



Hot on the Trail

Vicki Tharp

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The stunning beauty and quiet majesty of the Wyoming wilderness can heal your soul. But one woman will discover that her heart is fair game . . .

The Lazy S Ranch is everything to Jenna Nash. It's given her family, friends, and a fulfilling career: helping veterans rebuild their lives. She sacrificed a lot to get her equine therapy program off the ground—including love. But suddenly, she's in danger of losing it all . . .

Joining the Marines was the best decision Quinn Powell ever made, even if he had to go it alone without Jenna. Now his best friend's death has brought him back to the ranch he once called home—and to the woman who rejected him.

Quinn hasn't lost his touch—with the wildest horses or with Jenna. Though she's falling for the brash, impulsive cowboy all over again, Jenna has reason to be wary. But when she and the ranch are threatened, Quinn will put everything on the line to save them both . . .

Hot on the Trail Details

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Author : Vicki Tharp

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From Reader Review Hot on the Trail for online ebook

Donna Repsher says

Hot on the Trail is the third book in the Lazy S Ranch series and the second book in the series I've read, and if there's a romantic suspense novel out there which combines more romance tropes than this one, I've yet to encounter it. Because of those tropes and because of the way they were integrated into this novel, it gets a 4-star rating from this reader.

First, let me enumerate some of the aforementioned tropes: second chance at love, wounded warriors, suicide, accidental drug overdose, survivor guilt, murder mystery, equine therapy, AA and NarcAnon, drug running, human trafficking, wild horse training, undercover operators, and more.

The main characters in this novel are Jenna and Quinn, who fell in love years ago, but Quinn proposed marriage it was too much, too soon for Jenna. Quinn was in the Marines and his love of flying helicopters meant he wasn't going to give that up. Jenna had her own dreams of opening an equine therapy ranch for wounded veterans, and that was her priority. Unfortunately for the two of them, their dreams took them away from one another, but Jenna felt that Quinn didn't seem to care about her dreams, only his, and the next thing Jenna knew was that he was gone and he never contacted her again, breaking her heart but not her spirit, nor ending her commitment to helping wounded warriors.

Jenna is so close to getting her equine therapy program accredited and licensed when her first trial client, Kurt, doesn't show up on time for a session, and the search for him on the Lazy S Ranch ends with Jenna's dog finding Kurt's dead body. The local police are called and quick to rule Kurt's death an accidental suicide by drug overdose. Jenna, although devastated by his death and its possible effect on her program, just doesn't believe or accept it, because Kurt, who arrived at the Lazy S clean after getting a handle on his drug and alcohol issues, had been regularly attending AA and NarcAnon meetings, and had never seemed to be under the influence for the 6 months he'd been on the ranch.

As if that wasn't enough of a shocker, Kurt's best friend soon shows up at the Lazy S to bury him, and to find out how he died, and that best friend and comrade in arms, is Quinn, the man whom Jenna had loved and lost. Quinn now has issues of his own. He and Kurt were the only two survivors of the helicopter crash that left both Quinn and Kurt wounded, and the rest of their team dead. While Quinn was piloting the helicopter, and an investigation into the crash exonerated him of all blame, although, of course, he still blames himself. Quinn doesn't believe and won't accept the fact that Kurt might have gone back to substance abuse, and when he and Jenna begin their own investigation into Kurt's death, all the clues they find lead them to believe that Kurt was murdered, but what was the motive?

As their investigation continues, it's clear that Jenna and Quinn's feelings for one another haven't changed, but the basic cause of their estrangement, different goals, is still there. Jenna is still committed to helping wounded warriors with her equine therapy program in Wyoming and Quinn wants to heal well enough from his injuries to return to flying helicopters for the Marine Corps, based in California.

We also get back to the story and characters who appeared in the second novel in the series, most notably, Pepita, the 14-year-old girl rescued from the camp of El Verdugo, a violent, sadistic, drug- and gun-running bad guy. There's certainly more than a little suspicion of his possible involvement in Kurt's death--and that's just for starters. As the mystery heats up, so too does the relationship between Quinn and Jenna, and these two certainly generate quite a bit of heat.

