



Once Tasted

Laura Moore

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Three siblings, an extraordinary family, a lasting heritage—in the irresistible Silver Creek Ranch trilogy, they'll fight for the land and the people they love.

Everything has come easily to Reid Knowles, the middle son of a California ranching family. But his charmed life is suddenly complicated when his good friend and neighbor asks him to help run the winery next door. His neighbor's niece, Mia Bodell, is in charge—and she has made it clear that she'd rather be roped to a steer than to Reid Knowles. Never one to back down from a challenge, Reid vows to win her trust.

Her life marked by loss, Mia knows that nothing comes easily—love included. In high school, her heart was crushed by Reid, and even though years have passed, the hurt lingers. Mia is achingly aware that the teen heartthrob has matured into a devastatingly handsome playboy, and the budding winemaker refuses to let down her guard. But one taste of unbridled passion changes things. From Reid's first intoxicating kiss to his unexpectedly tender seduction, Mia is swept into a passionate affair that could tear her heart to pieces . . . or give her everything she has ever wanted.

Once Tasted Details

Date : Published May 27th 2014 by Ballantine Books (first published January 1st 2014)

ISBN : 9780345537003

Author : Laura Moore

Format : Paperback 349 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary, Westerns

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From Reader Review Once Tasted for online ebook

✿kawehi.reviews says

Once Tasted was a sweet yet sensual tale of a second chance at love and following your dreams.

Mia Bodell has always held a torch for womanizing playboy, Reid Knowles, all the way from high school. But when an evil prank leaves her heart broken, she develops a bitter and icy exterior toward the bad boy.

12 years later, she inherits her uncle's wine ornery and crosses paths with Reid once more after he becomes the grounds business manager.

Will these two make amends? Will Reid melt her jilted impression of him and prove to her that he's a changed man? And with an old threat threatening to steal the winery away from Mia, what will they do?

A lovely, lovely read featuring love, strength, perseverance, and HOT COWBOYS!!

Cynthia says

Laura Moore's new book, *Once Tasted*, was wonderful you have a cowboy hero who you would love to take home yourself. You have a love hate relationship where both love but neither will given in, funny how men and women can hear and see the same thing but walk away understand and seeing things differently. With this story you see the twist and turn of how others can affect your life and turn it upside down. How only one person can destroy your life and lively hood if you let them the author reminds us how important family and friends are.

Mia has had a hard life her mother died when she was young and her uncle Thomas raised her. She has a cousin Thomas son who has always been jealous of her. He has made her life a living hell from the start. Jay is a man who will get his way no matter what and he will destroy everything that gets in his way. He will destroy Mia if she will let him. Thomas falls in love and moves way leaving Mia with feelings of lost, lonely trying to make a business out of her Uncle Thomas vintner. Mia has always been attracted to Reid even in high school where there was a misunderstanding when Jay read her dairy with feeling of Reid in them. Mia thought Reid made fun of her and could not forgive nor forget him. When Reid comes home the sparks fly between them they must learn how to get along because her uncle and his parents now have partnership with them running the business.

Reid comes home and is thrown in a partnership with Mia he knows he should not have acted so badly when he was young. He knows he should have stood up for Mia years ago but is unable to find away to make her understand. He has been attracted to her since high school but due to misunderstanding he knows she hates him. He doesn't see any way to make this work out nor any way to have any kind of relationship with Mia. Can he fight this attraction with all of his family pushing them together.

Jay is a big part of this book causing trouble any way he can. He is all about money I would call him a scam artist. He knows just how to make Mia feel bad and give him the money he wants. He knows the buttons to

push and lord he pushes them to the breaking point. He doesn't know what the word "work" means since his father has always given him what he wants. He doesn't know how to wait for the quarter to get his share of the money which is not big enough. Mia deserves nothing and he lets her know this.

The question is will Mia and Reid make this partnership work? Can they over come all the things Jay has planned for them. Can Jay keep them apart so he can get the money he wants? Will Mia and Reid get past the misunderstanding and find they do love each other or will the hate love thing they have going on continue.

