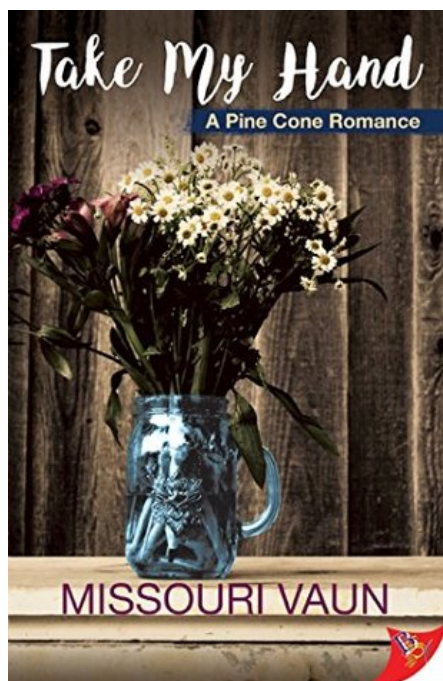




Take My Hand

Missouri Vaun

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Take My Hand

Missouri Vaun

Take My Hand Missouri Vaun

Artist Clay Cahill retreats to her hometown of Pine Cone, Georgia, when she's betrayed by a woman she thought cared and the pressure of the New York City art world becomes too much. Setting paints aside, she takes a job at her grandfather's garage seeking the restorative comfort of small town life where women are sweet and life flows as slow as molasses.

Manhattan art gallery owner River Hemsworth is preparing for a show when she's informed her aunt has bequeathed her a local gallery in Pine Cone, a place where the idea of fashion is anything with a Carhartt label. En route to review inventory and unload the property quickly, River wrecks her car and Clay comes to her rescue.

If River can convince Clay to start painting again, she may be able to pull off the show that will make her career and quench the desires she never expected to feel again.

Take My Hand Details

Date : Published June 12th 2018 by Bold Strokes Books (first published June 1st 2018)

ISBN :

Author : Missouri Vaun

Format : Kindle Edition

Genre : Romance, Glbt, Lesbian, Butch Femme, Contemporary, Lgbt

 [Download Take My Hand ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Take My Hand ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Take My Hand Missouri Vaun

From Reader Review Take My Hand for online ebook

Lexxi Kitty says

I received an ARC of this book from NetGalley and Bold Strokes Books in exchange for an honest review.

This book, the 20th work I've read by this author (9 using the Vaun name and 11 using the Braddock), is about Clay Cahill and River Hemsworth. Both of whom have a point of view in this book. Based off of a vague off-hand comment about a third party, there is a good chance both of the characters are near at or over 30 years of age (there was a comment about another character being 'near us in age, thirties' (hopefully I didn't misread that)).

The book opens with River doing what you aren't supposed to do – be on the phone and drive at the same time. And you know why you aren't supposed to do that? Well River found out first hand, when she nearly rear-ended some horses (in a horse trailer), swerved to avoid the truck, and slammed into a hair-saloon. And that's the introduction of the reader to River. That phone played a lot of key pivotal plot points in this book (seriously, first the accident, later a pivotal moment when the phone was left, unlocked, near another person as if they wanted that other person to read the phone (WTF was that about?)).

The second major character appeared when she wandered up to check on River. To provide help, and stuff. River, dazed as she was, still seemed to vaguely respond to the rather obvious (to those who knew her) flirtatious advances of . . . Dr. Trip. Dr. Trip was a major character but not the other main character.

Trip's advances were intercepted/stopped/redirected when another major character appeared on the scene. The quite attractive woman began asking River questions about the accident. I do not recall, now, if she also flirted, but it was obvious she was also a lesbian. This would also be a major but not main character. Grace the police officer.

By the time another lesbian was introduced (after several other women bounced around asking if River needed help), I was beginning to think two things: this small town in Georgia was filled entirely with women, and there was a good possibility that all of them were lesbians. I was wrong on both counts, but that's the impression the beginning gave me.

