



Cowboy at Arms

Carla Cassidy

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It's a cowboy to the rescue in the latest from *New York Times* bestselling author Carla Cassidy!

When single mom Trisha Cahill fled her deadly ex, she never expected to feel safe again. Yet Dusty Crawford is the protector she's always yearned for. She can't deny her attraction to the rugged cowboy, but how can she start a new beginning with evil lurking in her past?

Dusty has been intrigued by Trisha since she and her infant son arrived in Bitterroot, Oklahoma. When her life is threatened by a stalker, he won't hesitate to act as guardian. Trisha may be running from more than her bloody past, but Dusty will go to extremes to keep the vulnerable beauty safe.

Cowboy at Arms Details

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From Reader Review Cowboy at Arms for online ebook

T. says

I received Cowboy at Arms as an ARC (advance reader's copy) book from NetGalley. The gifting did not determine the review/rating, which reflects my honest opinion. I really enjoyed the plot and the characters up until the last chapters when the hero devolved (due to circumstances), which may feel appropriate for some readers, but I thought Dusty acted atypical to his character; kinda messed up the ending for me. My copy wasn't a final version, so I'll hope the final edit addresses the overabundant use of the word "that", which is one of my pet peeves, especially for seasoned authors.

Tracy Hall says

Good

The story was fantastic. It kept me on the edge of my seat. All the twists and turns kept me from figuring out the plot.

Susan says

Good addition to the series. This time it is Dusty's story. He is the best friend of Forest, from Cowboy Under Fire. We learned in that book that Dusty has a pretty big crush on Trisha, one of the diner waitresses. In this book he finally works up the courage to ask her out.

Trisha has kept pretty much to herself, just working and taking care of her son. She came to Bitterroot while running from her ex, who she believes is responsible for the deaths of her best friend and her mother. She is constantly looking over her shoulder, expecting him to show up at any time. She has started to relax a little, and going out with Dusty is her first step to resuming a normal life.

I loved Dusty. Like all of the cowboys at the ranch, he has a turbulent past. He was raised by an abusive father, leaving emotional scars that still affect him. I loved his hints of vulnerability as he tried to work up the courage to ask Trisha out, and his nervousness when he finally did so.

The development of their relationship was really sweet. Dusty is so careful to treat her with respect and his own brand of cowboy honor. I also liked the way that he immediately made her son Cooper an important part of the relationship. There were some really wonderful scenes of Cooper and Dusty together, as Dusty became the father figure he wished he had had himself. When the appearance of an apparent stalker freaked Trisha out, Dusty's protective instincts kicked in. I loved seeing the way that he took charge of her safety and that of her son. Trisha has spent so long doubting herself because of one bad relationship that she's a little extra cautious around Dusty. It didn't take her long to realize she could trust him. I loved seeing her allow herself to lean on him, as he gave her the courage to stand and fight rather than run again. I also enjoyed seeing the two grow closer as they shared the traumas of their pasts and began to hope for a better future. Things are moving along quite well until something happens that brings all of Dusty's insecurities flooding back and he tries to pull away. I loved seeing Trisha decide to stand up and fight for what she wants, and

Dusty's reaction when she does. The epilogue was sweet.

The suspense of the story was good. There are two mysteries running through the book. The first is the mystery of the seven bodies that were found on the ranch. This one will run through the series. The investigation is at a bit of a standstill as there have been no new clues found. That is, until Dusty pulls up a skull at the end of his fishing line and it turns out to be the one missing from the collection of bones under the shed. However, there is nothing that indicates how it got into the pond. The police chief is frustrated but determined to solve the crime. I currently have two frontrunners in my suspicions, so we'll see if I'm right about either of them.

The second mystery is that of who is stalking Trisha. There are multiple suspects, from her ex to assorted customers at the diner. Trisha's fears for her safety and that of her son are real, especially after someone breaks into her hotel room and destroys it. As the attacks escalate, she fears more for Dusty's life than her own, as she's sure that she has brought danger to him. The occasional glimpse into the stalker's point of view only serves to increase the sense of danger. The final confrontation was intense, with an unexpected twist in the identity of the stalker. Help in finding Trisha also came from a truly unexpected source.

Books and Spoons says

The story wraps up my mind with small town charm, as an adorable, yet nervous cowboy, wants to ask the girl for a date. From there it proceeds to be the sweetest, most loving, darling story of love, overcoming your past demons, a little Duke, and danger mixed into the bundle.

