



A Rancher's Song

Vivian Arend

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Can love help a champion bull rider face his fears and find his future? Welcome to Heart Falls, a new series from *New York Times* bestselling author Vivian Arend.

Ivy Field's heart nearly broke when she left Heart Falls, but her high school sweetheart insisted she follow-through on her dream of becoming a teacher. She thought that meant putting their relationship on hold briefly, but it's taken eleven years to return. Now she's back, no longer a painfully shy young girl but a confident woman who knows exactly what and *who* she wants--a home and a family--with too-sexy-for-his-boots Walker Stone. He was her first; she wants him to be her last.

Walker "Dynamite" Stone was still reeling from his parents' unexpected deaths when Ivy left. He let her go, throwing himself into work on the Silver Stone ranch and dangerous living on the rodeo circuit. But lately Walker's adrenaline junkie ways have crashed--he's having panic attacks. Potentially devastating to his budding music career, they're a deadly handicap when shooting for eight seconds aboard an angry bull. He needs to learn to face his fears to save the family fortunes. If he succeeds, this time Walker will be the one to leave Heart Falls, and Ivy, behind.

Will Ivy and Walker have to give up on forever, or can they turn this rancher's song into a winning duet?

A Rancher's Song Details

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From Reader Review A Rancher's Song for online ebook

Romancing the Book says

Reviewed by Jen

Book provided by Vivian Arend

Review originally posted at Romancing the Book

I've been a fan of Vivian Arend for a couple years. I've read much of the Rocky Mountain series and was curious about her new series. When I was asked to review A Rancher's Song, I jumped at the chance. This is the second book in this series. The book stands alone, but there were times where I felt if I'd read book one, some things would make more sense.

A Rancher's Song is a reunion story. Ivy and Walker were high school sweethearts who went their separate ways following graduation. Ivy went off to college and Walker ended up in the rodeo. Now years later, they're both back in their home town and obviously still have feelings for each other. They also both have secrets and issues to overcome.

Ivy was a much easier character to like. She's overcome various obstacles in life and now is ready to live life to the fullest and go after what she wants most. She's got her dream job, is back around family and now she wants Walker.

Walker on the other hand was a little harder to get a grasp on. I don't mean to say he wasn't likable, he was. But he was a little brooding and like a lot of guys, he didn't want to talk about what was bothering him. His internal struggles got a little repetitive after a while.

The romance between Ivy and Walker is the whole story. It is sweet and well developed. There wasn't any crazy drama or external forces trying to tear them apart. In fact, it seems that everyone was cheering them on. In the end, it was just internal issues with Ivy and Walker that had to be handled in order to find their happy ever after.

All in all, I found this to be an enjoyable read. I could have used a little drama, some sort of friction. But it was a solid read and my emotions were engaged. If you're looking for a good western romance, check this one out.

Sandy S says

ABOUT THE BOOK: Release Date May 15, 2018

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REVIEW: *A RANCHER'S SONG* is the second instalment in Vivian Arend's contemporary, adult *THE STONES OF HEART FALLS / HEARTS FALLS* erotic cowboy, romance series focusing on the Stone siblings of Heart Falls, Alberta. This is rodeo champion Walker 'Dynamite' Stone, and grade school teacher Ivy Field's story line. The *HEART FALLS* series is a spin off from the authors *SIX PACK RANCH* series but you do not have to have read the original series to follow or understand the current story lines.

Told from dual third person perspectives (Ivy and Walker) *A RANCHER'S SONG* is a second chance story line between rodeo champion Walker 'Dynamite' Stone, and grade school teacher Ivy Fields. Years earlier Ivy Field left her home town of Heart Falls, Alberta to pursue a post secondary education but in doing so left behind her high school sweetheart, who continues to suffer with the loss of his parents years before. Enter rodeo champion Walker 'Dynamite' Stone, the man with whom Ivy is still in love, but a man who struggles with his path in life including claiming the woman who stole his heart. What ensues is the rekindling romance between Ivy and Walker, and the potential fall-out as their time together comes with an end date as Walker is pushed to make a life altering decision that will affect the family ranch, and the rest of his life.

