

RECKLESS IN TEXAS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

**Rough and tumble, cocky and charming,
Joe's everything a rodeo superstar should be...
And he's way out of Violet's league.**

Violet Jacobs is fearless. At least, that's what the cowboys she snatches from under the hooves of bucking horses think. Outside the ring, she's got plenty of worries rattling her bones: her young son, her mess of a love life, and lately, her family's struggling rodeo. When she takes business into her own hands and hires on a hotshot bullfighter, she expects to start a ruckus.

She never expected Joe Cassidy.

Joe came to Texas to escape a life spiraling out of control. He never planned on sticking around, and he certainly never expected to call this dry and dusty backwater home. But Violet is everything he never knew he was missing, and the deeper he's pulled into her beautiful mess of a family, the more he realizes this fierce rodeo girl may be offering him the one thing he never could find on his own.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kari Lynn Dell is a native of north central Montana, a third generation ranch-raised cowgirl, horse trainer and 2018 Canadian Senior Pro Rodeo Association Breakaway Roping champion. She attended her first rodeo at two weeks old and has existed in a state of horse-induced poverty ever since. She currently resides on the family ranch on the Blackfeet Reservation, loitering in her parents' bunkhouse along with her husband, son, and Max and Spike the Cows, with a tipi on the front step, a view of Glacier National Park from her writing desk and Canada within spitting distance. The third book of her Texas Rodeo series, *Tougher in Texas*, was a 2018 finalist for the Romance Writers of America's RITA® awards.

PRAISE FOR THE TEXAS RODEO SERIES

"Dell takes you on a fun, wild ride!" —B.J. DANIELS, *New York Times* Bestselling Author

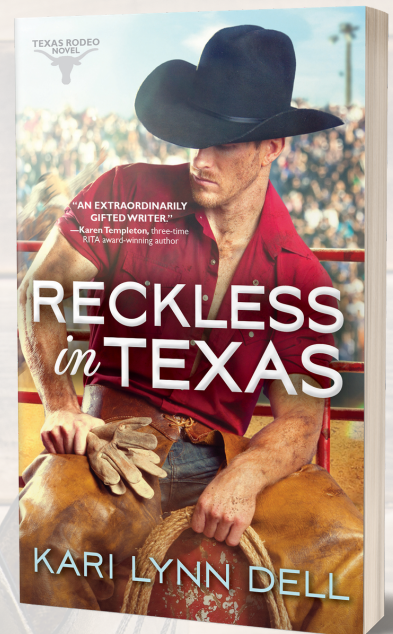
"Look out, world! There's a new cowboy in town." —CAROLYN BROWN, *New York Times* Bestselling Author

"An extraordinarily gifted writer."—KAREN TEMPLETON, author of *Wed in the West* series

"Real Ranches. Real Rodeo. Real Romance."—LAURA DRAKE, author of *Sweet on a Cowboy* series

"A sexy, engaging romance set in the captivating world of rodeo."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Illuminating...a standout in western romance."—*Publishers Weekly*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. A large part of the conflict between Joe and Violet stems from the basic way that they approach life. Growing up in a tight knit, supportive family, when push comes to shove Violet will base her decisions on loyalty and love. Having been rejected by his father and unable to rely on his mother, Joe has constructed a life whose foundation is in cold-hearted reality and business. In what ways does this make each of them stronger, and in what ways does it play against them in terms of reaching their goals and finding true Happiness?
2. This book is what author Jennifer Cruise calls a lose to win story. There is no way they can be together without someone giving up something extremely important. If Violet leaves the Panhandle she would be putting thousands of miles between her son and his father—or risk losing custody. Joe has invested decades of his life into positioning himself to be a partner in Browning Rodeo. How can one of them give up their dream without causing festering resentment that poisons the relationship long term? Can you think of books or movies with this sort of plot line that really worked? Ones that didn't? Why?
3. Even When Joe comes to the understanding that he doesn't like the person he has to become in order to work with Dick Browning, he refuses to go back to Texas. What deeply ingrained fears and insecurities must he overcome in order to commit to Violet?
4. Although Delon and Violet have never been in a romantic relationship, in many ways, this book and the next in the series, Tangled in Texas, intentionally parallel the issues that can blindside otherwise amicably divorced parents when one of them becomes seriously involved with another person. Consider Violet and Joe's romance as seen from Delon's point of view. What does he stand to lose if Joe becomes a permanent part of her life? If Joe hadn't come along, do you think there was a chance that someday Delon and Violet would have gotten together?
5. As a woman in a man's profession, Violet faces a certain amount of discrimination and resistance. However, in general, girls who grow up and work in a rodeo and/or ranch lifestyle have a built in advantage because they are praised for being strong, competent, aggressive, and competitive, and in general as much emphasis is placed on what their body can do as how it looks. Contrast this with the attitudes that girls and women face in your community/family/profession, and how you think this may have affected you or other women around you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

6. When writing characters in their twenties and early thirties there is a tendency to overage their parents, with the gray hair and physical attributes of people in their seventies. But when you add it up, Steve and Iris Jacobs are only in their fifties, an age at which, for most ranchers and rodeo stock contractors, retirement isn't even a blip on the horizon. Also, they most likely would have been in college in the eighties, not the sixties. How does this affect their attitude toward Violet's single motherhood, her very public romantic missteps, and her plans for the business?
7. The deaths of Cole's parents and brother have impacted the Jacobs family on every level, emotionally and financially. In what areas do you think they've dealt with their grief in positive and healthy ways, and in what areas do you think there are still unresolved issues? Have they given Cole too much slack, not pushing him outside his comfort zone? Or have they adapted to his limitations and maximized his strengths? Some of both?
8. Most rodeo spectators think bullfighters are insane adrenaline junkies who are there because they get off on the danger. After reading this book, do you agree or disagree, and why?
9. The pickup riders are often overlooked. Many spectators barely notice them unless there is a hang up or other wreck where they have to come to the rescue. Now that you've experienced life in their boots, what part of their job made the biggest impression? How would you rate their danger compared to the bullfighters, and the skills required to do their job?
10. Did this book change your perception of rodeo as a sport and a business, and if so, in what ways?