I have enjoyed this series from the start, and it seems to just get better with every story. The characters in the book are lovable, lovely, and real. The dates Dusty and Trisha have are filled with the wonder of falling in love, finding your soulmate, and someone to laugh with. The passion they have for each other is absorbing, but yet they want to wait for the perfect moment, to fulfill their need for each other. They share the past pain and, the horror they have experienced, they support each other, and are there for each other when needed. These two made me smile from ear to ear.

And then Cooper, the little John 'the Duke' Wayne wannabe! His three and half year old enthusiasm and joy for life, cowboys, and Dusty stole my heart. There's a couple of moments when he is imitating the Duke, that had me laughing out loud. Cooper and Dusty together were so perfect, like made for each other. The cowboy who has never known the love of a father, pours into this little man everything he ever dreamed of having, while growing up.

But the story is not all sweet and lovely, there are dangerous elements, events that put many lives in danger, a deadly obsession, that could put a stop for the future Trisha, Dusty, and Cooper are dreaming about. Alluring tale, that I read in one sitting, just couldn't stop reading until the end. I adore the characters, the magic they had between them, and the danger that loomed around them.

~ Five Spoons

Chrissy says

I received, this book from NetGalley in exchange for a honest review.

I have to say I am not good with words, but this book was so good, it hooked you from the first page till the last. It is a must read. Get it today, you will be happy you did.

IF you love a good book, then this is for you.....

Rhonda says

Cowboy at Arms by Carla Cassidy (Cowboys of Holiday Ranch #4)

I like Cowboys of Holiday Ranch series. This is the fourth book in the series and the third one I have read. I really want to know who the guilty person and how they buried the seven bodies without anyone seeing anything.

You could read the books by themselves but are better read in order. I have not read the third book in the series but I know who the bad guy is.

Trisha Cahill is a single mother who is hiding. She is a waitress and does not date.

Dusty Crawford is one of the Cowboys on Holiday Ranch. He is the youngest cowboy. He has had a crush on Trisha for six months. He finally got the courage to ask her out.

After their first date Trisha gets a present from a secret admirer and makes her want to pick up her son and leave town. She is afraid that her stalker has found her.

Good suspense mystery romance. Good plot. I like the characters. But there is a few love scenes in it.

I love the fishing scene. It was funny, tender and was surprising end to it.

I was given this ebook to read from Netgalley and Harlequin and in return I agreed to give a honest review of Cowboy at Arms.

Jessica Figueroa says

Trish has been moving around with her boy to get away from her dangerous ex. Soon as it seems he might be near she jets off to a new place. But funds have been getting lower with each move and shes needs to settle a bit to gain some money before he gets too close. It seems like shes getting a bit comfortable with her life now in this town and meeting Dusty. They closer they get though the more threatening the notes shes been receiving knowing the time has come to leave again.

I liked this book. I loved the mystery and suspense of it all. I loved the backstories to both of Trish and Dusty. I loved that there was more then one point of view with not only the main characters but some of the side characters as well. I loved watching the romance between Trish and Dusty. I enjoyed seeing a bit about her son. Some stories you'll get the parent point of view and the child is MIA and I liked getting to see a bit of her son, and how caring and loving Trish was to her son. I loved that there was a bit of guesswork when it came to wondering who was really after her. I mean its easy to assume her ex is guy after her but there could be so many possibilities and reasons in the story of who could be after her that make it more interesting. I

really enjoyed this book and if you like a mystery book you might want to check this book out.

Donna Repsher says

I received an ARC of this novel in exchange for an honest review and here it is.

Let me start by saying that I'm a Carla Cassidy fan, have been following this series, which I've very much enjoyed, and I've been looking forward to reading Dusty's story, and getting more clues to the mysterious skeletons found on Holiday Ranch. Having said that, I must admit that this fourth novel in the series, wasn't quite as good as I was expecting it to be.

When Dusty finally gets the nerve up to ask diner waitress, Trisha, out for a drink after her shift is over, she readily accepts, and the two seem to hit it off. She's keeping secrets though, and although repeatedly asked out by other men in town, Dusty is the only man she's agreed to see after hours.