That 'another lesbian'? That'd be the tow-truck driver. Who River drooled over. Considering that River was kind of out of it, dazed, had literally slammed her head into her steering wheel, and had been given a drink that had more sugar in it than liquid, it's possible River did in fact literally drool. The tow-truck driver was Clay – the same Clay I already mentioned in the first paragraph as being the other main and point of view character.

Clay helps River – both with her car and to get her to her B'n'B (how is that worded again? I know its Bed and Breakfast, but I forget the little BnB short-cut). They seem to hit it off. Until River mentions she's from New York, and owns a gallery there. It's hot. It's the deep south. A distinct chilly sensation developed, though, noticeable to River after she revealed this information.

Right, so – those are the characters. Main and major (minor would include the new vet that works at Trip's place, Dani something; and the new police deputy who works for Grace, Jamie something; and Bo – the never-do-well who works at the place Clay works; and 'Grandpa' who gave Clay a job; and . . . others). But what's going on? Why is the New Yorker in Pine Cone Georgia, and why the cold shoulder from Clay?

Well the book description, if you recalled to read it (which I hadn't – what it's a Vaun book, of course I was

going to read it sight unseen without an idea what it was about, but I've read the description now that I've read the book) tells you the answer to both questions I ended the last paragraph with.

Clay is an artist who had a bad experience in New York. River is in Pine Cone because the aunt she never really had anything to do with (family issues) died and gave River her car, house, and art gallery. That's why River is in Pine Cone – temporarily; and why Clay's there (she lives there).

I had a few issues with enjoying the book: there was no separation for the point of view changes, one paragraph could follow Clay, one could follow River, and there was neither rhyme nor reason for when the change would occur – though it was always obvious a change had occurred. Problem two: occasionally I lost track of who said what, though that was probably more my fault than anything (lost track as in they would talk, and I'd miss out on which person said what when and how). Problem three: wined was used once when whined was intended (yes, I noticed that one specific mistake, heh).

The last problem is more major, but I got around it well enough. And that's how the book ended, or near enough the end part. When the book suddenly turned into a crime drama for no explainable reason. When that crime drama started . . . well, I kind of groaned loudly and figured that I'd end up giving the book a much worse rating than I had been thinking up to that point. I liked how everything unfolded, though, so . . . it probably has some negative impact on the rating but not as severe as I'd been thinking.

The characterization was good, the romance was . . . solid enough, the plot was interesting. I was intrigued and entertained. Good quick easy read . . . that I found to be slightly lessor than the most recent books that I've read by this author. Part of that is because of the issues I had, and mentioned, part of that was the part where a few things seemed a little heavy handed (I knew instantly that trouble was going to happen when one person left their phone with the other – it's like a blinking red light when that happens, blinking arrow, blinking obviousness – and then trouble did in fact occur).

Rating: 4.31

June 5 2018

Netty says

I really struggled to get through this one, it's just same old same old perfect gorgeous woman meets perfect bodied woman who's been hurt before and shies away from new potential relationships, well I'm bored of it so I feel like it took me months to get through it ;). sexy perfect characters, a story we've read hundreds of time before but we keep coming back for more (do we need help!), written really well and happy ending, do I really want to read book 2 and 3? not sure on that one!
Recommend for an average romance.....

An ARC was give in exchange for an honest review.

Rosi says

Well, this book of the Pine Cone Romance trilogy, which can be read independently from each other and without needing to follow a specific order, describes the relationship between Clay, a painter who is in a

phase of lack of inspiration due to a past betrayal, and River, the owner of an art gallery in New York that arrives in Pine Cone to take over her aunt's inheritance.

Sure there are many topics in the story, there may be a lack of interaction beyond the instantaneous attraction and the convenient relationship between the professions of the two protagonists of this part of the trilogy and so on. But my curiosity to see how this book was related to Take a Chance by D. Jackson Leigh has made me overlook the faults that this story may have. And it has really been fun to see from another point of view the same situations described in the two books.

In comparison, this one focuses more on the protagonist couple, leaving a little aside the environment that in the book Take a Chance by D. Jackson Leigh is more present and participant. But this has not made this story less interesting to me, my only complaint has perhaps been the final rush at the time of resolving situations and misunderstandings.

