



Two Cowboys and a Baby

B.A. Tortuga

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A little bundle of joy means big changes.

Hoss McMasters has a working ranch, a bull riding career, a nosy momma, and a best friend he's been in love with since he can remember. He's a busy, happy cowboy, living the good life.

Then one morning he discovers a baby on his doorstep.

Well, Hoss does what any reasonable man would do—he calls his momma and his buddy, Sheriff Pooter, and they head to the clinic to see if Doc knows of any suddenly not-so-pregnant girls.

In the meantime, Hoss and his best friend, Bradley, have their hands full trying to care for an infant, run a ranch, and deal with the sudden confession that Bradley doesn't hate Hoss for coming out to him in high school. In fact, Bradley's been trying to catch Hoss's attention for damn near a decade.

Two Cowboys and a Baby Details

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From Reader Review Two Cowboys and a Baby for online ebook

Sara says

Tag Team Review with SRAL!

4 Hearts

This was ridiculously cowboy and ridiculously adorable. The Dreamspun Desire series is such a pleasure for me to read and I love it but we know that, right?

I love a good friends to lovers story and I fall hard with unrequited love. I blame my own unrequited loves for that and well, John Hughes as well. But I adore it when the love is finally realized and everyone is happy. Of course, you have to go through a few things to get to the HEA and this book has some over the top doozies to overcome.

The book starts off so darned funny. You have Hoss McMasters who opens his door as he is trying to make his beloved coffee to start his day on his ranch when his awesome dog Joanie alerts him to something at the door. That something happens to be an almost brand new baby girl someone has left and the hoops Hoss starts jumping through for this baby were laugh out loud funny. I knew from the first chapter this book was gonna be fun because I couldn't stop smiling.

And then I turned the page to the next chapter and got Bradley's POV.

You see, have this dumb thing that I do from time to time. I start a book and forget who the MC's of the story are and I did that here. Yeah, the blurb tells me it's Hoss and Bradley but my brain had Sheriff Pooter as the love interest and thank goodness I was wrong on that point because I loved the holy hell out of Bradley.

Anyway.

Bradley has been in love with his best friend Hoss since high school but when Hoss came out to Bradley, he handled it all sorts of wrong and made Hoss think it bothered him. What bothered Bradley was he liked his best friend, was in love him at that young age and had no idea how to deal with it. All Bradley knew was that he needed Hoss in his life and he would take him anyway he could get him.

Hoss, well he's been having a love your best friend deal for about the same time but always thought that Bradley was straight since he went and got a girlfriend after Hoss came out to his best friend. Little did both of them know, they love they shared wasn't as unrequited as they thought, it just wasn't communicated.

Back to the baby on the doorstep.

With the help of his Momma, Hoss gets the baby to Doc Simpson to see if he recognizes her or knows of some girl who recently gave birth. They come up empty handed and Sheriff Pooter and the Doc decide the best thing for the baby is to stay with Momma McMaster until they find who dropped her off. But things happen with Momma McMaster and she brings the little girl to Hoss to take care of and Hoss can't do it alone so who does he call? His BFF Bradley, of course. The boys end up taking in and taking care of the baby and it was plain fun to see them learn the difference between livestock and a human. Trust me, it's cute.

Leave it to a little bit of a girl to bring these two cowboys together and to their knees with love. It was so much fun to watch Hoss and Bradley being wrapped around the tiny infant finger of the pretty girl who really didn't do anything but exist. I loved their first trip to WalMart to get all the things the baby would need and I loved how they shared the duties of a baby together and really worked together as a team. The longer Pooter needed them to take care of her when he can't find the birth mom, the more the men fall for her and begin to open up to each other about their feelings.

It's funny that I called the author's first Dreamspun Desire title "two cowboys and a baby", when this book puts the two cowboys and their baby through a Trial by Fire. The men run into a few issues dealing with the little bit of a girl and the little bit of trust with one another that lends to a bit of angst in their romance. It wasn't bad and the fluff is back fast but it's enough to put a strain on the happy little wanna be family.

I loved Momma McMaster and her no cussing rule until she lets a few fly herself. Pooter was reliable for ribbing the boys as they have been friends since childhood. The few family members of Bradley's were amazingly supportive and well... the dude we meet at the end who has a special buddy was a twist I was not expecting.

