



Bullheaded

Catt Ford

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Aging bull rider Cody Grainger needs bullfighter Johnny Arrow for more than just protection in the ring. Their bond of trust goes beyond the professional and into love, but while their relationship holds up to the need for discretion imposed by their sport and repeatedly having to watch each other put themselves in the way of dangerous animals, other barriers still tear them apart.

For one thing, Cody is ten years older than Johnny. But instead of contemplating retirement, he focuses on winning the championship, desperate to stay on top. Johnny is only beginning to find the professional recognition he craves. When frustration leads Johnny to walk away, Cody's season slumps. While they're apart, they both slowly realize they are meant to be together. But machismo abounds in the sport of bull riding, and their pride might be an obstacle too big for love to overcome.

Bullheaded Details

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Author : Catt Ford

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From Reader Review Bullheaded for online ebook

Silkeeeeereads says

Bullheaded is everything you wanted to know about bull riding, but you were afraid to ask. For those if us raised around it, it can be a little bit overkill. For those that haven't been, you will learn a lot. It also a romance about learning to adjust in a relationship and in life.

Lulu says

Story: 9
First MC: 9
Second MC: 9
Secondary characters: 7
Mystery: 3
Sexual tension: 5
Romance: 5
Humor: 5
Hotness: 6
Product placement: 4
Ridiculousness: 3
Annoying: 2
Suspence: 8
Audio: 10 (12h 11min)
To re-read: 7

An established in the closet relationship; their journey towards compromise and acceptance.
The book describes bull-riding in detail; towards the end I felt a phantom pain in my back and knees!

Tami says

[Cody is a cocky guy who takes Jonny for granted. He dominates Jonny - he comes out on

Seiran says

This book was such a disappointment for me, I wanted to like this so much, because come on, who doesn't like hot cowboys. But it just never clicked for me, and there was just no spark between the two MCs but this IMOP.

Cody who is 32 and a bull rider is cocky, full of himself, and plans his and everyone else's life around what he wants. Jonny on the other hand is 23 and a bullfighter, and he is the quite, steady as you go kind of guy, who is pulled along behind Cody. They have been working and living together for 2 years. But in all that

time the author want you to believe they have never talked about family, what a tattoo means on Johnny etc. I don't buy that. Also there is a break-up that made no sense to me. During that time all the one-night stand hook-ups supposedly taught valuable lessons on life, love, and standing on your own two feet. But how, when all your reading is sex scene after sex scene, I don't get it.

IMOP the two characters lacked any kind of spark and why they were together I have no idea. Also, if you only like books where the MC only have sex with each other, this book is not for you. The sex was such a cliché. When they start sleeping with others, it's like the author wanted to put every gay sex hook-up in this one book, from the rest-stop blowjob, glory hole in a random restroom, gay bars, etc.

I guess my biggest complaint is that there was no real growth, no real reason for the MC to be together, and the sex was not hot, because the guilt factor that was added. Just not for me.

Erika says

O.M.G. I haven't had a character provoke such a visceral reaction in a long while. About 30% in to the book, I legit thought that if Cody was in front of me I would've punched him in the face, and I'm not a violent person. What an entitled, cocky jerk. Ugh.

But then I read on and ended up feeling much better about things. I think this was a really good book. It made me ponder the way we interact with loved ones and how sometimes we do or say things unthinkingly without realizing the consequences of our actions. It also made me super interested in bull riding (for the duration of the book) and wtf??? I never thought that would be possible.

Well done, Catt Ford.

Nic says

This was a difficult book for me to rate as some parts I loved and other parts not so much.

The good....I quite liked the story itself. There was a level of realism in the journey that Cody and Johnny found themselves on. It was easy to understand the conflict they faced as they both found themselves at different stages in their lives and looked to find a common ground. The insight into the world of bull riders and bullfighters was interesting.

The not so good....there was perhaps too much explanation of the rides themselves. I wanted more of the story, not so much description of the bull riding event itself. I didn't like the sexual encounters that both Johnny and Cody (Cody more so) had when they were apart. I am not sure how much it added to the story, and I found Cody's actions particularly unappealing. Which brings me to my biggest issue - Cody.

I didn't like the character of Cody. I found him selfish and egotistical. **"Cody never thought of himself as manipulative. The word wasn't even in his vocabulary. He just liked getting his way. And his way was good for him and for Johnny."** He believed this for most of the book. Yes, I wanted Johnny and Cody to have their happy ending, but found it difficult to believe the changes in Cody or to fully understand why he

changed his ways.