The secondary characters in this novel add complexity to an already complex story, but the author does a very good job of giving them distinct personalities and issues, and just when you and the main characters believe they've solved the mystery of Kurt's death, there are even more issues, more complications, more secrets to be revealed and enough action to also classify this novel as a thriller. While it all worked for me on some levels, and was certainly an engrossing read, there were some hard to believe scenes as well, which are what kept me from giving this novel a 5-star rating.

All in all, this was an exciting and complex read, that gets off to a slow start, and if you've not read the first two novels in the series, especially the second one, you might find it difficult to understand some of the characters and their inter-relationships, especially the female characters who, for some reason only the author knows, have men's names. Yes, it's still a romance, and yes, there's an HEA ending, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it.

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

Char (1RadReader59) says

What a fantastic story that had me from the beginning until the very end. This is a second chance story where the characters were intense and engaging from the get-go. I cannot tell you how many twists and turns this story took.

The thing is they were not huge but they were enough to keep you turning the pages. This is the first time I read this author's book and I would read her again. What I liked was she too you to the gritty side but not down the rabbit hole so low it was dark in the pits.

You saw the underbelly of the drug world and the disgusting world of human trafficking. But she did it justice without the gory darkness but the awareness and some facts. Let me tell you, you will fall in love with some of her characters. Some you will hate first then you will love.

So, this story is about Jenna and Quinn two that fell in love at a young age while Quinn was working on he Lazy 'S' Ranch. His mentor was Jenna's stepmother Mac who had been in the USMC and was living with a prosthetic, along with their friend Boomer he too was USMC with a prosthetic. Being around them and the horses gave Jenna a new calling.

So, she decided to change her major working toward a dream of opening, Healing Horses therapy program for troubled veterans. She saw how much it had helped both Mac and Boomer and wanted to help more Vet's.

After being around Mac as a mentor Quinn too changed his calling but without discussing any of it with Jenna. He decided to sign up for the USMC to fly Helos. In Okinawa since they took married couples. But one, he wasn't married. Two, he hadn't even asked Jenna to marry him or talked to her about moving away from her family and friends. While he was away on missions and all to be in another country alone. Can you guess what she said?

So, being rejected was not something Quinn could handle and now he was off to another country, and being young he broke all ties with Jenna. Now four years later he contacts her and asks a favor to take only his crew member that lived through the crash that they were in with their crew into her program. She says, yes. Now a month later Kurt, Quinn's friend is dead and Jenna must call to tell him.

They were saying it is an O.D. When Quinn gets to the ranch Quinn will be staying in Kurt's cabin. When he and Jenna start going through all of his stuff things are not adding up. What he finds at the scene and in his cabin tell him a different story.

Follow Jenna and Quinn as they take you on the journey to find out where Kurt had been, his friends, and who he had talked to. Was it all bad or were things only made to seem a certain way?

My favorite characters ended up being Moose and Soto (because she bugged the heck out of Finn.) I give this 5++++ stars. Provided by netgalley.com.

Follow us at www.1rad-readerreviews.com.

Cathy Geha says

Hot on the Trail by Vicki Tharp
Lazy S Ranch #3

Second chance romances are not my favorite cup of tea but it definitely worked in this book. Why? Well, I think that Jenna and Quinn may have loved one another when they separated four years before the story begins but both had grown a lot over the years apart and were able to see the other and give a bit more once they meet up again.

Jenna has an equine therapy program she is trying to get accredited at the beginning of this story. The program takes in horses and military veterans that will work together to “heal” through the program. Kurt, one of the first in the program, is found dead at the beginning of the book. His death puts the program in jeopardy and also brings Quinn back to the ranch to bury his best friend. Quinn is NOT sure that an overdose was the reason Kurt died and puts himself to the task of finding out the truth...and Jenna joins him.