At the end of it all, this was adorable fluffy and fun. The friends to lovers romance was super cute and laced with enough emotion that a first kiss has me sighing with my hand on my chest. Hoss and Bradley have a tough go of their new found love but they work well together and seem to meet at the same finish line with their feelings. Their love for one another and for a little bit of a baby girl stole my heart and made this another great read from the series.

Karen says

Ya all are not gonna believe this one...

First let's talk about this story...'Two Cowboys and a Baby' was...well, it was like a comedy of errors...I guess. I love B. A. Tortuga. Seriously I've read a lot of her stuff and for me it's run the gambit of ratings from 2 stars to 5 stars. I like the men in these books and their stories are more often than not incredibly entertaining. But this one...this story had me in stitches. Now I'm not sure if I was suppose to be as amused as I was but I was so there's no going back on that.

So let's start with Hoss...yep, one of our MCs is named Hoss. Ok, that's not his real name his real name is 'Wyatt Earp McMasters the third'...I kid you not. Anyways, Hoss finds a baby on his front porch one morning and trust me that's not the most bizarre part of this book, but I'm not finished with the names because we also have a sheriff whose name is "Pooter" and the names just roll on from there...I'm pretty sure there's a Boss and a Cooter and probably a Scooter in there somewhere as well.

The whole story of how this baby came to be on Hoss's front step and who her daddy was...is hilariously over the top and then add in a best friend named Bradley, who in the midst of all their chaos of a baby and running a ranch admits that he never hated Boss for coming out to him in high school...nope, his feelings for

Hoss are of a more romantic nature. So let the fun begin and trust me it was fun, hilarious, over the top, roflmao fun!

So needless to say when the audiobook came out I needed to hear this I needed to have this story read to me in good 'ole boy cowboy voices and while Dorian Bane isn't a totally new to me author the one and only book that I've listened to by him did not involve cowboys and in general I enjoyed the job he did with that story. This time around I have to admit I had a bit of an issue mostly being that every once in a while one of those voices started to sound a bit like Mater...you know...Mater, the tow truck from the Disney movie cars...seriously folks this is all a little disconcerting in what's basically an adult book to suddenly find yourself reminded of a character from a Disney movie...ok, it may have had me doing some extra giggling as well...my inner 12 year old was highly amused.

'Two Cowboys and a Baby' for me was a cute story with a lot of tongue in cheek humor that often was over the top and I have to admit it definitely had me smiling and giggling on more than one occasion.

An audiobook of 'Two Cowboys and a Baby' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Sandra says

On the surface, there's a cute story here. You got cowboys, small town antics, and even an abandoned baby on your doorstep ~~that holds the twisted answer to a long kept secret~~. So, I was ready for cute and sweet and lots of cowboys. And I got that, to some extent.

What didn't work for me as well were some parts of the ~~relationship~~ bromance between Hoss (the supposed baby-daddy) and Bradley, two men who've been friends forever and a day, but who had a falling out when Hoss came out to Bradley way back when in high school. I totally believed that Hoss was in love with Bradley, and that Bradley was in love with Hoss - no issues there - and when Bradley confessed to Hoss that maybe back then he was an idiot, and he's regretted that ever since, their bromance became much more and their romantic relationship really took off.

The parts that were harder to swallow had to do with the revelations about the little innocent baby Hoss finds on his doorstep one morning, and how she looks a little too much like Hoss, and how the DNA test shows that well, I'll let y'all read this yourself. The drama that unfolds between Bradley and Hoss was, while understandable, a little out of left field. Up until that point, I thought that the back and forth banter between them showcased their relationship, and they truly felt like they'd been friends for a very long time. So it was a bit of a shock for me to see Bradley react the way he did when that twist came about, and while the lack of real communication between them was indicative of their relationship, I would have thought that Bradley wouldn't be such a dumbass and trusted Hoss a bit more than what he did. Yeah, yeah, surely the "surprise" was a shock to them all, but when your man tells you "no, I didn't", then maybe you ought to stop and listen instead of being all Judy McJudgerson, eh?

I also thought that the twist was a bit over the top, but then I've come to expect that sort of over the top kind of thing from this series, so I wasn't put off by it. I adored Hoss being all awkward with the baby, without a clue what to do, so that part rang true for me. Even if his mama came to help out a bit.

