



The Army Ranger's Surprise

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Army brat Kaydee Wagner gets twitchy if she stays in one place for too long. But when her grandfather needs someone to stay with him for a bit and his home needs a lot of repairs, she steps up to the plate.

Lucky for her, help arrives from their neighbor's gorgeous grandson, former Army Ranger Leo Reed.

Leo's desperate to rise above his dark past and enjoy life again. He's already made a lot of progress, so when the woman he can't stop thinking about needs a handyman, he volunteers. But after a very...wet incident involving deadly dance moves and a wayward sink hose, their clothes hit the floor faster than a stack of tile.

He doesn't want forever—that would mean revealing his past, which he's not ready to do. She only wants right now, because any other option would require sticking around.

And then Kaydee discovers she's pregnant.

The Army Ranger's Surprise Details

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From Reader Review The Army Ranger's Surprise for online ebook

Ayekah says

I loved this story with Leo and Kaydee. Leo live at At Ease and is making the drive to his Grandma's from the ranch to check up on her while his Mom is gone. One weeknight he pops in to find her making out with the neighbor on the couch. A vision they don't make enough bleach for. Kaydee is in the kitchen doing up dishes. Leo's been watching Kaydee since she moved in with her Granddad (the man in the living room with his Grandma) and is attracted to her but tells himself he's got too much baggage. Kaydee is attracted to Leo too but she's only here until her Dad retires from the military two years away, and then she's moving. She learned early not to attach herself. But these two are like rubber and glue. I loved watching them dance around each other and slowly slip into their happy groove. They have a couple bumps along the way, but they manage to work through things thanks to lots of not so gentle encouragement from the rest of the crew at the ranch! It was great to revisit the ranch and see everyone again! It's got the right amount of tension, humor and sizzle. I love this series and this book was another winner!

arc from NetGalley and Entangled for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are my own

Donna Repsher says

Well, I'm nothing if not consistent, so of course, I'm starting to read a series at the end of the series rather than the beginning, but the blurb did mention that this novel could be read as a standalone, and I will explain why that description required a small caveat, but that aside, I seldom pass up a chance to read a romance novel with a wounded warrior as the lead character, and I give this one a 3.5-star rating.

The wounded warrior in question in this novel is Leo Reed, and he's dealing with his PTSD at a the At-Ease Ranch, a place for military veterans to get a chance to heal, both physically and emotionally. Since At-Ease was started by former military men he already knew, it seemed the perfect place for Leo to go and heal among men who understand what PTSD is like, and it's a far sight better than what he was doing, drinking himself into a stupor to bury his feelings. It's a common enough occurrence among wounded warriors. My only complaint is the the reason for his PTSD, the memories that torture him in his flashbacks and nightmares, is never fully explained in this novel, merely alluded to. Clearly, one of his friends was killed, there was something involving a little girl, and Leo feels responsible and is also suffering survivor guilt. Since, as I've stated, I haven't read the entire series, and his issues may have been dealt with more fully in earlier novels, knowing what he went through and why he reacts the way he does would have been really helpful to know in this novel, since he's the featured character here.

The founding members of At-Ease Ranch have also formed a construction company, and while not a partner in this enterprise, Leo is happy to work at varying construction jobs to earn his keep. He's also been tasked with keeping an eye on on his 80-something grandmother, while his parents are away from their home, keeping an eye on his pregnant sister and awaiting the birth of their grandchild. His grandmother lives only about an hour away from the ranch, and she's a feisty gal, and in a relationship with the older man next door, whose granddaughter, Kaydee, is keeping an eye on him.

Leo and Kaydee are attracted to one another, but since he's still dealing with his PTSD, and doesn't really want to talk about his issues or get involved in a relationship where he'd have no other choice. Kaydee too,

isn't looking for a relationship. She was raised as an Army brat, moving from place to place quite often, and even as a adult, she acknowledges her own restless spirit, and seldom stays in one place long enough to form any lasting attachments. However, chemistry being what it is, these two can only ignore it for so long before they act on their mutual attraction, and yes, they do act upon it, and some of the scenes are quite explicit, so this is definitely not a novel for the under 18 crowd.

While Leo and Kaydee are treating their sexual relationship as casual, it's clear that although they both have their own fears about anything more serious, Kaydee because of her restless spirit, and Leo because he fears that once Kaydee learns about his past she will no longer want anything to do with him, that slow building emotional attachment makes up the body of this novel, and it's an enjoyable yet rather predictable read, and I'm sure I'd have enjoyed it far more had I read the earlier novels. What the story lacked, as I stated at the outset, was more depth, more backstory, and a greater understanding of all the issues facing the main characters.

