



## Rules of the Ride

*H.J. Bellus*

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If it wasn't for bad luck Maverik wouldn't have any luck at all. He is the oldest of the Slatter brothers and the protector of his family. He's a hometown legend and has one best friend, his dog Jake. Life is simple with Maverik. He loves working cattle on the ranch and keeping the dynasty his granddad built alive and well.

He's never believed in second chances.

When Maverik looks into the eyes of Ella James in the middle of his hometown grocery store, he finds himself staring at the ghost of second chance redemptions. Ella walked out on him ten years ago and never looked back. She has returned to town to bury her mom but when their paths collide, it sparks up old flames. Both know better than to indulge, but some train wrecks just can't be stopped.

Ella in her high heels driving her fancy sports car and Maverik still deep in his hometown roots...

Turmoil is at an all time high at Silver Star as buried secrets surface between Ella and Maverik leaving behind irreparable damage. Maverik is left hollow and hopeless wallowing in his bad luck. He has two choices.

Forgive

or

Forget.

## Rules of the Ride Details

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# From Reader Review Rules of the Ride for online ebook

## Candi Gabbart says

OMG just loved this book by HJ Bellus. She made me laugh and also made my eyes sweat. Love how Maverik didn't give up on his true love. What Ella gose threw. How to overcome from that. And the ending wtf. But my favorite part is. I know a man about a horse. Just Love that. You need to pick up this book.

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## Tiffany Willams says

"I don't know if I should hate you or what, but there's one thing I'll never be able to do, and that's walk away from you, Ella. I'm here for you."

"I don't deserve this."

"No, you don't. Look at me, Ella...You deserve so much more. A life here with me."

Holy-Amazing Story-Batman!!!

Good LAWD! HJ Bellus has done it again!!

Maverik and Ella's story was heart-stoppingly beautiful. You get a small glimpse of their story in 8 Second Decision, but you really have no idea what you're in for! My heart was in from the get-go. No matter the years they had spent apart, Maverik and Ella had always loved each other.

"I'm scared, Maverik."

"Of?"

"Everything."

I didn't know if my heart could take the reasoning behind Ella leaving Maverik ten years prior. As the story unfolds, my heart did break...for each of them. HJ Bellus has a way of weaving her characters in such a way that you feel every emotion coming from them.

I felt Maverik's anger and torture over Ella's return. I felt Ella's heartbreak and hesitation in leaving him once again. You wanted to pull these two together and never let them fall apart, but certain circumstances stand in their way. The past haunts them and the future is unsure once secrets are told.

"I'll always be here for you. It may be my greatest downfall, but Ella, you're my forever."

Not only does this book take you through their story, but it also continues through the other Slatters, as well. I can't get enough of this family! The Slatters have a love, loyalty, and honor like no other. In this book, you see that they can only stand firmer together when things gets tough.

I will say that the ending to this book left me shocked, speechless, and scared of what's to come for the Slatters and their family! I need more!!!!

This book was everything I had hoped it would be and more! I'm tapping my foot waiting for the last book...patiently tapping;)

"Love doesn't follow the rules or view life the way our eyes see it."

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## Michelle says

*ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review*

**Rules of the Ride** is my first H.J. Bellus book that I have read and I'm scolding myself as to why I haven't read any of her books before because if this book was any indications of the raw emotional touching storyline that can grip your heart, then H.J. Bellus you have my full attention now. I honestly didn't know what to expect when I first started this book. At first, I was thinking a hot sexy cowboy who ropes in the woman that catches his eye. But Ms. Bellus completely surprises on how deep, touching, and emotional **Rules of the Ride** was as it weaved the depths of forgiveness, acceptance, love, and second chances.

There was only one woman Maverick Slatter loved. And that was Ella James. She had the power to destroy him and yet a part of him yearned for her love. When she walked out of him and never looked back, he never thought that their paths would collide. What he once thought was finished business with Ella, turned out to be unfinished as sparks begins to flicker and reignite. When Mav learns of the reason of why Ella ran away, how far will Mav go to get the woman he has only loved? Can Mav's love heal all the brokenness that Ella feels? When it comes to love, there are no rules...so will Mav and Ella get their second chance at love?

**"Love doesn't follow the rules or view of life the way our eyes see it."**

H.J. Bellus has a way of pulling and tugging those heartstrings in this beautiful well-written book. I have always been a fan of family themed books and **Rules of the Ride** is a great example of a strong united family who are willing to go beyond the means to help one another. As I have said earlier, this definitely won't be my last H.J. Bellus book. I look forward to reading what lies ahead for the Slatter's Family and as well as what other books Ms. Bellus has in store. So if you are ready to get swept away in a sweet and heartbreakingly beautiful second chance love story then **Rules of the Ride** might be the book for you.

*Review can also be found on Four Chicks Flipping Pages: <http://fourchicksflippingpages.weebly...>H.J. Bellus*

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## Books Laid Bare says

Jeez, woman have a heart!

