



Pickup Men

L.C. Chase

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It takes a pissed-off Brahma bull named Shockwave to show rodeo pickup man Marty Fairgrave the cold hard truth about champion bull rider Tripp Colby: Tripp will never leave the safety of his closet or acknowledge Marty in public. Sometimes loving someone just isn't enough, and after a year of hiding what they are, Marty finally sees the light—and it's no longer shining on Tripp.

Tripp Colby would do anything for Marty. Well . . . almost. He's never loved anyone before, and isn't quite sure how to handle it now. But he knows Marty is his everything, and in order to win him back, Tripp will have to overcome his darkest fears and step into the light.

But no matter Tripp's intentions, the cost might be too high and the effort too late for these two cowboys to ride off into the sunset.

Pickup Men Details

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From Reader Review Pickup Men for online ebook

Ami says

As a romance story – this one was pretty average. I liked it but it didn't rock my boat either. Let me try to do the likes vs. dislikes list again for this.

What I Liked:

** That connection between Marty and Tripp was believable – it was messy and complicated (what with Tripp having baggage like an international airport) but not once did I not believe that they loved one another. They were in each other's orbit. I liked that even with his personal demon, Tripp still fought for a chance to be with Marty.

** I actually had to look up in the dictionary on the internet to know what “pickup men” actually meant *lol*. But how L.C. Chase wrote those rodeo events, it was really rich and strong.

** I liked the secondary characters too – Marty's family and friends were likeable and I enjoyed their scenes.

** There was this one scene – with Tripp going to Mexico – that really worked in Tripp's favor of my warming up to him.

What I Dislike:

** Tripp was not a character that's easy to love. Again, I understood that he had very deep psychological issues due to his past, but he felt like going hot-and-cold with Marty, and at times, I couldn't help think that he was being really cowardly.

** The last few chapters became humdrum when the story took the cliché path ((view spoiler)).

** The sex scenes were also pretty wishy-washy for me *shrugs*

** Oh, and I wasn't really into the whole metaphors using cowboy/rodeo life, e.g.: “*Tripp's heart pounded so hard and fast it sounded like galloping hoof beats*”, “*The demon horse in his mind reared up, striking the inside of his skull with its sharp hooves, and a shudder ran through him.*”, “*Relief barreled into him like a Brahma bull on a mission*”.

So you're enjoyment of this story will depend on how you can warm up to Tripp and how you are accepting *another* story with homophobic parents. It may work out, it may not. Still, if you like cowboys, duly noted one with heavy personal issues, you might enjoy this one.

Gigi says

This was a super-sweet cowboy tale, but be prepared for minimal sex (you won't miss it, I swear, because the makeup sex is **MIND BLOWING**) and the 2 MCs broken up for the majority of the book. I absolutely loved MC Marty and his merry band of friends ([Pickup Men 2: Eric & Bridge? Please?](#)) and loved raging at MC Tripp.

If you love sweet, loving cowboys, awesome makeup sex and plenty of supporting friends and family

everywhere, I can **highly recommend** Pickup Men.

Emma Sea says

shrug this was fine. Bland, but fine.

Nic says

I thoroughly enjoyed this story which moved along at fairly rapid pace, keeping me involved enough to want to read it through in one sitting.

From the very first chapter, there are lots of emotions and the scene is set for the rest of the book.

Marty is a rodeo pickup man and makes a huge sacrifice for Tripp, a bullrider and the man he loves. The two have been together for over a year and when Marty sees Tripp in trouble, he doesn't hesitate to rush in and save him from being gored by a bull. Unfortunately Marty isn't quick enough to save himself and as he lies on the ground, injured and in pain, he stares at Tripp in the distance. Marty realises that Tripp is so far in the closet, he won't approach even as his lover lies injured and in pain. Marty knows he needs to end their relationship. **"Warm liquid slithered down his temple, and he vowed that would be the only tear he'd shed. Darkness wrapped around him, pushing out sound and thought, and blessedly, the pain of broken bones and shattered dreams."** And that's just chapter one!