This story has a LOT going on...just as the first two books did. It is more than a love story. Add in a cartel, human trafficking, drugs, undercover work, wild horses to tame and the camaraderie of the group on the Lazy S Ranch all working together for a common cause and you have a big story with a lot of heart that provides a HEA for some and the potential of a HEA for two new characters introduced at the end of this book. I am hoping that Moose and Stirling will have their stories told next. And, I kind of wonder what type of suspense will be brought to the table in the next book, too. That said, I did have a bit of trouble with the believability factor at times with the positions that Jenna and Quinn found themselves in but otherwise found this a great book.

Thank you to NetGalley and Kensington Books – Lyrical Caress – This is my honest review

4-5 Stars

Maria says

Received an Advance Reader Copy in exchange for a fair review

Having met young Jenna and Quinn in “Cowboy, Unexpectedly”, it was lovely to meet them again now as the romantic couple in “Hot on the Trail”, mature and really ready to commit. I loved the way Vicki Tharp wrote this process of them growing and learning as people and as a couple, and how the events taking place, the other characters and even the ranch animals have a role in this complex web.

Quinn and Jenna are great characters, honest, strong and solid, with a few vulnerabilities that only make them more human; Quinn is recovering from a devastating helicopter crash, fighting by all means to return to the military life (his final decision about it shows how he has changed and grown). Jenna is an amazing

young heroine, fulfilling all the potential her character had shown in “Hot on the Trail”.

Nonetheless, I felt that their undercover operation was a bit thin, what with their connections with the Lazy S Ranch.

It was great to meet Hank and Mac and Boomer and Sydney again. Boomer is fantastic in his role as a father, fiercely protective of young Pepita.

There are some new characters that left me curious, such as St. John and Gill Brant, perhaps they’ll be featuring in future stories.

I'm grateful to the publisher, Kensington Books/Lyrical Caress, and NetGalley for providing a free copy.

Amber says

Jenna runs a rehab facility that focuses on helping veterans with equine therapy. She has been struggling to get her business off the ground, when one of her clients turns up dead. She is stunned. She thought that they were making progress, and can’t believe he would commit suicide. Worse, he was her ex’s best friend, and she has to call him with the news.

Quinn has had a rough time lately. His recovery from a crash being slower than expected, and his military career is on the line if he doesn’t heal soon. When he gets the call about his best friend, he has just been sent on mandatory leave. It is only natural to go to the place his friend died, even if it brings him in contact with the woman he let get away.

When Quinn and Jenna reunite, the sparks are still there. They decide to work together to figure out what happened to Kurt. They each have their own reasons, but slowly the investigation brings them together. What will happen when Quinn’s leave is over, though. Will history repeat itself or will they be able to start again?

This book is part of a series. I haven’t read the other books in the series, but I think reading the other books in the series would help to see the bigger story. I would give this book 3.5 stars, though. I like how the author made the story into a mystery as much as it was a romance.

I was asked by the author for an honest review.

Books and Spoons says

A beautiful and heartbreaking demonstration of love, loyalty, and friendship, in a story with second chances, that is filled with intense emotions, healing conversations, and suspense and action where no one is safe and everyone's lives are put on the line.

Jenna Nash and Quinn Powell are characters easy to like and relate to. They both are strong, smart, capable, goal oriented, determined to the point of stubbornness, and fierce protectors of what they believe is right and of the people they care about. They have a history that broke both of their hearts, yet the pain has dulled over the years apart, even if their hearts, minds, bodies, and souls still recognize their mate.

Quinn's career in Marines is on the line because of a helicopter accident while on duty that left him wounded. Jenna has worked vigorously to start her program to the military vets, yet now everything is put on the line because of her first client, Quinn's best friend, is found dead on the property by an apparent overdose of drugs.

I loved everything about the way and the time span Jenna and Quinn have to rekindle their feelings, to have

the healing moments from the past hurt, and to connect on a deeper, true level again. The pain is palpable, but so is the connection and attraction between them. The trust doesn't come easy, yet on a very basic level, they know they can count on the other. They have to work on the forgiveness, on themselves and their issues, on building something lasting between them again, while in a middle of an undercover operation to find out what really happen to Quinn's friend.