Walker Stone suffers with mind-numbing panic attacks that leave our hero with no memory of the how or why. The return of Ivy Fields finds Walker reconsidering the future, a future that may or may not involve staying in Heart Falls with the woman he loves. Ivy is often overwhelmed at family gatherings and public affairs, in this Walker and Ivy are more or less kindred spirits in heart and love.

The relationship between Ivy and Walker is one of second chances; a rekindling romance between high school sweethearts who have never stopped loving one another so much so that neither one moved forward in their personal lives. The sex scenes are intimate, erotic, and passionate without the use of over the top, sexually graphic language and text.

There are a large number of colorful secondary and supporting characters including Walker's brothers Dustin, Luke and Caleb (Tamara) Stone; ranch hand Kelli James, local firefighter Bradley, single mom / office cleaner Hanna and her eight year old daughter Crissy, as well as Ivy's sisters Tansy, Fern and Rose; their parents Sophie and Malachi Fields; and an assortment of Stone extended family, cousins, siblings and friends from the Six Pack Ranch Series. Brad and Hanna's story is next in *A FIREFIGHTER'S CHRISTMAS GIFT* September 2018.

A RANCHER'S SONG is a story of family and friendship; romance and love; second chances and a happily ever after. The premise is seductive and engaging; the characters are charismatic and dynamic; the romance is hot and provocative. A RANCHER'S SONG is an energetic, inspiring and encouraging story of romance and love.

copy supplied for review

www.thereadingcafe.com

Kahea says

*****4 'Tumbleweeds' Stars*****

Vivian Arend is one of those authors whose books I always look forward to reading because I know that I'm going to get a story that will have me pretty smiling the whole time as the MC's figure out what they want while their family and friends, who are always, always vibrant and intriguing in their own rights, add in their two cents without adding on more drama than necessary and I got that and more. A Rancher's Song is sweet, smexy and filled with lots of heart and laughter.

Walker is a sweetheart, and that may sound bad, but it's not. He's a good man who loves his family and friends and will do what needs to be done to help out when and where he can. Ivy is an enigma. There is a sassy, take no prisoners side to her that is mingled with a need to not be the center of attention. She's had struggles to overcome, but she has and is looking towards her future.

Walker and Ivy's second chance romance was fun and sweet. There are a few bumps, but no major drama. It's simply two people who had different paths to travel crossing paths again and deciding what they want their future to look like. The connection and chemistry between them jumped off the page and I loved how things worked out for them in the end.

I'm a fangirl of the author, as is obvious from the opening of this review, and one part is due to her no muss, no fuss way of telling the story. She doesn't add in drama, for drama's sake and she has her characters take the high road aka the mature adult way (most of the time) of dealing with the issues they are dealing with. The other part is that I love how the family dynamic just jumps off the page and makes you believe that these characters are as close as you want them to be. I will admit that I'm happy this particular family/series doesn't appear to have as extensive of a family tree as her Rocky Mountain House series, but I love visiting with them just as much. Catching up with Caleb, Tamar, Emma and Sasha was fun as was hanging out with Luke and Dustin. And getting to know Ivy's sisters and their friends better was awesome! And after the little tease at the end of the book, I cannot wait to get my hands on the next two in the series!

So, if you are looking for a romance that's on the sweet but still smexy, low on angst read, then this is definitely a must read for you!

~ Copy provided by the author & voluntarily reviewed ~

Kelly says

We're back with the Stones and their brood of friends and family. This time, it's Walker's turn to face his issues and nab the lady he's never forgotten. Or maybe it's Ivy's turn to sweetly get Walker to realize what he'd miss out on if he walks away from Heart Falls and her.

First off, I kinda dig the Stone family. They're dedicated, hard working, and they go all-in once they set their sights on what they want. For some of them, it's the figuring out what they want that's tricky. Walker, for example, is torn between helping on the family ranch, continuing his rodeo career (a dangerous option what with his panic attacks and all), and finding his way in the music industry. And then there's Ivy. The girl who left to pursue her own dream and is now back in touching distance.

Eleven years is a long time and yet Ivy's still got that thing for Walker. Helping him get a handle of his issues while showing him she's grown into a woman able to stand by his side is her challenge. Frankly, getting Walker to open up AT ALL about what's bothering him is a pretty monumental feat. But with a little time and a little perseverance, she manages.

