



Roped In

A.M. Arthur

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At Clean Slate Ranch, the men are rugged, the trails are rocky and lassos aren't only used for roping horses

For Colt Woods, Clean Slate Ranch is home. The dude ranch in Northern California helped him heal from a devastating breakup. So when his ex-Dom, the man who broke his heart, waltzes onto the ranch, Colt doesn't know how to deal.

A research job at a nearby ghost town brings history PhD Avery Hendrix to Clean Slate. He's not in town forever, but it doesn't take long for him to feel the familiar draw to Colt. When they find out they'll be sharing a cabin on the ranch, it's all Avery can do to stop himself from bending Colt over a saddle right then and there.

In such close proximity, Colt's and Avery's old feelings come galloping back. Soon Colt is doing his master's bidding again and loving every moment of it. And the pair may be in for the ride of their lives—if the dedicated professor and his rugged cowboy can learn to trust again.

This book is approximately 88,000 words

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Roped In Details

Date : Published May 21st 2018 by Carina Press

ISBN :

Author : A.M. Arthur

Format : Kindle Edition 352 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Erotica, BdsM, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Roped In for online ebook

Emalie says

~ Book provided by NetGalley in exchange for my honest opinion

Roped In is the second installment in the Clean Slate Ranch series and I have to confess to not liking it as much as I liked Wild Trail, the previous book. The main reason for that is the BDSM theme. I'm just not into the whole Dom and Sub thing, or as it is here, the Sir and pet thing.

The other parts of the story I absolutely liked. How Colt had to deal with that big secret of him that's now out of the bag, and no, I'm not talking about him being gay. That we already knew. You know what secret I'm talking about, if you read book one. Which you absolutely don't need to have done, before reading Roped In, just saying. The whole dynamics between the different characters I also really liked.

This would have probably been a 4,5 star read, if not for the BDSM thing... which makes me sad, because I basically like everything A.M. Arthur writes.

If you like to read about BDSM and want to have a good angsty M/M read, this is probably a good book for you. Me not so much, but I'm definitely looking forward to Miles' and Reyes' story. These two appear broken and I'm really curious.

Rating: 3,5 stars

Cadiva says

I'm not sure what to say about this one because, for a lot of the book, it really wasn't working for me and I thought Avery was an absolutely selfish arse.

The last 20% went a long way to bringing the rating up though and I liked the stuff with Avery's mum and grandparents and the bits when Colt went back to the ranch he'd left aged 18 when his dad had turned his back on him for being gay.

Unfortunately, the major aspect of the narrative - a Sir/pet BDSM dynamic really really didn't work for me. Every time Colt referred to Avery as "his Sir" in third person it just made my hairs stand up like chalk on a blackboard.

As I had an ARC, the formatting wasn't finalised and at times it made it more difficult to work out who was speaking or being referred to and the time jumps into their past relationship had some really odd use of tense and grammar.

But, on a positive note, I love the setting this series is based in, the secondary characters, the family feeling of this group of men making themselves a home and I loved Colt, for his unashamedly open need to have Avery back in his life.

I am looking forward to more in the series and especially to hopefully finding out more about Reyes.

#ARC kindly provided by the publishers Carina Press in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

~Mindy Lynn~ says

2.5 Stars!

It just didn't work for me.

I often try really hard not to give such low ratings. It makes me feel bad. But I have to be honest right?

The problem for me started off quite early in the book. I just knew after how awkward and unrealistic it felt for me that I would continue to have an issue throughout the book. My issue? Their Sir/pet sexual relationship. I've read many books by now with this type of relationship dynamic and have enjoyed quite a bit of them. Here it didn't work for me at all. I didn't believe Avery fit the Dom role. I just couldn't get myself to accept him in that role so it all fell flat for me. The sex that is. It felt a bit clinical for my tastes. It felt too put together and this is how it all must go and didn't feel very spontaneous or sexy. I enjoyed their coming together when it wasn't a Sir/Pet scene. It felt more real.

There was a lot of back and forth between Colt and Avery which got a bit tiring especially with Avery being hesitant if he could trust Colt. I found this so confusing considering how much trust they had with their Sir/pet relationship. If I can't trust you outside of the bedroom no way would I trust you inside it.

I don't know if I was the only one who got completely lost some of the time with how the POV's switched up, but I had a hard time following who's POV I was reading. I hate that. It not only takes me out of the story but takes me away from the characters. I'm not sure if this will be how the final print will look though. So it's possible it has been cleaned up.

