



In The Reins (In The Reins #1)

Carly Kade

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A city-girl-gone-country, a handsome cowboy and a horse meet by fate on a southern farm. She's looking for a fresh start and unexpectedly falls for the mysterious cowboy. But can a man with a deeply guarded secret open himself up to the wannabe cowgirl in the saddle next to him? Deeply romantic and suspenseful, In The Reins captures the struggle between letting life move forward and shying away from taking the reins. Passionate, captivating, and full of equine epiphanies, this is a love story sure to touch your inner cowgirl.

From the Back Cover:

McKennon Kelly. McKennon Kelly. McKennon Kelly.

Cowboy McKennon Kelly was the last thing Devon Brooke wanted to focus on after finding herself suddenly single. Looking for a fresh start to life, city girl and journalist Devon just wanted to go back to her country roots and focus on building a relationship with her newly acquired equine partner Faith.

Devon finds companionship in handsome bull riding ranch hand JD and delicate Green Briar horse farm owner Sophia, both who advise Devon to keep her distance from McKennon and “mind her p’s and q’s” around the quiet and eerily peaceful stables. Devon thinks it shouldn’t be too difficult to avoid the Adonis cowboy, but after noticing his skills and expert ways with training horses, she figures it couldn’t hurt to get to know him a little bit ... right?

Devon follows the guarded cowboy to a horse show, where she is unprepared to learn she may not be the cowgirl she thought she was. After a near-tragic incident, Devon begins to realize that the more time she spends with McKennon, the less she really knows about him (or horses, for that matter), and his mystery just keeps getting bigger. Who is he really, what is it that everyone doesn’t want her to know, and why is this tight-shirted, spur-jingling, weather-eyed cowboy all she can think about now?

In The Reins (In The Reins #1) Details

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From Reader Review In The Reins (In The Reins #1) for online ebook

Debra Brice says

Every horse gal loves a handsome cowboy, especially one with electric blue eyes! In The Reins is a fun, adventurous, romantic read for horse lovers (and cowboy lovers) of all disciplines.

Patrice says

I won this book through a goodreads giveaway. I want to thank the author, Carly Kade for this opportunity.

I enjoyed this book. To me, this was a book about a woman's road to self-discovery. The main character Devon Brooke, a freelance journalist, breaking off her engagement and moving away from the city and all it represented. She wasn't happy and was trying to figure out why not and when was the last time she could actually remember being happy with her life. She decides to get a horse when she recalls the horse she had as a pre-teen and how she felt then. She does her research and finds a horse and a stable to start out on her new life. She finds a place for herself at Green Briar, the stable/farm, where she boards her horse. She finds herself attracted to one of the horse trainers there, McKennon Kelly.

This story is told in the first person by Devon. As a journalist/writer, I believe she tends to over think things. She seems to always want to find the why's and how's of things; except when it comes to her horse, Faith. There I feel that she kind of dropped the ball, so to speak. There were aspects of this story that I felt could have been left out or handled differently, namely the sexual attraction that Devon has for McKennon and some of the exploits of JD (one of the other people at Green Briar). There were times when the fantasies/actions went into some detail that, to me, detracted and derailed the story's flow. I felt that it really wasn't necessary to the story as a whole. Other than that I liked the story and how the characters developed.

Ellen says

After some 'heavy' non-fiction reading, I was looking for a fun, 'guilty pleasure' read. I saw this book, in which horses play a central part. Since I'm a horse person, I figured it'd be a good book to take to the beach with me. So much for going in the water - I stayed on the beach and read all weekend.

Devon Brooke is a woman who realizes, before it's too late, that the man she's engaged to isn't the man she should marry. She also realizes that city life just isn't for her. Remembering the horse she had when she was young, and how happy that animal made her, Devon decides to leave the life she's built and head south, into the country. Eventually winding up at a beautiful farm, Green Briar, and finding/buying a young Paint prospect, Faith, Devon is finally happy. That is, until she meets McKennon Kelly. McKennon is a hunk-a-hunk gor-gee-ous cowboy that is quiet and stays pretty much to himself. Both Sophia, the owner of Green Briar, and JD (Devon's new best friend), warn Devon to stay away from McKennon. There are secrets that

nobody will tell Devon and even with the warnings, she just can't help falling for the handsome, mysterious cowboy.

When McKennon offers to help Devon train Faith, sparks start to fly - at least for Devon. She has trouble reading her new trainer, and whether he has feelings for her. Does McKennon share Devon's feelings, does he just want to be her trainer, and why does he disappear for weeks on end? Just what is going on with him?

