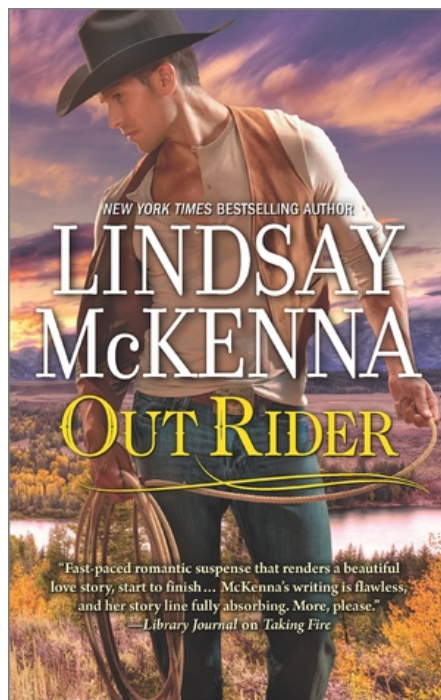




Out Rider

Lindsay McKenna

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Out Rider Lindsay McKenna

With her return to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, New York Times bestselling author Lindsay McKenna shows how love can find a way out of the darkness...

A fresh start—that's all Devorah McGuire wants. As a former Marine and current Ranger with the US Forest Service, she's grown accustomed to keeping others safe. But when the unthinkable happens, she can only hope that a transfer to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, will allow her to put the past behind her for good.

Dev's mentor at Grand Tetons National Park is fellow canine handler and horseman Sloan Rankin. He shows Dev the spectacular trails, never knowing the terror that stalks her every move. Despite her lingering fear, Dev feels an attraction for Sloan as wild as their surroundings.

With Sloan, Dev can envision a new life—a real home. Unless a vengeful man fresh out of prison succeeds in finishing what he started...

Out Rider Details

Date : Published April 26th 2016 by HQN Books

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Author : Lindsay McKenna

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Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Suspense, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review Out Rider for online ebook

Janet Robel says

I enjoyed this last book in the series. I liked the whole national park setting and the dogs.

Jen says

Read the full review on Bookaholics Not-So-Anonymous.

Note: This ARC was provided by HQN Books in exchange for an honest review.

This was a good, slow burn love story that has two very strong main characters that you can't help but like. With everything that they've been through in their respective lives, Dev and Sloan deserve their happily-ever-after, but no one ever said getting there would be easy. Learning to trust Sloan isn't a simple feat, not with the men in Dev's past showing her that her trust in them were wasted. Ah, but who can resist a man like Sloan for long? He was gently persistent in his pursuit of Dev, never pushing her too hard or too fast. His being a canine handler just adds bonus points to his being one heck of a memorable male main character. The story has a fine mix of romance and suspense, and it's solid proof that Lindsay McKenna has consistently provided readers with quality novels. Not only will I be checking out the first ten novels in the Jackson Hole series, but I shall be keeping an eye out for future releases as well. If you're looking for a western romance that doesn't scrimp on story and character development, look for Out Rider. Four stars. ♥

Maria says

I have really loved this entire series. I love how the old characters are brought into the scene and add life to the book not just to fill space but to contribute. These characters are so real. I can see the Tetons in the imagery and feel the panic when things go wrong. Fighting PTSD is a long road that can be helped with understanding like minded people and this story proves that even though the military experiences are a big cause of PTSD that trauma of any kind can be a trigger too. Sloan and Mouse (his dog) are the perfect pair to bring Dev and Bella (her dog) into to the Gus family of veteran misfits.

Ashley Marie says

Not bad

Cynthia says

This is a sweet, tender and unexpected emotional read from a busted tire to a total connection from the start. Dev had a stalker who is an ex co-worker who assaulted her. She moves as far away as she can to get away from him. Sloan's marriage failed he still has the scares to show it. Both are not interested in a relationship but when two are attracted as these two are with some powerful chemistry flying around well sparks will

fly as they dance around the passion they have for each other.

