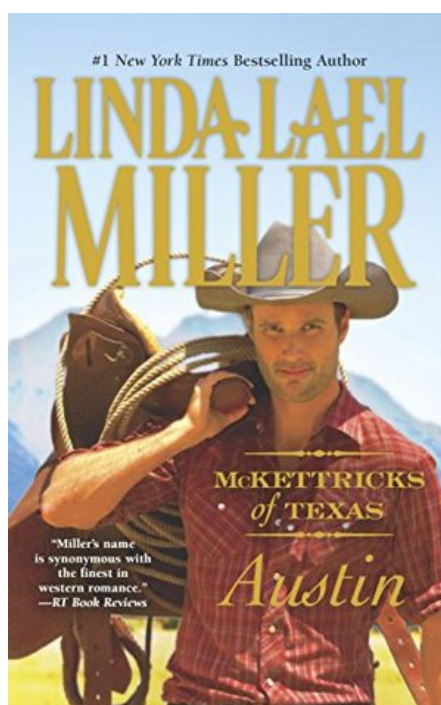




Austin

Linda Lael Miller

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Austin

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Austin Linda Lael Miller

#1 New York Times bestseller Linda Lael Miller brings you the next installment in her unforgettable McKettricks of Texas series. The three McKettrick brothers meet their matches in the three Remington sisters, and now it's Austin's turn...

World champion rodeo star Austin McKettrick finally got bested by an angry bull. With his career over and his love life a mess, the lone maverick has nowhere to go when the hospital releases him...except back home to Blue River and the Silver Spur ranch. But his overachieving brothers won't allow this cowboy to brood in peace. They've even hired a nurse to speed his recovery. Paige Remington's bossy brand of TLC is driving him crazy. Not to mention her beautiful face, sexy figure and silky black hair.

Paige has lost count of the number of times Austin has tried to fire her. She's not going anywhere till he's healed--body and heart.

Austin Details

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From Reader Review Austin for online ebook

Tonya Warner says

An excellent finish to this trilogy about a branch of McKetricks of Texas.

Paige Remington has always tried to play catch-up to her two older sisters. Now having to deal with the sisters' weddings on New Years Eve, she is thrown in to turmoil by having to deal with her ex-love-of-her-life, Austin McKetrick.

Austin is also the baby of the family, and could never quite shake the feeling of being treated like he was still wet behind the ears, even though the age difference was one and two years. His older brothers marring two of the Remington sisters, made him aware that he would be seeing Paige for the next fifty or so years, and that he needed to get past the pain he had caused her, cheating on her and letting her catch him at it, because he couldn't tell her he wasn't mature enough for a lifetime commitment.

Paige has grown a lot since Austin broke her heart. She had changed, but so has he. Can they each let go of the pains of the past and build a future?

Maria says

Somehow this book just didn't flow well. I guess it was having so many different characters interacting with each other and not much of it making a lot of sense. I picked it up because of the ad which said an injured man gets stuck with a nurse he doesn't want, which sounded like a great idea for a book, but this was very disappointing. There was little nursing involved, and I really hate books that make light of injuries and have the people who are injured practically go on with their lives as if there was no pain and no problem. That's not the way it works, folks.

Kelly Moran says

New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Linda Lael Miller has penned more than eighty novels in historical and contemporary romance. Born in Washington, she writes about her love of the West. Other titles in this series include: Tate and Garrett.

World champion rodeo star Austin McKetrick's career is now over after a serious injury from an angry bull. When the hospital releases him and he finally returns home to Blue River on the Silver Spur Ranch, his brothers won't let him wallow in misery. They hire a private duty nurse to keep him in line and speed his recovery. The worst part is Paige Remington shares a history with Austin, and she never got over Austin's betrayal that broke them up ten years before. Can these two keep from killing each other long enough to realize they are meant to be together?

This is the last book in the McKettrick's of Texas series, with Tate and Garrett coming before. This is also an extension of The McKettrick's series, including, A McKettrick's Christmas.