The story follows Marty and Tripp as they move from rodeo to rodeo. There is some bull riding action but most of the story explores the emotional turmoil each man is facing.

Tripp wants another chance but Marty keeps strong and his friends offer support. Plus Eric, an EMT joins their group of friends, expressing a clear interest in Marty.

Tripp wants nothing more than to be the man that Marty needs **"Tripp berated himself, He had to stop this, had to get over his fears somehow before he lost Marty completely."** but he bears tremendous guilt from the past which does not make this easy.

Losing Marty, the jealousy he feels when he sees Eric with Marty, and finally a push from Marty himself, finally see Tripp taking steps to address his past.

But nothing is simple and the men need to face even larger hurdles if they are to be together.

I enjoyed this story and the journey that Marty and Tripp needed to undertake to be together. At times I wanted to shake them to get them to see sense. Admittedly I was also confused as to why Marty gave Tripp another chance but finally understanding his history put it into perspective. This also helped me to like him as a character more. I didn't warm to Tripp at the beginning of the book but by the end I was cheering for him!

This book gets points for having some big dramatic moments and of course I love grand romantic gestures so bonus points there too!

I now publish all my m/m reviews on my blog so if you want to see all my m/m reviews in one place come

visit at Because Two Men Are Better Than One!

Elizabethta says

3.5 stars

The opening action scene in this rodeo romance is so well done. It's almost like being inside the corral, you can almost feel the heat and dust, smell the horses, hear the churning hooves of the bull trying to toss a man off its back. Expert competition bull rider, Tripp, completes his dangerous, timed turn on the back of a very angry, 2000 pound brahma and is narrowly saved from death or certain maiming by pickup rider, Marty Fairgrave.

The rodeo pickup man is responsible for clearing the bull away once the trick rider has dismounted, and Marty is very good at what he does. He is also very much in love with Tripp and puts himself in harms way to protect him. What happens after this is just too bad. Too bad that an in-the-closet bull rider can't publicly admit his feelings for out-and-proud pickup man. Not even after he's just saved his butt and lies seriously injured in the dust. Can't even lend a hand, can't even say thank you.

The author has her work cut out for her making Tripp Colby so hard to like right from the get-go. He just doesn't do right by Marty, their relationship is made up of late-night bootie calls. Tripp is so deep in the closet, tightly-wound by his inner turmoil. He grew up abused by a ruthless, homophobic father who threatened him constantly with conversion therapy camps. Making matters worse is the homophobia rife in Tripp's rodeo world, adding difficulty to an already dangerous job. Tripp feels he has no choice but to stay in the closet—he is a three-time world bull-riding champ and has sponsors to worry about.

Marty is the opposite—easy to like—but he comes from a different world. He's comfortable in his skin thanks to self-confidence and a loving and supportive family. He's the lowly (but critically necessary) pickup rider, so he doesn't carry the burden that Tripp does in his work. He is good at what he does, he's a "roughstock whisperer". He has also lost his heart to Tripp but he's finally reached the end, tired of the hiding and fronting, he can no longer "live in Tripp's closet" and can't figure out how to "whisper" Tripp to living a truthful life.

If I have any issue with the story it's that Tripp is so hard to cozy up to—despite his background, he comes off as cowardly. Still, this is a heart-warming read about a man overcoming ingrained mental abuse with the help of abiding love. The fact that Marty remains so true to him is endearing. Readers who like a rodeo theme with some good action, a fair amount of angst and cowboy lovin' will enjoy "Pickup Men".

Mona says

A beautiful, heartfelt and emotional ride. A story about finding oneself and shedding the past. A story about forgiveness and second chances.

Pickup Men, will have you smiling, *crying* and wishing for a HEA, for these two amazing, yet troubled men.

Marty was the only good thing in his life- the only person he didn't have to wear his heavy, suffocating armor around, the only person who could keep the demon's at bay.