Dev doesn't put much faith in men from her father to every other man she has dated they have all failed her in the love department. Showing her just what kind of man she doesn't want. She is sure Sloan no matter how good he is he is just like the rest of the men that has crossed her path. She just isn't looking for a relationship and just wants to be left alone. It is going to take some time before she stops jumping at every sound. She has spent so much time looking over her shoulder she has forgotten what peace feels like. Sloan is a sweet heart of a man who is gentle, caring and protective when it come to Dec he finds he is very protective. If her stalker comes after her will Sloan be there to count on or will she be on her own. She just doesn't trust anyone anymore. Sloan has no doubts that he will put his life on the line to keep her safe.

My heart really goes out to Dev it isn't hard to relate to her and how she feels. Sloan might not want love but he is about to find out it is going to hit him in the face. I just adore him with his protectiveness giving her a place to run and call home with wonderful people who she calls friends. I really like the characters in this slow moving romance that really touches your heart. I thought this was a well written story that the author really put a lot of thought to the outcome and how one would feel if in this issue. I have not read anything from this series but I think I will be going back to check it out. Although this is a standalone it does make you want to go back and read the others in this series. If you are looking for a wonderful western with some suspense this is the story for you.

Kari says

Out Rider is the eleventh book in the Jackson Hole Series. The thing that I do like about this series is that the stories can all be read as stand alone books. While other characters in the series show up, I have never felt like I was missing out. In Out Rider, Dev has transferred to Wyoming to work at the ranger station there. She is fleeing her stalker/attacker and trying to make a new life. A chance meeting with Sloan, a fellow ranger, makes her see that life might be better in the mountains after all.

I did enjoy this one. It's a really quick read and was entertaining. I liked the attraction between Sloan and Dev and that they both were cautious to jump into anything at first. I also loved Mouse and Bella. It's fun when dogs play a big role in a story and have personalities of their own. The "suspense" part of the story was kind of so-so as you get her stalker's perspective throughout the book so you know what's coming. But the last part of the book is definitely thrilling and had me on the edge of my seat.

There is one negative thing about the book, though. I did find the story a bit repetitive at times. I read an ARC, so maybe this issue is tightened up in the final edit. The reader is given the same information several times, often in the same chapter. For instance, how many times do I need to be reminded that bears and other animals in the wild view dogs as wolves? After reading that several times, I was waiting for one of the dogs to be attacked by a bear. It never happened, so why keep reminding me? There are others, but you get the idea.

Despite that one issue, I do recommend this one. It's a sweet romance with a bit of action in the mix. Pick it up and enjoy the story!

Beth says

this was a great story. Scary thinking about someone following you and not knowing what to do. Lucky for

her Sloan is there to help. Definitely recommend this book

Gale says

Along with this being a great story, it was fun to catch up with all the folks in Ms. McKenna's previous Jackson Hole, Wyoming books. Out Rider is about Dev (Devorah) McGuire and Sloan Rankin. Dev and Sloan have an immediate connection, although they let it sit on the back burner as they have just met. Just a tidbit about the story: Dev has just arrived in Jackson Hole to start a new job with the US Forest Service, where Sloan happens to work as well. They meet when Dev has a flat tire on her drive in to town and the story begins... Dev is being stalked and has much life-trauma to work thru before she can move on but Sloan has a way, not only with animals, but with this new special "gal" in his life. And it was fun to catch up with "Miss Gus" again – and she is up to her usual antics! Really good 'last' read to this series.

Marlene says

Originally published at Reading Reality

I picked up Out Rider because I enjoyed the previous book in this series, Night Hawk. But Night Hawk was book 10 in the Jackson Hole series, and Out Rider is book 11. While I didn't feel that I was missing anything in Night Hawk by not having read the rest of the series, Out Rider has a lot of very lovely involvement with previous couples and other characters in the series, and I did feel a bit left out.

I also had some mixed feelings about the plot, but not enough to keep me from enjoying the story.

The community near Jackson Hole is just outside Grand Teton National Park, and has featured Park Rangers before. Both the heroine Devorah McGuire, and the hero, Sloan Rankin, are Park Rangers with the U.S. Forest Service. But both of them are just slightly different from most of the Rangers.