I actually really liked these characters and the ones in the book before. I like the set up and the other characters we got to know better this time around. It just happened that this formula didn't work for me. Other's have really enjoyed it. I will probably still continue with this series because I am intrigued by Miles and Reyes. I really hope they are next. But I'm also curious about Derrick too and if he and Robin will get a story together.

Happy reading dolls! xx

****I RECIEVED AN ARC FROM NETGALLEY AND THE PUBLISHER IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW.****

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

I am totally entranced with the Clean Slate Ranch series. The characters are bold, well written and multi-faceted. What I love most is how A. M. Arthur shows us all sides of them and helps us understand who they are as well as what they want ... out of life and out of love. Colt and Avery's story was both heart-

warming and heart-breaking. But, as it closed, it was beautiful.

Colt can't help his feelings. His feelings of inadequacy in not telling his best friend the truth. His feelings of not belonging, again. His feelings of missing a family that wants nothing to do with him. His feelings of love that never died for Avery and not being able to do anything about it. Now, it's up to him to earn back his friendship with Mack, to earn the love of Avery and make amends with his family.

Avery has gone on with his life after the devastation Colt caused in it. He loves his work but, part of him was left behind when his heart was broken. His family lives the lifestyle – a part of him misses it yet another part of him can't bring himself to do it. But, that part comes alive again when he sees Colt for the first time. He doesn't know if he could trust him again. But, the heart wants what the heart wants and he gives in. Time will tell if Colt has changed, if he grew up and if he earned enough trust to try again. Avery can only hope. As Colt and Avery learn to be with each other again. They tackle their pasts, together. Surprisingly, both families come to terms with who they are and what they want out of life. Yes, Colt had some mess ups but nothing that couldn't be overcome. They find a happy medium and a way to be together that satisfies both of them.

The Clean Slate Ranch is turning into an amazing series. I adore everything about it. From the Ghost Town to the Bay area ... from Mack and Wes to Colt and Avery ... different stories, different characters but both just as appealing and engrossing. I am loving the way A. M. Arthur is bringing everything together, giving us characters that we could love and cheer for.

Alisa says

This was terrible. I disliked everything about it.

I had been looking forward to these two after their set up from book one. It was a huge let down. This was over the top nonsense imo. Their relationship was completely unbelievable. It was cheesy and the whole dom/pet thing was ridiculous. I couldn't understand anything they did or why they did it. They both over shared their relationship dynamics/problems with anyone in the vicinity.

Colt was ok but I couldn't stand Avery. I legit hate read this from 50% on. I should have just dnf'd it but it is a review books so I skimmed the last half.

ARC provided by publisher through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Chris says

This was a nice follow on from book 1 and really continued on the same timeline. Avery and Colt were an interesting partnership- Avery as Sir / Dom really had some self doubt and random issues that didn't match

with his Alpha status ! I couldn't quite buy the Dom element but that's just me. Colt was the classic martyr and seemed to wallow in uncertainty. I liked Colt but heavens he had some issues. The meetings with both parents felt somewhat random and then rushed - funny how homophobic families suddenly changed their minds. Anyway there's an element of sweetness to this book, as expected, and a few small hooks for Reyes to have the next book... hopefully it will be his and Miles.

Emily Seelye says

*ARC provided by author

This was a sexy second chance romance.

Avery and a Colt were in a relationship 5 years ago that started off as a strictly D/s business exchange, but as they got to know one another became more. They broke up when Avery got a job that took him away and Colt ended moving to the ranch.

Now, they've been reunited when work brings Avery to the ranch, and they realize they are still very much in love. I enjoyed seeing them get reacquainted both in and out of the bedroom. They were definitely stronger this time around.

My only issue was that Avery had trouble believing Colt wanted everything, both the D/s relationship they've fallen back into and Avery his best friend/lover. I felt like he took too long to address his fears, but once he did, things got better.

Rachel Emily says

3.5 stars rounded up on here since I loved the last quarter of the story so much!

This is the second story in the Clean Slate Ranch series and I gotta say, I really love this group of characters! We met Colt and Avery back in the first book of the series. Colt was on the same SWAT team as Mack, and now they work on the ranch alongside their other friend, Reyes. Those who read the first story know of their friendship and past and how they are linked.

Avery was called to the ranch to be a historical consultant and help with the renovation and preservation of the deserted town they discovered on the ranch property. He and Colt were together back when Colt was still with the SWAT team, but their relationship fell apart. When they reconnect on Clean Slate Ranch, the emotions are still there, but that trust has been broken, and the two must work to get back on the same page together.

