



Sweet on You

Laura Drake

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A Love as Bold as a Texas Sunset . . .

Ex-army medic Katya Smith has always healed other people's pain. Now she has to deal with her own. Taking a job as an athletic trainer on the Pro Bull Riding circuit seems like the perfect escape from her grief—except Katya doesn't know anything about bulls, and even less about the tough men who ride them. She doesn't expect to fall for the sport, or for one tantalizing cowboy who tumbles her defenses.

For rodeo champion Cam Cahill, fifteen years of bucking bulls have taken their toll on his body. Before he retires, he wants a final chance at the world title—and he doesn't need some New Age gypsy telling him how to do his job. But when the stunning trainer with the magical hands repairs more than his worn muscles, everything changes. Soon Cam finds himself trying to persuade Katya to forgive her past so she can build a future . . . with him.

"Touchingly real. Tender and timely. Laura Drake creates characters you know you've met and you have to root for." -Pamela Morsi, *USA Today* bestselling author on *The Sweet Spot*

"An emotionally packed story that will pull all the heartstrings." -Christie Craig, *New York Times* bestselling author on *The Sweet Spot*

Sweet on You Details

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From Reader Review Sweet on You for online ebook

Lynne Spreen says

Very much enjoyed this story of a woman soldier battling PTSD and seeing how to come to terms with her survivor's guilt. The male character has his own challenge: he's aging out of his field, and has to come to grips with the future. I never knew anything about PBR (Professional Bull Riding), so that was interesting as well.

Katya, the female lead, is a healer, and that's a rich element in the story. There's also well-written emotion; I was reading it in an airport and was embarrassed to be leaking tears at certain points. There's a scene in the first third of the book where Katya defends herself against physical assault, and her triumph is so much fun, I reread it several times.

I think the power of this book springs from the author's deft skill with writing emotion. At one point, a younger character offers comfort to an elder, thinking it's sad she's old. Instead, the elder schools the youth with why it's great to be her age, all the blessings she's earned and is enjoying. There's a subtle maturity in this book, no hysteria, just a deep understanding of what's important: family, health, love. Refreshing.

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/sw...>

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Jerjen

Sweet On You by Laura Drake is such a good story about loss, love, living and overcoming demons. It is a story about letting go of the past and moving forward.

Katya Smith is an army medic who was stationed in Khandahar with her military “family”. She is returned stateside following a traumatic experience, suffering from PTSD. She has to come to terms with what happened overseas and heal so she can return to her military life. She takes a job as a trainer for the PBR (Professional Bull Riders) hoping that this will help her to heal. She knows nothing about bull riding and feels like the athletes will be spoiled brats. So she is not worried about caring about them and thinks this will be a good way to start getting over her PTSD.

Cam “Cool Hand” Cahill is an award-winning bull rider who is competing in his last year on the circuit. His body says it is time to retire but his mind is not happy about it. He does not know what he is going to do with his life after bull-riding. He always thought he would have a wife and family by the time retirement hit, but that did not work out too well. He was married and is now divorced and does not see his happily-ever-after happening any time soon. When he meets Katya in the training room and spends time with her, getting to know her better, he thinks maybe things will work out after all. But it will not be an easy journey for either of them.

I loved this book for so many reasons. I learned about bull riding and competitions and found this very interesting. I was able to get a better idea of a bull riders mentality and personality and I found that fascinating. I was able to get a better understanding of how a soldier feels when they return from combat and

are dealing with emotional problems. I am fortunate to not have personal knowledge of these issues but it sure got me thinking about how tough that would be. This is a very important issue in today's society and I think it is important to be reminded of the sacrifices that our soldiers make daily, both overseas and after they return home. I want to thank the author for reminding me of that.

The writing style flows smoothly and the book is an easy read. While reading I found myself thinking "just one more chapter and then I'll stop for tonight". With each swipe of the page, I could feel the tension increasing. Tension as to whether or not Katya will be able to perform in an emergency situation, if she will be able to overcome her PTSD and return to the military. Tension as to whether or not Cam can win his last bull riding championship or will his body let him down. Will there be a life and death accident at one of the competitions that will end a bull rider's career or life. These were some of the things that drew me into the story and I had to find out the answers.