Dev is a tracking specialist, aided and abetted by her beautiful yellow labrador, Bella. Sloan is the Rangers' farrier, shoeing and caring for all of the horses and mules used by the Park and its Rangers at Grand Teton and Yellowstone. Sloan has been at Grand Teton for about three years, after a disastrous marriage and divorce. Also after serving in Iraq as part of a partnership with his combat trained Belgian Malinois, the utterly inappropriately named Mouse.

When Dev and Sloan meet on the road heading for Jackson Hole, they have a lot in common. Both are ex-military (Dev was in the Marines), both are dog handlers, both are Rangers. But Dev has just arrived at Grand Teton for a fresh start, after she was attacked at her previous posting in the Great Smokies by another Ranger.

Dev is hoping that her change of venue will leave her stalker, now ex-Ranger Bart Gordon, as well as all the good-old-boys who ignored all of her warnings and defended her attacker, in her rearview mirror.

It turns out that she's left the good-old-boys, but not the stalker. Or there wouldn't be a story.

But first, Dev has the chance to settle into her new job, and to start shaking off the fear and mistrust left behind by not just the attack, but they way that all of the people who should have listened to her ignored her and failed her on every level. It's the story that we all fear, that a clever man will descend into abuse and

violence, but no one believes the woman because the guy is a friend. It's sad and sick but all too common.

Bart comes to Jackson Hole to get revenge on the woman who turned him in. And it's a revenge that he does not intend for Dev to survive. But this time, both the Park and the law have her back, and the hunter becomes the hunted much, much faster than he planned on.

Dev has finally found a new life worth living for, if she can just manage to survive the shadows from her old life.

Escape Rating B-: The romance in Out Rider is a slow burn, and that's as it should be. At the beginning of the story, Sloan is just thinking that he might be ready to stick his toe into dating again, but he isn't interested in getting into a long-term relationship. He's still very gun-shy after his disastrous marriage.

Dev is in an even worse case than Sloan. The attack by her stalker is barely six months in the past, and it has shaken her faith in men and in her own judgement very badly. Perhaps a bit too badly.

Dev keeps beating herself up that she didn't see just how twisted her stalker was before he finally attacked her. The depth of her questioning her own judgement seems a bit too much. She was not dating the bastard. She recognized very early on that something wasn't quite right about the guy, and avoided him as much as possible. She reported his behavior to their supervisor, and to the police, who both did nothing except laugh it off and blame her for overreacting. But her judgement was spot on from the very beginning. The system failed her, but she did not fail herself. And when push came very much to shove, she rescued herself as well, and pursued charges. That the bastard got a slap on the wrist is on the system that protected him and not on her.

I realize that it is easy to rationalize in this situation, but it still felt that the depth of her self-doubt would have felt more congruent if she had dated the guy, which she intelligently did not.

And as much as I liked Dev, the whole side business of her being an empath of some kind did not fit in with the story, except as a way to make her suffer even more. I do enjoy a bit of paranormal woo-woo in my stories, but it didn't feel right here. Your esper rating may vary.

Sloan is almost too good to be true. Not that that's a bad thing in a romantic hero.

The characters that stand out the most in this story, and always steal the scene, are the animals, especially the dogs Bella and Mouse. Bella is such a sweetheart, while still being Dev's first and fiercest protector. And Mouse, well, Mouse helps to save the day.

But in the end, Dev rescues herself. And that was the best way to bring this adventure to a heartwarming conclusion.

Samantha says

Summary from Goodreads:

"A fresh start—that's all Devorah McGuire wants. As a former Marine and current Ranger with the US Forest Service, she's grown accustomed to keeping others safe. But when the unthinkable happens, she can only hope that a transfer to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, will allow her to put the past behind her for good.

Dev's mentor at Grand Tetons National Park is fellow canine handler and horseman Sloan Rankin. He shows Dev the spectacular trails, never knowing the terror that stalks her every move. Despite her lingering fear, Dev feels an attraction for Sloan as wild as their surroundings.

With Sloan, Dev can envision a new life—a real home. Unless a vengeful man fresh out of prison succeeds in finishing what he started..."

