



## Short Rides

*Lorelei James*

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## **Short Rides** Lorelei James

Short Rides is an anthology compilation of two novellas and one short story in the Rough Riders world. These are NOT meant to be read as standalone stories, but are a peek into favorite character's lives after the happily ever after...

The stories included in the Short Rides anthology are:

King of Hearts\* -- Deputy Cam McKay deals with a murder/suicide case on Valentine's Day.

Rough Road -- Chassie, Trevor and Edgard Glanzer spend a romantic weekend away from the ranch and kids celebrating their anniversary...only to return home to face their biggest challenge yet.

All Knocked Up -- Keely and Jack Donohue are having a baby. Given Keely's raging pregnancy hormones, will Jack need to wear a cup in the delivery room?

\*previously published in the Guns and Roses anthology in 2012

## **Short Rides Details**

Date : Published April 8th 2013 by LJLA, LLC

ISBN :

Author : Lorelei James

Format : Kindle Edition 149 pages

Genre : Westerns, Romance, Adult Fiction, Erotica, Contemporary Romance

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## From Reader Review Short Rides for online ebook

### **Casey (KcLu) says**

Lorelei James gives us three amazing stories from our beloved Rough Riders. I say our, because I know you guys like me feel they are like family as much as I do. Those of us that have become addicted to this wonderful series can't get enough of them!!

Story one is The King of Hearts is a truly heart breaking and lifting story of Cam McKay having to deal with his PTSD and that of the people he has to deal with in his job as a sheriff's deputy. I absolutely love Cam, and seeing his softer side with his children.

Story two is Rough Road. A wonderful peak into the lives of Chassie, Trevor, and Edgard and them dealing with the tough emotional fallout of the prejudice faced because of their unique lifestyle. Having one of their children deal with bully because of the choices the three of the made is not an easy thing for them to deal with. I love that we get to see the strength of them together, and their whole family rallying around them.

Story three All Knocked up is just freaking awesome!! I have always loved Keely and Jack, and this peak into their life is just beautiful. We get to experience pregnancy, hormones, and birth with the couple. They had me laughing and crying. The things that come out of Keely's mouth had me literally laughing out loud many times, and poor Jack is at a loss at how to take his emotional and pregnant wife at times.

If you haven't experienced the Rough Riders you need to snatch this series up. This family will steal a chunk of you heart, because Lorelei writes in a way that you will be reading till you finish the last book!! :)

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### **Shawna says**

5 stars - Erotic Contemporary Romance Anthology

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### **Kim O says**

5+++ stars!

Short Rides is compiled of 3 short stories (1 previously published in an anthology that is no longer available) revolving around characters from the Rough Riders series. The conviction and emotion that comes out of these stories blew me away. I was expecting them to be good, but I had no idea just how much of a punch each would pack or their effect on me long after I finished reading. It's taken me a week just to take it all in and gather my thoughts. These characters are like family so getting a peek into their lives after we've gotten their HEAs was a real treat.

King of Hearts: Cam's story was first and to see the toll his job has on him, I just wanted to hold this big huge tough guy and tell him everything was going to be ok. Unless you are married to a public servant you

have no idea the things they see on a daily basis and how over time it starts to affect them. Lucky for him he has a wonderful supporting wife and family to be there when he needs them. My favorite quote comes from Cam, "Again" and if you've read the story you know exactly what I'm talking about. If not, you'll just have to trust me that it's one of those toe curling moments. This is an emotional and sexy read and I loved visiting and "seeing" Cam interact with his many, many children. It just reminds me that after all the ugliness in the world, it's the things in life like family and love that truly matter.

**Rough Road:** Next we have Chassie, Trevor, and Edgard trying to raise their family in an unconventional way that cause problems for their son at school. I read the first line and was like, WOW, she went there. lol Then as I read, I became extremely saddened by their decision to live in a three-some because of how it was affecting their kids. Thank God for Ramona because she came in, saw what needed to be done and took care of business by getting in their business. Hey! That's what family is for, right? What I loved about this story, besides the smokin' hot sex, was how Lorelei reiterated the love that C/T/E had for each other and by the end, there was not a doubt in my mind that they could make this work. She convinced me. Again. I won't spoil it but the ending was perfect and I cried out of joy at the love and support of the entire McKay/West clan! Little Westin stole my heart, probably because he reminds me so much of my son when he was younger. So, yeah, cried like a baby in this one too. Not sure how I felt about Mz. L writing in Boone. Out of sight out of mind. Bringing him in only made me think about him and want his story MORE! I thought I'd be safe until we got to his book, dammit! However, I think she is bound and determined to make us love him more, therefore all the Boone fans shamelessly suffer until then.