This book started out a little slow for me but by the time I got to the end I did not want to put it down. When I got to the part about the hedgehog the author had me hooked. After reading

"Moreover, he's done something funny to his hair. It stood up in short, straight spikes, making him look like...well, for some perversie reason, the only thing that came to mind was a red hedgehog."

I could not get this picture out of my head and had to laugh. I found this book to be humorous, a wonderful story that kept me in the edge of my seat. I would recommend this book to my friends to read. I felt so sorry for Mia and knew her pain. Reid I felt sorry for him to but he did not touch me the way Mia did. I hated Jay and wanted to put my hands around his throat myself. Thomas I was so glad he found love after so many years being alone. There are a lot of wonderful characters that I would like to read more about. I see there is one the author has already written about Reid brother I plan on reading it soon. I feel sure anyone who reads this book will enjoy it.

Kristine says

Original review found at <http://kristineandterri.blogspot.ca/2...>

I received an advanced readers copy from Random House Publishing Group- Ballantine Books via Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review. The expected publication date is May 27, 2014. Thank You!

This is the second book in the Silver Creek trilogy. I did not read the first book in advance of this one and it did not impact my enjoyment or understanding of what was going on.

As far as contemporary romances go this one is one of the better ones I have read in a long time. With a smoking hot cowboy and a whole lot of wine what more could a woman want? Fortunately there is an extremely likeable main character in Mia and a strong story line for those that require more than wine and a cowboy.

This story follows the typical formula of most contemporary romances but there was something that set it apart from others for me. I think perhaps it was because of Mia. I found her character so relatable and saw a lot of myself in her with her insecurities and lack of self confidence. The fact that she was passionate about her grapes and wine was appealing as well. I know very little about wine besides the fact that I like it and found it interesting to learn about the making of it. Moore does an amazing job at describing the landscape and I felt like I was there.

I loved the Reid and Mia story line! Let me just say that the pages were smoking hot in some parts and the chemistry was through the roof. I was routing for them the whole way. Their attraction felt believable

because of their history and it wasn't far fetched like some I have read.

I am going to make a point of going back and reading the first book and will be watching for the third one.

Kathy Amadio says

What a great 2nd book in this series! I LOVED Mia's character. Orphaned and sent to live with her Uncle, only to be bullied and harassed by her cousin left her socially awkward, shy, and in need of some self-confidence. Reid was just the man to help her. I liked how well the two of them partnered together on the wine business. Reid's guidance on the business & marketing side of the winery didn't overshadow Mia and allowed her to come into her own. Wine + Cowboys... this series makes me want to go visit a place like Silver Creek Ranch.

Angie Elle says

*****This book was provided by Netgalley and Edelweiss in exchange for an honest review.*****

After reading the first book in the **Silver Creek** series I was so excited for this one, and it did not disappoint.

I love series about close-knit clans, and reading about the Knowles family is such a comfort read for me! There is affectionate sparring and needling, but they Knowles genuinely enjoy being together and it translates perfectly onto the page.

In the first book, we were introduced to Ward's playboy brother, Reid. I have to say, Reid's outlook on women is hilarious.

To him, women were like a splendid menu. Why forsake the pleasure of sampling all those delicious creations for one single dish? He wasn't sure he could do it for a month, let alone the rest of his life.

He was a fun character to read about. Reid may have been a playboy, but he wasn't one to lead women on. He was level-headed, had a knack for helping a business flourish, and he adored his family.

Mia was a bit rough around the edges, but she was no less likable. Mia had only one person in the world—her uncle Thomas. When her uncle Thomas decides it's time to move on from his vineyard and start enjoying life again after losing his wife, he leaves their vineyard, and essentially, her in Reid's care.

Reid and Mia have a history, and it's one Mia has never quite been able to forgive him for. What I really liked about this story was that while Mia held a grudge, it slipped away as she spent time with Reid. It wasn't something she was actively clinging to; she'd just never been able to forget. And for me, that's one of Laura Moore's strengths—no needless drama. Her adult characters make informed, adult decisions.