H J Bellus, I am beginning to wonder what exactly you have going round in that head of yours because I am broken – I have been on a real cowboy kick lately and I hold my hand up – I love me a cowboy but holy cow... I want a Maverick Slatter for myself.

You took my heart and soul and not only rung them out but you then hung them out to dry!

Maverick Slatter belongs to no-one, he did once and he thought that would be forever but in reality when he gave his heart away he knew he would never want it back but what he didn't know that the woman he gave it to wouldn't want to keep it or him.

Ten years ago Ella James, turned her back on her fiancé Maverick and without a bye or leave in the dead of night, she left and in the process she broke his heart but why?

Never believing he had to see her again, he was knocked for six when she returns to town. The death of her mother pulling her back to the one place she would never return too.

When they come into contact again and he is even more surprised when that fleeting connection stirs up feelings that he thought he had long since buried.

As I suspected there was more to Ella's departure that initially met the eye but when Maverick learns not only the real reason she left, but also the other secrets that she is keeping, he is left with a decision to make. Does he try to rekindle what was there before, does he fight to get back the only woman that has ever meant anything to him or does he let sleeping dogs lie and call it a day?

Really... you don't need me to tell you what he decides do you ... this is cowboy mentality here and getting back in the saddle, Mav is getting his woman back – and nothing is going to stop him.

This is second chance love story that you will be happy to have read, you will struggle to put it down!

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### **Heather andrews says**

Maverik is a big man and to see his struggles with a small motel shower was funny, "son of a b\*\*\*\*." I grab the back of my head after it just collided with the top of the shower curtain. Giggles escape from Ella, and when I turn to scold her, my toe jams into the base of the toilet. "Eff me," I holler, still rubbing the back of my head. "We are staying at my place from now on." Ella knows how to get her man going, but at times it's the wrong time, "eff, Ella, put your shirt down." Maverik scrubs his face and I don't miss the bulge growing in his pants." The ending has me eager for Marvel's book I can't wait to find out how the Slatter family handles what was just thrown at them.

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### **Carol-Ann says**

Another great read in this series full of drama with realistic character's, who touch your heart and soul loved maverick and Ella a love destined to be together. A love that couldn't die not matter how long they had been apart or what caused them to be away from one another because no fault of there own if it's meant to be there will always be away to be together!

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### **katherine says**

This story continues from the first story but with a different brother. We have Maverick who works the ranch but was hurt early on and can't ride the rodeo anymore. He lost the love of his life when he was younger. They loved each other and he will never understand how she just up and left town. She always wanted to be a big city girl. Then one day she is back in town to deal with her mother's funeral and runs into Maverick. There are secrets about the past she can't let go of and its keeping her from staying. When they reconnect and become close again, she still says she loves him but can't stay after the funeral. They are still having problems dealing with their fathers debt too which is threatening to take their ranch away. Both stories so far

have kept me running back to my book every chance I got. Now to get to the third.

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### **Hot Reading Mom says**

This book was so freaking frustrating! This chicks spends half book telling the hero, Maverick, that she loves him but she can't tell him why she left him and their small town 10 years ago! And the crying! She was crying constantly.. but will tell anyone why. OMG Enough already!

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### **Michelle says**

HJ just keeps getting better and better. Right when you think a book can't go further, this story line does! There's just so much to know and learn and feel. And just when you think you know which way the story is heading, NOPE, you're wrong! and O.M.G. What an ending! Some of my favorite lines are: "But the truth I hold deep down in my soul is that I still love her. I love her more than this ranch. It's a love that hurts to think about and makes my bones ache." Also, "I'll always be here for you. It may be my greatest downfall, but Ella, you're my forever." And, "I've spent years locked away in the tower of a castle. My prince saved me and now it's time to become his queen."

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### **Charity McIntyre says**

LOVED LOVED LOVED this book!! Yes, I am a sucker for a good cowboy book, but this storyline was fantastic. Just when you thought you had everything figured out, BAM, a different twist is thrown your way. HJ Bellus is an awesome story teller. I love how all characters from the previous books are included in each story, so you never feel like you do not know what happened with them. I cannot wait for the next book. Great job, HJ!! Now I can get some sleep....

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### **RentasticReads says**

Holy cowboy. I can't even right now. I am left utterly stumped and speechless. All I can say is—brace yourself and hang on tight for that ending. I just want to scream. All hell breaks loose and then the next thing I know, flipping to the next page, I see the words "THE END". I never wanted to throw a tantrum like a damn child ever. There's just no freaking way I'd be able to sit here and wait for what's going to happen next in this series. No. Way. Intense cliffhanger is putting it mildly, I tell you. This series is just getting better and better, book after book. Rules of the Ride is just another amazing and heart stopping masterpiece from HJ Bellus.