The characters are realistic, well-rounded and three dimensional. Katya had a lot of inner struggles she was trying to deal with and I could not help but care about and worry about what would happen to her. She tried very hard to be strong and tough and to let that be the only side that she allowed people to see. But some things were just too hard to keep inside and when she let her vulnerable side show, she became even more human. Cam had problems of his own to deal with but after learning all that Katya had going on in her life, he realized that his demons were small compared to hers. I thought this showed growth in his character and I really like when you can see how a character grows and develops. The secondary characters added a lot to the story line and were more people to become involved with and concerned for.

The author's writing style is very descriptive and helped to really draw me into the story. Whether I was reading about Khandahar, the bull riding competition, the locker room or the line dancing, I felt like I was right there. I felt like I was seeing, smelling and listening to everything first hand. This is another way that I felt drawn into the book from the first page until the last page.

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys an emotional ride while reading. There were a lot of ups and downs in the book and tension that kept building from the first page. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a well crafted story and enjoys getting involved in the characters' lives. I have not read any other books by this author but I plan on getting the other books in the series and I cannot wait to read them.

OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review

Margaret says

Leaving it behind

An aging bull rider hopes to end his career with a bang. A medical officer on leave from the army takes a job as a massage therapist for bull riders to help her work through her PTSD. Falling in love can either make or break their relationship. A lot of emotional baggage and insecurities where you just want to say "stay home."

Dottie says

A captivating, emotion-packed contemporary Western romance! Taken from my review at RomanceJunkies.com:

Growing up, Katya looked forward to her summers with her grandmother, who taught her the art of healing. Katya's grandmother is a master in the art of the arcane. Although her grandmother believes that Katya has empathic powers, Katya figures she has just found other ways to listen other than with her ears. While serving as a medic with the Army, stationed in Khandahar, Katya and a friend were on a short shopping trip when they were involved in an explosion which injured Katya and killed her friend, Murphy. Suffering from PTSD and believing she has lost her healing legacy, Katya returns to her grandmother's home. But when her grandmother dies, Katya tries to get back into healing by taking a job as an athletic trainer on the Pro Bull Riding tour, hoping the work and the constant travel will take her mind off her grief. There's just one problem; Katya knows nothing about bulls or the men who ride them.

Rodeo champion Cam Cahill has had an illustrious career over the past fifteen years, but it has taken a toll on his body. Although Cam wants a chance at the world championship before he retires, he plans for this to be his last year. However, he has been unable to find anything else he wants to do. He thought by now he would have a wife and children and had hoped to settle on his ranch in Bandero. But he no longer has a wife and doesn't relish living on the ranch alone.

Katya has just one goal, to heal enough to return to Khandahar, but as she gets to know Cam, she finds herself falling for him and dreaming of a future together. But a dream is all it is, because she feels she owes Murphy and returning to the army is the only way she can overcome her guilt for surviving the explosion. Meanwhile, Cam is waging his own war to convince Katya that she is really a cowgirl at heart and to give up the army for a life with him. Which will she choose; duty or love?

A sweet tale, *SWEET ON YOU*, the third book in author Laura Drake's *SWEET ON A COWBOY* series, is an emotion-packed, sexy contemporary romance that will touch your heart and lift your spirits. Cam and Katya are wonderful together and I could not help rooting for them. The portrayals of Cam as an aging bull rider whose glory days are just about behind him and Katya's daily struggles with PTSD are realistically drawn. The secondary characters provide additional charm as they contribute to the warmth and humor already present in this novel.

Beautifully written with humor, flawed characters, PTSD, survivor's guilt, the Pro Bull Riding circuit, death, healing, forgiveness, tender romance and a forever love, this story is a keeper! Laura Drake is a new-to-me author and I have thoroughly enjoyed reading her work. Although it is the first of her books I have read, it will not be the last. For a captivating, contemporary Western romance that will make you laugh and perhaps shed a tear or two, *SWEET ON YOU* is the book to reach for. It can be read as a standalone, but after reading this story, I am sure that readers will want to grab the first two books in this series, *THE SWEET SPOT* and *NOTHING SWEETER*.

