



Vipers Run

Stephanie Tyler

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The Vipers Motorcycle Club has strict rules for their brotherhood and the women who enter it. Now one Viper is about to find out how much trouble one woman can be.....

Former Army Ranger Christian Cage Owens joined the Vipers Motorcycle Club for its sense of brotherhood. In return, he pledged to live outside the law, protecting club members and their families, as well as keeping other MCs out of Skulls Creek. But when Cage discovers that a rival MC—one Cage has an all too familiar past with—plans to push meth into his town, he calls an old Army buddy turned private investigator who's helped the Vipers in the past. By doing so, Cage endangers both his friend and Calla, a woman who works in the PI's office. Now he's made it his mission to track Calla down and do whatever it takes to protect her.

Thanks to the phone call with Cage, Calla knows she's formed a deep connection to a dangerous man. She quickly discovers that although he may live by a different set of rules, Cage is an honorable man who wants to be more than her protector—if only she can accept his dangerous lifestyle. But Calla comes to Skulls Creek with her own set of secrets...secrets that threaten to tear her and Cage—and the Vipers MC—apart. As they put their newfound love to the ultimate test, Cage will risk everything he cares about to save her.....

Vipers Run Details

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Author : Stephanie Tyler

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From Reader Review Vipers Run for online ebook

Jessica says

Loved this book! 4.5 stars! Calla is not your typical whiny heroine. She's tough & knows what she wants. She wants Cage. How to explain Cage? As Calla says, Cage is sexy and possessive. This pretty much sums them up. They have an instant connection with a phone call, then an amazing story to follow. The MC world is explained in a way you can understand and not get lost along the way. There's a lot of little story arcs with the different characters that keep you hooked and wanting more. This book is sexy and hilarious. Just how I like them. Can't wait for more of this series!

recieved an ARC for an honest review

♥Rachel♥ says

DNF at 21%

I don't mind insta-love/lust but this was over the top. Falling in love over a 10 minute phone call, sight unseen? And then mourning him for two months when you think he's dead? Doesn't make a whole lot of sense. Several things didn't make sense to me, and I just couldn't read any longer. Not my cup of tea.

A copy was provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Jen says

Cage and Calla

Heroine cried too much and was in love with hero after a 10 minute phone conversation. I couldn't handle her. Full review to come on *Fiction Vixen* Book Reviews

Lauren at Live Read and Breathe Reviews says

2.5 Meh Stars!!

eARC for Honest Review Courtesy from Signet (Penguin)

Gah! I wanted to love this book as I am a softy when it comes to MC books but this one felt more like a watered down version of the SOA. Some of the conversions were rushed and confusing. The dual POV's often weren't clear and I had to re-read to find out who the POV was supposed to be from.

The idea of the book was good, where one chance phone call can change the fate of everything but it just didn't have the oomph to pull it off. Calla works for a PI and answers the phone when she's not supposed to. This call happens to be from Cage who happens to be dying because he was beaten, stabbed and shot.

After talking to Calla, Cage has something to fight for. This phone call is the catalyst for many things that felt all over the place and kind of jumbled but there was a HEA. This is the part where I felt like I was re-watching a watered down version of the SOA. But I did get my HEA in this MC world so that did make me happy.

I so badly wanted to love this. It definitely was not my favorite but I would be willing to give this series another go to see if this was just a 'meh' one off or if the whole series will be 'meh'.

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The Romance Evangelist says

A copy of this book was provided by the publisher for an honest review at Seductive Musings.

Thanks to the success of television shows like Sons of Anarchy, one of the big new trends in romance is the Motorcycle Club romantic suspense novel. In these books, the MC provides the structure and context for whatever sort of havoc may occur as the hero (usually a member of the club) and heroine (who may or may not be an innocent civilian) find true love. I've only read a few of these books so far, but unfortunately VIPERS RUN was only a so-so read for reasons almost entirely unrelated to this particular trope.

The book begins with an introduction to Calla, who has always felt split between two worlds without being a full member of either one. Her father is an extremely rich and powerful man, but her mother forced him to stay away, preferring the company of low-lifes who only brought pain. It was only after Calla had suffered her own victimization by a man she should not have trusted that her father entered her life, but now eight years later, Calla is still barely scraping by as receptionist to a slightly shady but kindly private investigator. When her boss leaves behind his cell phone one fateful morning, the call that comes in is one she'll never forget. And when that call forces Calla's journey to the doorstep of a man she's never met, what happens next will change her life forever.