**FAVORITE Quote:** When he turned around, holding the lube, Edgard was right there. "On the floor. I want rug burns on your knees so you remember who put them there." THUD!

**All Knocked Up:** Ah, Keely! My girl, my hero! She and I are of sound mind, heart, and soul when it comes to being preggers. Love the end result but not so much of the in between. Between her hormones and typical overall attitude, I laughed. A lot! I was glad to see that she and Jack's relationship hadn't changed, all the explosiveness that I loved about them, still there. THANK YOU! They give each other hell, it's what they do and it works. Again, something else I can relate to. I've always been a Jack fan, he's right up there with all the other McKay hunks, sexy as hell too, but as he stepped it up a notch or ten when things got tough, showed us his softer supportive side, I fell even more in love with him. Not that there was ever any doubt, but LJ cemented what a perfect match they are. As funny as this story was, it was also the most emotional for me. The fact that Keely is a daddy's girl hits home big time, so whenever daddy Carson and Keely interact, I loose it. I get teary eyed just thinking about it now! The interactions with her dad and Jack were priceless too, especially after the delivery. The emotional highs and lows in this one wore me out, but in a good way. I hung on every word, every scene, every surprise that was thrown and loved every minute of it. Yeah, my heart stopped a few times but overall this one will go down as one of my favorites of the series. It's sweet, funny, and super sexy. All my favorite quotes have spoilers, but here's one that won't give anything away.

**Favorite Quote:** ....and Jack Donohue fell completely in love for the second time in his life.

\*sigh\*

You know, we laugh and joke about these being fictional characters, and we talk about them as if they're real, but this family does seem real to me and it all boils down to the writing. Lorelei James does it time and time again, pulls us in and the next thing you know, BAM, you're in love with another one. Just so happens in this case, I already loved them so these were an extra special gift that I'll go back to re-read over and over.

Dalton is next and I'm already counting down the days!

Enjoy!

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## **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

5 Stars

Short Rides is a collection of three short stories by Lorelei James featuring characters from her Rough Riders series. If you haven't read the series, you will be lost reading these shorts. These are an excellent addition to an already fantastic series. I'm so happy we got a glimpse into the lives of these families again. It's my hope that we have many, many, many more of these Short Rides to look forward to!

Enjoy, I know I did twice...already!

### **King Of Hearts 4.5 stars**

When this short story was originally published in the Guns and Roses Anthology I remember thinking how different it was from Lorelei's other Rough Rider books. I liked it but it kind of burst my happy McKay bubble because of the gruesome crime Cameron McKay had to deal with on Valentine's Day. Upon re-reading it I realized it is different, but the key point that even if you want to be miserable the McKay family isn't going to let you do it alone. I love that Colt came to Cameron's rescue, that he gave Cam advice that he really didn't want but needed to hear. Most of all I loved that Cameron who never wanted a wife and children came to understand how important they are to him and how much he relies and needs them. I also love the little snippet of Dr. Joely Monroe with Chet and Remy and my mind has been working overtime on those three ever since!

King Of Hearts is a great reminder that no matter how big and tough you are, you need a soft place to land and people who will love you no matter what. Cameron McKay got that lesson and it's one we can all benefit from, thanks L!

### **Rough Road 10 freakin' stars (okay so we don't have 10...so 5 will have to do)**

I was so excited when Lorelei announced that Chassie, Trevor, and Edgar would be included in this anthology. They've always held a special place in my heart and I've always admired them for living their life the way that works for them. So, the first line in this book made my heart stop and then I got pissed as hell on behalf of the Glanzer family and especially little Westin.