The character growth, while subtle and fragile, was a beautiful thing to witness. As likable and lovable Jenna and Quinn are, even with their imperfections or maybe because of them, I cheered for them, rooted for them to find a way, to find a compromise they both could live and be happy and content with. It does not come easy, there are no obvious conclusions, it takes time, work, and sacrifices, but the willingness to find a way and fight for the happiness shines through.

The author's knowledge about the healing powers of the animals is shown numerous times through the tale. It is demonstrated with both dogs and horses, the interactions endearing and adorable. The a-ha moment when everything clicked for Quinn was so powerful it brought tears to my eyes.

With an intriguing and entertaining cast of characters providing drama, banter, and demonstrations of love and loyalty, with the delightfully sexy and charming love story developing, and with the deadly danger from the cartel and drug and human trafficking, this story held me captive, enthralled, and excited until the swoon-worthy end.

An alluring love story with lusciously adorable romance mixed with captivating and thrilling suspense and deadly action makes a highly entertaining tale of cowboys, soldiers, and cartel members

~ Four Spoons with a teaspoon on the side

Eileen says

Quinn Powell & Jenna Nash

There story was in the making in book 1 when they were teenagers and fell in love. Now his best friend was found dead at the Lazy S ranch and Jenna had to tell Quinn the bad news. Quinn has become a helicopter pilot in the Marines and is still recovering from his crash. He's hoping to get medical clearance to get back on active duty but has the time off to go back home and figure out how his friend died.

Jenna has worked hard on getting her veteran equine program off the ground and having Kurt die on her watch is a nightmare. Having Quinn home makes it even more stressful. when she turned down his proposal 4 years ago he's been radio silent. he essentially cut her out of his life. there was no closure. now they are working together to figure out what happened.

it was a mystery and a dangerous one at that. How they helped each other and end up in more danger kept this story interesting and a real page turner. The danger was real and the suspense off the charts. The story wrapped up nicely and I am impressed with the great writing. I look forward to reading more from this author.

BookAddict says

It was a treat to return to the Lazy S Ranch. This series combines two great book worlds – cowboys and military veterans. Reminiscent of B.J. Daniels' style of western romance, we get wonderful, heartfelt love stories with a bit of mystery and suspense. Hot On the Trail is Jenna's and Quinn's story. We met them previously while they were high school sweethearts and their romance ended with Quinn's poorly planned marriage proposal and them both going their separate ways – Jenna to college and Quinn to the military.

Jenna has returned to her family and home at the Lazy S after completing college to start the Healing Horses therapy program for veterans. After eighteen months of dealing with red tape, the program near and dear to her heart is threatened when the program's first participant is found dead. Not only that, but the dead soldier is also Quinn's best friend and brother in arms, which brings Quinn back to the Lazy S.

Jenna and Quinn are the youngest of the main characters so far in this series, and there were times their lack of maturity showed and I found myself thinking, "That doesn't sound like a good idea," or yelling at them to "Don't do that!" but their story certainly kept me on the edge of my seat. Their love story was a sweet second chance and the mystery kept me engaged and cheering for everything to work out in the end, which it did, of course. I love this series, enjoyed Jenna's and Quinn's story, and can't wait for the next book in the series!

*I reviewed this book freely and voluntarily, having made no commitment to provide a review and receiving no compensation of any kind from any source for this review.

Cheri says

I received an ARC of this book courtesy of Net Galley and the publisher. All opinions expressed in this review are my own and given freely

I've gotta say, Vicki Tharp is really killing it with this series. It was great to see everyone at the Lazy S Ranch again, and especially to see Quinn back with them...even if it's under bad circumstances.

