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Lily Burana

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TRY: a rodeo rider's mettle in the face of being thrown off time after time...

In Denver, Colorado, Daryl Heatherly is a promising young artist, hoping to find the place she fits in. Back home in the country just outside of Cheyenne, Wyoming--the *real* west--she's returning to the last place her family all lived together, to a life bordered only by sage and sky. And it's there she rubs up against J.W. Jarrett, a World Champion rodeo cowboy and old-school Southern gentleman. Against her better judgment--not to mention that of her best friend, Shawna, and over-protective brother, Jace--Daryl forges ahead despite her own recent heartbreak, not only dating J.W., but joining him on the circuit to watch him ride. Even though the chemistry between them is immediate and undeniable, Daryl is determined not to fall for a cowboy, with all the dust and drama that implies--especially when she finds out that J.W. is a man with secrets. But Daryl hasn't counted on the grit of a man who has outlasted every other rider in the ring--her cowboy isn't going to give up that easily...

A love story set in the New West world of honky-tonks, buckle bunnies and pointy-toed boots, TRY is a fast, fresh, sensually charged novel about holding on to what you love despite all the bumps and bruises.

Try Details

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Author : Lily Burana

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Ashley says

i LOVE this book!

Sarah says

The simplest review I can give it is this book made me want to vomit.

It's a harlequin romance novel meets western novel meets a perfectly decent woman decides she's broken without a cowboy and all the comprising she does within to reach this decision. Oh. And, did you know having your partner give you a clit ring is the deepest act of intimacy? Yes, apparently, it is.

There were so many moments in this book that left me feeling squeamish and irritable, not the sexual content, but the choices and rationalizations she has the character make without any form of redemption. Also, the plot is highly predictable and I am unsure how she managed to stretch the story out as long as she did. I kept reading it with the hope that it HAD TO GET BETTER. It did not.

Sarah says

I'm reading it again and I never read books twice. (Now I'm reading it for a THIRD time) That's how good it is.

Dave says

Damn Lily Burana! More than a year after leaving Wyoming behind, Lily took me back to a place I love more than I thought. Her eye for detail is amazing and the characters are compelling. And I'm not just saying this because I know her and she's a cool chick.

Tammy says

A great summer read. Now I can't wait 'til the Labor Day rodeo!
What can I say? Cowboys are the best.

Aquit says

The first couple of pages were decent but I lost interest once the relationship between Daryl and J.W. started

developing. The whole 'daddy' thing during sex kinda made me went "what the effing??" a few times. After a few chapter, the story just went downhill. There was too much jerking around (not *that* jerking) and the narration got boring.

The love between Daryl and J.W. felt more like a father-daughter type and not a boyfriend-girlfriend one. I felt that Daryl just wanted someone to love her since she thinks no man wants to be with her and J.W. fitted that position since he wanted to take care of her. Overall, not really a romance novel but more of a...um, yeah, I'll get back to that once I find the answer. Maybe.

Chris says

Lily Burana used to write a column for MRR, a long time ago. I enjoyed her book Strip City, so I picked up this one as well. It's about rodeo and cowboys -- not something that really interests me. In other words, if this wasn't by an author I was interested in, I never would have read it. It was okay. I got into the story, but while it's mostly a romance, and a very sexy one at that -- it was also plenty frustrating in the relationship dynamics. Interesting and okay, but I didn't love it.

Elizabeth says

totally satisfied that part of me that doesn't watch soap opera drama/romance on principle, but still needs some kind guilty pleasure type nurturing. and the girl is pretty tough which i tend to appreciate.

Jenn says

I reviewed this book for another project because I thought it sounded like great Chick-Lit. I had a hard time getting into it and didn't like the fact that she tried so hard to be verbose and write a "literary" love story. Needless to say, I donated my free copy to the library rather than keep it in my personal collection.

Rah~ri says

Yes.

I admit

I Like Cowboys .

Great story, fun.

did learn a lot about the rodeo .

...I'll just leave it at that.

This is one that I would highly recommend.

Mary says

This is an interesting book that I found to be terrifically readable.

Basically, it's a girl-meets-boy, girl-resists-attraction-to-boy, girl-gives-up-the-fight-and-follows-her-heart book. But in this case, the boy is eighteen years older than the girl and quite definitely a man.

She's an artist who works as a maid at a local motel to support herself who was raised on a ranch. The man she falls in love with is a rodeo champ and despite the fact that she's sworn never to fall in love with a cowboy, she can't resist doing so.

This is a first novel by author Lily Burana, who has written articles for the NYT, GQ, The Washington Post, and so forth. She surely seems to have a lot of knowledge concerning rodeo, although I am hardly the one to judge that, knowing nothing about it myself. She surely does throw the terms around with quite a bit of authority.

TRY is certainly not a one-note book, though. There are many topics explored here, including tattoos, art and its commercial exploitation, gay cowboys, substance abuse, infidelity, family dysfunction, and the myth of the Old West. Burana covers a lot of ground in 383 pages.

One of the strangest things about this book is that the author will be in the middle of some gorgeous prose (and she is a damn fine writer) about the stars or the mountains or some other lovely thing when all of a sudden, we're into the most graphic literary sex that I've experienced in quite some time. Can I just say that our protagonist's boyfriend doesn't just know his way around a horse? It would seem that during his first marriage, he was injured in such a way as to make regular intercourse impossible and that during the recovery period, he kept his young wife interested and satisfied by exploring and learning many ways of sexual gratification and that he certainly enjoys showing off his prowess.

Well, what 23-year old girl wouldn't become enamored of such a man, especially one who looks so damn fine in his ironed and creased Wranglers?

Uh-huh. Oh yeah. And so forth.

I actually found the graphic sex AND the daddy-little girl relationship between protagonist and rodeo champ to be a little off-putting, but it was entertaining and certainly true to the characters.

Another slight problem I had with the book was the myriad of incidental characters. They were all well-written and fleshed out, but I couldn't keep them straight. Probably more because of my age and memory ability than the author's skill at creating a story, but it was a bit of a problem for me.

I did enjoy reading the book, I'll probably remember it for quite some time and that's saying a lot for me.

Char says

This book was really different. I picked it up because Elizabeth Gilbert was quoted on the cover. It's a love story about an artist and a rodeo cowboy quite a bit older than her. They have a daddy-little girl thing going on sexually which made me go ewwww a couple times, but it was realistic and true, and I liked the book. I'm torn between giving it three or four stars, so let's call it a 3.5 or 3.6. It's quirky. Well written. The author has written a memoir but this was her first novel. I like her voice, so I'm looking forward to more to see where she goes next.

Suzie Quint says

I love this story and I love the hero and heroine, mostly I love them together because they are a perfect fit. This story doesn't focus so much on bringing them together; that happens early in the story. The story is about keeping them together in spite of their own internal forces that try to push them apart. This is a keeper.

Alert: While this is a rodeo romance, it's more realistic than standard romance fare. If you're going to be turned off by a cowboy who chews tobacco, steer clear.

Betsy says

I had a hard time getting into this book, but it was ultimately worth the trip. I learned more about professional rodeo than I ever expected to, I can tell you that. And, jaded though I am, the sex scenes were extremely effective.

Kelsey says

With my love of everything Western, I liked this book. Focuses on rodeo and the way it can take over your life (I think of the Garth Brooks song when I think about this book). More serious read, little darker.