It was great to watch this family in action. I love the undisputed love that radiates through these three and the way it spreads to their beautiful children. I hate that people are so judgmental and I really hate when they spew their nastiness in front of their children and they breed another generation of haters. I love the way they handled everything together as a unified team. I especially love that they refused to let the idiots break them.

Finally, I got some Ramona time! This girl has fascinated me for so long and I got my wish to see more of her and Cam's friend picking her up in Seattle...ummm, could that be Brock? Damn Lorelei is a tease! It was fun to watch her interact with her cousins and the kids and just makes me want her story even more, dammit!

I was more than happy to see that despite parenthood Chass, Trev, and Ed still enjoy adult time and man did we get some smokin' holy hell hotness in that department. Might as well bring the pumper truck over and spray down the house because a cold shower isn't going to cut it!

Once again the McKay/West families rallied together to make sure The Glanzers know they are a part of them. I had to break out the tissue box which is not something I expected in a short story.

I absolutely loved seeing this family again and how it's grown and changed. It's evident that their children see the love they have for each other and them and that that their bond can't be broken. Rough Road was a hard read for me because I have no tolerance for bullies and so called Christians behaving badly. It's a well crafted story filled with love, happiness, and hope for the future and I can't wait to read it again.

### **All Knocked Up 5 stars**

Since the first time Keely appeared in Long, Hard Ride I've been a fan of this girl. Through it all she has remained a character I can't get enough of. I love her smart ass mouth, her quick wit, and her snappy come backs. The fact that her father, uncles, brothers, and cousins couldn't tame her and one snappy, preppy, loafer wearing, GQ man can just freakin' cracks me up. I know there are some people who will argue that Jack hasn't tamed Keely but he has without changing the person she is. That's why Jack is perfect for her and she is perfect for him and that's why a pregnant Keely is even more fun.

Suffice it to say Keely thinks she's not behaving badly during her pregnancy but ask anyone around her and they'd laugh. Her escapades are hilarious to read about and Jack probably should be anointed as a saint. I will say that pregnancy has not cooled off their uncontrolled lust for one another, not one little bit. It's always interesting when these two burn up the sheets!

There are many surprises in this story although given it's these two I guess nothing should shock me. However, I think Lorelei might have been trying to kill me towards the end because I'm pretty sure my heart stopped at least twice in the last two chapters.

I really would love to say more but I can't because I don't want to spoil it for anyone who hasn't had time to read it. I will say All Knocked Up is everything I expected and way more, a lot more and I couldn't be happier for Jack and Keely. They have some interesting years ahead of them and I hope we get to see them again.

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### **Karla says**

**4 ½ Big Stars...the title might be *Short Rides*, but the stories covered a lot of ground!! Thank you Lorelei James for bringing us back into the lives of some of our favorite characters! It's good to be back in Wyoming!!**

### **King of Hearts ~ 5 Stars!**

Cam's story was very moving and touching. The investigation surrounding a murder/suicide dredges up some bad memories for him and information about one of the victims leaves him asking questioning his own stability. But the beautiful Domini and his own clan of kids bring him back around, and he realizes that their love for him as well as his for them, will see him through the dark times. It was lovely to see this imposing man, that hurt so much in Shoulda Been a Cowboy, have the beautiful life he was so deserving of!

### **Rough Road ~ 4 Stars!**

In this one the author deals with the issue of prejudice and bullying in this powerful novella. Little Winston, Chassie, Trevor and Edgar's oldest child comes home asking what a 'faggot' is, and this sets off a chain of

events that has Chassie wanting to home school her precious son. They are an unconventional family, and they've shielded themselves pretty well, but now with the children going off to school, they all fear the ridicule their children might face. When it comes to the McKays and Wests, family is everything, and they step up to show their support for the Glanzers in a big way!

My only problem with this novella was the sex felt very orchestrated on their weekend getaway, and I didn't get that connection between Chassie, Trevor and Edgar, like I did in Rough, Raw, and Ready. Overall though a great addition to this series!

### **All Knocked Up ~ 5+ Stars!**

Keely and Jack are one of my favorite couples in the *Rough Riders* series and their book All Jacked Up was a standout read for me on so many levels, as is this novella. These two are passionate about everything; the way they live, the way they fight and most especially the way they love!! Watching them on the road to parenthood was some sexy good fun!! Ms. James hit a home-run with this unbelievably heart-warming novella. Fans of this series and Jack and Keely, are in for a real treat. I didn't want to let them go!