Caleb and his family were fun, Luke's setup has me grinning. The rest of the family will fall before they know it and I, for one, am DELIGHTED by that. Because I love these sticky family dynamics and the support they all show for one another.

-Kelly @ Reading the Paranormal

Trader (RedHotBlueReads) says

Walker Stone is having panic attacks. This might not seem like a big deal, but when he's riding an angry bull for at least 8 seconds, having a panic attack could be devastating. It's a good thing Walker recognizes this and returns home to Heart Falls to get his head together, because it isn't just panic attacks that are messing with Walker's mind. He's trying to figure out what he should be doing with his life.

Ivy Field is back in town too. She's settling back home after years away as elementary school teacher and vice principal. Walker is in her plan too. Ivy wants to pick up where they left off when she left him eleven years ago. It's pretty clear from the getgo that Walker still have feelings for Ivy and vice versa -- although Walker's future is up in the air. Does he return to the rodeo? Will he take the amazing singing offer he's been given? He really can't decide... at first. But with the help of people who love him, he'll get the job done.

I really love this series. It's easy to fall for a series like this, where family is tight and kind. Even though Walker is a mess, his brother's feel him out and give him the room he asks for, even though it's tough for them to watch their younger brother struggle. Caleb and Luke are pretty awesome that way. This is a series that not only talks about family values, but shows them in the characters everyday life, and I just adore that about this series.

I can't say much more than I loved this, and you should be reading this series if you are looking for a family oriented romance that really demonstrates the important things in life. Definitely recommended. Can't wait for more.

An ARC was provided for review.

Nate Brightman says

If you enjoyed Vivian Arend's *A Rancher's Heart* you'll enjoy *A Rancher's Song* if for no other reason than Tamara and Caleb and of course Emma and Sasha have a strong presence in the second book in the Heart Falls series. In fact other than the introduction of our female protagonist Ivy Fields, her youngest sister Fern and their parents and grandmother the cast doesn't change much from one book to the next. In this book we focus on Walker Stone, one of Caleb's younger brothers, a rodeo bull rider by trade and Ivy Field his high school sweetheart. Seriously this book loses a few points just for the sad botanical names Vivian saddles the four Field girls with. As we begin the story Ivy who left Heart Falls and Walker eleven years ago to go to university to become a teacher has returned home. Walker has also returned to his family's Silverstone Ranch to regroup and deal with anxiety attacks that are making it impossible to pursue his rodeo career or perhaps a career in music he's considering. While Walker comes home to heal and figure out what he's going to do with the rest of his life, Ivy already has a plan. She's taken a job as vice principal and second grade teacher fulfilling one lifelong dream and has every intention of fulfilling her second lifelong dream which is to settle down and have a family with Walker. There's a definite similarity between *A Rancher's Song* and *A Rancher's heart* in that the female protagonist figures out early on her heart's desire and then determinedly and patiently guides the object of her heart's desire to their H.E.A. Beyond that the protagonists in the two books Tamara and Ivy are very different. While Tamara doesn't have a shy bone in her body Ivy is extremely shy to the point she has difficulty being in settings with large numbers of people even when she's not the focus of their attention. And where Tamara was sexually experienced and totally comfortable expressing her sexuality Ivy has only been with one person, Walker and even with him has to leave her comfort zone to try and seduce him. Ivy also has had lifelong health issues. She has a compromised immune system which kept her somewhat secluded as a child which is never fully explained. Then the author throws in a life threatening health issue while she's at university (causing her to take twice the normal time to earn her degree) which from the treatment sounds like it might have been leukemia, but again its never named. As the author intended you come to admire Ivy for her determination that allowed her to earn her education despite the health obstacles and put herself out there in uncomfortable and perhaps dangerous situations to come to Walker's aid and win his heart. We're introduced to Brad the local fire chief who gets a Christmas novella with Hannah the single mom who became friends with Tamara I the first book. We also observe Luke and Penny's relationship and there's something going on in Kelli's life that is never fully explained. I assume we'll learn more in Luke and Kelli's book *A Rancher's Bride* when it's released in November. I just knew those two would end up together! I'm thinking at some point Ivy's younger sisters, Tansy, Rose and Fern will also get their own books and who knows if the series does well enough maybe even youngest Stone brother Dustin who is only 19 and freshly graduated from high school in these two books, like Fern. Hmm, good a Dustin/Fern romance be in the future? Then there's Caleb's BFF Josiah the vet and maybe Tamara's sisters Karen and Lisa although I suspect they first appeared in the Six Pack Ranch series and their stories will come from that series.