Ingie says

Review written September 27, 2016

3.7 Stars - Romantic tender (bull riding) cowboy-love melted my heart

Added the \$2 audiobook as a WSfV to my \$1 purchased ebook some years ago. — 5 hrs cowboy sweetness (M/M) well narrated by a terrific husky (a very manly fitting smoky) voice in Dorian Bane. — My like!!

Pickup Men isn't in exceptionally unique. It isn't surprising or overly intriguing complicated either, but it is a traditional touching sweet M/M romance.

I sincerely felt for these cowboys. I felt involved in believable problems about taking the step out from a thick closet door when you're afraid and also the sometimes deep horrible homophobia issue in very manly worlds (like in the American rodeo sport I guess). A bit of angst, both heartbreaking and lovely tender romantic moments and all in all just a big enough steam level to let us M/M lovers happy.

« It takes a pissed-off *Brahma bull* named *Shockwave* to show rodeo pickup man **Marty Fairgrave** the cold hard truth about champion bull rider **Tripp Colby**: Tripp will never leave the safety of his closet or acknowledge Marty in public. »

Glad I added the Whispersync for voice audiobook

... otherwise had *Pickup Men* probably been unread and forgotten in my Kindle reader for another two and a half years. Simply perfect in length for some weekdays commuting and this one gave me a captivating enough romance story.

I LIKE - heartbreakers changing to tender sweetness

Trio says

I enjoyed the heck out of this one! Really interesting characters with a fast moving plot and beautiful sex between the MCs. Plus, that's one of the most gorgeous romance covers I've ever had the pleasure to gaze at.

Dorian Bane read me this one and he was, as always, just incredible.

Jenni Lea says

This was a nice, enjoyable read...

Until they stopped communicating.

Stupid cowboys are stupid.

Christopher Rice says

This is the last freaking time I use the Goodreads star rating button on my Kindle Voyage. I gave this book five stars, not two. How mortifying.

Vanessa North says

Okay, let's all just take a moment to love on the perfect chin of that dude on the cover...

Actually, everything about this cover is awesome. I adore it.

So, inside the cover is a very sweet, somewhat melodramatic cowboy romp. Cowboys are not a genre I typically read, so this was like a nice little boots-and-spurs vacation. With a shit-ton of angst. I enjoyed the story, and I found the writing fell into a believable country voice. The editing was, as far as I could tell, flawless, and currently, that is making or breaking 90% of my M/M reads these days.

Oh, and I cried.

Recommended for cowboy/rodeo romance lovers, angst lovers, anyone who needs to see just what's inside that amazing cover...

Manfred says

I don't know about you, but when I read a blurb that has Cowboys or even bull riders in it, it doesn't take a lot for me to click the "buy" button. This story even had a Lambda Literary Award Nominee 2014 sticker attached, so not much could go wrong, right??

Well, honestly it wasn't that simple.

The story about Marty an out and proud pickup man in the rodeo circus and Tripp a bull rider champion who is deep in the closet is nice and sweet and has everything you want in this kind of book.

Still, it did not really touch me. I did not relate to the main characters, at last, they found their HEA but I really didn't care a lot. Everything was okay with this book, nothing really bothered me but it also did not hook me. Writing this review just one day after finishing I had to check for the names of the MC because I already had forgotten... (well maybe that's because of my age, but I think it's because they did not really touch me). Anyhow, if you like the blurb, go ahead, read it, it will be fun but don't expect too much. 3.5 stars

for me

S.E. Jakes says

LC is KILLING ME with the angst (which means, of course, that I'm loving it...) I should finish tonight!

UPDATE:

Loved. Guilt. Angst. This wasn't a book about misunderstandings or small fights - there were big, personal issues involved. A price paid for a victory...at one point I was like, 'how is she going to pull this off for these guys?' But LC did beautifully. Highly rec. Bring tissues.

The Reading's Love Blog says

RECENSIONE COMPLETA QUI: <https://thereadingslove.blogspot.com/...>

Pickup men: nelle competizioni di bull riding sono i due cowboy a cavallo che, all'interno dell'arena, una volta che il bull rider è smontato dal toro, devono spingere l'animale verso l'uscita.