Cage is the voice on the phone and the man who will soon claim Calla as his own. He went rogue on the Vipers six months back and now that impulsive act has left him dying on the floor of a parking garage. But it's Calla who keeps him talking on the phone when all he wants to do is curl up and die, and it's Calla who will eventually redirect him away from suicidal revenge against the evil Heathens MC trying to destroy Skulls Creek. But can Calla and Cage really live happily ever after in the face of all that threatens them?

As you can see from what I've written here so far, there is a whole lot going on in VIPERS RUN even without the additional need to set up the world for this new series. What made reading this book difficult for me, in spite of a hero and heroine that I genuinely liked, were all the machinations required to get from the nearly implausible start to the somewhat improbable finish, not the least of which was how the romance part of the story begins. I tend to take a charitable view of "insta-lust" and "insta-love" in romances, but I simply could not wrap my head around the notion of two people falling in love from a single telephone call, albeit one as emotionally charged as theirs was. Another plot maneuver involved characters who had previously remained off-screen suddenly appearing in ways that were clearly meant to serve the predetermined outcome, if not its actual credibility. Then when the final two major conflicts played out within the last few pages of the story, each was resolved far too easily with actions that were told, rather than shown.

There were a few other continuing issues I had with VIPERS RUN as I struggled to get to its end. Although Calla and Cage move quickly to a sexual relationship, there is never any reference, not even in passing, to their use of any protection against unintended pregnancy or STDs. This notable absence grated on me even more when Cage made a point of sneering at the other evil MC for heedlessly "breeding" their women. There was also an excessive amount of switching between Calla's first person POV, Cage's third person POV, and a late addition of yet another character's third person POV. All that head-hopping, including an occasional slip from third to first person in mid-paragraph, often made it difficult to keep track of who was telling the story and where.

So if I had all these problems with VIPERS RUN, then why am I giving it 3 stars? Because as I mentioned before, the hero and heroine were a couple I really did like, in spite of how they'd found each other. Calla never veered into Too Stupid To Live territory, and Cage was able to balance his need to claim her with the reality of how his chosen life would impact hers. And what I got to see of the Vipers' world, I found interesting and convincing. But in the end, VIPERS RUN was simply not the right book for me, and I'll likely pass on the rest of the Skulls Creek series.

Ratings:

Overall: 3

Sensuality level: 3.5

Chris says

4 out of 5 stars

Description ~

The Vipers Motorcycle Club has strict rules for their brotherhood and the women who enter it. Now one Viper is about to find out how much trouble one woman can be.....

Former Army Ranger Christian Cage Owens joined the Vipers Motorcycle Club for its sense of brotherhood. In return, he pledged to live outside the law, protecting club members and their families, as well as keeping other MCs out of Skulls Creek. But when Cage discovers that a rival MC—one Cage has an all too familiar past with—plans to push meth into his town, he calls an old Army buddy turned private investigator who's helped the Vipers in the past. By doing so, Cage endangers both his friend and Calla, a woman who works in the PI's office. Now he's made it his mission to track Calla down and do whatever it takes to protect her.

Thanks to the phone call with Cage, Calla knows she's formed a deep connection to a dangerous man. She quickly discovers that although he may live by a different set of rules, Cage is an honorable man who wants to be more than her protector—if only she can accept his dangerous lifestyle. But Calla comes to Skulls Creek with her own set of secrets...secrets that threaten to tear her and Cage—and the Vipers MC—apart. As they put their newfound love to the ultimate test, Cage will risk everything he cares about to save her...

My Review ~

I'll admit I went into this slightly skeptical as I am not a huge MC storyline fan. However this book was not at all a typical MC storyline. Vipers Run was almost all about Calla and Cage with a handful of the MC members popping in to add to the storyline.

Calla 'meets' Cage the first time as she's answering her boss's cell phone, which he'd left behind. Normally she wouldn't touch it but something tells her to pick it up. Cage is on the other end, he's hurt and she's his anchor while they are on this short call. He leaves her with a set of numbers and tells her to share them with her boss as soon as possible. This sets off a chain of events that sets the action on a whirlwind trip. For this book it's hard to talk about the storyline without giving away major and semi-major plot points.

So I'll leave it up to you readers to discover the rest of their story. Which you'll enjoy because Calla and Cage belong together. They come from completely different backgrounds but in the end their individual strengths make them a solid couple. There is the MC element to the story but it's just not the main focus of this book. Which as I said before I really liked because I don't like the harsher, more graphic MC stories. This book introduced quite a few secondary characters that will allow the author a way to keep this a very long running series.

This book also ties in with the author's alter-ego, S.E. Jakes, Havoc MC series. I recommend this for those that like action-based romance like Cherry Adair and Suzanne Brockmann. ~ Reviewed by Chris

This review is the property of Chris and not be shared or copied unless by the Publisher or Author or unless credit is given.