I find it difficult to really love a book if I don't love one of the lead characters, or at least like them by the end of the story. For this reason, and the slightly too many and too long descriptions of bull rides, I am only rating this book 3.5 stars.

GayListBookReviews says

If you know nothing about the sport of bull riding, but are interested, and you have a great love of M/M romance this is the book for you. You also need to have patience and a hard case on your e-reader for when you throw it across the room several times.

First, I liked this book. It's about cowboys and the rodeo, it's hard not to like it. The author, does a tremendous job of detailing both the side of the bull rider, and that of the bull fighter. I was very impressed with the detail. I could almost smell the dust coming off the shoulders of the bull Cody is riding, and getting thrown off of.

I enjoyed getting to know Johnny and Cody along with Cody's family. But Cody pissed me off. That man is one selfish prick, and for the majority of the book I wanted to be his mama and so I could get in his face about his behavior.

Johnny is a runner. He is young and falls hard for Cody, but doesn't trust his heart or his partner. This is where the book takes a crazy turn, one I wasn't expecting. I know the blurb says he walks away. But he really does. They break up and move on..mostly. It really is the journey of both of them finding their own strengths and weaknesses, accepting them, growing up, and then becoming strong men. Apart.

This book is about two men, not a couple. Cody and Johnny are individuals who have to get their heads straight before they can get their love straight. And I respect that. I love that Johnny doesn't give in easily and I love that Cody finds humility (finally).

The secondary characters gave this book depth. I became invested in more than Johnny and Cody, but also their friends and family and even their hook-ups. The sex in the book is down and dirty and full of passion. Sometimes the pendulum swings into raunchy, but also to the other side where you see two people connecting emotionally.

It's a good book. Yes, I cursed them out several times. Yes, I had to put the book down, because if Cody did one more thing I was going to smack him. Yes, I kept picking it back up because I had to see how the story was going to resolve itself.

And resolve itself it did. You just have to be patient and the reward is a satisfying conclusion.

Reviewed by Beans

Nova says

A great book with a realistic story (even though I know nothing about bull fighting – it all made sense to me) and characters I loved. There were parts I liked more than others, but that doesn't change the fact, that I really enjoyed this book! I would even love a sequel!

Thomaidha Papa says

5 Hearts

Review written for MM Good Book Reviews

<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.com/>

What a wholesome book, I totally loved it and when the story didn't go the "predicable" way, instead of putting me down, I loved it even more. For me this novel had it all. Everything you look for in a book was there; realist characters that you fell in love with, with their flaws and insecurities and big egos; a plot that was amazing from start to finish, hooking and griping and interesting beyond words; and an incredible writing skill that left no room for losing concentration or feeling detached to the story. I think I'm going to be a great fan of this author because she really made me live this story, feel every emotion she so generously shared and read a book that seemed as if she picked it up right from the arena of bull riding.

The characters Cody and Johnny were amazing. They have an age gap of ten years and as so they are in different stages of life. They are also completely different men.

Cody is a man whose life has been kind. He is a bull rider and his personality suits his profession. He's strong-headed, persistent; he never gives up and has a thing of always getting what he wants. Even his family is perfect with a loving father and mother who never batted an eye at his sexuality. He might not be out in the bull fighting world but when he's home he is truly free. Cody is a winner!

Johnny is Native American, and his life is the opposite of Cody. He has a mother that doesn't want to hear about his sexuality, and a family he has to support economically due to poverty. He was never a good bull rider but he is great at bull fighting. His ability to "read" the animals is astonishing and that's what's making him visible in the NBR world. His career is just starting.

This book explores these characters greatly. I get to see a man's personality from all points of view; when they're in love, when they are blind, when they are at their best and their worst. I loved the fact that the pair starts together and then splits up. I loved it that life and their wants came in their way the way life really does, full force. I loved it that they had to work it out and it didn't happen from one day to the other. These characters learned and grew up in the story and that's what made them appeal more to me.

But I loved even more the fact that in addition to great characters there was a great, great plot as well that complemented them. The world of NBR, was astonishing. I have read other books referring to bill riding, but the difference here was that this book literally took me there, made me feel as if I was in that arena and behind the stage and in these people's lives. I got to learn so much and in the end I became a fan as well going online and googling and watching on you-tube and feeling as if I took more from this read than just a

love story. It is amazing that this book also made me cry there at the end with Cody's last performance. It was unexpected for me to feel it so much and therefore more cherished.