And after reading two of the three books of the trilogy I still think that the authors would have had a great time with this experiment. Although the need to converge some situations may have forced the development of the stories a bit.

But this is still a good romance to have a good time reading it.

An ARC was sent to me from Bold Strokes Books through NetGalley for an honest review

vacatedboat says

I'm not particularly excited about writing or pushing 'save' on this review, but here we go...

I don't consider myself a die-hard Vaun fan, but I am a fan. I've really enjoyed her historical romances and the one contemporary romance of hers that I've read. I was swept up in her settings and her characters and just really enjoyed her writing style. I carried those expectations into this, I suppose, but 'Take My Hand,' I really hate to say, fell short of her previous work. This is true for me, at least. Others have had a different experience, so take this review for what it is: merely one person's opinion.

I've read this book before, quite a few times, actually; I think most anyone who's been reading lesfic for a good while has. The MC, River, inherits property from a long lost relative and must venture to the last place she wants to be (generally, a city girl has to go to the 'middle-of-nowhere,' as it is here) to settle the deceased's affairs. City girl is left a letter that is overly sentimental, considering she had no emotional relationship with the deceased. The letter also drives home a point that we're supposed to believe at this stage of the story anyway (view spoiler).

I won't get further into the storyline because if you've read one book with this set up, you've read 'Take My Hand,' too.

There was no spark between River and Clay and I think we're supposed to believe it exists simply because we're told that it does. This is another instance of when an author relies on telling us from the character's perspective that they're attracted to one another, but doesn't prove it in the storytelling. MCs and background characters telling me something doesn't make me feel it...and I really want to feel it if I'm supposed to believe it. Maybe more dialogue between the characters would have helped, but most of the conversations they have didn't really feel intimate. Sure, they were getting to know one another, but it was all so surface level that it didn't really get to a depth where I could believe they were falling in love.

I'm really wondering why the drama was added to the last bit of this book. Was it to fill pages? There is a character that Clay doesn't get along with that does something really stupid and I can't puzzle together how it fits into this storyline or what its purpose was. To add drama? Perhaps to force the 'I love you' that we all so desperately want at the end of a romance? I don't know, but no matter how the 'I love you' came about in this, I wouldn't have really believed it unless the story started showing me the love rather than telling me about it.

2.5* and that hurts just to write, so I'm rounding up. I really respect Vaun as an author and will definitely keep reading her work. This one just didn't do it for me.

Rach (Les Rêveur) says

This is the first book in the A Pine Cone Romance series and it got us off to a great start with a bang! Artist, Clay has returned home after a disastrous relationship in New York that had threatened her passion for her painting. She isn't interested in relationships or playing fast and loose with her heart, especially for someone like River who embodies everything that Clay could really fall for. River is visiting Pine Cone to get her aunts affairs in order after her death. She wants to get in and out of Pine Cone fast and back to her art studio in New York. That is until she meets Clay, who personifies a sexy female James Dean, that has her wanting Clay in the worst way but she is also extremely attracted to Clay's artistic side and dynamite personality. If only Clay would show some interest in her because she's starting to want things with Clay she has never wanted before. Well hell, I think I have found my new lesfic heart throb... Clay Cahill is a protagonist that every butch character should be built upon. The moment I read her profile on the page I was hooked and the moody, withdrawn from the world attitude also really got me. What was extremely exciting about this book was the fact that she just couldn't help being drawn to River. And as much as she tried to resist her feelings, you could feel the chemistry emanate of the page every time they were together. River was the opposite, she wears her heart on her sleeve and shows her attraction to Clay openly, this gave the perfect balance and really made their falling in love much more exciting. The chemistry between both River and Clay is off the charts and their sex scenes were just plain hot! What I love about a new series is getting to know the characters that are carried through in each book. As with Take My Hand, you get to know Clays best friends, Trip and Grace, who are the main protagonists for the next two book in the series. Trip is next off the bat to fall in love in book two, Take A Chance followed by Grace in Take Your Time. Best part of this new series is its unusual twist, each book in the series is written by a different author and all the authors have worked together to get each backstory seamless. This includes interactions that take place in each book but from different protagonists point of view. It's rather genius and I have read the next book and can confirm the characters interactions are seamless...?If you would like some more information on this series please click the link below: Pine Cone Romance Series ?I think Missouri Vauns romance novels are quite brilliant, her butch/femme formula works perfectly and she writes such complex yet endearing characters that make her books real page turners.?Can't wait to see what comes next from this series. 5 stars