I will admit to enjoying this novel despite what I view as its shortcomings, and to liking the authors writing style as well as liking the HEA ending. I do wish more time had been spent on the therapy part of Leo's recovery process, and I plan to read the previous novels in this series in the hope that those novels offer more in the way of Leo's backstory. If you're coming in at the end of this series as I did, I'd suggest starting at the beginning, as I intend to do.

I voluntarily read an advance reader copy of this novel. The opinions expressed are my own.

Amanda Stelter says

I got an arc of this from Netgalley

Overall, this book was fine. I have some complaints but I loved the romance. The couple was fantastic and I rooted for them the whole time. The friends and family were also wonderful additions. This was my first read in this series so I didnt have the attachment to the older characters. I thoroughly enjoyed reading from both POVs here, though

Now onto complaints.

The writing was honestly mediocre. There wasnt anything that stood out about it. Just seemed average.

The story was cliche but that was fine. It's a romance, I didnt expect any different.

My biggest complaint is the synopsis. It tells the entire story. Theres things mentioned in the synopsis that I anticipated in the beginning but they didnt happen until 80-90% through. I think the synopsis needs more work.

Other than those few things, I did enjoy this story. The romance was on point, in my opinion.

Heather 123 says

If you want to know exactly what happens in this book read the blurb... because nothing else happens. The story is predictable because everything is right there.

While the premise of the story was good, it was lacking. His backstory fell a little flat for me; I expected to read more about what led him to what happened. There wasn't much said, though it was implied. I wanted that heart to heart talk or at least a more detailed memory of what happened. I wanted more of her backstory too. It was implied that she was hesitant to put down roots, but this didn't seem like an internal battle for her as much as it was for those around her.

Penny says

3 “It’s my fault, I read “surprise” and “pregnancy” and then lose my mind” Stars

The blurb for *The Army Ranger’s Surprise* had me salivating. The love between recuperating former Ranger Leo and the sweet neighbor he knocks up, forcing him to rise to the challenge couldn’t come fast enough. Unfortunately, it seems my blurb reading skills need exercising because the story was so not what I thought it was going to be.

Leo had struggled greatly when he got out of the military, but after months of therapy, hard work and a supportive group of friends, he started to finally feel better.

“Leo, you’re not a bother, You’re a brother. We’re always going to worry about you.”

He still had some issues with his past, mainly guilt and a bit of undeserving-of-happiness-syndrome, but he was actively fighting it. He was one sexy construction/handyman. He was sweet and considerate and just wanted to help others in the way that he was helped. I really liked him and the way he tried to confront his issues as they arose.

In one of his frequent visits to his grandmother he meets her new neighbor Kaydee, who is living with her grandfather across the street.

“Kaydee’s ability to embrace her mistakes and turn them into something positive left him in awe. So did the way her jeans hugged her sweet ass.”

Kaydee’s cheerful disposition, fun and caring personality along with a bit of clumsiness and shyness charmed the pants off Leo. Literally. I really enjoyed her fresh and natural ways. I loved their sizzling chemistry and how they were together.

So, if everything was lovely and I enjoyed everything why was I disappointed? Well, because I was

expecting things to go differently, as in, she'd get knocked up right away and they'd have to deal with it and their feelings would have no choice but to flourish in the process. First, the pregnancy didn't really happen until 74% into the book, a measly 40 minutes before I finished reading it. I mean, the baby isn't even born until the epilogue!! Also, both main characters had insecurities they liked to peruse at length in their own minds, which made for a slower pace than I personally liked. I have to confess to skimming during parts of the story, especially when I realized the pregnancy wasn't happening when I wanted it to.

The Army Ranger's Surprise is a nice, sweet romance about learning to open up in spite of our fears, because the possible reward of true love is worth any pain. While I liked the story, I think my expectations about it prevented me from truly enjoying it.

* voluntarily reviewed a complimentary copy of this book*

Bette Hansen says

YAY! We finally get Leo's story and it's fantastic. This is the fifth book in the Men of At Ease Ranch series but you can read any of them as standalones without a problem. Prior characters and little jokes are referenced so those of us who have read the prior books get an extra little chuckle. Kaydee and Leo are great characters both of which are looking after aging grandparents. That's initially how they get together. What keeps them together...well that's a whole other story. Loved seeing these two find their way to a HEA. This entire series has been fun to read. I recommend this book and the series.

Morgan » 'Mashleas Reads' says

3.5 stars!

The Army Ranger's Surprise was a quick, easy to read steamy romance. I read this book very quickly and the thing that I loved about it most is that these two characters start off as really good friends. It was enjoyable to read their romance and connection, and the changes they experienced together. It was sweet and steamy, the perfect combination. I also really enjoyed the humour throughout, including the hilarious characters of Kaydee's grandpa and Leo's grandma. Very sassy.

If you're looking for a really easy to read romance that's cute with the perfect amount of steam, this is for you.