### **My Final Thoughts**

I'm not normally a fan of anthologies, but when it's done like this, where each story involves a couple in a series, **one series by one author**, then I'm on board. I love these updates and I wish more authors would take heed and release books like this. It makes me want to go back and read the whole series all over again.

Thanks Lorelei James for this fun self-published venture and giving your readers what they want....keep 'em coming!!

\*Note to the author, or someone who's looking out for her. (view spoiler)

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### **SheLove2Read says**

King of Hearts - this is a short story featuring Cam McKay and Domini, and centers around a brutal murder/suicide on Valentine's Day. This was a well thought out, well written (as always) story that highlighted the dangers of keeping your emotions bottled up inside you. Cam deserves his ready made family more than any other McKay. Great story. 4.5 stars

Rough Road - short story featuring Chassie, Trevor and Edgar and their unconventional lifestyle. While I'm not personally on board with the way they are living, it did hurt my heart to see their children suffer bullying because of it. I think this was a good example of showcasing how a decision to live the way they do affects the entire family. You're always going to have bigoted people around you, but you also cannot maintain a self-righteous attitude when the hearts and minds of children are at stake. 4 stars

The last story - and my favorite - is All Knocked Up with Jack and Keely. Keely is "knocked up" and feeling the usual pregnancy induced emotions that string us all out and make us crazy. But since Keely is already crazy, that's when the fun begins! I don't think I've laughed that hard in weeks. But I also cried at how sweet this story was as well - with Keely and Jack finally becoming a family of their own. Loved it! 5 stars

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## Letitia says

Rating: A ... Heat: Warm/Sizzling

I am in love with this anthology! Miz James does cowboys – and she does them right! (That came out dirtier than I intended...\*cough\*) The Rough Riders series is a perfect mix of western charm and kinky lovin’ – with a heavy dose of heart. And I love how Miz James never holds back on giving her characters a big heaping helping of reality. Or flaws and quirks. We get all that and we also get to see the *after* their happily ever after’s.

In ***King of Hearts***, Cam McKay has had a bad day. A very, very bad day. On Valentine's Day, no less. But Domini, Leisl, and the other McKay kids aren't about to let their dad stay sad for long.

This story hit me with the sadness from page one. This was the shortest and the darkest of the three stories, and was more sweet and tender than sizzling and erotic, but I loved seeing Cam and Dom. Even under these circumstances. It took a dark subject and gently made it brighter. Miz James infused a lot of heart in these pages.

In ***Rough Road***, we get to see Chassie, Trevor, and Edgard again. As the only monogamous ménage in the RR bunch, it took a lot of extra work for them to get their HEA, And, even though they're happy as a tripod, it was pretty obvious that life wouldn't always be easy for them. Not in small-town Wyoming where there are also a lot of small-minded people. With their eldest son in school, they expected him to start having questions about his parents unconventional lifestyle. What they didn't expect was for their kid to be bullied because of it.

The worn out parents could use some TLC alone time to reconnect and regroup. And, oh, there romantic getaway is tender and loving and little bit naughty. But, good lovin' aside, after their vacation is over, life won't be ignored. I love the way Miz James handled the sensitive topic of bullying... and how it brought all the McKays, far and wide, together in support. It was awesome to see these Chassie, Trevor, and Edgard – and their kids – happy and healthy and well-loved.

In ***All Knocked Up***, well, I just have to say: Jack Donahue - I love yoooou! As my absolute favorite, McKay or no, I couldn't wait to read Jack and Keely's pregnancy story. And while we don't get to see baby D's conception - the time leading up to the birth is fiery and passionate and temperamental as only Keely and Jack can do.

Their story melted me. Everything we love about these two in one hyper-sensitive and uber-hormonal novella. I loved the highs and the lows, the sweet moments and the embarrassing ones. How Jack and Keely are a solid unit. A team. So glad we got to be a part of GQ and his cowgirl becoming a mommy and a daddy.