C'è qualcosa di più eccitante ed entusiasmante di assistere ad un rodeo? Bull riders forti e sicuri di sé che rischiano la vita in una manciata di secondi. Animali maestosi e indomiti, l'adrenalina che sale, i battiti del cuore che aumentano. Questa è la vita del pickup man Marty e di Tripp, bull rider del circuito di Bull Riding. Il pickup man è quello che guarda le spalle al bull rider e Marty è rinomato per la sua bravura con gli animali, ha un sesto senso innato, anticipa le loro azioni e viene considerato da tutti un "sussurratore". Marty è orgogliosamente gay, con una famiglia e degli amici che lo hanno sempre supportato ed amato, è un ragazzo solare sempre allegro e con un grande cuore. Tripp è il campione del mondo da ben tre anni, l'uomo ammirato da tutti, la stella più grande del circuito, la sua maschera ben piantata per non far scoprire a nessuno il suo segreto: il suo amore per Marty. Tripp ha dei segreti e un senso di colpa opprimente che lo immobilizza, vuole vivere alla luce del sole ma i demoni del passato lo tengono prigioniero.

Ho apprezzato tantissimo l'originalità di questo romanzo che non segue gli schemi tipici del romance, tutto inizia con la fine della storia d'amore tra Marty e Tripp, la sofferenza per la fine di questo amore è il motore che scoperchierà il vaso di Pandora e ci porterà alla scoperta dei demoni di Tripp e al suo percorso per essere un uomo degno di essere amato. L'autrice con uno stile descrittivo ed incalzante ci fa vivere il mondo dei rodei, ogni azione è entusiasmante ed eccitante come se noi fossimo lì a tifare. L'introspezione approfondita della psicologia dei protagonisti ci fa stringere il cuore e sperare per la felicità di questi due ragazzi. Questo romanzo è il viaggio di un uomo che deve sconfiggere i propri demoni ed è una denuncia verso pratiche deplorevoli attuate per guarire i gay...

CONTINUA SUL NOSTRO BLOG. VENITE A TROVARCI
<https://thereadingslove.blogspot.com/>

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

"Pickup Men" is a sweet, light cowboy romance that didn't quite hit the mark for me.

This is my second L.C. Chase book and I don't know if I mesh well with her writing style. There is something kind of haphazard about the way that she writes that puts me a bit out of sorts. One moment we are here and the next we are there... the transitions are jumpy and it throws me off. Putting that aside, there were a lot of nice things about this book.

To begin with, I liked the chemistry between Marty and Tripp. I felt their connection and got the reasons that they fought for each other. I thought that Marty's friends were great characters (got to love platonic guy friends in m/m books!) and I liked the backing from Marty's family. I also understood where Tripp was coming from with his background with a homophobic, abusive father. There were lots of nice elements that led to a pleasant read. I like doing strictly spoiler-free reviews so I'll just say that one of my favorite scenes was when Tripp goes to San Francisco. Everything that happened during that chapter worked for me.

However, I had some... cheesiness issues with this book.

Grunts and groans and harsh breaths rose and fell, creating discordant yet somehow beautiful music. The rich chorus seeped into Tripp's chest, and its echo set the dark hollows of his mind alight with each well-played note.

Now, I don't know how that scene sounds to you, but I immediately rolled my eyes when I read it. I just like my sex to be a bit more... let's say, rough around the edges. The sex scenes did next to nothing for me in this book, which is a shame. And in general, there are a lot of overzealous declarations of love that seemed out of place with what any guy would say, much less a pair of stoic cowboys. I found the prose to be a bit too effusive for my tastes.

I also thought it was kind of weird how Eric became BFF with all of them, almost overnight. It was odd how quickly he integrated into their very close circle of childhood friends.

I think if you like cowboy books, you should give this book a try. I enjoyed it enough while I was reading it but it won't be a book that stays with me for long afterwards.

Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Thanks Riptide!

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