



Pulling Leather

L.C. Chase

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The toughest ride of his life is all in his head.

Bull rider Scott Gillard has a reputation for quick fists and harsh words. What no one knows is where that anger comes from. After a shocking incident sends him into a tailspin, he knows he needs help: he's been fighting a battle he could never win. Now he's trying to navigate a new life and embrace his true self, but some days are easier than others.

Pickup man Cory Ackerson has suffered his share of harassment, but his light still burns bright. He doesn't let anything or anyone keep him down, so when he meets the rugged cowboy with a battered chip on his shoulder and regret in his dark eyes, all he wants to do is help.

As their unlikely friendship grows into something deeper, Scott must overcome his past to be the man Cory deserves, or lose his best chance at his own happily ever after.

Pulling Leather Details

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From Reader Review Pulling Leather for online ebook

Alisa says

I really enjoyed this. It took me forever to get around to reading it because I was just sure that I could never like Scott. I didn't want to like Scott. Hats off to this author though because she had me buying in to his story from the first few pages. Not only did I like him but I ended up loving him. He and Cory were absolutely wonderful together. Scott's "grand gesture" made my eyes water. I have to admit, this was my favorite of the series so far.

Gigi says

OK, when you are reading a book as part of a series, it is quite reasonable to expect that the story line will be pretty similar to the books that preceded it. I have read and reviewed both of the first two Pickup Men books and enjoyed them both very much. Given that fact, I was very excited to read this book, knowing I'd be getting more of the same goodness that I enjoyed from the first two books. But that didn't happen here. This book wasn't anything like the first two and I ended up feeling cheated and just a bit let down. I'm going to spoiler tag the difference for those that want to read the book with fresh eyes.

(view spoiler) Scott "am I gay or am I straight?" was so uptight during the vast majority of the book, I wasn't able to feel the chemistry between him and Cory. And there were only a few, short scenes in the rodeo ring, which was a great addition to the previous two books.

I'm **not able to recommend** this book based on my enjoyment of the first two Pickup Men books. And actually, not even as a stand alone. There wasn't enough heat, energy and excitement to hold my attention. I hope the next addition in the series mirrors the first two!

Trio says

Definitely a great series and I thoroughly enjoyed all the books, but the first one was definitely the best. Excellent narration by Dorian Bane.

Catherine says

It's been a year and a half since I finished Book 2 in L.C. Chase's Pickup Men series. I really enjoyed the writing and the characters and the smexy love scenes in Let it Ride (far more than I enjoyed the plot and characters in Book 1, quite frankly), but once I learned that Scott Gillard was going to be the main character in *Pulling Leather*, I was turned way, way off this series.

So much so that I honestly didn't plan on ever reading this book; I was just going to let this series sit unfinished on my TBR shelf until I finally got so sick of seeing it there that I deleted it in a fit of pique. For those of you that know me and my Type A soul, you'll understand that this would have caused me physical

pain to do so, but...

Scott Gillard?

I just couldn't.

In case you've forgotten, Scott was the self-loathing leader of the homophobic asshole brigade in *Pickup Men*. He was the guy that hurled insults like this gem:

"Christ," Scott bit out. "That fucking sissy and his fag stags are here. Ought to be a fucking law to keep them out."

And this one:

"Oh, I get it." His tone was low and menacing. "You got a thing for that yellow-bellied faggot."

And then (view spoiler)

This weekend, in a moment of weakness, I decided to give finishing this series one last shot. I would read a few pages and if I still found Scott irredeemable, then I'd toss the book and delete it from my TBR file guilt free.

But as I started to read *Pulling Leather* - a book told from Scott's perspective - his recollection of two years ago didn't jive with my angry memories of Book 1. I had to go back and read the relevant scenes to see if the author had pulled a fast one on me or if she had just realized how totally morally bankrupt and unlikeable her character was and changed the narrative - established facts from the previous book be damned.