Ella James has grown up at the Silver Star Ranch with the Slatters all her life. Until one night she just up and left without leaving a note or anything. And she not only left her family behind, but the love of her life as well. What happened to Ella and the reason she left her hometown has been a huge mystery since the very beginning. It was like a guessing game. And when the truth came out, it just utterly crushed my heart. It crippled me. That reason never crossed my mind and am left dumbfounded with a shattered heart. I couldn't imagine what she went through, how she actually lived her life. She never wanted to return to her hometown,

but her mother passed and she had to bury her. She went back scared and ashamed. When she ran into the man who holds her heart for eternity, she didn't know what to do. She was just torn. She just wanted to run to him and crawl back up in his arms where she belongs, but she also knows she can't stay either. She could only hope that one day when she finally musters up the courage to open up to him and explain things, he'd still be there no matter what.

Maverik Slatter has only loved one woman—his best friend. When she left in the middle of the night without an explanation or even saying goodbye, it wrecked him. It broke his spirit. She was his world. So when she came back like a ghost from his past out to haunt him, he had to make a decision whether to hate her and stay away no matter what he still feels for her or fight for her, give her the chance, spend time with her while she's in town and just make her feel how much he still wants her. Being the Slatter that he is, he never backed down. He didn't stop until he got his queen back. Everything was going downhill and has been a whirlwind of disaster, but with her by his side, it seemed like he could conquer anything.

I absolutely love these two so much. You can feel the passion, love and all the emotions from the two down to your very bones. For me, it was so much different compared to Merek and Challis's story. It had so much more angst and heart. Reading this story was like having a blind man see for the very first time. Everything was just blurry, making you think of the reasons why this happened or what the real score was, but then the picture gets clearer and clearer just as you go deeper into the story. It never went down. I felt like I was chasing a cowboy high the entire time. The story just continued to go up and for me, the peak of the story was closer to the end. I never got the chance to come down from it. So if you read this—and you better—you'd understand what exactly I'm talking about. It made me feel. And I think that's something very important when reading a book. It drew me in so much more. Just brace yourself because you'll be on and hell of a damn ride on this one for sure.

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### **Maree Repa says**

I so thoroughly enjoyed this exciting book by one of my all time favourite authors, H.J. Bellus. I just couldn't wait till this one, the second book came out. I so loved all of these characters and it was so good to read about them once more. We meet Maverick Slatter again and his much loved girlfriend from his past, Ella James. She who has been away for many years is back in town after the death of her mother.

I so enjoy this amazing, very exciting book. I could put it down, not even once. Both Maverick and Ella have a lot in the past to deal with. And even the family once again have their own troubles. Well done H.J. Bellus I just so enjoyed this book!!

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### **Danni says**

So for about 16 chapters we must keep reading about Ella loving Maverik but she can't stay. And then finally in chapter 17 we find out what made her leave him. And chapter 18 is 3 months later. There is only 26 damn chapters in this book. It wasn't until the middle of chapter 19 the book got better for me. If only the whole book was written like this. Maybe if the secrets that Ella was keeping come out much sooner I would have enjoyed it more.

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## **Ginger Snaps says**

This is the 2nd Book in the Silver Star Ranch series by Author H.J. Bellus. This book features the oldest of the Slatter brothers, Maverick. Ten years ago, Ella and Maverick were graduating from high school and were engaged. Then she left in the middle of the night with no explanation. Maverick spent the past ten years losing himself in women and alcohol and vowing never to open his heart to love again. But Ella's mother has just died and Ella has returned to take care of her estate. Maverick is torn between staying away from her or finding a way to make her stay. One thing he wants is answers to why she left, which is the LAST thing she wants to tell him. And she's hiding other secrets from him. Neither of them can deny that they still love each other, but can Maverick let go of the pain of the past and give them a second chance? Especially when she has no plans to stay? I loved this book maybe even more than the first one. (And I loved the first one) I loved Maverick and Ella's story and chemistry. And I could hardly put the book down because I had to know why she left and if they would find their happy ending. This book made me swoon and cry and swoon again and now I'm dying to read book #3!!! (which will feature the youngest brother Marvel.)

I received an ARC version of this book in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Mayas says**

Book of secrets.

I would honestly say I cursed HJ Bellus out many times while reading this book only because she kept BS around and not fulfilling my need to know the entire story right when I wanted it.

Maverik and Ella were battered souls that yearned and were completed by the other yet so far when they were right in each others arms. I am all for giving half truths or being vague when the situation asked for the whole truth but Ella was the master of "WTH, tell me already". She dangled that string until it was out of her control and revealed at it's own time. Mav was strong and had the patience of a bee and temper of the Hulk. You just knew not to mess with him or those he loved, the consequences were one to the head or a reminder of an humiliating time you oh so wish to forget.

I enjoyed the love, declaration, surprises, and nipple twisting. It was rivaled by the gut-wrenching reality and an ending that you would only expect in the conclusion of the series. Yes, this is a MUST read western romance but a deeper romantic suspense.

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