I have always admired this author's ability to write about the West and her surroundings. With ease, she pulls you into every scene with all five senses running on overdrive. This was no exception. Though romance is the heat of her stories, there is much more to admire about setting, family, and home. I found this to be a stellar completion to this series, and I'm almost sad to see it end. Incorporating the other two brothers into this tale, along with their forever after in the epilogue, made for a heart-warming end. Fans of Linda Lael Miller won't be let down.

Kelly Moran,
author of SUMMER'S ROAD
and WHEN THE LEAVES STOP FALLING

Shirlene says

Tate McKettrick had twins, Audrey & Ava. He was engaged to Libby Remington. Garrett McKettrick was engaged to Julie Remington who had a 5 yr old son, Calvin. Austin McKettrick had broken up with the youngest of the Remington sisters, Paige, 10 years previous. Austin & Paige had fallen in love during high school but things were moving too fast for Austin so he made sure that Paige caught him cheating so they would break up. She didn't know it had been planned. Paige went away to nursing school and Austin rode the rodeo circuit. He had been badly hurt when he was tossed off the bull, Buzzsaw. He wanted to prove something to himself and went back one more time and made it through the 8 seconds. Tate and Garrett found out what he had done and went to get him. He had a herniated disc and was in intense pain when they arrived. They took him to the hospital mostly unconscious and they were told that he was through riding bulls and had to take it really easy for a while. They took him back home. The McKettrick's parents, Jim & Sally, had died in a car accident a month after Austin & Paige broke up. The Remington's father had died of cancer. Each of them had attended the other's parents funeral. Paige was currently between jobs and staying at the McKettrick ranch while her sisters were planning their weddings. Paige was doing what she could to help out with Calvin and Tate asked her if she could keep an eye on Austin. He told her that she would be compensated for her time as a nurse and told her about his back problem. She was still attracted to him and having a hard time being around him due to the memories of the past. Tate brought home a mistreated horse called Molly and Austin was caring for it. The vet's son, Cliff, came with them to the ranch to check on Molly. Cliff and Jim had been friends when they were younger but something happened and their friendship changed. He hadn't been around for a while. The brothers got to talking and Austin was told that someone was stealing and killing their cattle. Austin was upset that he hadn't been told and that his brothers didn't think he cared about the ranch. Austin was in his house when he saw a light near where his family had oil wells. He rode out alone to check and see what was going on. He was driving and heard a crash but there was no impact. He had been shot. Shep, his dog, was with him and he went home with blood on him. He woke up the brothers and they went looking for Austin and found him with Shep's help. The brother's were really concerned now and decided to hire some security guards. Paige was needed now that Austin had been shot. It wasn't long before another night fell and Shep was disturbed by something outside. He ran out and was attacked by a large dog. Austin heard the noise and didn't know what was attacking Shep but he shot it. The dog happened to belong to one of their ranch hands, Reese. He was angry at Austin for killing his dog. The vet was called and Cliff was still hanging around. The vet told the McKettricks that the dog had needed

to be put down. He made it sound like the dog had been locked up and gotten loose after not being treated well. They didn't know until some time later that the dog belonged to Reese. Reese had kept it hidden somewhere. Reese told Austin one day when he was in the barn with Molly after Austin had to tell him that smoking wasn't allowed in the barn. Something about Reese bothered Paige and Shep growled around him too.

Paige and Austin grew closer together while she was watching over him. Austin explained to her that he had purposely caused their breakup when they were younger because things were going too fast. He had gotten scared. He realized now that he had handled it badly but he was an adult now and not a boy. He was still in love with Paige but didn't tell her because he didn't want to scare her off. They were trying to work on a truce but Austin carried their togetherness a little farther with kissing her and touching her whenever the opportunity came up.

Austin asked her to go riding with him one morning and Paige ended up getting thrown off her horse and broke her ankle. Austin was jealous of the new doctor in town whom Paige would most likely be working with when the new clinic in town opened. He set Paige's leg and sent her home. He came by the house a couple of days later and Austin about their relationship and he told the doctor that he would have to ask Paige where they stood. Her injury was another opportunity for Austin to sleep in the same bed with Paige because with his bad back and her broken ankle neither could handle going up the stairs. She tried to tell Austin that he could sleep in her nephew's room but Austin refused to leave her side.