While I didn't think *A Rancher's Song* was quite as good as *A Rancher's Heart* it was still an entertaining read which like its predecessor had a minimum amount of melodrama, a lot of heart, warmth and some sexy times.

Maggie Brundage says

I absolutely love the Stone brothers! This book has heartwarming romance and a great story line. What more could you want? Once I start to read any of Vivian Arend's books, I cannot put them down. They have action, suspense and a poignant love story all rolled up in one book. *A Rancher's Song* is an irresistible tale of a close knit family and heart touching romance. This book has it all: heart, community, and characters who will remain with you long after the book has ended. Can't wait for the next book in this series. I have a plus-size crush on this story and just so you know - the heat level is off the charts! Soooooo good! This is a series that has readers eagerly awaiting the next book. Ivy and Walker's story is well worth the read and even though many years have passed they still carry the torch for one another - Walker just has to figure out what he wants out of life and also has to get over a few issues! This book has hot passion, tenderness, hunger, sweetness and most of all - love. This family is melt down sexy and a must read for all romantics. Highly recommend it - a great addition to the series and look forward to the rest of the books. I received an ARC of this book and voluntarily chose to review it. Loved it!

Sandra ~ ♥ Cross My Heart ♥ says

A very sweet, sexy, low-angst romance. 3.5 stars

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Author Vivian Arend offers up a sweet and easy second chance romance in *A Rancher's Song*, the second book in her Heart Falls series. Eleven years after Walker Stone convinced Ivy Field to leave and pursue her dream of becoming a teacher she is back in Heart Falls and ready to reconnect with the only man who has ever had her heart, but Walker is at a crossroads in his life and won't commit to pursuing her until he figures it out. Sweet with a bit of sexy this uncomplicated romance is everything I'm come to expect from this author.

It is never easy when one person is settling into a more permanent life and one is trying to figure out what comes next especially when there are extenuating circumstances. Ivy is happy to have a teaching position as well as the added title of assistant principal back in her hometown and happy to have her own place to remodel and decorate. For the past few months Walker has a condition that has him questioning his ability to still compete competitively as a bull rider and pursue another venture he has kept hidden from him family and finding out the family ranch may be in financial trouble makes his decision that much harder.

I liked that these two didn't fall right back into the relationship they had as teens and began to know one another as adults. There wasn't a magic fix to the problems that arose and together they worked to build their relationship even though at times it was tough because Walker refused to burden Ivy with everything going on in his world.

I enjoyed the interactions with both of their families and loved that family was so important to both of them giving them a firm foundation in which to build upon.

A straightforward, no nonsense romance with lots of good guy charm and a strong heroine made A

Rancher's Song a welcome addition to Ms. Arend's Heart Falls series.

Suzi (Obsessive Reading Disorder) says

This is the second book in the spin off series from the Six Pack Ranch. Walker is the second youngest brother in the family and has lived a life on the rodeo circuit since his parents died. Ivy was the love of his life until he let her go on to college to become something more.

Great story of second chance love. It defines the true meaning of if you love something let it go, if it comes back to you, it was meant to be. A few bumps along the way, just a bit of angst but over all a good story.

Darcy says

This book is a little different, it has a quiet sweetness about it and in that quiet sweetness it shines! From the start you can't help but to love these characters, to want them to re-kindle their romance from high school before life stepped in and they went different ways. I liked that the break up wasn't bad, liked that given the chance both were willing for another chance. I especially loved how both of them confessed that in the near decade they've been apart neither had been with another person, that it felt wrong.

The role that both of their extended family played was great. Both came from big families that were close, but in different ways and both of the families supported them.

The ending had me smiling. I loved that Walker and Ivy's relationship was strong enough to withstand physical distance and how they found a way to still stay close.