It took just a few pages to draw me into this story and Devon's eventual fate kept me reading. Like Devon, I needed to learn what McKennon's big secret was. The writing was descriptive, the dialog relatable and realistic and the horse action was spot on. There's a sequel preview at the back of the book - and I can't wait to learn what happens to Devon and McKennon.

Bobbi Jean says

I recieved this book from Goodreads Giveaways.

Devon Brooke needed a major life change after a breakup. McKennon Kelly was not what she was looking for. Sometimes life doesn't care what you are looking for but gives you what you need instead.

This was a wonderful book. I didn't even know I liked romance books! This is not your run of the mill bodice ripper. The story was told beautifully and I really enjoyed the ride. Thank you so much for the honor of reviewing this book!

Linda says

If you ever dreamed about a lean, mean Cowboy with six pack abs and the sun glinting off of sea blue eyes beneath his Stetson this book is for you. I enjoyed slipping into the world of bull-riders, and skilled western riders with Devon a journalist dropping out of the prying eyes of society to heal from an affair gone south. However, I felt more attuned with her need to be alone with her own horse in a peaceful setting than with her obsession with McKennon—the resident strong, silent type with a secret past at the barn where she lands. For me the emotions of Devon, the protagonist in the story, told in first person, were that of teen smitten with a rock star, not that of an 28 year old woman. Descriptions of the physical beauty and her yearning for her “Cowboy Adonis” were a bit over the top for me. Still, I enjoyed the romp and think horse lovers who favor a Western Romance will find this book a fun read and will be eager to get to the sequel in which Carly Kade tells the continuing saga in first person through McKennon’s eyes!

Donna Foster says

* I received this book in exchange for my honest review *

An easy breezy clean read that is beautifully written.

Brittney says

Spurs be jinglin' with this one! In this story, the main character, Devon, goes back to her horsie-roots after a bad breakup. She buys a horse she's in love with but not quite ready for -- which makes for some cringe-worthy situations and a few deep ego-bruises. But, it also made me root for Devon. I wanted to see her succeed, to learn, to grow. And through her experiences with her new horse, she learns more about herself - as a rider and as a person.

I also greatly enjoyed the western world of this book. There aren't many western horse books on the market so I was excited to get lost in a world filled with two hunky cowboys, a sassy (but naive) cowgirl, boots, buckles, horse shows, country bars, and lots of flirting, banter, and swooning. And, I've actually never read a book that specifically revolved around western pleasure. I grew up showing this discipline so it was fun to read about those specific references ... Quarter Horse Congress even plays into this story!

I'd suggest adding *In the Reins* to your beach bag or throwing it in your trailer to read and unwind after a long day at a horse show! I spent a few evenings on my deck, wrapped up in these characters, and sipping on a glass (or two) of wine. :)

Read more of my equine-fiction reviews at:
<http://brittneyjoybooks.squarespace.com/>

R J McKay says

I received this book from Goodreads in exchange for a review.

A handsome, brooding cowboy and a woman trying to find herself, 'In the Reins' quickly grabs the readers' attention and doesn't let go.

McKennon Kelly has a past he is not willing to share. A past that haunts him.

Devon Brooke wants a new start. After dumping her boyfriend she decides to return to something that once made her happy: owning and riding a horse. After relocating, she finds the perfect horse companion, Faith. And soon after she finds the perfect stables, Green Briar. But she is warned by the stables owner that she must 'mind her p's and q's'.

She is quickly drawn to McKennon, the quiet cowboy. His skill with horses is unquestionable, but there is no doubt that he has built walls around his emotions. Just when Devon thinks she may be breaking down those walls, McKennon heads off for parts unknown. Everyone tells her that he is just that way, and warns her not to give her heart over to the man. But nothing can stop the chemistry between them. After a few riding mishaps, McKennon finally, reluctantly, agrees to help her train Faith.

But can a man with a deeply guarded secret open himself up to the woman in the saddle next to him?

This wonderfully written story touches the inner cowgirl in me. It also left me wanting more. More Devon and McKennon. I look forward to the continuing story.

Jessa says

**** I received this book for free in a giveaway. This did not influence my review at all. ****

I'm not even sure where to start with this fabulously awesome book. If you are anything like me, you enjoy fast paced stories, handsome cowboys, contemporary romances, and of course, horses upon horses! In *The Reins* offers that and so much more within it's wonderful pages. Once I started reading, I couldn't put the book down, having the need to learn more about Devon's journey with her horse, Faith and the mysterious, enigmatic cowboy McKennon.