The author really captured the small town Texas feel, and made me feel like I was right there at the rodeo with Hoss and Bradley - well done, that.

Also, if your sheriff's name is Pooter - 'nuff said. I giggled a lot whenever he was on page. Stereotypical small town characters all around, and that part was a lot of fun.

This was an enjoyable read, even if I didn't like some parts. The book works well within the Dreamspun Desires series, and should be read the way it was intended - as a bit of fluff, a bit over the top, and a "love will save the day" kind of romance.

** I received a free copy of this book from its publisher. A positive review was not promised in return. **

Trio says

mmm, well it was pretty cute - not for me but at least I had Dorian Bane's gorgeous voice to help me through it ;)

Jenni Lea says

Yes, I read this again. Yes, I'll read it for a third time, probably next week. No, I don't care that I have review books to read.

Sometimes you just need a couple of cowboys and a baby in your life.

OMG, I loved this book so much!

It was over the top. It was ridiculous. It was silly. It was so unbelievably **Texan**.

I know pretty much within a 50 mile radius where this story took place. I grew up in Northeast Texas and lemme tell you, it's like livin' in a whole 'nother world. I got every single reference and I understood every single turn of phrase. I even read this in a Texas accent in my head.

And this story's got charm, y'all. Out the wazoo! I was just tickled pink at Hoss's snark. And their banter! Lawd, yes! I'm fixin' to read it again right now!

Onto my favorites shelf it goes!

Valerie ❀M/M Romance Junkie❀ says

I enjoyed this quite a bit. Enough that I read all day long (not very productive).

You have two clueless and oblivious cowboys trying to take care of an itty bitty baby. You get a bit of soap opera (which i've come to expect from this series) with the added bonus of a bit of Jerry Springer/Maury Povich thrown in for good measure. My only problem (and it knocked it down a star) was Bradley getting stuck on stupid there for a bit. I was seriously pissed with him. Stupid, stubborn cowboys. They get their crap together for a solid HEA.

Thanks JL. I would not have read this had I not seen your review.

Susan says

[my parents lie

SheReadsALot says

Tag Team review with Sara

3.5 Hearts--

"Wings?"

"Only if they don't make you poot. Buffalo sauce poots make the baby Jesus cry."

"Well sure, nothing rules out ass-fucking like buffalo poots. 'Cept maybe Taco Bell."

Expect pure friends to lovers cowboy fluff and laughs with *Two Cowboys and a Baby* by BA Tortuga.

With a baby on the doorstep trope thrown on top!

No babies were harmed. Promise.

Set in Texas, this book features a little bull rider/cowboy with the nickname of Hoss (his real name is Wyatt Earp!) and his childhood best bud/digger/cowboy, Bradley. See Hoss is out of the closet and is painfully in love with straight best friend, even after his friend stopped talking to him after coming out to Bradley. After that year in high school, the two continued to go back to the way things were: being best friends.

Thing is all the time Hoss has pined for Bradley, if he looked a little closer, he might have noticed the same looks from Bradley.

Unrequited love fans out there? It's all fluffed out in the latest addition in the Dreamspun Desires line.

Giddy up the fluff!

The unrequited love with my straight best friend angle gets help from the unwanted baby plot. While the two cowboys share like feelings, they're too clueless to do anything about it. Thankfully, the little blonde baby girl on Hoss' doorstep helps bring them together.

The girl's mother just leaves her and Joanie, the adorable pet of Hoss, alerts her owner of the little bundle. Reading Hoss come to grips with his life changing as he knows it once the little girl arrives is hilarious. Hoss is a simple man whose only contact with babies are with baby farm animals.

So not the same.

But too funny.

Bradley, Hoss's #1, comes to the rescue as the two try to hunt down the little baby's birth mother. With the help of the small town's Sheriff Pooter (I kid you not), Doc and Hoss's Momma and a whole slew of hilarious side characters. The country twang just oozes through this book's pores. I found myself charmed with it.

The romance doesn't happen immediately. And I definitely got the sense of the cowboys shared lives prior to the baby.

They sat together, arm to arm, not looking at each other. Then B reached out, twining their fingers together, holding on like they'd done this a thousand times.

Reading them slowly become a unit with the baby who Hoss didn't originally want, but now needs, is the magic for this title.