Dusty, like all the other cowboys at Holiday Ranch, has issues. Like many of them, he grew up in a horrid, abusive household from which he ran away at age 13, and it's not something he readily discusses, but there seems to be real chemistry between these two, and the relationship slowly builds until the night he brings Trisha back to the motel room in which she's been living with her young son, Cody, only to discover a mug full of wildflowers and a note outside her note. Trisha is ready to flee town at the mere sight of it, and Dusty needs to find out why having a secret admirer is so traumatic for her. When she gives him a half-baked story about having once been stalked, he buys it, at least at that point--but there will be another gift, and a longer explanation to come. Meanwhile, their relationship grows, Cody adores him, and Dusty and Trisha are falling hard for each other.

While having a daytime picnic at the ranch on their day off, and teaching Cody how to fish at the pond, Dusty catches more than he bargained for when what's on the end of his hook is a skull--one that was missing from the previously discovered remains on the property, and so the mystery continues.

These are well-drawn characters, as I've come to expect from this author, and there are lots of potential suspects. When Dusty, after hearing the real reason for Trisha's fear, moves her and her son to the ranch for their own safety, there are several more incidents that make everyone wary. Through it all, Dusty is Trisha's rock, her safe harbor, which is why what would have been a 5-star review turned into a 4-star review near the end of the novel, and without giving away the ending, I can only say that I don't understand why Ms. Cassidy felt it necessary to have Dusty wimp-out and pull back, but it just didn't ring true to the character she created, at least not for this reader.

It's still a very enjoyable and suspenseful read, and until the mystery is solved, I'll remain hooked on this series--it's a good one.

Gloria Brzny says

it was a good book. you would keep saying just "one more page then I will stop" it was suspenseful. it has two mysteries only one seems to get a solution. all the characters are well written and the solution. some turn

out to be the opposite of what you think.

Bonnie says

Cowboy At Arms a Cowboys Of Holiday Ranch by Carla Cassidy. If you want romance and suspense you have it in this book. I didn't want to put the book down. A very good read. Trish and her boy are running from her ex. When Trish is kidnapped Dusty Crawford wants to find her, since he is in love with Trish. But it wasn't her ex who kidnapped. A lot of guys have asked her out so who kidnapped her and where are there.

Amy says

First half of book was rather mediocre. I didn't like the dialogue or how the author made Cooper, Trisha's son, sound way older than he actually was. Action started picking up in second half of book when we have Trisha's "secret admirer's" stalking behavior becoming more dangerous.

Leslie says

Enjoyed this book greatly!! It was so sweet how Dusty finally expressed his desire to take Trisha out but also then when he expressed his love. Nice of Zeke to make amends!

Can't wait to see Dillion and Cassie start to flirt and eventually read their story but it would be nice to see them start to show even more interest in one another. It was strange that Nicolette being Cassie's best friend but didn't really appear anywhere in this book. Be nice for the girls that are there to get together! Seems like Cassie is still contemplating her going and maybe even staying...hopefully we'll get to see her character developed more with her art there in Bitterroot. I see how they are setting up some of the Cowboys at Holiday Ranch. Perhaps that's why Adam has never pursued Cassie. Or perhaps it was good ol Aunt Cass?!? Or maybe even one of the guys from the ranch next door?? Maybe Cookie or all of them?

Looking forward to the next book!!!!

Dorel says

This is the 2nd book I read by Carla Cassidy. I'm sorry I stopped reading this story at chapter 3 because it didn't grab my interest.

Monica Cardoza says

This is the fourth installment in the Cowboys of Holiday Ranch series and one great read. I loved the characters in this book and love all of the cowboys and how they all seem like a big happy family. In this story you have Dusty a great cowboy that has been lusting after Trisha. He wants to ask her out but he is scared that she will turn him down like the other men she has turned down. But one day he man's up and asks her out and she told him yes. It seemed that as soon as that yes happened they were always together when they had free time but that also meant that someone was jealous of that relationship. In the story Trisha opens up about her past and what happened with the father of her baby. But you also learn what Dusty went through and the reasons why he left his home. Trisha couldn't believe what was happening and she knew that she needed to get away. There was no way that she could get Dusty into trouble or worse dead.

Cowboy at Arms was a great read. I loved the chemistry between these two characters. They loved each other and are meant to be together. There was only one problem. Something was insinuated in the book and I had hoped that it would have been resolved but it wasn't in the end. It left me thinking about the what if's and would Trisha ever be safe.

I totally recommend this read!

Received ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an Honest Review

Cat says

Really good, really easy to read story. Liked the characters and wizzed through to find out what happened.