I really like when the author stays true to her characters voice. Reid, for example, having grown up on a ranch constantly thought in those terms.

As for Mia, she was staring at his erection as if her eyes were going to pop out. He hoped that was a good sign. Because he was desperate to be inside her, the instinct as all-powerful as the one driving a stallion to claim and mount a mare.

It may not be very flattering, but he knew better than to say it aloud. I think it definitely reflects the life he lives, and I loved how Reid's thoughts stayed true to who he was.

The pacing of this story was perfect for me. I didn't feel like Mia and Reid fell in love too quickly—they were both too stubborn for that, but there was always something going on.

I also enjoyed the secondary characters in this story, and I can't wait to see what is in store for the last Knowles sibling. It's going to take one hell of a man to pull Quinn away from her animals!

I definitely recommend this book if you like a small-town setting with cowboys and a sweet, sassy heroine who isn't afraid to give as good as she gets!

Arlena says

Once Tasted

Author: Laura Moore

Publisher: Ballantine Books

Genre: Romance

Series: Silver Creek #2

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Rating: 4.5

Review:

"Once Tasted" by Laura Moore...About the book....

"Three siblings, an extraordinary family, a lasting heritage—in the irresistible Silver Creek Ranch trilogy, they'll fight for the land and the people they love.

Everything has come easily to Reid Knowles, the middle son of a California ranching family. But his charmed life is suddenly complicated when his good friend and neighbor asks him to help run the winery next door. His neighbor's niece, Mia Bodell, is in charge—and she has made it clear that she'd rather be roped to a steer than to Reid Knowles. Never one to back down from a challenge, Reid vows to win her trust.

Her life marked by loss, Mia knows that nothing comes easily—love included. In high school, her heart was crushed by Reid, and even though years have passed, the hurt lingers. Mia is achingly aware that the teen heartthrob has matured into a devastatingly handsome playboy, and the budding winemaker refuses to let down her guard. But one taste of unbridled passion changes things. From Reid's first intoxicating kiss to his unexpectedly tender seduction, Mia is swept into a passionate affair that could tear her heart to pieces . . . or give her everything she has ever wanted."

What I liked from this novel....

This was the second series of Silver Creek#2 ... "Once Tasted" was about Mia Bodell and Reid Knowles that seemed to be in a love/hate relationship. I found this read very heart touching, full of heat, and I was even caught laughing at some of the humor (especially about that 'black eye') as I turned the pages. I loved this good story line that had romance, suspense and oh yes, the wonderful characters. Not only were the main characters well developed, colorful and believable but the secondary characters were very richly developed as they seemed to come alive as you are reading. I love how this author is able to produce such good descriptions of her characters and to that vineyard....I could taste the wine.

Not wanting to give away spoilers, I will say that I did like how this author was able to get these two together delivering to the reader so well a written script that presents us with a story of twist and turns, some drama and family issues. This is where I say you must pick up "Once Tasted" to see for yourself.

What I also liked from the read....

I loved how this author was able to show the reader how one person can destroy your life and livelihood only if you let them.

What I didn't like about the novel....at first....

What bothered me somewhat about this novel was the way the heroine saw herself with a fragile ego and didn't see her own worth and beauty, with self-esteem problems with wounded heart and trust issues...my, myhowever was that about to change?

And I didn't like the Uncle Thomas and Aunt Ellen's son Jay. I won't say anymoreyou will just have to read for yourselfwhy? But in the end...

Overall Impression of "Once Tasted"

Overall, "Once Tasted" was a very good read with a good mixture of cowboy, wine and romance. I also enjoyed the first series 'Once Tempted' and I do look forward to the next series about Quinn's story by this author.

Shauni says

Originally reviewed for Tea and Book.

Sometimes I just love a good romance.. toss in a fabulous California setting with Cowboys AND vineyards and yeah.. it's gonna be good! Laura Moore takes us back to Silver Creek in her second book of the series and once again I fell in love!