In *The Reins* brings us the story of Devon, a journalistic city girl wanting to return to her country roots for a fresh start complete with a horse of her own. She ends up purchasing a young paint mare and moves to Green Briar, a quiet, private horse farm with an eclectic group of individuals. She quickly becomes friends with Sophia and JD, but McKennon, the mysteriously handsome cowboy, keeps evading her grasp. She can't help but notice that McKennon has a way with horses so it wouldn't hurt to get his help and direction, right? Devon ends up spending more and more time with McKennon when she is a part of a dangerous accident. This only serves to confuse her more of the mysterious cowboy and the resulting adventure is worth the read.

Upon reading *In The Reins*, I found well developed characters, superbly written details about the scenery, and a story line that kept moving and kept me entertained. Devon was a great female character with strengths and weaknesses that any reader would be able to relate to. She had her ups and downs throughout the story, but persevered through them to come out on top. Her strong character complements McKennon's, as well as the rest of the supporting characters. I enjoyed that Devon's actions and experiences were real and I found myself laughing, as well as cringing, when she would find herself in situations. Carly did a fabulous job at creating characters that drew me in to the story and had me stuck on the ride. My only complaint is that the book ended! I wasn't ready for Devon and McKennon's story to end and I was ready to hear more about Devon and Faith's journey to the show pen.

Overall, *In The Reins* was a delightful journey in the world of western pleasure, horses, and handsome cowboys. The terminology was spot on, the characters believable, and the story was a winner. I am eagerly looking forward to the next book in the series and finding out where Carly takes McKennon and Devon's story. I'm excited to hear more about their journeys into the horse show world and how their friendship progresses.

I gave it 5 out of 5 horseshoes!

Amy Elizabeth says

This was such a fun book, and there was so much I enjoyed about it. All of us horsey gals dream of the day a tall, dark, and handsome cowboy walks into our barn...and that's exactly what happened to Devon. The author's descriptions of the characters and their horses are spot-on; I could visualize each of them perfectly in my mind. I especially loved the two supporting characters of JD and Sophia and the positive energy and warmth they brought to the story. It was also nice to read about laid-back western riding for a change, rather than the typical jumping/eventing stories that focus primarily on competition. Loved the romantic tension

between Devon and McKennon, and eagerly awaiting the next book in the series!

Laura Wolfe says

After breaking off her engagement, Devon leaves the city to start anew in the country. She soon finds herself purchasing her dream horse, Faith, as part of her healing process. No surprise, a hunky and mysterious cowboy, named McKennon, looms at the private barn where Devon boards her new horse. But McKennon seems aloof and shrouded in secrets that no one will share with Devon.

Having broken off my own engagement while in my 20s, I related to Devon's journey to rediscover herself and stand on her own feet. The reader (especially horse lovers like me) can't help but root for her. The author did a nice job of developing the various personalities of the characters. I particularly enjoyed the depiction of the elderly barn owner, Sophia, and the cowboy-esque dialogue of JD and McKennon. The romantic tension between Devon and McKennon is palpable and will appeal to fans of the romance genre.

On the negative side, the big secret looming behind McKennon's aloofness toward Devon seemed obvious to me. I basically figured it out early-on, which didn't leave much suspense for the remainder of the book. Also, a few overused phrases grated on me by the end. Overall, though, *In the Reins* was a strong effort by a first-time novelist.

This book is ideal for horse and/or romance aficionados to throw in their beach bags for a fun and steamy, light read!

Devynn || Booking Around says

It's hard to find good horse book but this is deffinetly one of them, not to mention that the author is super sweet too! I will be posting a full length review on my blog www.booking-around.weebly.com

Christine Meunier says

In the Reins tells the story of country, turned city, turned country again cowgirl Devon Brooke. After moving to the city and pursuing life as a journalist, Devon becomes disillusioned. Her relationship with her fiancée is lacking much. Her career although promising, can be carried out from anywhere and when she discovers infidelity in her relationship, her reaction is to flee to the country.

Devon is like an excited girl, deciding she will once again take up her passion: horses... read more at <http://equus-blog.com/in-the-reins-ca...>

Hope says

I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book. As a fellow equestrian I appreciated its authenticity. The story made

it a very fun read.

Trisha Spillan says

Spent today reading both this book and the second in the series. Have a new author who speaks to me. So when is the third book slated for distribution?
