someone is in the closet or has difficulties coming out that reminds me of tv commercials trying too hard to sell you something; the difficulty to recognize any personality in the main characters; the way every single nuance of emotion needs to be explained - the stories are easily forgettable and are left with no redeeming qualities after all that.

I'll probably stay away from Grey's books after this.

Plainbrownwrapper says

Sap sap sap, sentiment sentiment sentiment, telling telling telling, and let's all stand around and talk about our feelings. Sigh.

"I do like you, and that's the problem. I shouldn't. I shouldn't like anyone that way, no matter how much I like them." Troy took a deep breath. "I don't deserve to be around anyone I care about, and if you care about me, you'll only get hurt, just like them." Liam could see a tear run down Troy's face, and he saw him brush it away before steadying himself. "I'm not good for anyone, Liam."

Really?

I felt condescended to throughout the book -- as though every little thing had to be spelled out to me in excruciating detail to be sure I understood it. Add to that the insta-everything, the total failure to make me ****believe**** or ****feel**** the emotions, the Evil Cardboard Homophobic Villain(TM), and the aforementioned sap, and this one's a complete fail for me.

I keep trying to like Grey, 'cause I know he's popular. But I'm about to give up.

Maharet says

E' una serie che ho scoperto leggendo come primo libro quello che invece poi ho scoperto essere il terzo (ho già recuperato gli altri due)...mi ha subito conquistato,con un tocco delicato,sensibile, racconta della scoperta di se stessi,di omofobia,del diritto di amare ed essere amati,liberi...mi è piaciuto molto come descrive la vita

del ranch, questa natura selvaggia, mi ha ricordato i cowboy di Brokeback Mountain, anche loro tormentati, innamorati... qui però almeno c'è il lieto fine!

Emily Elizabeth says

As seen on Ed and Em's Reviews!

An Unsettled Range was in a word... cliché.

The characters were cliché. The writing was tacky and cliché. The plot was cliché.

I'm tired of gay cowboys, who don't read like they are actual cowboys. These characters were undeveloped and didn't seem like they could actually handle working on a farm. Even the animals on the farm really didn't feel like they should be a part of the story! I'm sorry, but I have never heard of a farm taking in lions and tigers. Exotic animals don't belong on a farm. They belong in the wild or a zoo.

The characters... I don't know what to say. I didn't like any of them besides Jefferson. What an awesome old man. Many of the books that I have read about gay ranchers and cowboys include fathers who disown and abuse their children for being homosexual. It was great to read a book with a father who loved his son and his son's partner. And that was where the good of this novel ended. Wally was annoying. So very annoying. I couldn't stand him. I never really understood what any of the characters besides Wally, Jefferson, Dakota, Troy and Liam had to do with anything. In fact, I continuously got them all confused.

The novel also progresses too quickly. Why is it that gay men always fall in love in five seconds? I can understand fast attraction, but love? REALLY. The overall message in this story is sweet, but it just wasn't written the right way, at least for my taste. There is barely any angst and it solves itself very quickly. That may be my real issue with it. Everything was over simplistic, from the way the book is written to the way the situations are dealt with.

There were major grammar issues in the book. I have grown up with the title of "grammar Nazi." I was instilled with proper grammar pretty much from the time I learned to talk. So if your novel has bad grammar, I will get annoyed and lose interest. That happened with this book.

An Unsettled Range just wasn't what I was expecting from the blurb. And having heard of only good things about Andrew Grey, I was disappointed that I didn't enjoy this at all. I don't think I'll read anymore of his work. It just wasn't for me.

Candice says

This being the 3rd book in the series I was a little concerned, but turned out that this was as enjoyable as the other two. There were a couple of minor things that bothered me with Troy and Liam's story, but they weren't too much that it took away from enjoying the story. This series is pretty much angst free. I like that all the characters from the other two books are still involved a lot in this story.

ShoSho says

2.5 stars

I wanted something that's not too emotional and without depth, something that I could read without engaging emotionally and this was it.