Mia Bodell is the geeky girl. Shy and reserved and likes to stay in the background.. that is until it comes to wine, then she soars. Mia has lived on her uncle's vineyard since her mother died when she was just a toddler. While secure in her Uncle's love, Mia has taken years of abuse from her skeavy cousin. Between telling her she wasn't wanted, she stole his parents affections from him, reading her diary to a locker room full of jocks and now draining the vineyard dry, one penny at a time. He has made her life living hell. Dealing with that has been a chore but learning the vineyard has been her joy. Only now, her uncle has fallen

in love and has decided to leave California for France and the only way Mia can keep managing the vineyard is to go into partnership with the Knowles.. Reid Knowles not less, the boy who featured in her girlhood fantasies (the fantasies that were written in said diary). How is she to cope with all of this? She has hardened her heart to the handsome Cowboy Casanova and doesn't want anything to do with him.

Reid Knowles likes women.. all of them. He is rather proud of his love em and leave em skills. Women have chased him across the country and back but Reid is a happy bachelor. Returning to his family's ranch, he discovered that his parents have made some plans for him. Act as the ranch's representative with their new partners. To say Reid is unhappy is putting it mildly, he is tired of the way Mia constantly looks down her nose at him. Tired of feeling guilt because he was in the locker room when her idiot cousin read that diary. Tired of wishing he had a bit more character and stood up for her. He made a mistake, he was sixteen.. Add to that he is sure his mother is playing matchmaker.. and as desirable as Mia is, Reid knows she is not the one for him. Now if he can just convince himself of it.

An engaging story about two people on totally different ends of the spectrum.. Mia is shy, geeky and clueless on true family dynamics and Reid is larger than life, charismatic, good looking and fully secure in his family's love. It truly is a case of opposites attract. Except once the surface has been scratched we see that maybe these two aren't so different after all.

There was plenty of foreshadowing about Mia's skeavy cousin so his appearance and behavior was not a surprise. What was the surprise is how Mia grew through it. How she learned just how strong she was and what she could live with and without.

While both of these characters were mid to late 20's it was still a case of coming of age. Both grew into themselves, both learned about compromise and yes love.

I enjoyed this book as much as the first, *Once Tempted* (read my review [HERE](#)), and am looking forward to book three, Quinn's story.

Shauni

This review is based on the ARC of *Once Tasted*, provided by netgalley and Edelweiss (I forgot and requested it from both sites) and is scheduled to be released on May 27, 2014

Anne OK says

FULL REVIEW NOW POSTED

If you love a solid and well-written contemporary romance that isn't held hostage by angst and the horrors of physical abuse, drugs, alcohol (well you might encounter a lovely glass of pinot which won't hurt ya!), the criminally insane, murder and mayhem, etc., then I highly recommend Laura Moore's "Silver Creek Series."

Sometimes life demands a break from the down and gritty, and that's when I seek out "comfort zone" reads. LM is one of my favorites for meeting those expectations. She always takes me on a glorious journey to a peaceful and wondrous place where I always get my happily-ever-after. The serene settings for her stories and the richly developed characters in each one come alive on the pages. It's because of her uncanny knack

for giving readers those extra details that make each scene and conversation complete and special.

Once Tasted is Mia Bodell and Reid Knowles's story. What has always come so easily for one has always been a struggle for the other. Mia has self-esteem problems, along with a wounded heart and trust issues. She also has two passions: the wine vineyards she manages for her uncle and Reid Knowles, who has always been out of reach. On the other hand, Reid is gorgeous, confident and leads a charmed life. And he's very comfortable with his love'em and leave'em bachelor status. At first glance it might appear that these two are true opposites and the deck is stacked against them.

But when fate steps in and Reid and Mia find themselves working together each day, neither is happy with the situation. I totally enjoyed the snap, crackle and pop between these two. It only takes a spark to ignite the chemistry and then temptation to test the waters may be too difficult to ignore. Will love find its way into their hearts?