Zane Kage says

Ok, so let me start out by saying I mostly read M/M these days. And that I love me some SE Jakes. Never read Stephanie Tyler. Add to that the fact that I'm not a fan of insta-love. And then let me tell you that I could not put this book down. It has what I look for in a good book - a good hook, a good story. I didn't see it as falling in love over a phone call - I saw it as an instant connection - crazy but it works. Calla (whose name reminds me of one of my favorite flowers- and is so perfect because she does bloom throughout the story) and Cage (who is just so sexy, loving and protective) have a great story - of an instant connection that has to build into trust and friendship - which actually makes sense, if you think about it. The excitement around the MC, the family bond, both characters' pasts and resolution - all of it just came together wonderfully for me. This is my first Stephanie Tyler read, and it will not be my last. Can't wait for the next one in this series!

Received this book as a gift in exchange for an honest review

Jess says

Review posted: Happily Ever After - Reads

Blog rating: D

Well...Vipers Run lost me pretty much from the start when the heroine and hero have a connection immediately upon "meeting" via a telephone call. Cage is dying but Calla's voice gives him strength and now that she's connected to Cage, her life is in danger so she's hidden away by friends of Cage's until a plan is put together. She doesn't know if Cage is alive or dead so weeks later he shows up and BAM, instant love connection. Ah, no.

Cage had been caught between two worlds. He grew up as the son of a Heathen MC member but bad, bad stuff happens in that club, and when Cage's mom turned to drugs and ended up dead, he made a run for it and tried to help his siblings best he could. One sibling sided completely with Cage's father and both want Cage dead. He found help in a rival MC, the Vipers, and became a member after he joined the Army. He's now in the middle of a mess that involves drugs, a potentially crooked FBI agent with ties to Calla, and trying to protect information he has that could set the Heathen MC up for a downfall.

Calla was sexually assaulted at 15 and the man responsible is still making her life a living hell. Add to that, her half-brother has photographs taken during the horrible night Calla wants desperately to move past and is using it as blackmail against Calla and her wealthy father. She's still healing from this past nightmare and feels instantly safe around Cage, nevermind his life is anything but safe. She opens up to him about her past, how it's threatening her future and Cage, not one to sit around, takes action. He wants the men to die for what they did to Calla, and for Cage and his MC, that's something they can make happen. But a man from Calla's past crosses over into Cage's current trouble and something's got to give.

I really had a hard time with this story. Part of it was the story itself and the characters. The other part was the way it was written. First, the story and characters – everyone came off as so unlikable. I never felt any

kind of connection with Cage or Calla. There was something very surface about them and I really didn't like that they supposedly has this crazy attraction and connection by just talking on the phone for a few minutes.

For someone who's still dealing with her past trauma, who's currently in hiding and has a hit out on her life from a dangerous motorcycle club, Calla sure falls into bed easy with Cage. But she wasn't a heroine I had much respect for anyway – she makes a few stupid decisions along the way that had me shaking my head. Although I will say it's a huge annoyance of mine when a heroine who's been sexually assaulted in the past, finds herself naked and vulnerable again to the bad guy (be it a new danger or someone from her past). I thought this scene might be coming, I had hoped it wouldn't because it seemed so clichéd but yup, there it was.

That brings me to the story and how it was written as a whole. This is not a story I would have expected from Stephanie Tyler. Not necessarily regarding the type of story, a suspenseful plot surrounding motorcycle clubs, but the writing style read weird to me. The point of view changes between Calla and Cage and usually in odd spots – scenes would feel half finished, or it would jump from one scene to the next and I'd feel like a big chunk of story was missing which made it a confusing story to follow at times. That just added to my overall frustration level as I found myself having to go back and reread parts just because the scene change made zero sense.

There were some supporting characters introduced, mainly related to the Vipers and I really didn't find any of them to be that interesting. I'm not sure if it's how the MC was described, but I can't say that there was another club member, save for maybe Cage's younger brother who's technically not in the club, that I found appealing enough to want to know more about. I did enjoy Tenn, a man who's in the business of filming gay porn, but he's not in any motorcycle club. The whole gay porn part really threw me because the book starts off with this business of Tenn's showing up front and center and I had to do a double take because we go from a man filming gay porn at his house (where Calla is hiding out when she doesn't know if Cage is alive or dead) to Cage showing up and the motorcycle clubs being introduced and playing a larger role. In a way, Tenn's business it felt tossed in and I get that it was more to introduce Tenn, but still, it just seemed weird to start out the book and a new series like that.