El Ma says

3,5-4*

„Geschichten aus der Ferne“ Miteinander (1) | Dunkle Wolken (2) | Unruhige Zeiten (3)

<https://elmaliest.wordpress.com/2017/...>

Sarah says

My Opinion:

I have recently come to the conclusion that some of my most favorite books are Gay/Lesbian. I never really thought much about them until I read *Better and Dead Kitties Don't Purr*. Now, I think my MOST favorite Gay/Lesbian has to be *An Unsettled Range*. This book is about two men coming to grips with their sexuality and falling in love.

The Good:

Very eye-catching. The first thing that drew me to this novel is the Western aspect. I just can't resist a sexy cowboy. But now I have to say, Andrew Grey is an amazing writer, with or without the hot cowboys. The protagonists aren't perfect. I love how Troy has made some mistakes in his life, but he still gets a happily-ever-after. That tells readers that even not-so-perfect people can be happy too, because let's face it; how many perfect people do you know?

Plot is very realistic: Man realizes he is gay, after all those years of resenting his brother for the flak of having a gay brother. I like to read books that are realistic, except if, ya know, they are paranormal.

Character's are so real, I feel for them. I can feel empathy for the hardships they have had to endure. They are personable, which means a reader can relate to them.

Andrew writes colorful descriptions. I can see into the world through their eyes.

Troy and Liam have hurt inside, that their love for each other can heal.

I appreciate how neither man is very he-mannish (except maybe in bed). They both have feeling and vulnerability that is attractive to me. Sometimes it's great to have a sweet, sensitive man, over a macho, alpha.

Andrew wrote tasteful, non-vulgar love scenes. A lot of times, I have read GLBT or erotica that is so crude, I have no interest in continuing the book. Instead, *An Unsettled Range*, has an actual plot and story line that I

enjoy.

By the third chapter, I was completely wowed, and knew I was in love with the protagonist (even if they don't bat for my team), I knew I am going to read the other books in the series.

By this time, I'm usually writing about what I thought wasn't attractive to readers, but I can't find anything to complain about. I loved this book, and feel that there isn't anything to put in "the bad" category.

Recommendations??

If you love a sweet romance, filled with delicious (even if they may not be "conventional" love scenes, you might want to check this one out. Lovers of GLBT would definitely enjoy *An Unsettled Range* as well as *Western fanatics* (like me).

Ronda Tutt says

Beautifully Written!

I love a story when there are some Life Lessons to be read within the story and that's what you will find in this absolutely beautiful story, a great example of how life throws us many hard wrenching curb balls to knock us down and only through our own wisdom from our past mistakes that we learn from them and move forward a little wiser. Also the story reveals a great example of how the size of a person doesn't matter and that dynamite can come in small packages.

The story's tale brings together Liam, a young man who escapes his father's brutal abuse and Troy, a man who finally realizes he is hurting himself and the ones he loves the most by not accepting who he truly is – Gay. Deep scars and trust issues are overcome in this story as the connection between the characters become sentimental and heartwarming throughout the book and you will find that the characters have grown on you right from the beginning. I fell in love with Troy and Liam as their relationship grew. Their erotic love scenes were medium for me but very sweet and tender.

It was great to see the other characters from the series as well such as Dakota & Wally, Haven & Phillip, and Mario & David. I loved learning more about Dakota and how he is moving along in getting his doctor's degree and how Wally's Animal rescue is growing. With Haven, Phillip, Mario, and David on the scenes it was like one huge family and let's not forget Dakota's dad either. I thought by bringing Troy's ex-wife and his daughter to the ranch for a visit showed that gay people are family oriented too and that they are no different than a straight heterosexual family.

I have to say that I love reading Andrew Greys work because I am always guaranteed I will be hugging the book in the end. They are always so sweet, loving, and joyful reads leaving me with a smile in the end as the characters overcome their hardships and grow into better individuals all around no matter the circumstances.

Serena Yates says

Much like the other two books in this series, this third volume is about two men learning to stand up for

themselves and finding love. Both Troy and Liam have had a difficult time of it, but neither can move on before they have dealt with their pasts. Meeting at the Holden ranch gives them an opportunity to figure themselves out, as well as finding a new home.