Dottie, RomanceJunkies.com

Misty (Reds Romance Reviews) says

Sweet on You is a touching tale that is certain to tug on the heartstrings, and have you feeling the emotions behind the words. Once the cover was cracked and I met these wonderfully drawn characters I just didn't want to let them go! Highly recommend!!

Kathy says

4.5 stars.

Sweet on You, the third installment in **Laura Drake's** divine *Sweet on a Cowboy* series, is wonderful novel about healing, new beginnings and of course, love. The professional bull riding circuit is the **perfect** setting for this heartwarming romance between an aging bull rider and an emotionally wounded Army medic as they both face uncertain futures.

Katya Smith finds herself in unfamiliar territory when she takes a job with the sports medicine team for the Professional Bull Riders (PBR). Katya might not understand the sport, lingo or lifestyle, but she does recognize a spoiled athlete when she sees one, and PBR rider Cam Cahill certainly appears to be no different from the other jocks she has worked with in the past. Katya does not make the best first impression on Cam either but since they have to work together week after week, they agree to put aside their animosity. Their mutual attraction leads to an unlikely romance, but will Katya's plans for the future ruin their chance at happiness?

Katya is a warm, compassionate and caring woman and watching her struggle to overcome her PTSD is very heartrending. She is very loyal to the "family" she has created with her fellow soldiers and while this is understandable, it also causes a bit of tunnel vision when it comes to her future. In the beginning, she sees her job with the PBR as a means to an end, and she keeps both an emotional and physical distance from the cowboys on tour. It is not until Katya wants to learn more about the sport and the cowboy way of life that she takes a personal interest in the bull riders she is helping.

As a fifteen year veteran bull rider, Cam's love of the sport has not diminished, but but his numerous injuries have begun to take a toll both in and out of the arena. Knowing this is most likely his last season, he has been trying to figure out what comes next, but so far, nothing he has considered really appeals to him. He spends a lot of time in sports medicine in an effort to stay healthy and he is surprised by his interest in Katya. Cam's first few meetings with her are a bit rocky and although romance is the last thing on either of their minds, they begin dating. While they both agree that they are not interested in a serious or long lasting commitment, their feelings for another are anything but casual. But as both Katya and Cam soon discover, they are not exactly on the same page when it comes to their future.

One of the most appealing aspects of *Sweet on You* is how easily and vibrantly **Laura Drake** brings the world of Professional Bull Riding to life. Newcomers to the sport will have no difficulty understanding the grueling travel schedule or grasping how truly dangerous an eight second ride can be. She also provides incredible insight into what motivates the riders to participate in such an extreme sport and how reluctant they are to sit on the sidelines despite their injuries. The pulse-pounding excitement of attending live events leaps off the pages and perfectly illustrates why fans are drawn to the sport.

With *Sweet on You*, **Laura Drake** has once again written an emotionally compelling novel with complex and sympathetic characters. True to life issues such as PTSD and survivor's guilt are handled with sensitivity and the healing process is realistically depicted. While Cam's issues are less serious, they are believable and easy to relate to. The romance between Cam and Katya is sweet yet sexy and grows naturally over the course of the story. The ending is perfect; it is a little dramatic but very heartwarming.

Sweet on You is an absolutely delightful addition to the *Sweet on a Cowboy* series that old and new fans are going to love. It can be read as a standalone story, but I highly recommend this entire series to readers who enjoys contemporary Western romances.

Janet Rundquist says

Loved the call outs to characters from earlier 2 books in this series. This one is my favorite - great pacing, great life situations/decisions, and Katya is a great representation of authentic female strength.

Jonel Boyko says

Talk about a clash of two worlds! PBR and Army combine in an absolutely stunning manner. I absolutely loved the outlook on rodeo from someone who's never been there. It was priceless and endearing. I killed myself laughing at some of the spot on explanations. I love the way that the author wraps up this story. I won't say much so I don't ruin it, but this approach works a million times better than an epilogue.