"Is this the way it normally happens with two guys, Hoss?"

"I'm usually the handjob in the barn type of guy, B. I've never been the type to be on love, so I don't know."

"I've been in love with you since high school. I don't know how the handjob in the barn even works."

It's not a smooth sailing; there is a big misunderstanding that provides a solid speed bump on their path to love. But the baby is the glue to making Hoss and Bradley stick.

And then there is the mega plot twist that took into OTT-ville. Seriously, couldn't believe half of that happening in real life.

Thank goodness it's fiction, huh?

The crazy that gets twisted in, made for a fun read. Plus, it's why the Dreamspun line works for me. It's a good time that doesn't take itself too seriously while delivering crackly sweet romance.

The story isn't without minor issues but overall, the good outweighed the bad. It wasn't a life changing read,

just something you can unplug your brain with.

Obligatory yeehaw!

A copy provided for an honest review.

Bitchie says

Omg, all of the tropes! I think the only thing missing here was a billionaire and a bitchy, vindictive ex. It took a detour into Maury Povich land a bit, but it was a cute story.

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

3.5 Yee Haw Stars!

This story right here probably best represents what the Dreamspun Desires series is all about, with a surefire, enjoyable experience regarding all things cowboy!

As per the blurb, Bradley has been secretly in love with his best friend Hoss for forever, feeling a not so small shame for having reacted badly when Hoss first came out. At that time, he just couldn't reconcile his own confusing feelings and pushed Hoss away. However, these two eventually made up and have been close ever since. Hoss in turn, secretly loves Bradley back but keeps their friendship on the level, believing Bradley's straight and unobtainable.

So how do Bradley and Hoss get over themselves and confess their lurve?? Well, fortuitous happenstance drops a baby onto Hoss's doorstep, which is the perfect, needed impetus to bring these two together. What starts out as ranch-hand-Bradley helping rodeo-lovin-Hoss keep his head above water (while they try to find the sweet girl's mama) evolves into them meshing their lives more than ever. What a fantastic boon to realize how well they fit in all things work, play, and domesticity. Of course, it's only a matter of time before the baby's charm starts to work on both men, leading them to want things they never imagined and reveal desires believed to remain forever buried.

There's *just* a teeny tiny wrench - actually a big misunderstanding - and their happily ever after is a bit delayed. Never fear though. Through it all, the OTT country twang to this was just so fun, silly, and heartwarming, making the aforementioned snafu easily forgivable.

Narrated by Dorian Bane, this was my second foray into him doing a Dreamspun Desires story. Though I'm still not completely sold on Bane specifically, the strong southern touch he brings to the various characters really added to the entertainment value of this little gem. Overall, quite low on the steam but high on the good feels, this was definitely a win for the series!

DaisyGirl says

3.5 (4.0) stars

I'm rounding up for Joanie (the guardian doggie) and baby Shyanne. I enjoy family stories, especially ones with babies. If you just roll with the storyline here and not poke or prod too much at the semi-ridiculous plot twists, this is a sweet cowboy tale.

Bottom line: pretty good.

Jay says

3.5 stars – Every now and then, I read a story that my initial reaction is more positive than not, but I know that if I sit and analyze it too much, I will end up tearing it apart. Such is the case with B.A. Tortuga's latest addition to Dreamspinner Press's Dreamspun Desires series, *Two Cowboys and a Baby*. While there is some messy stuff that comes across as being a little too simplistic to be anything but overdramatic, there's a cute story in here too that I, for one, appreciated in spite of the other parts.

Wyatt "Hoss" McMasters fits a lot of things people think of when they hear Texas cowboy. He lives near a small town, he's a bull rider, he's got a working ranch, and he's got family and friends he knows he can count on. He's also gay and has forever been in love with his best friend, Bradley Germaine, even though the guy didn't take his coming out back in high school all that well. Everything's good in Hoss's life until the morning someone abandons a newborn baby on his front step.

This is the first time I've read an M/M romance that uses the abandoned-baby trope, and as a whole, it worked for me, making for a cute story, even though there were some not-so-cute things that happened. The twist that results in finding out who the baby belongs to is the sort of thing one might see on an episode of Maury Povich or some other sensationalized talk show, but I thought the author executed it well.