Elizabeth Neal says

Kaydee, an Army brat, is not a fan of staying in one place for long. But for her grandpa, yeah, she'd do anything for him. She agrees to return home and help him take care of some necessary repairs. At least she won't have to try and do them alone. Grandpa's neighbor just so happens to have a grandson that's quite handy to have around.

Leo, a former Army Ranger, has a lot of things in his past he'd love to forget, wanting nothing more than to enjoy life once again. And the woman he sees himself doing that with just so happens to need his help. He's ready to give her anything she needs.

Their chemistry is hotter than the brightest fire and nothing can extinguish it while it lasts. And both Leo and Kaydee only want temporary, albeit for different reasons. Leo knows he can only get so close otherwise his past would send her running anyway. As for Kaydee, a commitment means putting down roots in more ways than one.

Each is fine with the arrangement, or so they claim, and know the deadline on their time together is drawing to a close. But that all changes when they are no longer the only two involved.

What happens when a man haunted by his past finds the one woman that can bring him peace? Will he be secure in their rapidly growing feelings to share that part of himself with her? Can Kaydee quit running from forever when it's with the right person? How will they react when the choice of permanent is taken away? Will they embrace it or continue on as they have been?

One-click now and follow along as two people discover a love worth fighting for, if they weren't so scared of the fall.

I voluntarily read and reviewed an Advanced Reader Copy of this book.

Pelusa Rivera says

Rcvd an ARC at no cost to author (netgalley) Yay!!! I was so excited to get this book, I have been waiting for Leo's story and we knew it was going to be a little however he finally finally got to have something to look forward to or should I say who. This is part of a series and I you really should start from the first book "In the Army rangers arms" that is Stone and Jovy's story, still love them and they are still my favorite couple..Anyhoo back to review, you can't help but fall in love with Leo and root for him and hope that he finally get his HEA he deserves it. I enjoyed reading of the previous characters and reading how they were coming along..Grab a copy my friends it fulfilling. Enjoy!

Book Lover says

Leo Reed is part of At Ease Ranch, a place for veterans having trouble adapting to civilian life to go and work things out. He had a severe case of PTSD, but now has mostly found his groove. He works in the construction company that brings in money for the ranch. He feels he owes the guys at the ranch more than he can ever repay for helping him recover and always being there for him. Leo is quiet, introverted, big hearted but doesn't have a realistic view of his self-worth.

Kaydee was raised a military kid. She learned to keep people at arm's length because she was never in one place for too long. As she grew older, she picked up a case of wanderlust and got twitchy after being in one place for too long. So, she moved around every 2 – 3 years. She's happy to help her grandpa out for the next 2 years, but is concerned her wanderlust will get the best of her before her time is up. Kaydee is a hairstylist in her friend's shop. She doesn't think she's good girlfriend material because she's not one to put roots down. She has a caring, sunshiny personality. She sees her mistakes as opportunities to learn and is a bit quirky and funny.

Leo has been watching Kaydee since she and her grandfather moved in down the street from his

grandmother. She brings light to his world, but he feels she deserves better than him. They both did an excessive amount (imho) of ruminating in their heads about not being good enough or deserving of love. Both waffled back and forth. Because of this, the story drags in the middle. Their attraction was definitely felt. Lots of sex. Leo was sweet, helpful and attentive. Their interactions were at times funny, sweet and intense.

The grandparents were quite entertaining.

I voluntarily reviewed an ARC provided by NetGalley.

books are love says

Received in exchange for a honest review.

Enjoyed Leo's story to forgiving himself, letting go and falling in love.

Leo was torturing himself over what happened in his past. He couldn't let go and blamed himself. He felt that he destroyed everyone who got close to him. He was starting to change but still had moments of self doubt and self destruction. He was really hard on himself as well which added extra pressure to him. In reality Leo was a sweet, caring, hard working man who was struggling with letting go. He helped others and cared about what happened to them. He put them before himself but he never saw this. He only saw his failures and what he perceived as being destructive to others.

Kaydee was a wonderer. She didn't let anyone get close but she was so sweet and loving. She accepted people and saw that they made mistakes and didn't judge. When Leo comes into her life via his grandmother living next door, her world changes. She sees a kind man but one haunted by demons. She sees someone trying to find his way but also she sees Leo for Leo not his past but just as Leo.

The attraction is the elephant in the room for them but they don't act right away. They dance around-she because she feels she won't be there long and him because he feels he will ruin her. When he starts to help fix up her grandfather's place is when they can't fight the attraction anymore. When this happens wow the fireworks are explosive. They have a intimate relationship in many ways. He begins to become his old self and his friends are thrilled. He wants more for himself but also he feels calm and is willing to fight his demons inside to have more with her. She feels settled and happy. Her mind doesn't want her to wonder anymore.

they give us a nice journey where we see love win and Leo find a way to live life and let go of the demons. That isn't to say he doesn't have a moment of panic but his friends, family and a patient Kaydee help. The story is sweet, sexy fun and romantic full of friendship, love and family.