-- *A Romantic Book Affairs Review.*

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## Just My Bucking Book Blog says

**Title:** *Short Rides (Rough Riders, #14.5)*

**Author:** Lorelei James

**Genre:** Contemporary Romance, Adult, Western

**Series:** *Rough Riders*

**Publication Date:** April 8th, 2013

### 5 BUCKING STARS!

I absolutely adored *Short Rides*, I was so unbelievably happy when I downloaded it!!

*Rough Riders* is my **all time favourite** western book series, I love *everything* about it. The writing style, the men, the humour, the men, the dialect, the men, the fact it's western, the men, the amazing fact that none of the lead females in any of the books annoy me, the men, the hot steamy sex, the men, the detail and once again, the men!

The McKay/West men are *all* my book boyfriend's. I don't care if that makes me a book slut, I love them all and have wished on more than one occasion that they were real people!

#### King of Hearts

The start to the book with the murder/suicide case that Cam had to deal with was intense and a little heavy to read but I liked how the reality of what happened to Jeff made him realise that he can't bottle up his feelings and worries because of his PTSD. I love his little girl as well, she was too cute.

#### Rough Road

Chassie, Trevor and Ed... oh my God. I love the three of them *so* much. I love the entire series but their book is the one I re-read the most. I love them, *literally* love them. I'm happy that Lorelei wrote about how the kids have to deal with narrow minded people bullying them over their parents lifestyle because I've wondered about it on a few occasions after reading book five. I love how the whole family roped together - see what I did there? - and helped the three parents out and gave them advice. I honestly think there is enough McKay/West children to fill up a whole grade at Sundance lol.

#### All Knocked Up

Keely and Jack. You *both* crack me up, especially pregnant Keely. Chucking boots and flower pots at Jack in temper tantrum's, that gave me a right oul laugh. Once baby Piper came I was happy, I was delighted when Katie arrived but I was over the moon with the twins. Glad Jack decided four kiddies was enough though, poor Keely's body must of went through the mill with back to back pregnancies and the health scare she had towards the end.

Getting a peek into the character's lives even after their books have finished was amazing, I'm thrilled with it and hope we get more books like this in the future!! :)

## Just My Bucking Book Blog

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### Pansy says

This is what I love about Lorelei James. She gives us what we want. Ms. James knows who our favorite characters are and she capitalizes on that by giving us this great novella with some great stories.

I do not want to go into the stories but I will say this, I almost went into the "ugly" cry with Chassie's story. I had to close the book and take some deep breaths. When I read the book about Chassie, Ed and Trevor, I gave it 2 stars but this story got to me so much. It seemed so real that I looked at the relationship between Chassie, Trevor and Ed totally different. Cam's story was touching also. I love stories about soldiers and this one did me in. Cam is one of my favorite characters and his story was very short and touching. The Donahues will also have you holding holding your breathe and laughing out loud. Keely and Jack are hysterical. I have always thought Keely was the best cowgirl; but a pregnant cowgirl? I was laughing out loud.

If you are fan of the Rough Riders series, this is a great novella. I totally recommend. Ms. James even sets us up for a possible future story. She could really take this series to the next generation. There are definitely enough McKays, Bennetts and Donahues to have several books. Looking forward to Ramona's and Boone's book(fingers crossed).

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### Cindy ~ says

Loved how all three of these shorts showed the ups and downs of parenthood.

Rough Road -- Chassie, Trevor and Edgard Glanzer know they live an unorthodox life style but the love they all have for each other and their 3 kids has been enough. Now that their oldest has started school the unfortunate aspect of bigotry had affected there family. We get a glimpse of how these 3 not only keep a healthy sex life with 3 kids but also how they are going to have to deal with the prejudices their children face.

All Knocked Up -- Wild child and short fused Keely is pregnant. I am amazed that Jack lived for the 9 months. There were some very touching moments and also some funny ones that all have to deal with childbirth and what a woman's body and mind goes through afterwards. Love that we got to experience Keely's first birth her..