Turns out it was the first one and what I thought I knew had happened in Book 1 hadn't actually happened (kudos, Ms. Chase, you got me!). Scott was still a self-hating homophobic prick that had done and said horrendous stuff in the past, but he hadn't crossed the line of no return - at least as far as I am concerned (other readers may feel differently). Knowing this made reading this book and rooting for his redemption much easier.

In the end, Ms. Chase managed to make me feel sympathy towards a character I never expected to elicit that sort of response from me. This made me *like* the book. But the book had no sex, a cheesy and completely out of character grand gesture at the end, and a fairly realistic but less than satisfying 'HEA.' So, the book was good, but it wasn't great.

Lisa says

A nice end to the series. Scott, a previous homophobe has now realized he is gay. Cory, an out and proud pick up man. This story had a little angst as Scott came to deal with his sexual orientation. I loved Cory and Scott's 2 dads.

JR says

Scott Gilliard has spent his life denying the man he really is inside. Bull riding is his life and being a gruff, hard nosed cowboy, is the coat he wears on the rodeo circuit. In the aftermath of the indictment involving Trip, he has disappeared from the circuit. He's trying to get his life back in order, and understand the secrets he harbors.

Scott gets back into the circuit with the help of Trip. Scott is not prepared for the asteroid that comes crashing into his new world by the name of Cory Ackerson. Cory is a sun in Scott's dark world. Cory is not about to let this somber, sad cowboy get away.

This is a tale of hate, loss, faith, redemption, and most of all love. If you are interested in the world of rodeo, the good and bad of it, then I recommend this. If you just want to read a great story, then it's right here. I give it an arena full of stars.

*****5 star audio, really brings this book to life, his voice is whiskey rough and oh so good*****

Jewel says

This one was a bit slow on the draw for me. Scott isn't the easiest guy to like because of his past. He's got a metric ton of baggage to sort through. So, even though he was trying to make amends, I was slow warming to him. We do learn an awful lot about what happened to shape his homophobic attitudes and his struggle with accepting that he is gay. And Cory sure seemed to see beyond that.

There was a lot of build up in this story, so the first half moved rather slow. Scott wants to be able to admit he's gay, but he runs when confronted with the prospect. He does this a lot. And then some more.

I didn't hate this book, but I didn't love it either. I normally LOVE LC Chase's writing, so while this book missed the mark a bit, I do hope there will be more books in this series and I look forward to reading whatever she puts out next.

Sophia says

For this third installment of the Pickup Men series, I was on the edge of my seat with excitement. There are just some situations that lend themselves to be tension-packed and curious before a book is even opened or listened to such as when a writer takes a very unlikable characters and sets them up as the hero of the story. This book takes the story of angry, hating, and mean Scott Gillard from book one and sweet and gentle Cory from book two and makes a romance of it.

With that said, it shouldn't come as a surprise that I recommend reading the books in order.

The book opens with a few years past the events of book one, Pick Up Men, and the very next rodeo season after book two, Let It Ride. Scott took time away from the rodeo to get his head on straight. What happened

with Trip gave him a wake up call about where his hate, anger, and self-loathing took him. Trip's career as a pro bull rider was over and he was partially responsible.

With the help of his best friend, Brandy, who is also a skilled therapist, he has come to terms with a few things and on his way to coming to terms with a few others. He is gay, even if he's not ready to admit that to others. But as a first step toward the new life he is determined to have, he must approach Trip and Marty and apologize and ask for their forgiveness.

The meeting with Trip leads to a surprising result. Trip gave his forgiveness, but also offered Scott a chance to get back doing something he loved though it will test him. Trip wants him to help with the clinics at the gay rodeo and the pro tour rodeo. This will not be easy both because it will be a step closer to coming out and to confronting all those who knew him as a Class A Jerk. Brandy and Trip both encourage him so despite his own inner dragons and the hostility of others, he ventures forth. And right away there is a bright, sunny cowboy who grabs his attention, but at the same time Scott knows he can't be what Cory deserves or needs.