So of course I recommend this book to anyone, it's absolutely brilliant and intense and realistic. It provides enjoyment in all forms and it would be a shame to miss it.

Thommie

Shelby says

So this book hits a little too close to home, of course not in a bad way as it's just fabulous. But I knew these guys too well growing up. Reminded me of my childhood in so many ways. These were the boys (ok minus the gay bit as far as I knew) that I hung out with every summer. Watched the ego that placed them on the back of bulls week after week keeping their big heads stuck up their asses!

Cody Grainger is at the top of his game. He has a commanding lead in the points for the NBR even at 32. On a bull he can do no wrong. The gold championship buckle looks to be a shoe in for him and he'll be the first 2 time back to back NBR World Champion. With his boyfriend Johnny beside him Cody's on cloud nine and there ain't nothing going to bring him down

Johnny Arrow loves his job and he loves his man. As far as he's concerned spending his life out there in the ring staring down those 1000-pound beasts as a rodeo bullfighter is the perfect way to spend an evening. Followed quickly of course by getting Cody back to the hotel and into bed. If he feels a twinge every now and again about having to hide their relationship, well that's just the way it goes. The rodeo ain't no place for an out cowboy. Still he's got it all. Yet he still finds himself gritting his teeth more and more these days as Cody makes all the decisions for the two of them and doesn't seem to listen to a damn word Johnny's saying. If Cody's not careful he's going to end up driving away the best part of his life by doing nothing more than letting his ego do the talking.

First of all the depiction of the rodeo lifestyle here is extremely well done. Ms. Ford incorporated a lot of detail about what it means to be a bull rider and/or a bullfighter in the world of professional rodeo. The aches and pains are all just part of the sport these guys know and love. It's a hard life on the road and one of those jobs you do because you have to, because you just can't see yourself doing anything else.

I think that's why I enjoyed Cody so much even when I wanted to smack him. It's a hard thing to admit when your body just can't take the punishment of doing something you love anymore. It's a very real fact that rodeo is a young man's sport. There's only one rider in the Top 10 bull riders in the world at the moment that's over 30. And he's certainly not in the Top 5. Cody is certainly not at absolute retirement, but I loved seeing his friends and family trying to get his mule-head thinking and start edging him towards plans for his future. At times his sheer stubborn "bullheadedness" makes him seem like the younger man in this relationship. Johnny's decisions often seem to come from a place of more maturity.

Oh Johnny, you run from pain so easily, but damn you had to do something. I was so happy when Johnny finally walked out the door. He's not Cody's doormat to walk all over before Cody switches his job title to blow up sex doll. I loved the fact that Ms. Ford gave equal attention to the job the bullfighters do in that ring. She's right, those cowboys would never survive without the men on the ground risking their lives for them. Rodeo's a dangerous sport and no event is worse than the bull riding. People love that though, being on the

edge of your seat waiting to see what's going to happen next.

I'm of course waxing on about a sport I love and felt got an honest fair shake by Ms. Ford. But in the end this story is about two men and what they're going through. Both of these guys had to grow up in this story. Cody needed to learn to give his partner the respect he deserves in and out of bed and Johnny had to learn to be able to stand up for himself. Just because Cody's the undisputed champion and has in some ways earned that big head, doesn't mean he gets to walk all over those around him. These guys are both good cowboys at heart and truly love each other.

Personally I enjoyed that aspect of this book. This is an established relationship learning how to grow. These two guys reached the tipping point that can happen in a relationship of any length. People start to change and you either make changes together or you end up splitting there and then. Cody and Johnny had to fight themselves, and each other, to get through this rough patch but in the end their relationship will be the stronger for it. And quite frankly it was nice to see Cody knocked off his high horse and seeing his face end up in the dirt a time or two. Slumps happen in any sport and 9 times out of 10 it's entirely mental. Lesson in all this, don't mess with those your love. ;)

One last note about gay cowboys...I loved the way this book dealt with it frankly. Some books in this genre take an unrealistic view, in my opinion, and try to pretty up the opinions these guys would face in this world. Not to say that I think it's right or anything, but this is an extremely hard world to be "out" in. I enjoyed the fact that both of these guys understood this, had a great support system of the few people they trusted with their secret, and didn't feel the need in the end to out their love to the rodeo world. Ms. Ford pushes the boundaries nicely I felt with Cody and Johnny's conversation about the gay rodeo and wanting to walk in that pride parade someday in the distant future. It was the perfect bow on a truly lovely story. These men know the world they live in and aren't trying to rock the boat just to rock it...maybe just tip it a little.

