

## Lorelei James' author's notes:

I love writing the Rough Riders series, creating larger than life cowboys and the women who love them, all wrapped up in a multi-book arc. Because the series is actually a western saga, not all questions are answered in every book. No, I don't consider this 'series baiting' but detailing the trials, triumphs and tribulations of an entire family and how it affects the entire family over the span of several books and several years.

The other thing I love? Hearing from readers. I adore that. So in honor of my readers, fans, and people new to the series, I've received quite a few of the same questions, for the Rough Riders series in particular. I'll try to address them all here in one fell swoop, because I understand just because something is crystal clear to me for the extended plan for the series, it might not appear that way initially. Here goes:

**\*\*\*\*\*WARNING\*\*\*\*\*SPOILERS\*\*\*\*\***

In **LONG HARD RIDE** I leave a relationship unresolved between two male characters. Yes, I plan on tying up Trevor Glanzer and Edgard Mancuso's story arc in Rough Riders book 5.

**RODE HARD, PUT UP WET**, involves a dual — but separate storyline between Gemma Jansen and Cash Big Crow, and Cash's grown daughter, Macie Honeycutt and her paramour, Carter McKay. The reason the blurb didn't delve into more detail about the separate, yet intertwined plots, is because there's not enough room on the jacket copy to give a mini-synopsis of both love stories.

This is a little trickier to explain, so bear with me. There is a method to my madness, I swear! In **COWGIRL UP AND RIDE** a minor character dies. As this character, Dag West, is shown in same sex (M/M) situations early in the book, some detractors have suggested A) I killed off the character because he was a closet homosexual B) Those sex scenes were uncomfortable to read and had no place in a romance.

My official response? A) Dag West died not because he was gay, but because he did a dumb thing: he operated farm equipment while he was drunk. Unfortunately, ranch accidents are a way of life even when sober, and being drunk adds another level of stupidity to the lethality of machinery. Dag's death in no way reflected my personal commentary on his sexual orientation. B) The multiple partner sex scenes were *supposed* to be

uncomfortable. The point of view I chose to show those scenes from is a heterosexual male cowboy living in Wyoming. The scene Kade McKay stumbles on involving his cousin Dag is shocking in many ways and I stand by the character's reaction to the situation. It might not be PC, but so many things out here in the Wild West are not and I won't sugarcoat the harsh realities and prevailing attitudes. Sometimes sex isn't sexy. And yes, **COWGIRL UP AND RIDE** is still first and foremost – a romance.

In **TIED UP, TIED DOWN**, which takes place a year after **COWGIRL UP AND RIDE**, Trevor Glanzer and Chassie West are married. I've had readers ask if they missed a book or a novella in between these two books. No. My reason for not explaining the details of this union is I already had enough backstory with Kade and Skylar. I intend on filling in the all blanks with Trevor, Chassie and Edgard in Rough Riders book 5 so stay tuned

I've also had readers ask if there will be a book with Geo and Shawnee, secondary characters from **RUNNING WITH THE DEVIL**. Yes. And no. I have the story, **RUNNING ON EMPTY** started, but at this time I'm focusing on the Rough Riders series. I'd like to go back and finish it at some point. Not sure when.

I have no plans to write a book revolving around Ryan Cross, Tate Cross's older brother mentioned in **DIRTY DEEDS**. But never fear you get a tiny peek at Tate and Nathan's life ten years later in my upcoming novella, **WICKED GARDEN**, which is part of the Ménage and More Anthology.

As always, I encourage reader comments and feel free to contact me with any additional questions and I'll try my level best to answer them!