My Thoughts:

With all of the mysteries and thrillers that I've been reading lately, a romance was the perfect change of pace for me. I eagerly picked up my copy of this book as I've read one other book by this author that I enjoyed awhile back. Now I've only read two books so far by this author but both featured romance and the military which is something that I always seem to enjoy in my books. This book was set in Montana and both main characters had served time in the military which I found very intriguing. Especially because both Dev and Sloan were dealing with the after effects of having PTSD from their time in service. It was just one of those small connections that combined to really make their relationship believable for me as the reader. Speaking of their relationship, this was one of those books that I love when it comes to the building of a relationship. They didn't just fall in love with each other despite the fact that they had an instant connection or attraction. This was more of a friends to lovers story in a way even though they had just met at the very beginning of the book. There were tons of factors and obstacles that led to them holding off on their feelings for one another but I really just appreciated that it came across more naturally than many other books. In fact, I was almost impatient at points because I was so ready for them to take that next step. LOL! The wait was worth it though and I feel like I enjoyed this book more because of it.

The story line featured the fact that Dev had a stalker where she previously lived (not really a spoiler since it is mentioned in the summary). The author goes into detail in what Dev previously went through which wasn't always easy to read at times so I thought I better throw that out there. It might just be me but reading about stalkers always gives me the heeby jeeby's. It sure did add a layer of suspense to this book and especially to the ending! I got to a certain point near the end and just wasn't able to set this book down. It was really intense but I loved the way that the author wrapped everything up! I also really, really loved the way that the author described Wyoming. I've never been but from the descriptions I could just picture everything in my head. I love when I am able to visualize a place that I've never been to while reading. It just adds to the reading experience for me! My one and only complaint with this book was that it felt repetitive at times. I felt like there were certain things that were brought up over and over again. It might just have been me though as sometimes I prefer more showing rather than telling. All in all though, this was an enjoyable reading experience that made me glad to have read this author again.

Overall, I found this book to be a solid romance that was the perfect change of pace to everything else that I have been reading. I'm curious to check out this author's other books because I believe that some of them might be loosely connected to this one (I'm guessing here on this). Like maybe some of the other characters that were in this book have their own books? A girl can hope! This was a quiet romance with an explosive finish- that is the best way that I can describe it. I would recommend it to other romance readers easily. Recommended!

Bottom Line: Another enjoyable read by this author!

Disclosure: I received a copy of this book thanks to the publisher and NetGalley as part of a TLC book tour.

Catherine (The Sassy Bookster) says

I wasn't sure what to expect when I started reading this book, but OUT RIDER was sweet, tender and packed an unexpected emotional punch. I especially loved how perceptive Sloan was when it came to Dev and how gentle he was with her.

A burst tire is what brings Dev McGuire and Sloan Rankin's lives in alignment but it is their immediate connection and shared interests that will keep them together and heal them. Dev moved almost half way across the country to avoid a former co-worker who stalked and assaulted her and Sloan still bears the bruises from his failed marriage, so it's understandable that both of them are wary about exploring this connection between them.

Dev has been dealt a bad hand for most of her life and let down at almost every turn by the men in her life, from her father to her superiors at work, so she really has no high expectations that Sloan will be different. She just wants to be left in peace so she can heal and begin to feel comfortable in her skin again, but it will take a hard heart to resist her appeal and the urge to protect her and Sloan is definitely a soft touch. When her stalker follows her across the country, will she be able to count on Sloan? Or will she be left to twist in the wind again?

OUT RIDER is a slow building romance that focuses mostly on the growing feelings between Sloan and Dev and how he took his role as her protector very seriously. I also love how he surrounded her with people that cared and gave her a place to belong and the family she had always wanted. I'm not much of an animal lover but I really enjoyed how Ms. McKenna made their working dogs an integral part of their story and brought the beauty of the Grand Tetons to life for readers.

I haven't read many of the previous books in this series but this one stands alone and there is no difficulty following along and I'll definitely recommend this to anyone who loves a good western romance.

Disclaimer: I received this book for free from the Publisher in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

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Susan says

Lovely conclusion to the series. I am really going to miss all the characters I've gotten to know over the last several years. In this one, the romance is sweet and gentle, and the suspense builds to an intense confrontation.