The two of them continued to grow closer and Libby came to her and told her that she was pregnant. Libby was upset but the two sisters told her that she wouldn't be showing when they married on New Year's Eve and the double wedding could continue. The sisters continued to tease Paige about what dress she would be wearing as their bridesmaid. Paige found herself crying over everything these days. She knew that being around Austin was putting her on an emotional roller coaster but she didn't share with her sisters what she was going through.

The sisters came to Paige and told her that Austin's brothers were protecting the property themselves and not including Austin in what was going on in regard to the oil wells and the slaughtering of the cattle. Austin overheard the conversation and went to confront his brothers. They apologized and were talking at the oil wells about someone trying to uncap the wells when Tate received a phone call from Libby.

Paige had seen Reese looking around like he was checking to make sure no one was watching and he went into the barn. Paige followed him and caught him smoking. She told him to put out his lighter and that smoking wasn't allowed. He told her how much he hated the brothers and that should the barn catch on fire, he didn't care because Austin had killed his dog. He then made a comment about having sex with Paige and she realized that she had nothing to defend herself with and she was concerned. Libby had come to the barn and had a rifle with her. She told Reese to get off their property and that he was fired. She wasn't certain that she could shoot him but then the foreman showed up and Libby told him to get Reese off their property and he took care of it.

Paige and Austin decided to take their relationship further and they began sleeping together. Paige knew she wanted it and she began to trust that Austin was ready for a more permanent relationship. He had proven that he had compassion with the care he was showing to Shep and the horse, Molly.

It was about a week later that Austin asked Paige to marry him and she said, 'Yes'. They were walking back into the house when there was a loud explosion. The brothers got in their vehicles and headed to the oil wells.

Austin got there first and found Cliff burned. He was dragging Reese but Reese was dead. The others arrived and called an ambulance. The sheriff arrived and Cliff admitted to setting the wells on fire. He had done it to get back at the McKettrick's for their father shutting in the wells. Cliff had made millions marketing the gas and their father had shut the wells in for environmental reasons. The boys never questioned his decision. Cliff told the brothers that he had obligations and resented being cut off.

Cliff was told that Reese was dead and he told them that Reese was his stepson. Cliff had a heart attack while in jail and died very early in the morning. The sheriff called his father and asked him to tell the McKettricks that he wouldn't be out that morning to check on Shep and Molly.

They all went to bed then and in the morning Austin had the engagement ring that he had intended to give Paige the night before. He asked her again if she would still marry him and she hadn't changed her mind.

Paige couldn't believe that there was any doubt about her answer to that question. All three sisters were married to the three McKettrick brothers just before the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve that year. Paige got her cast off 2 weeks before the ceremony and Libby was not yet showing. The wedding went off without a hitch.

Willow Brook says

Final installment in the series with the third McKettrick brother, Austin, at a crossroads in his life as were his brothers in their stories. Austin is young (28) but beat up by 10 years on the rodeo circuit and a couple nearly fatal injuries. Paige is his high school sweetheart and the sister of his brothers' fiancées'. Yes, three brothers and three sisters all falling in love at the same time. Stretches the imagination but it's a nice enough scenario to go along with for a few hours as a reader.

Austin broke up with Paige in an extremely cruel way back when they were 18, but he has never really gotten over her who likewise hasn't gotten over him. She is hanging around the McKettrick ranch, helping out with child care for her sister's son while her house is being remodeled. Austins' brothers ask Paige, a RN, to be his private nurse, which also stretched the imagination but there were moments he needed care and assistance. So they are thrown together and must sort out their conflicted feelings and growing attraction for each other.

The rustler sub-plot continues in this book, as well as concern that vandals are intent on starting oil well fires on the ranch. As in Garret's story, this was an interesting aspect of the story and it comes to a dramatic conclusion at the end of Austin's book. A lot happens in the book with frequent moments of danger and crisis.