What didn't work so well was how Bradley reacted to the situation. It wasn't that his behavior wasn't believable though. The problem was that the book really could have used another ten or twenty thousand words in order to flesh out Hoss's and Bradley's pasts more to give us a better appreciation for what they've gone through together and just how long of a wait it has been for them to get together. I really think that would have helped make the reaction to the baby news feel less like an overdramatized mess caused by a lack of solid communication.

Outside of this, the flow of the story makes sense, the writing was smooth, and even though I'm not well versed on rodeo stuff, the scenes involving Hoss's bull riding were convincing enough to make them believable for me. Other than the reaction I referred to in the previous paragraph, the guys' interactions with each other were exactly the sort of warm and fluffy that I expect from a Dreamspun Desires book, and yeah, because it's part of this series, the book is short on the hot-and-smutty stuff: there is only one sex scene in

the book (the series limits titles to no more than two sex scenes), but even without it, you could feel the emotions they had for each other and the baby.

It's probably a good thing, though, that this wasn't written as a book with tons of sex though, as it might have led me to categorize it as suffering from the dreaded "Press-On Penis" problem—characters who just as easily could have been written as women. As it was, *Two Cowboys and a Baby* worked for me. It's just the sort of quick read that I would recommend to anyone who isn't going to dig too deep looking for reasons to make it less enjoyable. It's a simple story with simple guys in a strange situation, and if you read it in that manner, it's a lovely little book.

The author and/or publisher generously provided me a complimentary copy of Two Cowboys and a Baby in exchange for this fair and honest review.

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Shile says

This book!

Well what an amazing little, angst-free story, just what i needed. I liked it alot.

The audio is so good, the narrator nails the Texas twang, making it more funny and enjoyable.

The story is unbelievable, OTP, with a little bit of a soap opera plot, but that is what made it work for me.

Clueless cowboy Hoss, Best-friend Bradley and baby Shyanne made one hell of a story.

Martin says

This is definitely my first top 10 favorite in the year 2018!

Not only that, it's also one of my favorite cowboy stories - and I'm saying that even though there isn't a whole lot of action going on.

It's rather the characters that make this book simply outstanding. You can hardly find characters as well drawn and unique as Hoss and Bradley.

I admit, my first thoughts when they opened their mouths were not very flattering. But if you've ever watched a Reality TV series on TLC, you'll know what I mean.

HOWEVER, using proper grammar isn't what makes a guy a good man. And if having a good heart is what accomplishes that, then Hoss and Bradley are literally the best guys out there...

Hoss McMasters - or should I say "Wyatt Earp McMasters the Third" - is a cowboy to the bone.

He owns a ranch and a cattle operation and does rodeo riding to add some coins to his purse. True, he also loves it, because he's a cowboy and that's what a cowboy does.

He is pretty close with his parents and his Momma in particular, which I found totally endearing:

"Pardon me?" *Oh shit.* "You are my son and a Christian man, and do you think for a second that Jesus Christ would approve of you deserting that innocent babe in her time of need?"

There was no arguing with Momma when she invoked Jesus. None. He knew this from years of trying.

Hoss is openly gay, but doesn't really get much action living in the countryside. His best friend Bradley Germaine is a straight *cough* guy who lives in a trailer on Hoss' property and helps him out whenever Hoss needs a hand when fencing or feeding the cattle.

Bradley also does lots of odd jobs all over the county and seems to be happy living in Hoss' backyard.

And why do you think that is?

Correct. Even though Hoss and Bradley had a huge argument in high school when Hoss came out to his best friend, Bradley has been in love with Hoss for almost all of his life and is ashamed that he reacted badly to Hoss' coming out. He's scared of losing Hoss and therefore happily lives close to Hoss and pretends to be his best friend, while secretly loving his guy from afar.

"You wanna come with?"

Hoss nodded. "Cain't think of nothing better. You, me, cold beer, a boat."

A blowjob. A blowjob would be better. He was grateful, though, that Hoss thought of Bradley when he thought of a good day.

Bradley really touched my heart, I can't even begin to tell you.

He's the most loyal guy. You may come to find him a bit slow at times. I mean, who will happily wait for his beloved for almost 10 years without pursuing a life of his own or at least telling Hoss how he felt?!