Kennedy says

Clay Cahill needs a break from the life she thought she wanted in New York and takes refuge in Pine Cone, Georgia. She has settled into life with her hometown high school buddies who are quite interesting in their own ways. Even though she is in the company of friends, she knows it is not enough. River Hemsworth has found her passion and just wants to settle her deceased aunt's estate and return to her "real life". To her surprise, the quick trip to Pine Cone does not go according to plan. After a car wreck, the unexpected happens and additional decisions need to be made that involve more than settling her aunt's estate. This is a

fun and entertaining read. The scenes about shoes and driving was funny and sexy.

ARC provided by Bold Strokes Books, Inc. via NetGalley

MJS says

ARC received from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

I don't think I've read anything by Vaun before, but I was intrigued by the idea of a trilogy that's written by different authors. As my introduction to Vaun this wasn't bad, but it had some issues. First is the setting, it's a lovely small rural town, that is somehow also a gay Mecca. I'm not usually fond of books where everyone is gay, and obviously in a trilogy you know you'll end up with six lesbians/bi women, but there were also other gay/lesbians in town and it seemed unrealistic. I put that aside though, since I knew it was a trilogy.

The plot has been done a million times before (relative dies and leaves house/business to relative that barely knows them and they go to sell the place). No points for guessing how it ends.

The main characters do spend a bit of time together and they actually talk to each other, which was refreshing. But their romance was very insta-love. The friendship between Clay, Trip, and Grace was nice, but needed more backstory. Maybe it was light on in this one because there are two more to come, we'll see.

There's a few miscommunications, which are thankfully short-lived, but there's also a ridiculous, I want to say sub-plot, but it didn't take up enough time to warrant the term. It's just a few vague references and then blows up into some 'drama' that I assume was inserted just so that there could be some. I don't know. I do know the book didn't need it.

Based on this I'm curious to read the other two stories, and I'd also try Vaun again, but I wasn't blown away.

Agirlcandream says

Sweet small town romance, the first of a series featuring three best friends from Pine Cone, Georgia. I have a weakness for butch/femme couples so the Clay/River pairing worked for me, even if their names made me laugh. I like the way Missouri Vaun writes and felt like I got to know the folks in Pine Cone in just a few short scenes. River's comment about slipping into some twilight zone lesbian version of Steel Magnolias following her close encounter at the Clip and Curl made me laugh and helped me look past the plethora of lesbians filling the streets of Pine Cone.

This is a quick read and a simple enough romance with the expected attraction followed by misunderstandings (quickly resolved) followed by some fairly steamy make-up sex. There is drama which pulls our two mains together and our hoped for HEA. The southern charm is front and center in Take My Hand and as River Hemsworth discovers, the locals are warm and welcoming.

ARC received with thanks from publisher via NetGalley for review.

3.5 stars

Arien says

ARC received from Netgalley for a fair review.

2.4 stars. I didn't connect with the characters. Their connection is purely on a physical level at first and I didn't feel that it went past it as much as I wanted to. They're together because they are both hot but that's pretty much it. Furthermore, a lot of things are too convenient in this book, the gallery owner thing, the small town background, New York, etc. They were made for each other quite literally because the author made them so and it's glaringly obvious.

The book is also extremely predictable and uses a lot of common plot devices that I lost interest in the story because I could predict 90% of it. The main conflict, the redneck, everything was so standard that I just couldn't enjoy this read.

It's technically well written though but that's pretty much the only thing that is going for this book. Can't recommend.

Dr E says

Lovely romance that oozes Southern charm. You can taste the fried green tomatoes and feel the heat in the air. It's the ensemble that creates the atmosphere so keep those secondary characters coming. Excellent to know this is the first of the Pine Cone books so I have the promise of romances for Grace and Trip to look forward to in the next instalments.