I really liked Colt and Avery, although I do wish that Avery hadn't been so conflicted over wanting Colt, and then being unsure if Colt wanted Avery or just the Dom he used to have. I'm glad we got the flashbacks we did to give a bit more substance to their relationship, but Avery just didn't seem like a...strong dom? If that makes sense. I really liked that the author touched on his sexuality a bit.

To me, this didn't feel as strong as the first book in the series, and I can't really give a reason as to why. I

think I got a bit...bored in the middle, skimmed a bit, and then the last quarter of the story really got things back on track. I can't wait for the stories for the rest of the guys we've met here, I think Reyes and Miles are next, yay!

Also - as usual, the formatting on Carina Press ARCs is just horrible! It makes it VERY hard to read and understand when a new character is talking and a new paragraph should have started. They really need to address this! This did not affect my rating since I know it's the way they are sending the files out, but wow, it can be hard to read.

I received a copy from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

4 stars

Roped In is the second book in A.M. Arthur's Clean Slate Ranch series. We meet both men in the first book, Wild Trail, and many of the side characters cross over between books. While I think you could follow the story without having read the first book, there is a subplot about Colt's relationship with his best friend that starts in Wild Trail, so I do think that this one is best read after the first.

I really enjoy the set up for this series and Arthur has done a nice job developing the setting with the ranch, the small town, and the ghost town restoration. I really like the side characters, as well as the bonds of friendship and family that these guys have all built. The relationship between Avery and Colt overlays well with this set up and I really liked revisiting these characters.

Arthur gives us a nice sense of Avery and Colt's past relationship, as well as how things are developing this time around. We get a series of flash back scenes that cover their earlier relationship and we can see the guys meeting, as well as how their relationship changed from a platonic Dom/sub connection to a sexual and romantic partnership as well. I wish we could see more of what had happened to cause their break up (we are told but we don't see those scenes), but overall I enjoyed the way that the backstory on their relationship is conveyed and it was nice to see that connection rekindled.

Read Jay's review in its entirety [here](#).

Truuss says

4.5 stars Colt and Avery.

A story with complex personalities and events in it. The growing to each other parts were with a realistic intensity done.

Colt and Avery broke up five years ago. There were insurmountable issues. Colt instant moved away and now they are facing each other... at the Clean Slate Ranch.

Their issues are the same, so how can they ever overcome them.

Wonderful dynamic, the versatile between them was so warm and beautiful to watch. The further in the story the more I loved how they interact, and the more I understand the fast re-use of their Sir and pet names.

The Dom/sub parts were absolute magnificent and variously put together. I loved it to see a different approach to a D/s relationship.

For myself I had some trouble with the long distance. But in this journey it felt acceptable to do.

My heart reached out to both men, both complex and with defined characteristics

Sometimes i was a bit more on the #Colt-team but I totally understood Avery's pov.

Colt and Avery both beautifully flawed... it felt all real and honest with the right amount of emotions.

Good solid written story with a moderate pace. It was an extended story, else I would have read it in one breath.

Kindly received an arc from the publisher.

It's an arc so I assume there will be some more editing, because the transitions between the paragraphs weren't always clear.

Denise H. says

***** Deep thoughts, renewed hope, and vivid BDSM sex scenes. I know what I was getting into, and the sex scenes were well done.**

We wanted to know more about **Colt, 32, blonde Texas cowboy,**

and we learn about his time on L.A. Swat team plus his history

with **long-brown-haired, 32, Avery. Avery, the PhD. Historian, and BDSM Therapist,**

is at the ranch delving into the past of the ghost town.

Colt is on tentative ground with Mack after the reveal in Wild Trail.

We find out quite a bit more about Avery and Colt's old relationship, and now renewed feelings and second chance. We get **flashbacks to our couple's start in L.A.** We have Marvelous BDSM that is well done, with correctly conducted scenes, deep passion, and beautiful inner thoughts from the Dom/Avery and his sub, Colt. We see **a true Dom who knows his limits, and his sub's limits.** We see proper aftercare; water, lotion, showers, naps, too.

It's marvelous !

Time passes as we see Sophie and Conrad's wedding, seasons go by, and **Avery and Colt progress to a heavy sexual relationship including the BDSM scenes, flogging, spanking, etc., and these sessions are therapy for Colt,** which is how they met years ago. A tragedy with a previous bad Dom, sent Colt to Avery's therapy practice, as a Dominant Therapist, helped Colt. Those sessions did not contain sex, but their attraction came later, and now they have fallen back into love once again. They are meant to be together.