Jenna has been a spitfire from the very beginning of this series. Although she's grown up a lot and is now a woman, she's still has that fighting spirit inside. She and Quinn both have major chips on their shoulders from things that happened while they were kids. Feelings of being unwanted or not good enough. Because of the way their young teenage romance ended a few years back, those insecurities only seem to come more to the surface. They both feel wronged and as if they're not good enough, while both also wonder what could have been but know they did what was best for themselves when things ended.

Since this story deals with a possible suicide or murder of a veteran things can get very heavy. Little Pepita helps provide some lightness to the story, just as she had in *Must Love Horses*. Although this isn't her story, or even her foster parents' story, she is heavily involved in things that are happening since, yet again, the name El Verdugo rears its ugly head.

This story also deals with human trafficking, so proceed with caution if that is a trigger for you. I, for one, appreciate the author shining a light on this issue and our (American's) "not in my town" mentality. It's happening everywhere and having these fictional stories portraying the problem with such candor can only help raise awareness.

There were some new characters introduced that I enjoyed. I'm not sure if the author plans to continue the series with any of them, but if she does I will certainly be reading their stories.

<https://allingoodtimeblog.wordpress.c...>

Heather andrews says

I loved when Quinn would tease his woman, "he gave her his cheesiest, cockiest grin. "Hey, darlin', I don't know what you've heard, but there's no exaggeration where little Quinn is concerned." Quinn's woman often times surprises him, "she gripped the box of condoms and dropped it on the table in front of him. He choked mid-chew and dropped the sandwich onto the plate. He pounded a hand to his chest, swallowing hard, as if all the moisture had left his mouth. "Holy ***1," he sputtered. "Give a guy some warning." I liked this book, I liked Quinn.

Carol [Goodreads Addict] says

Hot on the Trail is book three in the Lazy S Ranch series by Vicki Tharp. I have loved this series from the first book. They have everything that for me makes reading my favorite thing to do. There is plenty of sweet romance, sexy times, and nail biting suspense. You can read these as stand alones but the characters all follow through in each book and the bad guy in this book is a continuation from the previous book. And believe me, the previous two books are worth taking the time to read first.

Jenna Nash has sacrificed everything for her veteran's equine rehabilitation program. Four years ago, she turned down the proposal of the man she loved because he wanted her to go with him as a military wife when he knew that her dream was to stay on the Lazy S and to help veterans. Now, after eighteen months of paperwork and jumping through hoops, she has her first client, ironically, the best friend of her former boyfriend. After one month on the ranch, though, the unthinkable happens and he is found dead. With her program in trouble of being cancelled, she needs answers as to how he really died.

Quinn Powell has been grounded ever since his helicopter crash. His arm was badly burned and he hasn't been released for duty by his doctor yet. Then, he got word that his best friend was dead, the friend he recommended for Jenna's rehab program. So he uses some of his leave to go home to the Lazy S to help deal with his friend's death. Only that means seeing Jenna again. It's been four years but he never completely got over her.

The details just don't add up. The police want to label it as a suicide but Quinn and Jenna aren't convinced. So they decide to do a little investigating on their own. At the same time, these two have the opportunity to get to know each other again as the adults they are now. What they shared all those years ago is still there but the issues haven't changed. When this is over, Quinn is going back. His dream is in the skies. It's what he was meant to do. And Jenna's dream is on the ranch helping veterans. It wouldn't be fair for either of them to give up their dreams, even if their hearts are broken all over again.

What an amazing book. I've grown to love everyone in this family and I loved getting more of how all of

their lives are doing. As always, this family sticks together, no matter what. I knew Quinn was brave but oh my gosh, Jenna was too. She's one tough woman. And she's also a woman who is still in love with the only man she has ever cared for. Get ready for some nail biting suspense as they dig deeper into the investigation. This is such an amazing series. Vicki Tharp's writing is spell binding. I can't wait to see what she has in store for us next.