Dev has moved across the country for a fresh start. In her previous posting she was stalked and assaulted by a coworker. One of the effects of the attack was to aggravate her PTSD from her time in the Marines, and she hopes that the move will allow her to get past it. Sloan has a failed marriage in his past that makes him reluctant to risk his heart again. A blown tire on her horse trailer brings Dev and Sloan together, as he stops

to help her change it. They quickly discover that they will be coworkers, and Sloan offers to lead her to where she'll stable her horse and then to her apartment complex. There is an immediate connection between them, though both are wary of pursuing it thanks to their pasts.

I loved seeing the relationship develop between Dev and Sloan. Dev doesn't trust men at all. Her father was an alcoholic who neglected and emotionally abused her. Then the men who should have helped her after the attack instead took the side of her attacker. She isn't sure, at first, that Sloan isn't another just like them. They first began as friends, as Sloan was assigned to mentor her as she got to know the ins and outs of the park. She quickly discovered that just being around him calmed her spirit. As Sloan got to know her, he saw the woman under the fears. I loved his patience and kindness as she opens up to him about her experiences. Though he is very attracted to her, he doesn't push and waits for her to be ready to move further in their growing relationship. It was really sweet to see the way that he included her in his friendships with Miss Iris and Miss Gus, giving her a family type relationship unlike anything she had experienced before. Sloan also understands the strength of her empathy to others' emotions, and is able to help her understand. It was interesting to see how Dev soaked up the peace that surrounded Sloan and how it helped her heal. I really liked that they didn't rush their relationship, letting it grow at a slower pace. The intensity of their feelings grew when the danger that threatened Dev got closer to home. Sloan's protectiveness and inner warrior stepped up to ensure that Dev was safe. I liked the way that Sloan was able to accept his feelings and had the courage to share them with her first. Dev is still cautious about trusting her own feelings, and it takes a crisis for her to take that final step toward her future.

The suspense of the story was really good. Seeing Dev start to settle in and relax in her new surroundings made the shock of Bart's reappearance that much greater. Her recounting of what happened was vivid and it was easy to feel her fear. Having that followed by Bart's version of the events, and also seeing what his plans are, increased the anticipation of what was going to happen. The intensity increased as he became bolder, and the invasion of her apartment was definitely scary. I liked Sloan's support of her, and that this time law enforcement reacted properly. The final confrontation was nerve-wracking. I liked seeing Dev having reacquired the strength of will to defend herself. The pursuit through the forest was exciting and kept me on the edge of my seat until it was all over.

The best secondary characters were the two dogs: Dev's lab Bella, and Sloan's Belgian Malamois with the unlikely name of Mouse. Both are former combat dogs who have new missions. I loved their relationships with Dev and Sloan, especially the way that they sensed their emotions. I adored Mouse and his awesome tracking skills.

I loved seeing characters from earlier books. From Cade's essential help in identifying and then pursuing Bart, to the ranch families and their obvious love for Sloan and then Dev, it brought back fond memories of their stories. I loved the surprise for Dev that they had colluded on, and then the bigger surprise that Sloan had for her. I am truly going to miss these folks.

Jan Kaplan says

Lindsay McKenna is a dream to read! Out Rider is the final book in the Wyoming Series, bringing back all the wonderful people in Jackson Hole, who we've come to love through these glorious stories. Iris Mason and Miss Gus come alive through these pages and make us wish we could be part of their families.

Ms. McKenna skillfully and beautifully builds relationships like a master architect, using the finest of tools. When Devorah (Dev) McGuire relocates to Jackson Hole, Wyoming to work as a Forest Ranger, due to a traumatic situation at her last post thousands of miles away, she can't possibly envision what her future will

be like. To add to this stress, she is still suffering from PTSD as a result of her tours in Afghanistan.

When she meets Sloan Rankin, fellow canine handler and horseman, who will be mentoring her at Grand Tetons National Park, something powerful clicks between them. Sloan has a warrior spirit, yet his gentleness soothes her, giving her just what she needs at first, care and nurturing. With Dev's highly sensitive nature, coupled with her trained ex-combat golden lab, she has an eerie sense that something is not right.

Ms. McKenna brings us the grand beauty of the Tetons right into our hearts, as we wind around the Snake River on horseback, astonished at the magnificence that abounds. Mystery, Suspense, Passion and Love ~ what more can one look for in a book ~ right?