Cory Ackerson is taken with the big cowboy who shows up to help Trip and just can't see the man that so many others watch warily or can't stand. Scott can't be gay of course and he's the opposite of Cory's open and obvious gay, but Cory still dreams. He doesn't know Scott's story and is willing to give him a chance even in the face of his brother and friends warning him to be cautious.

Scott becomes even more attractive to Cory especially when he gives indications that he is attracted to Cory as well. But that said, Scott is struggling and in the closet. Scott won't acknowledge him and retreats quickly each time Cory advances. He wants to be patient with Scott, but how much hurt and rejection and hiding can he take before it's too much?

As I mentioned, this story tackled a truly loathsome character from earlier in the series and turned him into hero material. Yes, there was a surprise twist and facts that were hitherto unknown that make all the difference in the world, but the author made it clear that there was still a vast deal of stuff that couldn't be ignored and brushed under the rug. Change and growth had to happen. Some of it took place off scene before this book, but I was glad that much of this story was Scott in his final moments of transformation to the man he really was.

Scott had to overcome his issues with his own past, acceptance of himself and how that would change things. He is still working toward admitting to others that he is gay. And piled onto this, Scott's challenge is even greater because he faces a new dynamic in that he is attracted to a man who is not only out, but a man who no one would mistake as anything, but gay. If he goes into a relationship with Cory, he is automatically out. It was a tough bit of added tension, but I liked this opposites attract piece.

And on Cory's end, he has some stuff to work through as well. Of course he has to decide if he will give Scott a chance and just how long does he wait for Scott to get his ducks in a row. But Cory struggles with the difficulty of proving to others and sometimes himself that he may be flaming gay, but it doesn't make him less of a man or any less capable. He has been the butt of people's derision and discomfort his whole life and his brother has gotten overprotective as a result. Scott teaches Cory that it isn't always that someone thinks he's less when they come rushing to pull the bullies off, but that he is worth their love and care.

So as these two take turns trading the narrative voice and starting along a rough road toward love, it was sometimes sweet, tender, passionate, but also heartbreakings when there were false steps. The emotion was there, but it wasn't over the top just as the conflict worked and felt right for the story. I totally bought into Scott's change of heart and mind and to the relationship between him and Cory. I cheered them on.

The story is mostly focused on Scott's internal conflict of coming out and turning his life around, but I loved that the author didn't skimp on rodeo, the band of familiar cowboy faces from the series, and that added element of Scott reconnecting with his past.

The final epilogue scene left me smiling and so happy for Scott and Cory. I believe this is also the final story in the series and it was a great cap to an engaging series. Though...I would not say no to more rodeo cowboy lovin'.

As I've said throughout this series, Dorian Bane, is a fantastic match for these books. He gets the voices, the tone, the emotion, and the rhythm of the story spot on. I can't imagine not having these stories without his voice bringing them to life.

In summary, this was another fantastic segment of the series and rivals the other two for me as each in their special ways has been an equal treasure. Loved how each couple came to love in their own ways set against the world of cowboys and rodeo. I can recommend this story for those who enjoy being there for a character to grow and triumph, for a hard won passionate romance, and the camaraderie of a great bunch of cowboys in an m/m contemporary romance.

My thanks to Riptide Publishing for the opportunity to listen to the story in exchange for an honest review.

Lisa The Novel Approach says

Our very own Jackie did an awesome review of the e-book for Pulling Leather, so this audiobook review is going to be an add-on to it.

I love the Pickup Men series! And I can't decide whether it's Pickup Men or Pulling Leather that is the winning favorite. I mean, you can't read one without the other, but Pulling Leather exceeded my expectations in how Scott Gillard was going to redeem himself after being such an ass in book one.

Dorian Bane's narration immediately pulled me into the world of rodeo cowboys, especially when Scott and Tripp were talking with each other and Tripp let it be known that he knew what Scott had done the night he was so badly beaten. I loved how Cory turned out to be the type of person who looks at both sides of a story, and was able to make his decision on how to judge a person instead of listening to all the gossip or hearsay. He made himself the type of person I would love to hang out with.