Eventually Austin and Paige make their peace over the past. Austin did seem to regret the way he treated her 10 years earlier and his behavior though terrible, could be the kind of thing an immature 18 year old boy would do. In addition to his guilt over his behavior towards Paige, Austin also needed to come to terms with what he felt was his role in events that lead to his parents' deaths shortly after his break-up. In fact, his parents died in an accident that couldn't possibly been foreseen and certainly wasn't his fault, but his continued grief and remorse were very human. He definitely was not the idiot child he had been ten years earlier, so Paige's forgiveness (which understandably came slowly) was believable.

Paige was definitely the sister of Julie (second book's heroine) with the same soppiness and constant tearing up, burning eyes, and outright crying over sad thoughts, happy thoughts, everything is changing thoughts, etc. Not that she didn't have cause for some of the weepiness and I'm a big believer in crying getting rid of stress hormones, but with both women it happened so often that I couldn't help but think a mild anti-depressant might be in order. I was also slightly distracted by how quickly Austin moved past some very significant injuries and was back to normal, even if McKettricks were known for their healing abilities.

Otherwise, this was very enjoyable book, one I was always eager to return to reading and my favorite in the McKettricks of Texas series.

Laurel says

This is why you shouldn't quit reading an author just because you didn't like one of their books. I really disliked the previous book, but because this one came in the mail, I started reading it. The writing was so

markedly improved, I was surprised it was the same author. She added humor, improved characterization, pacing was really good, a climax I didn't see, although I could see who dunnit from miles away. She doesn't write children well at all, but this book had less kid content so it wasn't so bad. All in all, it was a pleasant read.

Dawn ♥ romance says

I kept falling asleep reading this trite and predictable story. Basically the characters fought against recuperating when they were hurt. They didn't address the conflict in their relationship until halfway in the book. All the hero wanted to do was have sex. Bull rider Austin returns home when he is hurt and his brothers hire nurse Paige to help him heal.

Laura Summers says

Reviewed for www.bookchickcity.com (5 out of 10 on the blog)

I'm in two minds about this book. At the heart of it is a warm & enjoyable love story. But surrounding the story itself were a lot of circumstances that I struggled with.

This book is the thirteenth book in a series about the McKettrick family and within that series the third of a trilogy. The previous two books told the love stories of Austin's brothers Tate and Garrett. I picked up this book knowing I had not read any of the other books in the series, while there were inevitably parts I'd missed out on, I found it easy to pick up.

Austin is an arrogant and sexy rodeo star, but an accident has left his back permanently damaged & he can never ride again. The book opens up with Austin getting drunk in a bar before his two brothers come to rescue him and take him home to the family ranch to recuperate. But things aren't all that they seem at the ranch with cattle going missing and vandalism on the oil rigs. Austin finds himself in danger as he and his brothers try to find to get to bottom of their troubles.

This is where it gets slightly complicated. Tate and Garrett are both engaged to Libby and Julie who are also sisters and their third sister Paige is staying with them while her house is being renovated. Paige is temporarily out of work and also conveniently happens to be a nurse. So Tate and Garrett decide it will be a good idea to hire to help look after Austin. But, to add more complexity to the mix it turns out that Paige and Austin dated seriously in high school before Austin devastatingly broke her heart.

I really had to work at suspending my disbelief at the idea of three brothers falling in love with three sisters. But I tried to put it to the back of my mind and simply enjoy the love story.

Then there were the circumstances of Paige and Austin's past. They had both been very much in love. But, Austin unable to cope with the seriousness of the relationship cheated on Paige, as he didn't know how to tell her what he was feeling. As the book progresses it is very much put upon Paige to get over her past as though the resentment she carries towards Austin is unreasonable. That Austin did the best he could in the circumstances, given their young age & the fact she wanted too much, too fast from the relationship.

Quote:

"I didn't know any other way to save either one of us."

I struggled to accept this as a legitimate excuse.

Thirdly was the mystery of the vandalism and violence occurring on the ranch. It added a nice edge of danger to the story which I enjoyed, but I didn't feel that the author went to any great lengths to conceal who the culprit was. When the finale came it was no real surprise as to who was responsible, there was no twist or turn or element of surprise which was disappointing.