We see each man struggle with family acceptance and their own insecurities. Our epilogue is great. I'm now

hoping for Miles story, Saddle UP, in Sept. 2018.

**I highly recommend this for those who love BDSM, or who want to learn more.
As they say, safe, sane and consensual, is the way to go.
ENJOY !**

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Annie says

2.5 stars

I was a little on the fence about reading Roped In. I enjoyed the first book of the Clean Slate Ranch series, but didn't love it. That reminder coupled with the second book's blurb mentioning a D/s relationship had me wavering because it certainly isn't my favorite dynamic. In the end, my curiosity over the ranch, the new ghost town, and this group of characters convinced me to give this series another chance. Unfortunately, even ignoring the fact that BDSM isn't my trope of choice, Roped In didn't work all that well for me.

Though this book is billed as a standalone, I think the existing secondary relationships and conflicts would make this a difficult book to jump into. I liked Colt as a secondary character in Wild Trail and his secret that came out at the end of it left me intrigued as to how he and Mack's friendship would fare. Avery was more of a wild card, but the few glimpses I got of him were interesting, especially the idea of he and Colt's past relationship. Going into Roped In, I had hopes for a lot of chemistry and emotion in this couple's second change romance, but I found it lacking, instead the book primarily focused on the BDSM arrangements and how these fit with a long-term relationship. There was a lot of back and forth between the men, especially regarding Avery's ability to trust Cole. Between the lack of a strong connection and the wishy-washy commitment, I simply wasn't invested in the couple.

My interest in Roped In also wavered due to the writing and narrative style. The timeline and writing was much choppier than I'd expect from this author. I typically like alternating third person point-of-views, but Roped In flipped back and forth between Avery and Cole mid-chapter and I often lost track of who was narrating at the moment. Considering I read an ARC, there is a chance those jumps were cleaned up before publication, but seeing as to how much the style pulled me out of the book, it bears mention.

I'm certain plenty of readers will enjoy Roped In, but for me this one fell flat. I'm still really interested in Reyes and Miles, so I may venture back to Clean Slate Ranch yet, but I wouldn't say I'm pulling at the bit (pun entirely intended ;)).

Received eARC via Netgalley. The author and publisher had no influence over this review

Natalie says

When I saw the title of this second Clean Slate Ranch story, I figured it referred to horses or something. Boy was I wrong, surprised but also pleased to find out it meant kink! This is one of the less angst filled, more drama free of all the author's books I've read, I think. It stands alone quite well but hints of Avery and Colt's

past as a couple were in book one, along with the circumstances of Colt's injury and estrangement from his best friend Mack. This story encompasses Colt's attempts to resolve his issues but mostly focuses on rekindling the relationship with Avery, including the BDSM. A few flashbacks fill in the background for the couple, limited scenes that were placed well. Avery's character was refreshingly atypical in regard to the BDSM, which he treated as a completely non-sexual activity before he met Colt, no clubs or public scenes plus he also seems to be demisexual. The BDSM play was hot and sexy, not super intense but passionate and just dirty enough!

There was repetition sometimes like Avery demanding complete honesty but not opening up over concerns that Colt wanted kink more than Avery. Calling Avery "Sir" in his own head all the time and Avery referring to himself in third person as "Sir" wasn't a favorite. Not fond of the term "pet" either. Avery's aunt/adoptive mother acting homophobic was kind of weird for being part of a D/s couple and I expected it to become a big deal but that kind of fizzled out. Colt's visit with his family felt like it should have been a bigger deal and didn't provide his parents and siblings much depth. I wish it had been fleshed out more and maybe happened earlier in the story. It was nice that it wasn't a troubling event and it did add to developing Colt's character. Seeing Mack and Colt finding their footing as friends again felt realistic and made me happy.

I really liked it overall and the pacing of progress between Colt and Avery, showing them spending time together outside of the ranch and bedroom as a couple. I enjoyed seeing Mack and Wes from book one and having new faces, like Miles and Derrick, as part of the storyline. I'm guessing Reyes story is next but I'm not positive. I'll be reading it anyway! I always like, if not love Ms. Arthur's books, always getting a quality story with an absorbing plot, populated with interesting people. I would recommend this, along with any other novel in any of the series.

An ARC was provided by the author, publisher or promotional service and I have chosen to publish a fair and honest review for Jessie G Books Reviews blog

Steven says

Thanks to Netgalley and Carina Press for providing me with an advanced copy in exchange for an honest review.

I love Clean Slate Ranch - the ranch atmosphere, the west, the ghost town nearby, the cabins and horses and cowboys!