The characters definitely made this novel. Getting to know each of them individually, knowing where they came from and what they believe gives you an inside peek at their relationship. The main characters were extremely well developed without going overboard. I was absolutely floored by some of the traumas that they'd lived through. As realistic and possible as they were, they aren't everyday incidents. All aspects of their personas come together to create three-dimensional individuals to carry the story forward.

This was a fantastic novel. It's an easy entry point into the series and the world created by this author as well as a fantastic addition to an already established series. A parting word of advice, however. Don't read the last few chapters in public. Spontaneously gasping and bursting into tears will get you odd looks.

Please note that I received a complimentary copy of this work in exchange for an honest review.

Karen says

The copy I have is an ARC....so its not out yet....but I've already read Nothing Sweeter..and that was a great romance book...

This one was really good; amazing realistic characters in very realistic situations...about a soldier and a rodeo guy...

I'm a military wife and mom and it was hard to read some of the parts where Katya was learning how to overcome her PTSD and being as my husband is in the military and has suffered from PTSD from his

deployment's over in Iraq & Afghanistan it was difficult at times; being on the receiving end of watching someone suffer through PTSD I see it now, in a different light, so THANK YOU Laura Drake for handling sticky subjects with such finesse!!!

Soon to retire because he has no other choice, Cam was difficult to read as well...

FABULOUS DYNAMICS!!!

A BEST SELLER for sure....

Eileen says

I'm so glad I took a chance on this new author after reading her name in a Carolyn Brown book. Laura Drake's Sweet on a Cowboy series was wonderful. It concluded with a very good story of a PBR rider in his last year before retiring, falling for the athletic trainer, who is dealing with PTSD and a real identity crisis. Katya Smith is Army and wants to return to her unit where she feels she is needed. However she can't deal under the pressure and took a job as a trainer with the PBR to get back in the game. It sort of succeeded but she got a look at a whole different life of the cowboys, especially one in particular. Cam Cahill doesn't know what he plans to do after he retires and feels lost. He slowly gets to know Katya and realizes she could be a part of his future.

It was such a well written story and didn't rush its way to a nice conclusion. I got to know Cam and Katya and what made them tick and what their fears were. I also liked that JB Denny(book 1) showed up to announce the PBR events and Max and Bree(book 2) entered their bulls and helped Katya loosen up a bit at the events.

I'll be looking more from this author and definitely recommend it to others looking for a good romance series.

constance says

*received through Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

Katya Smith always knew who she was and what she was meant to be, a Gypsy, a healer, and a soldier. But after being injured while serving in Afghanistan and losing one of her closest friends and fellow soldier, Katya is unable to perform her duties as an army medic without reliving those horrible moments. When, a short time later, she also loses her grandmother, the healer and leader of her family's Gypsy community, Katya finds herself feeling distant from her Gypsy relatives, unfit for being a soldier, and, in her mind, having lost her healing abilities. When a friend suggests that she goes to work for the Pro Bull Riders association as a medic to get her healing back and prepare herself to go back to the military, Katya isn't excited, but is aware that this might be her only opportunity to prove herself. She expected to get in, do her job, and go back to Afghanistan, but she never expected the complications that falling in love with a cowboy would bring to her life.

Cam Cahill is a bull riding superstar. Fifteen years into his riding career, at the ripe old age of 32, Cam knows his career is coming to an end. His body simply can't take another season. But he is at a loss for what

someone like him, someone who had only ever dreamed of being a championship bull rider, does after his career ends. When Cam meets the gypsy medic with magic hands, and mysterious teas that ease his physical pain, he realizes that she could also provide the healing his heart needs, and help him to move on with his life.

But while everything seems to be falling into place in Cam's mind with he and Katya in a happily ever after, Katya still feels the need to go back and prove herself in the army. No one understands the need to face your fears more than Cam, but he also knows that he needs Katya in his life and not risking her life in a war zone. Both Cam and Katya have to work through their issues and fears to find a way that they can both get past their pasts and build a future together.