Troy has been hiding his sexuality for years – but his unwillingness to admit he’s gay has cost him. Not just in terms of his personal feelings and needs going unmet, since he got married and has a daughter, other people are involved as well. This makes finally owning up to the truth and I really felt for him. He is not the only person this has ever happened to, but following a story like this, seeing the pain and anguish he goes through as his family suffers, made me tear up quite a few times. As much as I wanted to berate him for getting everyone into this mess, I also totally felt for him and admired the courage he showed when he finally did come out.

Liam has a very different battle to face, but one that requires as much courage as Troy’s and is no less scary. While he has always been honest about his sexuality (having been caught kissing another boy by his father), he has been beaten down so much that he feels as if he isn’t ‘worthy’ to be taken seriously. He is also very wary about being openly gay. Learning to stand up for himself, daring to fall in love and making something of his life isn’t easy, but he perseveres once he sees all the guys at the ranch who managed to do it.

Each of these books makes me fall in love with these guys more. Dakota and Wally, as well as Phillip and Haven are back, and have grown into a real support network for any new arrivals. Wally may be running a large animal rescue, but I think the ranch is turning into a ‘human rescue’ to match. If you like sweet stories about men who learn to stand up for themselves, if life on a ranch intrigues you, and if you like reading about real struggles with past mistakes and overcoming pain caused by the unthinking action of others, you will probably like this book as much as I did.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

V says

What a fantastic story, so many things were happening at once that for me, it made it even better.

T.A. Webb says

After walking and hitching for days with little food or water, it's all Liam can do to put one foot in front of the other. When one driver after another ignores him, he just...collapses where he stands and hopes for a quick ending. He's vaguely aware when he's lifted up and settled into a truck by two guys.

When he wakes up, he finds he's been rescued by two kind men. Gay men, like him. He feels such relief, and then acceptance. Hope, where he has only had despair. And he's offered a job by Wally, a vet who is partners with Dakota. Dakota and Haven own the ranch, and it's a bit of an anomaly - a safe place for a gay ranch hand.

On his second day at the ranch, Liam investigates strange smoke in the air and wanders up on Troy. Who promptly pulls a gun on him and orders him off his property. Doesn't make a great impression on Liam, that's for sure.

But the two men run into each other several times, and there is an attraction. One that Troy fights, because he believes he doesn't deserve to be happy, after ruining his life, and his family's life the way he did. So he resists the heat he feels for Liam. Because Liam, he know, he KNOWS, deserves better than him.

When Liam puts himself in jeopardy looking out for Troy, however, a small door opens for Troy. Maybe, just maybe, there can be something there.

When Dakota and Haven's ranch might be threatened by a mining company looking to use the ranch's water rights, and people from his and Troy's troubled past reappear, will Liam's new-found home be in danger? Will he and Troy manage to find a life of their own, or will their ghosts overwhelm them?

Andrew Grey has returned to give us more the "Stories from the Range" series, and this one is a winner. It's always a pleasure to visit with Wally and Dakota, Haven and Phillip, and he's added two memorable guys to the mix here with Liam and Troy. This is a well told, thoughtful and warm tale of two injured and hurting men who realize there is strength in sharing the load.

Mr. Grey has done what he does so well - created characters who make us think and feel, and put them in situations where they are forced to confront their fears and shortcomings. But they also come to realize they are not so unlovable after all. That love is deserved, freely given and received, and that they are, indeed, worthy.

Troy is one of Mr. Grey's strongest characters yet. So self loathing, but so willing and open to want and need and have, once he gets he deserves it. And that he has so much to offer.

And Liam - what a sweetheart of a young man. Hated for what he is, abused, thrown away. But so much stronger than his father ever gave him credit for. Bent, but never broken.

These two men were terrific together, and I hope we see more of them as the series progresses.

I truly cannot say enough about the skill with which Mr. Grey writes about his broken men. In all of his series, he creates character after character I would love to know. And I savor every book of his that comes my way. But I truly love the "Tales from the Range" series.

Great job.

Tom