One taste is never enough when it comes to a book by Laura Moore. I'll be anxiously awaiting the next visit to Silver Creek when Reid's sister, Quinn will get her story told.

Beth says

Once Tasted is a sweet and heartwarming story of wine and cowboys. Mia Bodell is left running her family's winery with the condition that her childhood nemesis, Reid Knowles, will be her partner and business adviser.

Reid is the cowboy that everyone lusts over but Mia, she won't even give him the time of day. Now working with Mia, Reid finds she is a temptation he can simply no longer resist.

This story is racked with past ghost that haunt the couples potential happiness. These ghost are both physical as well as emotional stumbling blocks for Reid and Mia...mostly Mia.

Quite frankly, Reid was the bomb...his lust inducing persona was perfectly portrayed and had that swoon worthy effect. Mia's character is clumsy, somewhat reclusive and emotionally wounded. Bringing Reid's and Mia's personalities together, Moore provides a highly enjoyable, entertaining read.

I received this ARC copy of *Once Tasted* from Random House - Ballantine Books in exchange for a honest review. This book is set for publication May 27, 2014.

Written by: Laura Moore

Series: Silver Creek

Sequence in Series: 2

Mass Market Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Ballantine Books

Publication Date: May 27, 2014

Rating: 4 stars

ISBN-10: 0345537009

ISBN-13: 978-0345537003

Genre: Contemporary Romance

Find this book on: Amazon | Barnes & Noble

Heather says

SPOILERS!!

I received this book as a giveaway. The front cover, I have to say, embarrassed me a bit. Even though it embarrassed me I read it and enjoyed it thoroughly.

I loved Mia's character. She reminded me a bit of myself. I loved that the author did her homework with the wine bit. I feel like I learned a little about wine through this. I wish it would've gone on just a bit longer so I knew how they would save the farm. That darn Jay got me too. I knew people like him in high school and I really wanted to see them get theirs like Jay got his.

Quinn is a very lovable character. She is an animal lover like myself. I am very interested to read the next story with her in it because I really loved her.

As other readers have said, I did not read the first in the series. It did not matter whether I did or not because the author did a good job of making it seem like the first of the series and not the second. It is its own story through and through.

I really loved the book, but I only gave it 4 stars because I get frustrated with these romances. I feel like they are following an outline of what to do next but with different characters and situations. I really did enjoy it though. I find myself thinking..., "I wonder how Mia's Pinot Noir is coming along."

Definitely give this book a chance! You won't regret it!

Linda says

Arc received via Netgalley for honest review!

Delightful romance! Great second book in a series! Do not freak out you can read as a stand alone, but trust me you are going to love these hot cowboys and the Knowles family , you will go back and read the first bookIn the series!

Reid Knowles, hot playboy cowboy, devastatingly handsome , loved by all of the women in town , excellent horseman and trainer and a palate for good wine . Reid is also the object of Mia Bodell's crush since high school.

Mia will never own up to still being attracted to him after what happened in high school , what her horrible cousin Jay did, easier to try and avoid him ,however when she does run into him the hurt and animosity are never far behind, how can you hate someone for not putting a stop to the teasing and name calling that followed you through your teen years but still be incredibly attracted to him? Well it is about to get harder for these two to avoid each other, Mia's Uncle Thomas , has fallen in love with a French Vitner and is selling a portion to the Knowles and Reid is about to become Mia's partner . Thomas will be turning over the maintenance of th vineyard and the production of the wine to Mia., after all that isvwhat she went to Coloege for and she loves thw winery! Thomas has also made a provision to provide a buy out to his son Jay; by the way Jay is really the person to blame for the troubles between Reid and Mia and you can bet he will rear his ugly head!

Mia and Reid ,working together may be little hard but they make a good team and thanks to Reid , Mia's wish list for the winery is being done, repaired driveway, tasting salon and some ideas that are coming to fruition . Little does Mia realize that though as hard it is to work with Reid and keep ,her attraction a secret, Reid is dealing with the same issue.