L.C. Chase and Dorian Bane have both pulled off telling a story that I really was engrossed in, and I was kind of sad yet happy when it ended. What can I say? I don't like to let go of a book that's captured my imagination with an unforgettable voice like Dorian Bane's. I now hear his country drawl and voice characterizations in my head when I think back on this series.

All in all, Pulling Leather is a wonderful finish to the Pickup Men series. Now, if L.C. Chase decides to add to it...I would be all ears and eyes towards another story.

For me, this is a 5 Stars worthy performance!

Reviewed by Kim for The Novel Approach Reviews
<http://www.thenovelapproachreviews.co...>

Anne says

It's as if this book was written by a different author from the first one. with all the potential, it delivered very little. I expected some tension, sexual or emotional. I got none. As much as the two protagonists were complete opposites they just fell into each other with minimal resistance. The worst part was how Scott's mother was portrayed in the end. I skipped good part of this book.

Kade Boehme says

"It had taken a long time, a lot of dark days, but he got there..." -- Pulling Leather

That pretty much sums up this fabulous read. I must say, I've been dying for Scott's story since book one. I couldn't wait to see how LC handled his characterization and how she'd redeem someone so unlikable. I LOVE redemption stories. Poor Scott broke my heart, and his reason for being closeted was a nice change from what I've seen done in the past in M/M. And his self hatred and one step forward, two back, made me hurt for him . That's why Cory, bright shining open Cory, was effing PERFECT for him.

Friends first, then patient (er and occasionally not so patient) attempts to make it more... So sweet and touchingly romantic in how much Cory adored big, rough around the edges Scott. And watching Scott flourish under Cory's light. I loved this book and def wouldn't mind seeing more of this series. I adore LC Chase's writing.

Oh and can I just say how much I adored the end and Scott getting some real family and love finally.

5 stars. Def recommend this, and the whole series for that matter :)

Ed Davis says

3 and 1/2 feel good Stars. The story of Scott and Cory was my favorite in he series. The big tough homophobe who finally comes to terms with his sexuality by falling for a very openly gay man.

Shelby says

4.5 Stars

This was a great conclusion to this series. It really tied everything up bringing back Scott from the first book and his fear and hatred for his own gay nature, and Cory who we got to know more in book 2. Cory's sweet nature was the perfect balance to Scott's self hate. He was really struggling to come to grips with who he was and even though he's admitted it internally even if he's not sure he's ready for others to know yet.

This story is really all about Scott's internal battle and his two steps forward one step back relationship with Cory. He knows he wants Cory in his life but he's not sure he's ready for all that that entails. But being with Cory makes him happy and his boisterous nature is the balm for Scott's troubled soul. I felt for Scott as he started to ease back into the rodeo environment that can be so difficult for a gay cowboy. His past as so a violent homophobe isn't going to make it easy for him.

I really enjoyed this read. It was a wonderful tale of internal reflection and new found strength.

Gina says

I loved this! This is the best in the Pickup Men Series by far! The first two were ok, but this one grabbed me and kept my interest. Now this was a cowboy story I won't forget! Yeehaw!!

Lala says

4.5 stars.

As much as I enjoyed the angst-fest of the 1st book on the series, or was charmed by Bridge in the 2nd one, this book was my most favorite, hands down.

I was quite apprehensive starting it. Scott was such an awful person in the previous books - I just couldn't see how the author would redeem him. But redeem him she does, and it's all convincing and believable, and I just couldn't help but totally root for Scott from the beginning. He just was so genuinely apologetic, so confused and tried *so hard*. I just couldn't be mad at him, even when he hurt Cory.

Cory was adorable. I loved how he went after Scott and didn't give up. He refused to believe all the rumors, and gave Scott a chance to show him his true self. Cory was perfect for Scott.

This series is quickly turning into one of my favorites.