Kudos, again!

Andrea Guy says

Its been awhile since I read an outdoorsy type story, and even longer since I've read romantic suspense.

I've read Lindsay McKenna before, back when she wrote for Silhouette and Harlequin. I enjoyed her books and I enjoyed Out Rider.

Sloan and Dev are two strong characters. Both are ex military and I found that really interesting and exciting. That put Dev at a totally different level from most romance novel. She's also the character with the most baggage both with her family and her personal life. She was assaulted in her past job as a ranger and she is suffering PTSD. Yes, Dev, not Sloan.

I know its strange, but I liked that the heroine is truly fractured and that though Sloan is strong man, he's more gentle and nurturing which are traits you usually find in the heroine. He really is a perfect guy. He's almost too perfect at times. There's really no conflict between Dev and Sloan in this story.

McKenna builds the romance between the two slowly, which is really how it should be considering Dev's background. It would have seemed strange if they would have gotten involved too quickly. So I give the author props for keeping it real. The most explosive scene between the two comes almost at the very end. (Climatic sex so to speak, pun intended)

The suspense part involves a stalker, and we get to see that through the stalker's eyes. That's the only part of the book that was a bit predictable, though it did give you some edge of your seat moments at the end.

I had a bit of a problem at the beginning with the author reminding us how Dev was unsure of trusting Sloan, even though she was attracted to him. This came up quite a bit in the first few chapters and it was a bit distracting and unnecessary.

Overall, this was a great read, and I will have to go back and find some more books about Jackson Hole. (This book is 11 in a series)

Heather says

Out Rider is the eleventh installment in the *Jackson Hole, Wyoming* series featuring former military

members in a western setting. This is the second book in this series that I've read, and I was instantly at home with these characters. The book was written as a standalone, just featuring a new set of main characters with some recurring secondary characters that span all of books. This installment wasn't as heavy on the military aspects as the previous book since both of the main characters were pretty settled after their military careers were over, but the parts about Dev's deployments were enjoyable to read as we got to learn more about her and her life before she became a civilian again. *Out Rider* wasn't very ranch or country living heavy either since these characters worked for the forest service; instead, we were treated to many wonderful descriptions of the beautiful mountains, trails, and forests in the national parks in Wyoming.

Dev McGuire is still skittish from an attack by a coworker-turned-stalker at her former park service assignment across the country, and she thinks she'll never be able to trust a man again. While the different scenery and the change of post bring new responsibilities and new dangers for her and her rescue dog Bella at Grand Tetons National Park, she can't help but be drawn to fellow park ranger Sloan Rankin. He's calm, collected, and a great listener—all the things that the men in her life have never been. Just when her life seems to be getting back on track and she's feeling great, her stalker gets out of jail and comes for her—disrupting her calm new budding relationship and life with Sloan.

Sloan is a park ranger and farrier for the park service and the local ranches, but he was also in the Army and was able to keep his combat assault dog when his enlistment was over. Strong and protective, Sloan is drawn to Dev from the start, especially since they both have combat dogs (Dev has a bomb and IUD sniffing dog). But he senses that something else is going on with Dev, and he slowly befriends her and she opens up about her stalker and the fear that he's still out to get her.

Dev and Sloan's relationship develops as a friendship first, and once things get tense, things become much more serious. Dev and Sloan are both very likeable characters, and their dogs are very present as secondary characters that play big parts in the story. Miss Gus and her family, along with Talon Holt, his wife, and mother make appearances, and Sheriff Cade Garner and Dr. Jordana McPherson are significant players in this installment.

I give *Out Rider* a four out of five. I love how easy it is to jump right into these books and feel like you live there with the characters. The country, mountainous setting was beautifully described, and the author really knows her horses and wildlife. Little things interweave between the books, but you can easily enjoy the books individually with no problem. This isn't the typical weak-woman-needs-saving-by-the-strong-man book, which was really refreshing. Dev definitely was a strong, likeable character who took Sloan's help when she needed it. A great romantic suspense with awesome characters and great scenery. I'm definitely a fan of this series!

(Also on Bewitched Bookworms. Book received for free in exchange for honest review for book tour.)