Debbie DiFiore says

Sweet love story

This was so sweet, maybe too sweet but I liked it. There was no ow/om drama and it had a wonderful grovel scene and an even better epilogue. I loved Lula Belle, the lovestruck livestock too. The hero was really a wonderful guy. He kind of flipped out at the end but he won me back. The sex scenes were steamy and romantic. It's been a long time since I read one of those. Their connection was intense and I loved the heroine. She was so giving and kind. But so was he. One of the cutest scenes in the book is when the H

walks in on his 81 year old Grandmother during a make out session. It was priceless. This was a safe, super sweet love story and I am eager to see if the other characters have their own story. It seems like they do and I really liked this book. It does touch on some subjects like PTSD, suicide and alcoholism but very low key. I loved the idea of the At Ease ranch for vets too. It's been done before but this was still good.

poppy says

This is the fifth book in this fabulous series but reads as a standalone. I just loved Leo and Kaydee's book she is an army brat who is living with her grandad she struggles with being shy and forming friendships due to all the moving she did as a child. Leo has been struggling since leaving the military but after a lot of help and therapy is finally turning thing around. These two meet when he visits his grandmother and they bump into each other. These two were cute together but neither acted on it, to begin with a super read I really enjoyed it

♥ WishfulMiss ♥ says

With summer here and the heat making me warm and drowsy, this book hit the spot. It was a nice quick read with simmering chemistry and two down to earth MCs I instantly liked and was rooting for. Loved the feel good vibes and the alternating POVs.

Leo and Kaydee have been keeping each other at arm's length for a while, both thinking they aren't the right person for the other. Leo is still dealing with guilt and shame over his past and how he dealt with his PTSD and survivor's guilt, while Kaydee is scared if setting down roots.

This book was so uplifting and sweet, although both Kaydee and Leo have some growing up to do before clearing all their fears and doubts about what the future will hold for them, I appreciated the fact that they never turn on each other. They are both supportive, caring and affectionate with each other. Even when things got a bit rocky for them, they communicated. At one point Leo tries to shut down and as soon as Kaydee feels that tingle of awareness she seeks him out. She presses him to let her in and I loved that. We all have those moments where we can't deal and it means everything when you know you have someone at your back ready to lend you a hand.

Overall this was a very safe read with some angst and some push and nudge drama :) Leo was a good guy that just needed to re-evaluate his circumstances and how he wanted to move forward with his life. I loved Kaydee, at first she describes herself as a loner, kind of closed off and scared to really ingrain herself in any one spot but that was just how she perceived herself. I enjoyed reading Leo and Kaydee's story and that epilogue was too cute!

Memorable Moments:

Not so much to do with the story but I thought it was funny that Leo's heroine smells like raspberries rather than vanilla. Lol! Sorry someone pointed out that it was disturbing how many female MCs in romancelandia smelled like vanilla which I never really notices before but now see all the time. It was nice to see the author deviate from the norm.

Would I recommend?

Yes, if you like surprise baby tropes, likable heroines and nice guy heroes this will be a hit!

* * * **ARC provided for an honest review** * * *

I voluntarily read and reviewed an advanced copy of this book. All thoughts and opinions are my own.

SAFETY INFO: (view spoiler)

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Leo Reed has made a lot of mistakes in his life. Like many veterans, he had some difficulty adjusting to civilian life after combat and all that does to a man's psyche. Because of At Ease ranch, he's back on track and eager to prove himself to the people in his life that supported him through his trials and troubles. A relationship is the furthest thing from his mind, however he can't keep his eyes off his grandmother's sexy neighbor.

Kaydee Wagner knows a bit about Leo's struggles. She's been admiring him from afar and keeping things in the friend-zone whenever she sees him across the street helping his grandmother. Since she relocated to a duplex in Texas, next door to her grandfather, she's becoming more open to have a little fun with the "hot guy across the street." Being an Army brat, she doesn't get herself tied down to anyone or any place anyway.

Well of course things don't go according to plan for either of them. Leo had convinced himself its better to keep his emotions in check because he didn't want to reveal his past struggles to his lover. Kaydee has her own reasons for not pursuing anything long term with anyone. But she finds Leo is worth breaking her rules for.

This novel reminded me of why I love romance novels. It is sexy, sweet and heartfelt. The characters are grown ups with grown folk problems. Their concerns and issues are relatable but don't drag you down. This is my first book in this series and my first book by this author. While it's billed as a stand-alone novel, I'm intrigued by the other characters and the world they inhabit enough to start the series at the beginning.