Lisa says

This is the second in Vivian Arend's spin off series from the Coleman's six pack ranch series. Ivy left town 11 years ago to chase her dream. Walker had to let her go. This is one of those second chance love stories. Ivy and Walker have some secrets in the years since they were last together and while Ivy knows what she wants for her future Walker is unsure. The one thing he does know is he wants Ivy. I really loved this story. Ivy has some issues with her health and Walker totally gets her even after being apart for 11 years he remembers what she needs. Walker is having some problems with anxiety and panic attacks and Ivy helps him figure out what's going on. It's so sweet how they are there for each other. Ivy is there to stay but Walker is still trying to figure out where he belongs still. His heart says with Ivy but he feels he needs to help provide cash for the family ranch. The question is how he can do that and be with Ivy. By the end of this story you get all the squishy good feelings. If you have not read a Vivian Arend book this is a good series to start with. I can't wait for the next story.

L M says

Wonderful story with such likeable and real characters you wish you knew them in real life.

I have been a fan of this author for years and love her paranormal world. Ms Arend is one of the very few authors whose contemporary books I read and enjoy.

What a lovely sweet read about second chances with the Stone and Coleman family dynamics thrown in for good measure.

Ivy and Walker were childhood sweethearts but Walker made a huge sacrifice and pushed Ivy to follow her dreams.

These two never forgot or stopped wanting the other.

Ivy knows what she wants her life to be going forward now she is back in Heart Falls after qualifying as a teacher.

Ivy knows she wants a chance with Walker, a grown-up chance at a future that nearly never happened due to her health problems.

Walker has been on the rodeo circuit but is having problems, he is unfortunately fighting some guilt and demons which he believes he is going to have to sort out on his own. Not in this family he won't. Whilst they let him work it out on his own they are fully supporting him every step of the way.

Love the hint of something between Luke and Kelli and the teaser at the end for the next book.

Also have Brad and Hanna to look forward too and something is going on with Ginny in Italy.

Lots of background action and interaction as is usual from this author to give you a well-rounded and interesting read.

Once again this author has written a story that makes me laugh and cry and leaves me feeling content and feeling like I have enjoyed myself.

This is my honest review of this book.

Bea Charmed says

The beginning was confusing as it did not align with the events and facts presented in the previous book. Apparently the author decided to take the story in a different direction. I even double-checked the previous book to see if I was remembering correctly. I was.

Once I worked out that Arend had changed directions and this wasn't the book we were expecting, I was able to settle in and enjoy the story and Walker and Ivy's romance.

Ivy's returned home after 10 years away. She buys a house, gets a job, and settles back in. She also has a maddeningly vague chronic illness which was apparently life-threatening at times, though she was not terminal. It was not a major part of the story line, just a part of who she was, which I greatly appreciated. I do wish Arend had picked an illness and run with it. Yes, using a real illness would have meant more research to get the facts right but I found myself trying to put the hints together and come up with a diagnosis. There's mention of an inhaler but she clearly doesn't have asthma, COPD, or emphysema. There are hints that suggest it could be an auto-immune disease. The vagueness, for me, distracted me from the story. It may not bother some readers.

Walker has been having panic attacks and when you're a bull rider, that's a major problem. He comes home to his family's ranch to figure out what's happening with them, how to stop them, and what he wants to do with his life. Although he's been a professional bull rider for years, he also has an interest in making music

and a chance to pursue a musical career. Once back home he discovers that the ranch is having some financial difficulties. He feels pressure to do more around the ranch and add more to the family finances. This pressure is self-imposed. He never talks about his feelings or his contributions with his family until late in the story nor does he mention his panic attacks. It takes him a long time to learn to open up and communicate with his brothers. He does better with Ivy.

Ivy is able to help him open up and to cope with his attacks. In fact, he gets over his attacks quite easily once Ivy gets involved. I found it highly unlikely that they would be dealt with so easily or quickly.

So, I've been pretty negative but I did like the story, apart from all of the medical stuff. Given the importance of Walker's panic attacks to the story, that point is a big negative. But the romance itself was sweet, and really showed both Ivy and Walker at their best - thinking of the other first, taking care of the other, respecting each other and their respective families. As usual, Arend does a wonderful job with family dynamics. While I was frustrated with Walker's reticence about talking to his brothers, it also felt real. The teasing, the traditions, the unspoken assumptions, all were done beautifully.

I didn't love "A Rancher's Song" but I liked it and I'm enjoying the series.

I received a copy from the author for review.

Marishka says

Safety - neither were with others sexually during the 11 year separation. She did go on dates and kiss others not sure about him.