Unfortunately for me, this installment didn't live up to the first. It was still good, but the plot felt a little forced, Avery felt a little one note, and there was a lot of overly lovey dovey cliches that made it less believable. The first story had more of a narrative force driving the story, while this one really just seemed like a bunch of interactions between Avery and Colt and occasionally other characters but without an overarching story or point to the novel. It also felt like a lot of stuff was repeated over and over, and probably could have been edited out. For example, Avery's wondering if Colt wanted HIM or just him as Sir was brought up time after time, and then a few more times just for good measure. It was distracting from the scenes and made it harder to keep an interest.

Also, I know that with an ARC, final formatting isn't always in place, but there were quite a few places

where formatting and lack of proofreading left some glaring errors that pulled me out of the story in my head - the proofreading needed being mostly a lot of places where hyphens should have been used and weren't (example: on-the-go would be written as on-thego).

Overall, I really fell in love with Colt, and kinda want a Colt to myself (though I wouldn't be his sir... he'd be my sexy versatile cowboy!). I liked getting to see Mack and Wes again, and really can't wait to read Reyes' story. Hopefully he's up next.

?? Cocky™ Michaëlle ✨?? says

3.5 Stars

So, there were a few things I liked about this book, and a couple that either irritated, frustrated or annoyed me.

Let's start with the good.

I loved how Avery and Colt, who couldn't make their relationship work 5 years previously, took the time to actually *work* through their issues, and there was a whole lot of communication. A whole lot of talking through the things that didn't sit well with either and quite a bit of time spent voicing their needs. I loved that they were going to take life as it came, enjoying their reunion but also knowing that, to keep going, they'd need to come to grips with having a long distance relationship. 5 years prior, Colt couldn't deal with the separation and that is what led him to Clean Slate Ranch. But he's matured and grown emotionally in that time and is willing to try again.

Also, I adored how, other than with Colt, Avery was mostly not even interested in sex. When they first met he worked as a Dom for Hire, with no sexual interaction, and it never even occurred to him that he would be attracted to a client..and that all interactions were conducted behind closed doors. Considering his mom was a show-touring Domme in a dedicated D/s lifestyle with her husband...well, I found the dichotomy between the two interesting and the way Avery is portrayed as demi or sometimes asexual. (Also loved that he didn't feel the need to label himself though he appreciated that others did and understood how it helped define who they were not just to the outside world but to themselves.)

And the sex...well, sometimes the scenes were hot. But mostly I thought them kind of clinical and reading them made me feel removed from the whole story. The sex scenes where they were NOT in character were much more romantic and organic...and even though Avery was good at what he did and wanted to give Colt what he needed, I could totally feel the disconnect when he would wonder if Colt wanted Avery, or if Colt wanted Sir.

Which, yeah, that was annoying. I kept having to mentally change that "name" to "Master" or adding "his" in front (or substituting "Dom") because the way the sentences were structured it just sounded so weird. Whatever Sir wanted, he would do anything for Sir, how Sir taught him to act...just, ugh. Maybe that's me and my dislike for most things portrayed in High-Protocol BDSM style...but the scenes weren't even that

intense or dramatic and other than the title (and presentation pose) very little was strictly formal. And for some reason, that disconnect I had as a reader also seemed to translate in how Colt's subspace was portrayed as well...as a reaction to the pain but without the mental or emotional involvement that typically comes with such a release.

And while the last installment was a bit OTT, this one lacked that touch of external drama. Sure, there were two nervous meet-the-parents scenes (with Colt's being the most worrisome given it had been 16 years since he'd run away and the family lived in a conservative part of Texas)...but other than surprising me (Colt's family) and confusing me (Avery's mom?) the cathartic release just didn't materialize. Kind of like the BDSM scenes.

For anyone wanting to give it a try, this book continues almost immediately after the end of the last one, but still makes the effort to explain a lot of what previously occurred. To me, that was overkill; to someone wanting to jump in without reading the first one, it would work well. There are a few characters that might not be as well-defined given how their appearance here builds on their appearances in the previous book...but it wouldn't affect the specifics of this story.

That said, I really REALLY hope that Miles & Reyes are next. I might sit through another one before theirs (maybe Derrick & Robin) but probably not more than that.

(Ooh, one last thing: While I appreciated the eye-candy I'd find looking up the knots, ties and rope...I'm not sure distracting the reader from the book is a good idea. Maybe provide more description for the Shibari steps instead of the formal knot/hitch names?)

ARC provided via Netgalley and Carina Press in exchange for honest review.