King of Hearts -- Deputy Cam McKay is called to a murder/suicide of Jim and Teresa Swensen. It's one of the worst things he had ever seen. When both sets up parents get there they are understandably very upset and things come to blows. The father of Jim asks Cam why he never helped his son with his PTSD. That since he had been thru so much himself he should have helped his boy. Cam had no idea that Jim had been in the services and feels extremely guilty over this. He also wonders if one day he will do the same thing to his family. He refuses to go home but Domitri sends Colt after him to bring him home to her and his children who are his greatest healers. This was a very short read but it sure packed an emotion punch and brought

tears to my eyes.

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### **Sophie [at] Book Suburbia says**

As usual, LJ did NOT dissapoint me. Read Trev and Edgar and Chassie's story and I bet you not to cry'! :)

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### **Larri says**

SHORT RIDES is the latest in Lorelei James' Rough Riders series. it is an anthology containing two new novellas and one previously-published short story. It is not meant to be read as a standalone book.

When I'm reading a series, especially a long series with as many characters as the RR series has, I enjoy getting caught up with characters from earlier books. Whether its a brief mention in a more current book or a new story of their own, I am always happy to visit with old friends. For that reason, I was really looking forward to reading SHORT RIDES.

Even though I had already read KING OF HEARTS (previously released short story), I started there and read the stories in order. My way of drawing out the anticipation a little longer? Of torturing myself? Maybe. But I'm glad I did. I had forgotten how much I enjoyed Cam's story. KOH is a look at the day in the life of a deputy dealing with a particularly gruesome murder/suicide, something that rarely occurs in the rural area where he lives and works. Don't let that scare you off, the heart of the story is how he chooses to deal with his feelings and reactions when he gets home to his wife and children. I found it to be a very touching, heartwarming story.

In ROUGH ROAD, Chassie, Trevor and Edgard face the consequences of their unconventional lifestyle when their oldest child is being bullied at school. The committed threesome (triad?) is very popular in erotic romance these days, and I always wonder how realistic it is in terms of the traditional HEA. Lorelei does a great job with the character's different reactions to this situation. I especially thought Chassie's reactions to be exactly what any mother would do when her child is being hurt. I found this story to be both heartbreak and heartwarming. Oh, and did I mention there's lots of hot sex in this one?

ALL KNOCKED UP is Keely and Jack's pregnancy and childbirth story. I haven't laughed this hard in a while!

I admit this story brought back a lot of memories of my own pregnancy/ childbirth/postpartum experiences. It's much more entertaining to read about it happening to someone else, especially a character as funny and unpredictable as Keely.

If you're a fan of Lorelei 's Rough Riders, this is a must read! I promise you won't be disappointed!

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### **Auntee says**

Three short *Rough Riders* stories with varying degrees of heat...

In *King of Hearts*, an Iraq war vet with PTSD commits a grisly murder/suicide in Sundance, Wyoming. Deputy Cam McKay is deeply affected, and wonders if how he handles his own PTSD could put the wife and children he loves more than anything in jeopardy.

Not bad. A little short, but I did enjoy catching up with Cam and Domini and loved seeing them with their

six(!) children. One love scene, kinda hot but nothing like what's in...

*Rough Road*...wow, this was *hot*...I mean, Chassie, Trevor, and Edgard still got it after 8 years together and three kids. *Whew*. They go away for a weekend sans kids and do all kinds of sexual things (M/M, MFM, MMF, M/F, etc.) But while their sex life may be trouble free, their family life is about to hit a bump in the road. You see, their oldest child, Westin, is a first grader in public school, and is being bullied by an older kid. It seems not all the residents of the town approve of the arrangement that Chassie and her husbands have. Should they pull Westin out of school so he doesn't have to face the prejudices of his schoolmates' parents, or let him tough it out? Then a McKay relative offers a solution, and takes it one step farther to let Chassie, Trevor, and Edgard know that *all* the McKays have their backs.

Well, not only was this one hot, but it dealt with problems that I wondered about after finishing their book (*Rough, Raw, and Ready*)--namely, what would happen when this threesome started a family? LJ doesn't shy away from anything, and paints a realistic portrait of what it would be like to bring children into a world when the parents have a non-traditional relationship. Kind of thought-provoking.