This was my first time reading a Laura Drake book, and I have to say I am impressed. I really enjoyed reading this. This book included two of my favorite romance tropes, the hot cowboy and the wounded (physically and emotionally) soldier. But I really liked it because the author touched on some really tough issues that I would imagine real soldiers, and even really bull riders go through, but that are generally glossed over in romance novels. Basically, the author didn't make it too easy, she really took both main characters through a wide range of emotions, and we were able to see both of them grow as people and really come to learn what they want, and what they can control in their and each other's lives. I think the book was very well written. And while it had some very serious subject matter, it also had just the right amount of humor to balance it all out. Sweet On You is the second book in the series, but is a stand alone, but after reading it and reading a teaser for the first book in the series, I will definitely be reading more from Laura Drake.

Maryann Jordan says

Laura Duke does it again with an amazing tale of loss and love. Of finding yourself and learning who you are. Of friendship, honor, pain, and life.

Katya has suffered tragedy and loss while serving as an Army medic. Suffering from PTSD, her friend suggests that she work with a sport she has never been acquainted with - bull riding. She meets the men who face danger every time they get in the chute. But do not expect a miraculous cure for her. She simply learns to deal with the PTSD and works to not let it control her life.

One of the top bull riders is Cam, a man who is nearing the end of his career and hasn't decided what is next. He feels as though his choices have been taken away and it is hard to realize that he is not a young man anymore.

Laura weaves their two stories together perfectly, blending them in such a way that Katya and Cam don't march in and suddenly save each other, but rather they grow and learn from each other, falling in love in the process.

I once told this author that I would read anything she ever wrote and it still holds true. This novel is phenomenal and I cannot wait for more! (another sign of a good book is that it makes you crave to read something else by the author - I just went back to start reading A Sweet Spot again!)

Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says

Katya Smith returns to the states from her tour of duty in Khandahar, where she was injured in a suicide bombing that claimed the life of a fellow soldier. She didn't return by choice, the bombing made that

decision for her. Katya mostly recovered from her exterior wounds, but it's the wounds on the inside that are taking a toll on this fiercely independent and strong willed woman. Katya's beloved Gypsy grandmother passes away leaving her bereft and confused. A short visit with her cool appearing parents shows her she doesn't belong in their world. Through a friend, Katya gets a lead on a job working as a medic for the PBR (Professional Bull Riding). Hopefully this job will help Katya alleviate some of the flashes of terror she gets after the bombing and help her get over her PTSD so she can return to active duty as a medic for the military in Afghanistan.

Cam Cahill is an aging bull rider trying to find out what to do with himself after his impending retirement. Nothing seems to fit and he's not ready to pack it all in, even if his body is telling him otherwise with all the aches and pains he deals with on a daily basis. The handsome bull riding champion bides his time while he watches the up and coming cowboys begin to take over. After a disagreeable run in with a seemingly prejudiced Katya at an event, Cam can't decide if the eclectic beauty will suit as a medic on the PBR trail. Once they get to know each other better, Cam realizes there is so much more to Katya than her appearance.

Once Katya proves to be an effective PT and worthy of being the medic she was hired to be, she begins attracting a following of riders who are quite taken with the gypsy's homemade curatives and her knack for easing their aches. When Cam gets closer to Katya and finds out just where she comes from and what she's been through, he not only gains a respect for her for what she's already done for his colleagues, but also for what she has done for her country. The two who were skittish of each other at first begin to form a bond that Cam realizes he wants to solidify, but Katya can't let go of the past and still wants to make amends for things that she believes were her fault, but were in fact out of her hands.

Once again Laura Drake has me riveted by her story. I love her characters. Katya seemingly a fish out of water around the bull riders, bucks it up and fits right in once she lets her guard down, She also sees a future for Cam with his retirement and tries to give the stubborn athlete a way to be useful and still enjoy his life once he hangs up his spurs. Katya is a woman with so much honor and loyalty ingrained in her and her quest to get back to Khandahar is trying. PTSD is no joke and this woman deals with the effects on a daily basis, but her quest clouds a possibility of a future with Cam, for as much as she cares for the cowboy, she feels the need to make up her failures to her military brethren. The subtle changes in the medic/soldier to the PBR medic are an amazing journey and highly recommended by this lover of Western Romance. Grab SWEET ON YOU by Laura Drake by the horns and enjoy this incredible ride. You won't be sorry.