Baba says

4 stars.

"Because he's too stupid to know when to quit." Travis spat on the ground.

"Imagine if he knew you were black AND gay," RJ said.

"Oh yeah, I'm not a real cowboy at all," Travis agreed instantly. "Like the bulls care if you're gay or whatever color you are."

"They're equal-opportunity buckers." Johnny snickered as he and Travis knocked knuckles.

At first he'd thought it was lightning, but Johnny had said it was a cloud ladder, something to do with the sky. Cody always thought of it as his own pathway to heaven. When he was finished tracing the zigzag line with his tongue, he kissed Johnny to let him taste himself in his mouth. "Let's get some shut-eye."

They are horny all the time. Geez...

(view spoiler)

The story behind Johnny's tattoo is beautiful...

(view spoiler)

What an enjoyable and great ride...in every sense of the word! Be forewarned, you should buckle up or you might be thrown off the bull.

The way the author described the bull riding was so vividly and well done. In fact, those thrilling scenes leaped off the pages all the time. Also, I did appreciate it that she included a glossary which was very helpful for someone like me who has no experience when it comes to bull riding.

Great main **and** secondary characters as well as an exhilarating atmosphere at the rodeos made this book a winner for me. And of course a NA hero--excuse me, a Diné hero--is the icing on the cake. The conflict was very good but maybe a bit too drawn out for my taste. There is something I would love to point out. Cody's parents are AWESOME! And a specific secondary character really grew on me very fast. (view spoiler) My oh my, being mature is so damn sexy! He is intelligent and perceptive, such a classy guy. Hats off!

Minor quibbles

After Johnny (view spoiler) Call me old-fashioned but that was a hard pill to swallow.

Despite the sex being pretty hot, I could have done with less. Yes, you read that correctly.

The ending was a bit too sappy for my liking. Still, it didn't detract from my enjoyment of the story.

Recommended read.

FULL REVIEW TO COME...

Mercedes says

Let me start this review with a shallow comment, hehe! Initially I wanted to read this book because of the gorgeous cover. It's one of the best covers I have seen. However between the cover and the blurb I thought this book would be about Spanish bull fighters. But it's about these guys:

This is a very engaging story about Cody and Johnny. Cody is a 32 yo bull rider that is at the top of his game. He is also an only child and as a result of his success he is a very self-centered and arrogant man. Johnny is a 23 yo bullfighter who is also really good at what he does. Because of his age and background Johnny is always giving in to what Cody wants to do and never stands his ground. This right here is the problem with their relationship and resolving this is the journey this book takes us.

Tired of Cody's selfishness and cockiness and wanting to be something of his own Johnny leaves Cody after two years together. He goes on a very interesting journey of self-discovery where he learns to accept and be proud of who he is and also that is OK to stand his ground.

Cody's journey is a bit slow paced and he remains a self-centered bastard for most of his book. For being a 32 year old he comes off as very immature at times, always blaming others for his mistakes.

I found this book very engaging. It's been a while since I have stayed very late because I couldn't put a book down. But I loved reading about Johnny's journey. Plus I found myself completely grabbed by the Bull riding world and before long I was on Youtube watching bull riding videos. These people have balls!

LiveYourLife BuyTheBook says

5 Stars - KAPOW!!

I don't like the closet or angst-filled books. Logically, I should have hated Bullheaded, by Catt Ford. Logic schmogic, I loved this book. Cody Grainger and Johnny Arrow are madly in love with each other. It's undeniable. They are also wildly attracted to each other despite having been in a relationship for two years already. They should be completely happy. And they are, sort of. Johnny works as a bullfighter in the same circuit in which Cody is a bull rider. They are able to tour together and their cover story that Johnny works on the Grainger family ranch works just fine. No one is the wiser. When the season breaks for Cody he wants to go home and doesn't really listen to Johnny who wants to work for the summer. Cody is at the top of his game whereas Johnny has just started his. They also happen to have wildly different cultural backgrounds and sexual histories. They are, however, both alike in idiocy. Cody wants to manage Johnny's life. He doesn't get Johnny may have different goals, wants, or needs. Johnny doesn't tell Cody his goals, wants, or needs. Consequently, neither man understands the other. Johnny walks out....