Can these two work out there differences? Can they hav a working relationship and more? Will Reid give into his ever increasing attraction to Mia and make a move? Will the winery be a success ? Will Mia prove her skills as. Winemaker?

Great Romance, some hot scenes and overall wonderful read!

Jeannie Zelos says

Once Tasted. A Silver Creek Novel. Laura Moore

Review from Jeannie Zelos Book reviews.

I enjoyed Laura's previous novel, Once Tempted so when I saw this I had to request it :) Sometimes you just want a fun romance, a HEA with a bit of drama and emotion but not too deep and that's exactly when Silver Creek seems to deliver. I love the rural equine based setting too. I don't know whether its like that in real life, but the village, the way everyone knows each other and jumps in to help, sounds fun and the way the neighbours interact, helping each others business, having BBQs etc is all a great background. Of course its always sunny too in story-land too, they don't get rained off parties and BBQs....here in UK we always need to plan backups as inevitably rains comes in all plans, but who wants real life problems to spoil fictionland :) Anyway, poor Mia, orphaned as a toddler, brought up by aunt and uncle who love her , she has a cousin, their son Jay, who's mission in life has always been to embarrass her and make her life as unpleasant as he can. He's been away last few years while she's run the winery with her uncle Thomas, only coming back for financial handouts. Now Thomas has met a love and emigrated leaving Mia running the winery and Jays not happy. I liked Mia, recognise her battle with the dreaded calorie :) and how her past, when Jay stole her diary and revealed her crush on Reid to the school, made her the subject of ridicule from which she still hasn't really recovered. She's a fragile ego and just doesn't see her own beauty and worth.

Reid had just returned to Silver Creek and feels there isn't really a challenge there for him, it runs so smoothly. He's pleased his parents have invested in the winery with Thomas but wary of working with Mia. He thinks she hates him, when really the reverse is true. Gradually through a series of events they get closer...and closer til they're so hot they are scorching. They burn up the sheets together and until something goes wrong Mia's really happy...isn't that always the case though? The worm in the fruit – good job or books would be dull. Its the quality of the despair that makes it for me, and again Laura's done a great job, letting the problems fester and linger for a while :)

Its priced at £4.13 for 320 pages and fits well with book one. Although the books are connected being about the Knowles family its not necessary to have read the other as they're each stand alone romances. I'm looking forward to what Laura has in store for Quinn, she's a fun characters, animal loving vegetarian and very strong minded.

Stars: four, a fun read.

ARC supplied by Netgalley.

Traann says

“Once Tasted” by Laura Moore is the second book in her “Silver Creek” trilogy. Since I hadn’t read her first book in the series “Once Tempted” and didn’t feel like I missed anything I would say you can read it as a stand alone but I am a true believer in reading books in order so I just went out and bought “Once Tempted” so that I can fill in anything I have missed, but as I said you do not feel like you have missed anything when you read this book. Laura Moore is a new to me author but this is her 9th book and second trilogy.

OK, so to the review, if you are a lover of Romance, Alpha Males, Wine and Horses then this is the book for you. Mia Bodell has had a crush on Reid Knowels, the middle son of a California ranching family since high school, but an embarrassing event that her hated cousin Jay, orchestrated back during high school, has had her avoiding Reid for almost the last decade. But her life is about to change, Mia and Reid are about to become business partners due to circumstances beyond their control and both must over come what has happened in the past to embrace their future.

When Mia’s mother dies during her childhood, Mia is sent to live with her Uncle Thomas who owns a winery, and grows up loving her Uncle and the art and business of making wine. It is when her Uncle decides to put her in charge of the winery so he can pursue a romance of his own that Mia is forced to deal with Reid, their next door neighbor who is now, due to her Uncles manipulations, her business partner. Day to day they need to figure out how to deal with each other and put the past to rest so that they can find their future. In the event you think that is easy, there is still the hated cousin Jay who has made Mia’s life miserable her entire life and is not about to change that now.