Needless to say, this wasn't a story for me. I had a hard connecting to the characters, I didn't buy in at all to the love connection between Cage and Calla and I didn't find myself invested enough in this world or the other characters we're introduced to, to continue with the series.

Angela (Angel's Guilty Pleasures) says

I got pulled in by the cover and blurb, but unfortunately this novel didn't work for me and I DNF'd it.

I don't mind reading insta-love/lust, but this one was over the top. How can anyone fall in love over a 10 min phone call, sight unseen? Then add in the two months of her mourning this guy she never meets and thinks is dead? A lot didn't make sense.

Up to this point Cage and Calla haven't talked, shared, or gotten to know each other. All they have is this attraction, sex, and trying to avoid the past. I can't understand how Calla can feel, at this point, even at the begging, the way she does about Cage. She feels a deeper bond, something profound, but I just don't see it. She also feels that the sex is more than sex. As for the sex... They don't use condom's (not once), Cage has a

pierced cock, but it doesn't come up during the sex scenes, and the sex scenes are bland and glossed over.

Next not much is talked or introduced on the other guys in Cage's MC. The only thing I learned is that they are the good MC, not the bad kind.

Then their is the writing. The chapters are divided up into POV's. One chapter we have Calla and then the next is Cage. For some reason the writing felt disjointed, broken, and off. Maybe the off is; because I didn't care for the story or the characters. Who knows?

Vipers Run was not the book for me. It had several things that didn't work and make sense to me, so I just couldn't read any longer. If the blurb intrigues you, I urge you to give it a shot. Just because it did not work for me does not mean it won't for you.

DNF at 41% at pg. 148.

Nicole says

I made it to about 50%, and I just can't keep reading. I really enjoy Tyler writing as SE Jakes, but something about her Stephanie Tyler penname just doesn't work for me.

The heroine falls in insta-love with the hero, after a 10 minute phone call. While I can suspend my disbelief a lot when reading, there were just way too many eye roll situations that didn't sit well with me.

I'm super disappointed this one didn't work out for me.

Sophia says

A woman with a past takes a phone call that connects her with a dying man that leads her to flee into the night toward a new destiny. A man hears a woman's voice over the phone and it gives him the will to live and claim her as his own even if it means straddling a line between two warring MCs, his past, hers and anything else that comes at them.

This book promised thriller-like excitement, a tough road to love and two people needing only what the other can give. I'm just dipping my toe into the biker romance world, but I felt this one is a good start to a new series. It offered a strong overall series plot thread, exciting book plot threads and twists, engaging characters, well-painted backdrop and a fascinating anti-hero element with its dark, gritty tone.

The story jumps right into the middle of a situation so there is quite a bit of suspense for the heroine, Calla Benson, because this is the point she enters a very dangerous situation that makes no sense to her until much later. For now, she has experienced a brief, but deeply memorable connection over the phone with a dying man looking for her boss' help. Danger finds her and her boss sends her into the night on a run to reach safety. Safety is with an old army buddy of her boss' before she finally meets the man on the other end of the phone who insists she is with him now and he will keep her safe from those who are hunting them both.

Calla is terrified of how quickly she has fallen for a man particularly a dangerous one from a whole different world.

Christian 'Cage' Owens knows the beautiful Calla gave him the will to live the night he nearly died, but he owes her for more than that because it is his past and present activities that put her in the crosshairs of another MC against whom he's seeking revenge. Cage didn't realize it was possible to fall in love after only hearing someone's voice, but he knows its not enough because Calla is not the type of woman to thrive in a biker club. He can't let her go even if he knows he should. With the other MC coming after both of them and the trouble from her past also closing in, he brings them home to the Vipers and with the backing of his brothers turns around to go on the offensive to protect his woman, his club and his town.

When this one started, I felt totally off kelter and I'm sure it was on purpose to create a feeling of suspense for the reader. I've had author's take that approach before so I knew to be patience and muscle through it until the explanations came later. And they did and I was fine with it though some stuff still felt vague even at the conclusion. There were some things that were brought up that I felt needed more teasing out, but I suppose its possible that it will come out in later books in the series.

I enjoyed the atmosphere and action plot created by the war over the rival MC trying to push into Viper territory with their drugs and the murder investigation with the police. I liked the dynamics of Cage returning to the Vipers as the prodigal son and Calla learning about life in the MC.