~KIMBERLY~

KathyAnne says

Laura Drake always manages to put a smile on my face... I always learn something new when I read her books. In this book I learned about buckle bunnies. What in the world is a buckle bunny you ask?! Well, I'll let you read the book to find out... :)

All of the books in this series can be read as stand alones. Each one gives us something different but all take place in the world of bull riding. You really don't need to know anything about bull riding to enjoy these stories. I don't know ANYTHING about this sport but have thoroughly enjoyed this entire series. This author has a way of pulling you in and tugging at your emotions. I shed a few tears at the end of this book... but, my emotions are easily manipulated... I'm a big 'ole softy.

This book might just be my favorite in the series because it addresses and issue that touches close to home

for me... PTSD. I have several family members that suffer from this and I thought the author did a fantastic job at helping us understand the depth of this condition through her character Katya.

I simply loved both Katya and Cam... they are both at an emotional crossroads in their lives. Katya is fighting to find herself again after experiencing a devastating trauma and loss of a friend while stationed in Afghanistan. Cam is having to face the end of his bull riding career and has no idea who he will be or what he will do now that he is facing a new life without the one thing that has always defined him.

Katya is a physical therapist and she comes from a family of gypsies. Healing has always been her specialty. Having lost her ability to heal due to the PTSD she finds herself working alongside these tough and fearless cowboys while she waits to see if she will be able to go back at some point to her military family. What she didn't expect was to grow to love this new type of family and to find love in the arms of her very own cowboy. I did love this one quote from Katya in the book:

"If my mother had ever met a sweet talking cowboy, she'd have warned me about them. I'm sure of it."

Cam has been burned by love in the past but finds himself drawn to the beautiful, courageous and talented Katya who has magic hands. She makes him feel emotions he never thought he could experience in the arms of a woman. I love how these two individuals, both coming from two completely different worlds, blend together and help each other heal. ***sniff sniff*** Just a stinking good cowboy love story!

Once again, as with this author's previous books, I always seem to find myself attached to a few of her supporting characters. And, in this one it was Buster, the young man who is just getting started in the bull riding circuit. I definitely related to his mom and how stressful it could be watching your son climb on top of a bull and risk his life. I have a son around the same age and I'd probably have a panic attack if he ever wanted to do such a thing! LOL...

This is a series for lovers of cowboys, lovers of slow moving romances... and, for those who don't mind having their emotions tugged on just a little. It's sometimes sweet, sometimes steamy BUT always real! I think that is the one thing I like most about Laura Drake's characters... you feel like you know them personally when it's all said and done. She is a whiz at writing feel good romances...

Another great installment... definitely recommend!

ARC was provided by Forever Publishing via netgalley

www.ktbookreviews.com

Beverly Turner says

In my 20s, I read a lot of romance novels. Then in my 30s, I started reading a lot of suspense/thrillers and never went back to romance. In recent months, I have tried some romance novels and was disappointed in all of them. I found them full of cardboard characters, dialogue that sounded the same no matter who was speaking and relationships that were unbelievable, obviously concocted because it was supposed to be a romance.

However, Laura Drake's writing takes a romance and takes it to another level. In *Sweet on You*, Katya is a strong woman suffering from PTSD. Her world collides with that of Cam, a bullrider who is trying to face the end of his career and the end of his world as he knows it. The dialogue is true to the voice of each character in the book and the relationship that develops between Katya and Cam develops in a believable way. More importantly, she includes so much obviously well researched details about military life and bullriding, you come away with a new understanding of both worlds.

Don't bypass this book because you think it's 'only a romance'. This book is so much more. It's a book about people with real problems they have to overcome and it's a book about learning to forgive yourself. Because aren't we all our own worst critics??