Despite all this, if you could disregard the circumstances and the un-mysterious mystery, there was an enjoyable and engaging love story. Austin is charismatic, smouldering with a nice dash of pig-headedness that makes for a great hero. While Paige is intelligent, confident and the type of heroine I would normally engage with.

VERDICT:

It could be that I would have enjoyed the book a lot more if I had read the previous two books in the trilogy. Maybe I would have identified better with the McKettrick family & characters. The love story was well written & enjoyable, but there were too many things wrong with the story to make it run smoothly. I have read other books by Linda Lael Miller and thoroughly enjoyed them, but this one unfortunately did not live up to those standards.

Jennifer says

This book has plenty of cheese to go with the constant whine coming from the hero and heroine.

Jamie - Nitty Gritty Reviews says

I've just got done reading this final book in the McKettricks of Texas series and I LOVED it! Austin is your typical rodeo cowboy....thinks he's 10 feet tall and bulletproof....well it's not very far into the book before that attitude gets cut down to size. He's almost been killed once by a bull but since coming home after this last mishap it seems that the McKettrick "boys" have big ole bulls eyes painted on them.

In comes Paige Remington, a currently unemployed RN, who is living at the Silver Spur while renovations are being done at the home that she grew up in. Then Austin comes home and that right there brings their past relationship to the surface. And let's just say that their last relationship did NOT end on good terms.

Then Austin gets hurt a second time and Paige is sort of feels obligated to be Austin's nurse, while trying to make peace with him as well. Considering Paige's sisters are marrying Austin's brothers. Peace is NOT an easy thing for these two to achieve that much I will say. Though in the end it is definitely achieved.

The only "gripe" I have about the book and it really is a small "gripe" is that I think the "bad guys" were a little too obvious. That's it. That's the only "gripe" I have with the book.

jenjn79 says

This one was by far my favorite of the McKettricks of Texas trilogy. The story had a lot more meat and

intensity to it than the others. Which made it much more interesting to read.

Series Note:

I'd recommend reading this trilogy (the three McKetricks of Texas books) in order. But you don't have to read the other McKetricks books to read this trilogy.

Summary:

Due to back problems, Austin McKetrick's career in the rodeo is over. So he returns home to heal...and is more than a little annoyed to find out his brothers have hired nurse Paige Remington to be his "babysitter" to make sure he takes it easy. He and Paige have a messy past full of broken hearts. But neither has forgotten the other.

As Paige spends more and more time with Austin, her feelings for him can't help but return. And with her two sisters fluttering around preparing for their weddings to Austin's two brothers...well, it's got a girl thinking crazy thoughts. But first, she'll have to convince Austin he's ready for family life...unlike when he broke her heart all those years ago.

Review:

I liked the first two books of this trilogy, but they were just missing something to keep me from really liking them. I thought this book had that missing element. There was a lot more intensity and bite to this story. Made it more readable and interesting.

Some of that may be because of the build up to Paige and Austin's story. Miller has been setting it up since the first book in the trilogy so there's a lot of anticipation waiting to see what would happen between these two. But even so, something about these two was just more intense than the other two couples. The chemistry was stronger, the antagonism, the push/pull between them. It made me want to read more whereas the other two books were a little softer.

Plus, there was a stronger storyline in this book as well. The other two books came across too mundane for me. Just not enough going on. But in this one, the trilogy-wide plot over rustling at the ranch and someone having it out for the McKetricks comes to a head and it led to some really tense moments. The whole aspect of the book kept things moving and added some snap to the story. Unlike the other two books, I didn't feel like I was reading a bunch of every day events.

Those two aspects of the book made it so much better than the others. But it wasn't perfect. I did wish that Paige and Austin had spent a little more time talking about the mistakes of the past and putting them behind them. And also, I had a little issue with trilogy continuity in one area. In the last book, Tate was talking about walking away from the ranch if his brothers didn't help out more and it was a big thing and I'm not sure it even got mentioned once in this book. That seemed off to me. So that could have been done better.

