



In the Rancher's Arms

Trish Milburn

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THE ONLY PLACE SHE FEELS SAFE...

After her capture by human traffickers, international reporter Arden Wilkes should have felt safe back in her small hometown. Blue Falls, Texas, feels comfortingly familiar—and painfully foreign. Disoriented, Arden struggles to regain her sense of self and deal with the aftermath...only to find a sense of safety in the last place she ever expected.

Rancher Neil Hartley knows too well the kind of scars that trauma can bring. However, what started out as warm friendship with Arden is quickly turning into a deepening attraction. But despite Arden's slow recovery—and the promise of love—her old life still awaits her return. Now Arden must choose between the woman she used to be...and the safety of her rancher's arms.

In the Rancher's Arms Details

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Author : Trish Milburn

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From Reader Review In the Rancher's Arms for online ebook

Elizabeth Neal says

3.5 Stars

Arden, a journalist, is home, and though it's only been four months since her last visit, it doesn't feel the same. Or maybe it's her that doesn't. Considering what she endured, that's completely understandable. She may have survived weeks of abuse at the hands of her captors, human traffickers, but she knows she'll never be the same. A fact that's made obvious when she memories overcome her during a routine errand with her Mom. Thankfully, she isn't dealing with it by herself.

Neil, of course, knows what happened to Arden, as she was national news and they live in a small town. Plus, Arden graduated with his younger sister, Sloane. When Neil sees Arden struggling with not only the physical contact of a well meaning fellow resident, but also a sudden loud noise, he acts on impulse to comfort her.

Arden begins readjusting to life again, believing she can never return to her former job, not with the chance she could face danger like that again. But she is determined to help her parents in any way she can, knowing the heart attack her Dad suffered shortly after her capture is causing a financial burden.

Neil is struggling as well, albeit in a different way, as he works to ensure his family's ranch remains theirs, regardless of who tries to buy it and the offered price.

When Neil and Arden see each other again, his protectiveness of her is in full force, and as he's been the recipient of curious stares and questions, he doesn't hesitate to act as a barrier for her. Neil and Arden both feel a connection beginning between them, and though they know it may not be the best time to act on it, they're finding it harder to resist.

"I know you'll need to deal with what happened, but I've always believed more good comes from looking forward instead of back." - Ken, Arden's Dad

Will Arden begin healing with Neil's help? Will Neil's own emotional baggage impact his decision to risk his heart? Can Arden be happy staying in her hometown? Or will returning to the job she'd always loved, prior to her being kidnapped, prove too much of a temptation to deny? Will Neil and Arden get their HEA?

One-click now and follow along as two people, both with their own struggles, discover a healing love. Though I loved the story, and didn't feel lost having not read any previous titles from the series, I feel as if some things were left unanswered but I'm thinking they may be addressed in future books featuring the Hartley siblings.

I voluntarily reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.

Harlequin Books says

Miniseries: Blue Falls, Texas

Linda says

Trish Milburn's book, In the Rancher's Arms is the tenth book in the Blue Falls, Texas series. It was actually my introduction to the series. The plot was a new one for me--recovering from being held by human traffickers! Despite the heavy subject matter, this book is an uplifting story of survival. Reporter, Arden Wilkes, befriends rancher, Neil Hartley, when she returns home to Texas. I liked the characters and enjoyed the book!

Molly says

What a lovely, sweet book! This was a not a plot line I've read before and I really enjoyed it. Arden was an investigative journalist who was writing a story about human-trafficking and was caught and held in captivity in Uganda for an extended period of time before being rescued. The story starts when she returns home to rural Texas. Neil was completely lovely, kind and sympathetic and helped Arden a lot with there post-captivity PTSD issues. And he brought her to see therapy puppies!

This was my first book by the author, and I'm definitely adding her backlist to my TBR pile. The writing was really well done, and I enjoyed the story a lot. For me, things didn't really pick up until the second half of the book, but then I couldn't put it down.

If you're looking for a gentle story about 2 nice people just trying to do the best they can given their circumstances, I would recommend this book!

Books and Spoons says

Oh, be still my beating heart! What a wonderful, emotion filled, sweet romance that seriously had me in tears in the chapter ONE! When does that happen?! Never!

Even though the plot touches some serious and heavy topics as targets of the investigative reporter's interests, it mostly has a focus on the tender, fragile, adorable romance that is budding between Arden and Neil. The plot is original, fresh, and has just enough angst and deep emotions mixed with the beauty of Texas prairie and the love of a family, attraction, and worries about the future to make it believable, authentic, and satisfying cowboy romance tale.

Arden Wilkes PTSD was given such authenticity, that it took my breath away, and yes, had me in tears. The emotions are raw and real, the horrors she had gone through in Uganda were unimaginable. I am glad that the author didn't indulge with more details into the capture as it is now, and how she underlined the fact that one can not judge the whole nation because of a few bad apples.

Arden is struggling to find herself again after the tragedy, wondering about her future, and worried with the financial burden, her parents are under because of her father's heart attack.

Neil Hartley knows something about survival, and the nothing short of amazing connection he immediately forms with Arden is the life preserver that Arden needs to start the healing process she desperately requires to be able to move on from Uganda.