For Faye's full review go to [Live Your Life, Buy The Book](#)

Salsera1974 says

This is a novel for grown folks.

Cody and Johnny are in a long-term relationship -- they have been dating for the past two years. There are, however, some differences between them that eventually magnify in importance and overwhelm the strength of their love for each other. First of all, there is an age gap. Cody is 32 and Johnny is 23 years old, and Cody has done his fair share of living during his 32 years. Second, they are both a part of the National Bull Riders world, in which Cody is the best rider that people in the world have probably ever seen, and Johnny is an up-and-coming bull fighter, one of the guys in the ring who distracts the bull once the ride is finished and who makes sure that the animal is safely returned to the pen. In their world, the riders are the ones who receive respect, while the fighters are the guys that we might describe in derogatory fashion as the rodeo "clowns," even though there is nothing *remotely* funny about their jobs -- they play a critical role in ensuring the riders' safety.

As we move through the opening stages of the novel, we see the problem right away. Cody and Johnny love each other, but Cody is older, so he thinks he knows everything. In addition, he's the star in their field, so he often undermines Johnny's professional opinions publicly. Furthermore, Johnny can ride, and Cody encourages him to do so, but he doesn't understand or respect Johnny's preference for fighting, so when Johnny tries to tell him that he wants to make certain professional choices that would develop his bullfighting career, Cody overrides him without actually paying attention to his desires. Finally, because Johnny is so young, and in his first relationship, he doesn't know how to stand up for himself when Cody does little things that hurt him. And that's part of the reason this novel is so mature -- Cody never does anything major to hurt Johnny. He just can't even see the small things that are building up, brick by resentful brick, a wall between him and Johnny. Ultimately, they end up with a relationship that is out of balance because they are not acting as equals within it. So Johnny gets tired and decides to end it.

And this is when we get to the meat of the novel, where both men go on a path of self-discovery. Fair warning: if you don't like a novel where the MCs have sex with other people, this isn't the book for you. They aren't cheating on each other -- they are broken up -- but if you're squeamish, you should know that they are definitely moving on while they are apart. During all of these encounters, however, they are figuring out some things. Johnny, to some extent, is simply sowing some wild oats -- 23 is too young to be settled down without having had sex with anyone else, and looking at a future in which you'll likely be monogamous for the rest of your life. (YMMV.) Having said that, he's also learning that he actually *is* strong enough to assert his preferences and stick to them, and part of the problem with Cody was his failure to do so. Cody could not be faulted for failing to read his mind.

As for Cody, he was so spoiled, entitled, and used to getting his own way, he had a hard time figuring out what he did wrong. Losing Johnny, though, was a heartbreak for him, and it caused him to lose the joy of bullriding, and he went into a professional slump. Cody's inability to engage in meaningful self-reflection was a significant stumbling block throughout much of the book because it impaired his ability to see something really simple -- that the relationship could not be all about him. Working his way to a realization on this front, and seeing its connection to bullriding, forms a major part of the story.

Ultimately, Johnny and Cody do find their way back to each other. It is a romance novel, after all. And the author does something that I really appreciate -- she not only shows us the work that Cody and Johnny did to get to their happy ending, she shows us the work that they did *after* the reconciliation, navigating through tough spots, and putting into practice those new lessons they said they were going to implement.

If you've been through a tough relationship, romantic or not, and either lost it or worked through the hard parts and managed to keep it, you'll recognize these characters and understand their issues. Like I said, this is a novel for grown folks, because you'll only really "get" it if you've been through this story, or some variation thereof. This is an extraordinarily good book.

Snowtulip says

3.5

Oh, another one of those love/hate books! Leaning more toward the loving this morning :D

The reason I'm leaning toward loving is the bull riding in this story. Catt Ford completely intrigued me regarding this sport. I've read many bull riding stories, but I never understood it or it's lifestyle until now. Having this knowledge really helped me be more generous and lenient in my feeling toward Johnny and Cody.

Cody had me on constant kindle throwing alert, I really thought he was going to be an irredeemable character for me...but he pulled through.

The alternating point of view really brought home how much these two loved each other regardless of how they acted. They frustrated me and I asked myself why I even cared about them, but I did, somehow I did and I wanted them happy.