Bradley bounced his mini basketball off the door to his bedroom at the trailer, waiting for Hoss to call. Hoss had to call, right? They was lovers, and lovers fought, but he was ready to make up if Hoss would just call.

Hoss, on the other hand, is naive enough to see Bradley as the straight best friend who lives on his property without ever trying to seduce him or anything, even if Bradley has an underwear model body with a less model like hoof imprint on his chest (from a real cow, not some crazy ass tattoo bullshit, LOL). Bradley had made his point clear in high school. And no way was Hoss ever gonna lose his best friend again over "fight club".

Yes, that's Hoss right there for you. He calls gay sex "fight club", because YOU DO NOT TALK ABOUT FIGHT CLUB, right?

So what's the plot actually about?

Hoss wakes up one morning to find a baby on his porch.

Yes, you country folks. A baby baby as in 'a little person with no teeth' baby. Not a baby cow, or a baby rabbit, but a human baby girl.

However, the police as well as the local doc are clueless as to where it's from. They're hesitating to call social services, because clearly the mom must be somewhere around, right? Probably the girl got scared and dropped the baby on the next best porch, but wants it back soon enough.

Hoss and his mom, lovingly called 'Momma', take care of the baby, but Momma is scheduled for a long overdue vacation with Daddy that she doesn't want to cancel. Confident that Hoss will be able to take care of *his* baby by himself, she leaves the baby with him. He's got a helper, after all.

Bradley has eight sisters and so many nieces and nephews he's started calling them by numbers. Of course, Bradley is more than happy to assist his best friend taking care of the new-found baby.

And isn't the baby girl a lovely sweetheart?

Days turn to weeks without any news from the mother and both guys fall in love with the baby girl - and with each other.

Giving up the little girl once the mom is back will be the hardest thing in these guys' lives.

This story is perfectly slow burn. No overdone sex scenes and the intimacy there is, is beautifully sincere and real.

And so is the diaper changing, bottle feeding at odd hours and whatnot. I absolutely loved it!

And then there's the story's crisis. And God do I wish I could write something here without spoiling.

But let me phrase it this way:

There is a HUGE totally bad ass spoiler twist that had me look up wikipedia to check if the outcome was scientifically possible. And it is correct as far as I can tell.

However, this new development in the story is so unlikely and hard to believe that one guy accuses the other of lying to him, while the other guy is hurt that his lover doesn't believe him when he's telling the truth.

And the most interesting thing about this is that both guys have a point.

For me, this is a rare moment of realism in a romance conflict. Usually, one or both guys are being dumbasses and need to come around to make the story work.

Here I felt like, damn, how do you solve such a situation in real life??
However, do not worry! Things turn out well.

Reading this left me with a beautifully mellow feeling, knowing I've found another favorite here.

And don't we need all the happy gay cowboy couples we can get? LOL

I recommend this 100%! Let me know what you think about that incredible plot twist!

He looked at his momma, stunned into stupidity. "Momma, real life don't work that way."

"That's what you said about when that man shot Lucy Lee in the head and she lived to go slit his throat."

"And about the ball of fireworks that blowed the Richards boy's head off last year," Daddy added.

"And about the fact that all four of the Dennis boys broke their legs on the same day in three different counties."

"Momma..."

"And about the catfish the size of Volkswagens in Lake Ray Hubbard."

Oh, now. "Daddy, that last one ain't real!"

5 stars and a top 10 favorite!

Denise H. says

****** My first book by this author, and It's a job well done.**

This is a **clever story** about two lonely cowboys

afraid to admit their feelings.

Hard ass, Cowboy/bull-rider, Hoss,

finds a baby in a basket on his porch. He's confused. He's never been with a woman, and he's far off the main roads.

The Sheriff and Doctor help out, as well as Momma.

Bradley, construction worker and life long friend to Hoss, bond deeper over the baby girl.

The twist is one I never saw coming. Holy Cow !

This is well written in **cowboy/Texas jargon**, with fun and eclectic characters. We get some kissin' and rubbin', but not full on m/m sex. These are rough and raw ranch men, tough and sturdy. We get a glimpse of

what their lives will be like.

Hoss gets injured bull-riding and decides things are gonna change.

This a different take on the usual cowboy story, but it's fiction after all.

Fun, refreshing, and interesting.

ENJOY !

=====

Thanks Martin for the rec.

=====