On the whole, though, I liked this one. It's a solid contemporary romance. And the trilogy is good as well. Probably not a favorite of mine, but it was worth reading.

Cindi says

Liked this whole series on the McKetricks. Miller writes about very likeable people and I like reading a series because they all come back in the books

Emily says

When they were young, Austin McKettrick and Paige Remington fell in love. Even though Austin knew Paige had captured his heart and soul, he was not ready for the next step and publicly set up a reason for Paige to dump him. Years later Austin is a broken down rodeo star, whose body has had enough, returning to McKettrick's ranch to heal and figure out his next step in life, he had not planned to be sharing his home with Paige who was staying there temporarily. What is worth, his body needs to heal and his brothers have hired Paige to help him do that, but time has not healed old wounds and Paige is not willing to fall for Austin's charming ways again.

This was the third in the McKettrick series and my least favorite. I just could not move past how Austin treated Paige and often questioned his motives. Paige was not all together likeable either, had a good premise but fell short for me.

Laura says

4 1/2 stars

This is the 3rd in the Texas McKettricks series. Austin is the youngest brother and his past with the youngest Remington, Paige, is finally catching up with him. Now that his brothers are marrying her sisters, they have to find a way to get along. The only problem is they both seem to be way too attracted to the other, but they know acting on it will be a problem since they will have to be around each other for holidays and other family get-together for the next fifty years.

The other two books have been building up to this one. Paige and Austin have been mentioned repeatedly and it is obvious that they have some kind of history together. I liked the previous two books, but I've really been looking forward to this one. I was concerned that I might be disappointed, but gratefully, I was not. Of the three brothers, I loved Austin the most. Plus, Paige was the smartest of the three. Maybe it is because I am a youngest child like both of them, but both of their characters were more easily liked than any of the others.

The story moved along at a good pace and I hated to put the book down when it was time for bed. The romance was a good build up and the story seemed plausible. I liked that the rustling storyline continued in this book, but it wasn't left hanging in the other books, so even had I not read this book, I would not have felt like I missed something.

This was a good ending for the three brothers, but I would love to read more about Blue River. There is so much more to the town and it would be nice to get to know more of the residents--especially Chief Brent Brogan (aka Denzel).

I recommend reading the first two books about Tate and Garrett before reading this one because it will enhance the story. I think the reader would still get into the story, but too many things are carried over from the previous two books.

I received this book from netgalley.com to review

Sandy M says

Austin

29 Jun 10

Austin almost trumped Garrett in the favorite category. He's the rodeo bull rider who was quite seriously injured in Tate, and he's determined to again ride the bull that bested him. It turns out it wasn't the best idea he's had when he ends up with a hernia that knocks him off his feet for a bit. With his devil-may-care attitude and endless restlessness, he finds being nursed by the youngest Remington sister both heaven and hell, especially because they had something going a while back and he messed it up big time.

Paige wants to avoid Austin as much as possible, but since they're going to be family now, that's a little difficult to do. Then his older brothers ask her be the man's nurse after his bull-riding incident. Austin doesn't know when to or like to ask for help, so she's not keen on being his babysitter. But then again, maybe it will be worth it to rub the man the wrong way as much as she can, the way he's done her for years now. Thus, the balance of being off balance in each other's company equals out. Until they tumble into bed again.

His brothers are constantly trying to shield him in every aspect of his life just because he's the baby of the family. But Austin's had enough. Of course, he's just like them, so he runs headlong into danger and ends up injured again when the cattle rustling part of the story escalates even more. It's his relationship with Paige he's determined to keep them out of any which way he can. And what a relationship it is. Their love scenes are the hottest of the trilogy for me. Enjoyed every one of them.

Learning he can give up the rodeo and make a life on the Silver Spur, Austin opens himself to his love for Paige, telling her his reasons for his behavior ten years in their past and hoping for true forgiveness to have a life with the woman he never stopped loving. Paige, however, is now able to leave at any time after receiving an unexpected financial boon. Maybe leaving is the easy way out, though. Does she have what it takes to stay to face the feelings she never lost for Austin.

See my complete review at <http://www.goodbadandunread.com>