Joc says

This is the first story in a collaborative series called A Pine Cone Romance about three women, Clay, Grace and Trip, who have been best friends since school living in Pine Cone, Georgia. Vaun takes on Clay while D Jackson Leigh will write about Trip, the vet, and VK Powell gets Grace, the cop. (I'm going to have to read some Powell before her instalment is released. Any recommendations?) Powell's and Leigh's characters are part of *Take My Hand* so it will be interesting to see if their individual voices are retained in spite of different authors.

River Hemsworth, New York gallery owner, finds herself the heir to aunt Eve's home, car and gallery in the rural town of Pine Cone. On arriving in Pine Cone she crashes her car and needs to be towed by the only tow-truck in town owned by the androgynously attractive, Clay Cahill. They're drawn to each other but River is only there to offload her inheritance and Clay has no interest in anyone from New York.

The alienated-relative-leaving-everything-to-the-lesbian is a common theme so while the story line doesn't set it apart from other romances it still has a lot going for it. Vaun has an amazing ability to describe the environment without going into long, descriptive passages. I can see the streets, feel the weather and know what the houses look like and that give me a greater sense of immersion in the story. Vaun's characters have a tendency to talk it out which appeals to me because I love effective dialogue.

I enjoyed reading this. It was a light, easy and quick read with a little bit of angst and a moment of life-threatening drama.

Book received from Netgalley and Bold Strokes Books for an honest review.

Det. Nidhi says

Take My Hand is the first book in the Pine Cone series which is a collaboration between three authors. This particular book is written by Missouri Vaun. I've read her sci fi books and they were great. So obviously I hoped for a lot from this book. While it did meet most of my expectations I found that lacking in some areas.

* Give me a moment while I childishly laugh at the names of the protagonists *

Clay Cahill is an artist who's just out of a bad relationship and she left New York to come to Pinecone, Georgia to repair her broken heart. River Hemsworth is an art enthusiast who owns a Gallery who has to come to pinecone in order to deal with her Aunt's property which has been willed to her. So yeah this is the setting. I have read a lot of books with a similar story line, as recently as 3 months ago. So I don't expect much in terms of plot development. It almost always ends with the city girl falling in love with the small town and staying back. What I do expect is a decent read which is worth spending time on. That was provided by this book. Sorta. But the problem is, since this is the first book in the series, the author has to set up storylines for the subsequent books and so 40% of the book was just descriptions of characters and introduction to most of the people living in the town. This is sad really, it happened with the the series Arrow where so many other shows of DC universe were introduced and the show had to compromise in terms of plot development.

Now lemme harp about the characters. Meet River, the generic nice girl. God she was so nice to people around her and I found that both endearing and annoying. While she wasn't exactly a pushover, she wasn't a dominant personality either. Again I don't know much about her other than the fact that she had a conservative upbringing which might explain a lot but not really.

Then there's clay, the tall dark and handsome artist extraordinaire, who is kinda annoying at the beginning but I liked her a lot by the time the book ends. Yeah she jumps into conclusions, but she has her own reasons. I still don't know where exactly she started liking River. I mean she pretends to not acknowledge her in the beginning, and avoids her like the plague for a while and suddenly she's running around watching sunsets with her? I don't buy it.

So this would have been a 3 star read for me, if not for the last 15%. The events escalated so quickly! And I was surprised. I kinda knew there was going to be something but when it actually happened it was fun. That was some good stuff. And also, I kinda loved the other two women, Grace and Trip and I can't wait to read their respective books.

This is a good book. Not too angsty, not too cheesy, just perfect in the middle.

My rating: 3.5 stars out of 5

Stephanie says

Solid 3 star rating....I liked it. Perhaps, if I hadn't read several of Vaun's other works, it might be a little higher. It's hard going into a book expecting a certain something...then not quite getting there.

My biggest complaint was the "catalyst episode" that brings our two MCs together. It just felt inserted. Not really part of the rest of the story. She tried to make it seem so...but fell short. This to me, tainted the rest of the book. There were moments of raw emotion where you saw exactly where you wanted the story to go...but did not.

So, nice read, I liked it.