And finally, *All Knocked Up*, featuring a verrry pregnant Keely McKay Donohue. Keely is just one hormonal *beyotch* in this one. Sometimes it was funny, but sometimes it was just irritating and made me feel sorry for a very patient Jack. There's a *big* surprise towards the end, which made me *gasp*! Even though Keely spends most of the story pregnant, LJ still manages to throw in some sex scenes that were quite hot.

If you're a McKay/West junkie, you're going to love these little short day-in-the-life stories. Even though these couples have all had their HEAs, it's nice to catch up with them afterwards and see how they're getting along. Good for a fix until the next **Rough Rider** story comes out! 4 1/2 stars

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### **Beanbag Love says**

This is an anthology of three short stories about characters from the Rough Riders series. It was a quick read, they were definitely *short* stories, but they had a lot of heft drama-wise so they were enjoyable.

The first one is called "King of Hearts" and is about Cam McKay, the hero from "Shoulda Been a Cowboy". It's a poignant story about a PTSD murder/suicide he has to deal with and his feelings about his own experience in that area. It's pretty sad at points, and really cute and has a nice, sexy scene with Domini.

The second one is called "Rough Road" and centers around the Trevor/Chassie/Edgard family (*Rough, Raw and Ready*). The threesome takes a sexy vacation from family and work and that's pretty hot. The rest of the family stuff is very moving and leads to a throat-lump-inducing conclusion.

The third one is called "All Knocked Up" and concerns Jack and Keely (*All Jacked Up*) and their pregnancy. At first I thought this one might be a DNF because everything I hate about Keely is on full display near the beginning. But then things get a lot better and there are some nice scenes and surprises, as well as some very touching moments.

At \$2.99 this is totally worth it. And I wish other authors would do something just like this. Short, slice-of-life stories sold in anthology form (for a decent price) rather than shoe-horning favorite characters into another couple's story line. I really like this and I will buy if my other favorite authors choose to do

something similar.

PS: Someone needs to tell LJ's characters that all home-schooled kids are not isolated freaks and there are a great many nice Christians in the world who successfully counter the jerky ones. Just noting a kind of annoying running angle in a few of her stories.

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### **Jess says**

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: A-

#### **King of Hearts:**

A very short look at Cam dealing with seeing a murder/suicide and the killer was a man suffering from PTSD. Cam has touches of it but realizes that he lets his family chase the darkness away. This was a very nice look at Cam and the inner demons he'll always fight with. I also liked seeing the scenes with him and his family and how their craziness helps ground him.

#### **Rough Road:**

It's time for some sexy alone time for Ed, Trevor and Chassie, which leads to a HOT vacation, adults only. There's also a heavier side story with a look at how their relationship is impacting their kids, especially their oldest who's 6 and in school and dealing with a bully. They try to show him and his siblings that family and love comes in many different forms and the trio also realizes how isolated they've made themselves and they start to open up to family more, especially when they're all there to help their son at school. I liked that while the parents are content and confident in their relationship, they acknowledge and deal with the fact that their kids are going to be dealing with other people who don't understand and don't want to understand their family. It was really nice to catch up with Trevor, Ed and Chassie.

#### **All Knocked Up:**

I love me some Jack and Keely and we get to see Keely in all her pregnant glory. I was rolling with laughter after the first few pages at the crazy mood swings she was going through and what she was making Jack deal with. Keely's pissed off, emotional, hungry, horny and scared. Most of those emotions she throws at Jack one right after the other. I liked seeing Keely a little bit vulnerable and scared of the unknown and seeing Jack be her rock. But the fun with this couple is their bickering and their sexiness and even seven months pregnant, Keely wants Jack NOW.

I knew going in that I was going to want more, as in a full book for this couple, my favorite in the series. But this is a great novella that takes us through Keely's pregnancy, through their baby's check-ups and even through a few big surprises.

As I mentioned above, Jack and Keely are my favorite Rough Rider couple and it's always fun times to get caught up with them. They're sexy, sweet, fun, they fight and love hard and now we get to see a different side of them as parents. It's been a great journey for this couple and I hope we get much more of them.

Fans of the Rough Riders series will want to check these three stories out. These aren't meant to be read as

stand alones, so if you're new to the series get busy and get caught up! I enjoyed each story and it makes me want more follow ups with past characters and of course, I'll always be ready for a new book to be in my hands!

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