Both Neil and Arden are characters easy to like and relate to. Even with opposite lifestyles, they have much in common with their values, beliefs, and love for the Texan landscape. I adored them together, as well as

with their families. The banter and fun with the Harley siblings were a delight, and I do hope I get to witness the rest of the gang to fall hopelessly and helplessly in love, as well.

The depth of the emotions, the love for a family, the care for the land, and most of all the precious, dreamy romance in a story that took me by surprise, captivated my mind and charmed my heart.

~ Four Spoons with a teaspoon on the side

DelAnne Frazee says

Title: In the Rancher's Arms - Blue Falls, Texas Book 10

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Reviewed For NetGalley and Harlequin

Reviewer: DelAnne

Rating: 4.75 Stars

Imagine your worst nightmare come to life, then go one step farther. Reporter Arden Wiles went one step beyond that and managed to survive and be rescued. Now comes the hard part. finding herself among the shattered pieces of her life and like the phoenix to rise again whole.

Neil Hartley has done it himself and wants to help Arden do it too. With family obligations, and self doubts, Arden begins to work her way back.

Trish Milburn gives us the bare minimum of what Arden survived, but the full impact of emotional devastation she is feeling. As the reader you will be moved to tears by the strength Arden and Neil show and the depths of their characters. You too will share in the love and support of the families and end enjoy the scenic beauty that is Blue Falls. I have definitely got to go back and read the books I missed in the excellent series

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Jessica Figueroa says

Arden was a reporter who manged to get captured by human traffickers. She managed to be among the lucky ones who got saved after sometime and is back in her hometown trying to live a normal life after the whole ordeal. This is her life after the pain and learning to heal and learning to continue on with her life. Neil Hartley is offering nothing more than friendship while she heals but it seems that is slowly turning into more.

I liked this book it was sweet and uplifting and getting to see how this character was dealing with her life. I loved that it shows that she didn't come out unscathed. Sometimes when I come across books like this they come out completely unphased meanwhile this characters Arden, had her blips here and there but was learning to continue on. I loved seeing how Neil was helping her out and getting to know his bit of his own story. I thought it was interesting seeing Ardens point of view in having reporters and others kinda hounding her when they wanted a interview or were just plain nosy and how it was dealt with. I enjoyed the relationship between Arden and Neil and seeing her slowly but surly getting used to life after. Overall it was a really great book I really enjoyed it.

Susan says

Very good book. Arden has spent years traveling the world as an international reporter. Then she was captured by human traffickers while doing a story and held for weeks. After her rescue, she has come home to recover, but she isn't finding the sense of safety she expected. Instead, the only place she feels any peace is with rancher Neil Hartley.

From the very beginning of the book, the effects of the trauma on Arden were very obvious. Far from being the fearless reporter she had been, now she is nervous in crowds or in wide open spaces, and strange noises have her ducking for cover. During an incident at a convenience store, Neil comes to her rescue, easing her out of a panic attack and flashback.

Neil has some experience with trauma of his own. Thanks to his adoptive parents, he's overcome most of the effects, but it has made him very empathetic to what Arden is going through. Fate throws them together a couple times, where Neil can't deny the connection he feels with her.

Arden feels very alone, still caught in the nightmare that happened to her. She's dealing with the memories that still ambush her, night and day. She also feels a boatload of guilt, blaming the heart attack her dad had and the resulting medical bills on herself. She wonders what she's going to do with the rest of her life, because the thought of going back to her old one scares her to death.

I loved the development of their relationship. It starts out simply as friendship, a man who has come back from his own problems wanting to help someone else through theirs. Neil can't deny the attraction he feels, but is sensitive enough not to push. I loved the scene at the rodeo, where he sees her distress and provides a little distraction and buffer against the rest of the world. Arden is relieved by his presence and feels a sense

of peace with him that she doesn't feel anywhere else. She also notices how good looking he's become, and feels a spark of something that makes her feel alive again. Over the next few weeks the time they spend together helps Arden begin to feel normal again. And the sparks that both feel are getting brighter and harder to resist. Neil has visions of a future with Arden in it, but fears giving his heart to a woman who will eventually find the courage to resume her old life. I loved seeing how Neil's support helps Arden regain a bit of her old self. There's a terrific scene where her growing feelings for Neil bring out her own protectiveness, combined with her old instincts, as she faces down a threat to his livelihood. That scene also brings her to the question of if she's really ready to give up her old life. I ached for Neil as he realized that he had to let her go if that was what she wanted. I loved Arden's conversation with her Southern friend in a London pub and the truth it made her see. I loved her big moment at the end, it was so romantic and sweet.

I fell completely in love with Neil's family. His parents are awesome with the way that they opened their hearts to the kids they adopted. It was such a loving family, that accepted everyone for who they were. I especially enjoyed how they so quickly made Arden a part of their group. I also loved Neil's brothers and sisters. It was obvious that they all loved and supported each other, but there was also a fair amount of teasing that went on. I hope that they all get their own stories, too.

I liked the attention that was paid to Arden's struggles. We got just enough information about what she'd been through to make it real, without it overpowering the romance. I especially enjoyed the visit with the puppies and hoped that there would be one in her future.