Reading In Pajamas says

Review: HOT ON THE TRAIL (Lazy S Ranch) by Vicki Tharp <https://wp.me/p3d0RZ-aPp>

Publication Date: July 24, 2018

Genre: Western Contemporary Romance

Reviewed by: Reading in Pajamas/ Donna

Rated: 4.5 Stars

This was a fun mystery, clue gathering and adrenaline rushing romance. I liked how Jenna and Quinn handled their reservations about rekindling their romance. It was done naturally and made sense, while keeping me geared up from all the sexual and emotional tension. It just seemed to flow the overall story and added to the fiery climax. I also like that the people around them are close-knit and added depth to the story. This murder mystery isn't filled with a cowboy storyline, but it has enough to keep those who love horses, happy. I honestly couldn't put it down.

*Review copy provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

~*~*~*~

Kindle \$3.99 <https://amzn.to/2v1QLWy>

Jeanne says

I took this book because I'm a Marine from Wyoming. There was potential to be seriously disappointed. The good news is Tharp does a credible job of describing both. Quinn Powell is driven and hard on himself like I'd expect of a Marine. He loves to fly and can't imagine a life without it. Jenna is a ranch girl through and through. She's spent her entire life on her family farm and can't envision a life elsewhere. When Quinn proposed before shipping out he never thought she'd turn him down. The pair both end up hurt and create lives independent of each other despite being madly in love.

When his best friend Kurt, the first and so far only guest in Jenna's program to help veterans, is found dead on the ranch, Quinn rushes back to Wyoming. It's a slow progression at first to get over the hurt each feels from their breakup but the pair can't help but find their way back to the other as they spend time trying to unravel the real circumstances of Kurt's death.

Quinn using chopping wood to relieve stress and over time realizes it's actually more effective than the

physical therapy he's been doing since he crashed his helicopter. Kurt was the only other survivor of the crash and with his death, Quinn's survivor guilt just gets worse even worse.

The story had a lot of suspense as the pair chase clues and end up on the wrong side of an evil cartel. The cartel the ranch residents had already fought and thought they'd squashed is still bringing it's illegal and highly immoral activities to Wyoming. This is where I wished I had read the first book in the series as there was a lot of the backstory I wasn't up to speed on. Tharp did a pretty good job at filling in the gaps and I was able to enjoy the book as a stand-alone but I still think I need to go back and read the other book. (That one has a woman Marine with a Harley. It's like Tharp is writing about me!)

I enjoyed watching the well-defined characters deal with the stresses of everyday life as well as the horrendous situation they've been thrust into. I also liked Quinn and Jenna and enjoyed their path back to love. The book was entertaining.

Rebmay says

HOT ON THE TRAIL is a suspenseful romance that will keep you enthralled right to the last sentence. Quinn and Jenna were left heartbroken when they last parted. He had proposed and made a multitude of decisions without consulting her. Jenna had not been ready to marry and had dreams of her own. Instead of trying to make things work, Quinn made a complete break from Jenna and became a helicopter pilot with the Marine Corps. Flash forward a few years, and Quinn makes a return to the Lazy S Ranch after the death of his best friend, Kurt, who had been a vet in Jenna's equine therapy program.

Though their interactions are stilted and uneasy at first, the chemistry between Jenna and Quinn sparks to life when they begin to investigate Kurt's death. They quickly realize that his death was in fact a murder. The investigation, encounters with drug dealers and human traffickers, and kidnappings force Jenna and Quinn to face their true feelings. They love each other, but how can they be together, when he is stationed far from the ranch? Read this smart, sexy and danger-filled romance and find out. This book is another keeper, like the others in the Lazy S Ranch series.

I was given a free copy of this book in return for an honest review.

poppy says

This is the third book in the series and was just as good if not better than the previous books. I love this series it has both cowboys and Military guys rolled into one. This is Quinn and Jenna's story these two have a history they dated in the past and had split four years before. Jenna is back home at the Lazy S after finishing college and is all set to start the Healing Horses therapy program but when the first participant who is Quinn's friend is found dead the program is at risk of being shut down. Now Quinn is back and they both realise they still care for each other but both want different things in life. A super addition to the series I enjoyed it.