If you are a believer in destiny and happily ever after with trials and struggles along the way then this is the book for you. Don’t think any of that will be easy though, there is still Jay to deal with. As a lover of wine and horses, you will get a lot of both in this book and even a beginners education in the making of wine.

I can’t wait for the final book in the series, “Once Touched” to come out although I couldn’t find a publication date for that one, it is about the third Knowles sibling, Quinn, the only girl in the family and the person who will capture her heart.

Stephanie G says

2.5 Stars

If there's an author I think who should be getting more attention than she does, it'd have to be Laura Moore. She writes contemporary romances that manage to be both warm and sweet and usually feature smart and capable main characters. But the author doesn't have much of an online presence other than her website, and there isn't much information about future or upcoming books much to my dismay. That being said, if there's an opportunity to read her books, I shall always do so.

Mia Bodell wants nothing to do with Reid Knowles, the middle sibling of the family that lives next door to Mia and her uncle Thomas. Mia was horribly embarrassed by an incident in high school and her crush on Reid was exposed to everyone and ridiculed by most. She keeps her distance from Reid and makes it abundantly clear that she only deals with him because she has to, not because she likes him. Mia is both hurt and betrayed when she finds out her uncle gave the Knowles a stake in the winery and Reid will be overseeing and advising Mia on the business end.

For all that I normally love Ms. Moore's books, there are a lot of tropes in this one that just don't work out well. The pining over Reid and Mia's visible disdain towards him got old really quickly, and I wasn't even a quarter of the way through the book. Holding one's transgressions against them when they were in high school versus being in their late twenties didn't really fly for me either. I can understand Mia being hurt and vulnerable when she was younger, but keeping the resentment going for 13 years was a little over the top. I thought this was done to keep the conflict going, and thus it fell pretty flat for me.

Reid doesn't fare much better than Mia. Cast as the pretty-boy playboy- he's known for his exploits with women and for helping out with the family ranch. As smart as he supposedly is, he doesn't understand what lies beneath Mia's animosity- and doesn't bother to look beneath the surface. His characterization that Mia represented "serious, heavy duty promises" also didn't win me over. The writing flows easily and quickly – the author's books are always an easy read, but I had trouble connecting with both characters, and I didn't enjoy this one as much as I hoped I would.

There's also Mia's cousin Jay, who's portrayed really as the moustache twirling villain for all the depth he's given. Mia's tormenter in high school, he hasn't changed much as an adult, and wears his resentment of Mia for all the world to see. His part in trying to sabotage Mia is extremely predictable, and just made the book all that much worse.

The two characters didn't come together all that well and I thought the romance was rather tepid. Once they get together, the book moves along pretty smoothly, however I couldn't connect with either Mia or Reid. I typically enjoy Ms. Moore's books and I look forward to reading the last book in this trilogy, but this one wasn't one of my favorites.

- Ronnie

Callie says

From page one, I fell a little bit in love with Reid Knowles. He was the typical charming bad boy biker/cowboy that you just couldn't help but like.

Mia was someone that I instantly related to. I could see myself as Mia, and I enjoyed seeing her gain more self esteem as the book progressed. Part of that was due to Reid, and part of that was due to Mia realizing what an amazing woman she is.

I loved all of the background characters... Reid's siblings (Ward and Quinn — especially Quinn), his parents, Mia's uncle, the winery crew and all of the animals. I felt like they weren't just there to fill space. You actually got to get a feel for who they were and I loved that.

I know I was supposed to dislike Jay, Mia's evil cousin, but I wasn't expecting to dislike him quite as much as I did. I was very happy at the end when he got what was coming for him. I can't lie... I did a little happy dance.

This was my first novel that I've read by Laura Moore. I really enjoyed her writing style and she is very talented. The book flowed exactly like you would expect a good book to. Or maybe like a fine wine. I can't wait to read Quinn's story and to see what next Laura can create.

I was given a free copy of this book for an honest review. I was not paid by the publisher or the author for my review. All thoughts are my own