I received an ARC from the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Gaby says

This book is part of the 'Pine Cone romance' series by three different authors: 'Take my hand' by Missouri Vaun, 'Take a chance' by D. Jackson Leigh and 'Take your time' by V.K. Powell. This series follows the lives of three friends: Clay, Trip and Grace in the small town of Pine Cone, Georgia.

There are series written by an author that usually need to be read in chronological order, series of standalone novels by different authors under a common theme, and the 'Pine Cone romance' series which is a bit peculiar. In this series the three different authors decided to create three romances (one in each book) but with the three stories overlapping. For example, if the three friends share a scene, it will appear in all three books but with a different point of view. D. Jackson Leigh says in her acknowledgements that it was arduous to write. Well, sometimes it's also arduous to read. I personally found some issues, one is that after reading the first book (whichever the order) the reader has sometimes a sense of déjà vu, a feeling of having read that before because... they read it in the previous book. It works fine in some scenes as it gives other characters' perspectives but in other cases it is tedious. Also, some events that overlap in the books give information that act as spoilers for the other books' stories which is a bit annoying. Finally, I found that there are a number of unresolved secondary plots which are main plots in the other books, so in order to grasp the full story, you need to read all the series. So I guess readers can rate each book separately but also the series as a whole. Due to these problems appear throughout the series, you'll see some of my comments repeated in the other reviews.

'Take my hand' is the story of Clay Cahill, a gifted painter who escaped success and a cheating girlfriend in New York. She goes back to her hometown of Pine Cone, Georgia working as a tow truck driver for her grandfather. River Hemsworth is a gallery owner in New York who inherited a local gallery and a house in Pine Cone. Her plan is to sell the property fast and go back to NY but when she meets Clay after a minor car accident she cannot deny her attraction. But Clay holds too many secrets and River is settled in NY. Will they have their happily ever after?

This is a rather formulaic romance between stoic butch Clay and damsel in distress femme River. There's no doubt where the plot takes us with exception of a small twist near the end. Ms. Vaun knows how to build the main characters' chemistry and the intimate scenes are hot. The secondary characters are a bit flat but the clash of cultures between North and South USA is well written. However, the resolution of the conflict seems rushed and the story could have done with a few more chapters to wrap it up better.

Overall, an ok butch-femme romance read set in a small town in Georgia. 3.5 stars.

ARC provided by Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

See all my reviews at
www.lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com

Lex Kent says

3.75 Stars. I'm a Missouri Vaun fan so I was excited to get this book. I'm used to mostly reading her fantasy of futuristic books, but I learned she can write good traditional romances too. This is book 1 in the Pine Cone Romance series. What is different about this series is it sounds like a new author will write each book. It looks like D. Jackson Leigh and VK Powell will be writing the other two books.

This story is about three best friends who live in a small southern town called Pine Cone. This first book is about Clay, a budding artist and tow truck driver. The other two friends include Trip, a veterinarian (I'm guessing Leigh will write her story) and Grace, a police sergeant (it would make sense that Powell would author her story). I really like this idea about three quality authors each writing characters who are all friends.

It is not like this book is anything we haven't read before. A woman from the city goes to a small town to take care of property a relative left her; only to find herself falling in love with the setting and its people. Even though this premise has been done many times before, I still enjoyed this read. I liked the community of Pine Cone and found myself quickly liking many secondary characters, not just the two mains. When it came to the mains Clay was the brooding but sensitive butch character. And River is the fiery city girl. I found myself wanting to shake Clay a few times, but I still really liked both mains.

When it came to the romance I would say it was pretty good. There was definitely some chemistry and sexual tension between River and Clay. There were also some sweet romantic moments that warmed my heart a bit. While there may have been an insta connection or insta lust, the romance moved at a good pace which made it believable for me. It went full speed at the end, but I'm okay with Vaun wanting to give us a good HEA.

Since I found myself already warming to the secondary characters, I'm looking forward to reading the next book in this series. It will be really interesting to see how either Leigh or Powell writes their characters compared to how they were in this book. I think this is going to be a fun series.

An ARC was given to me by BSB, for a honest review.