As to the characters, I struggled to connect with Calla. There is really nothing that I can overtly put my finger on. She has gone through so much. Her mom turned her against her dad, she has a jerk for a brother and she basically got raped and used by a group of guys invited to do it with and by her boyfriend. I totally respect her for picking up and trying to put her life together again so for the life of me I don't know why I didn't like her. Her abandonment issues made sense, but her anger and poorly done denying with Cage in the beginning just left me impatient because it felt more like a snit. He said he would come back to her and he did. She didn't have all the information so she went with what she knew, but her reaction just felt exaggerated particularly the obvious lies. He let her think he was dead while he recovered which was hard, but how was he to know that she connected so deeply with him after a few moments on the phone. Dang the guy was recovering from a murderous attack and had to figure out a lot of stuff that was complicated so he could make a wise move. Fortunately, she moved on from that and things settled down into more genuine reaction/actions from her. Cage was another tough cookie. He grew up fast and hard. It's amazing that he came out at the end of it with a heart to love and a soul to care about doing right by his own moral code. Cage had amends to make with his Viper brothers and he felt he had to prove himself because of his background. I loved the camaraderie he was part of between the Vipers and his Army buddy.

It took me a while to warm up to the romance. Falling in love with a voice on the phone was a tough sell for me and for that to strengthen because they shared a porn video moment only struck me as hot and not deep. I was enjoying the rest of the story so I went with it. Eventually, I learned more about them as they learned about each other. These two got past their respective barriers and worked hard to be together showing me it was more than mere attraction. I respected the honesty when they both shared and shared what they wanted. In the end, I wanted them together and I was totally into their story as they healed and grew closer together.

To sum up, it took me a while to get into this one, but I was fully engaged in the end. It was gritty, but not as gritty as many biker romances out there which worked for me since I'm still getting used to this anti-hero story backdrop. The combo of suspense and romance was good and well balanced. I look forward to reading more from the series. I would definitely recommend it for those who enjoy biker romances, but also those who enjoy slightly darker romantic suspense.

My thanks to Penguin group for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

Stephanie G says

4.5 Stars

This thrilling action paced takes readers on a roller coaster of danger, romance, drama and passion. Vipers Motorcycle Club member goes rogue to protect his club from a rival club from his past and when he call for help endangers his friend and the young woman who works for him. Now he's made it his mission to protect her, but Calla has her own secrets...secrets that threaten to tear her and Cage – and the Vipers MC- apart.

This fast paced and smooth flowing plot keeps readers on their toes with lots of well orchestrated action and suspense that is believable and exciting. The author brings the story to life with well written scenes and details that make it easy for the reader to get lost in this dangerous world and the strong compelling characters are understood and grab the reader's attention from the very beginning. Spine tingling chills and thrills abound throughout the book from Cage's enemy as well as the one from Calla's past.

The attraction between Cage and Calla begins with a phone call and escalates to a raging inferno of passion that neither can deny and the sex scenes are even hotter. But the questions looming over the relationship adds lots of drama to the situation. Can Calla make a life for herself inside the MC? Will one of their pasts put an end to it all? The reader can't help but get caught up in Calla's story and get emotionally involved in the outcome of her HEA, her heartbreak past and the strength of courage she shows in surviving and trusting in Cage just makes the reader want to give a great big hug and well what woman can resist the perfect bad boy, especially when he's determined to make all your monsters go away.

Stephanie Tyler has done it again, she's taken a wild concept and turned into a fantastic woman meets bad boy romance and I was completely captivated from beginning to end with all of the characters and the non-stop drama/action and I can't wait to read the next one.

- Eva

Amanda Hobson says

Tyler's kick off to the Skulls Creek series features well-developed characters, good dialogue, and some excellent tension . . . oh and some really sexy moments. I was completely hooked from the beginning because Tyler's opening chapter was absolutely riveting. You simply can't look away. Cage and Calla both have a great about of depth, and they have great chemistry, which you feel from the beginning. Though some other reviewers find Calla and Cage's telephone conversation chemistry to be suspect, I would say their conversation and ability to connect makes sense even if you have to potentially suspend some disbelief. (Maybe you just have to believe a bit in fate and the ability to make instant connections, which is something I absolutely believe in.) I appreciated Tyler's ability to tell a thoughtful and intriguing story. I must say that I would have liked the the motivations and paths of the "bad guys" to have been a bit more fleshed out because it would have solidified certain plot pieces. Viper's Run is a great start to the series, as it told an excellent story but also set up so many other people and plots to follow. I can't wait to read more of this series, and it was great to get the nod to the Havoc series via Tyler's alter-ego SE Jakes--I'm looking forward to some

potential cross-overs . . . Tenn, please??? I can highly recommend this book. As a final note, I'll offer a trigger warning, but I'll also say that the issues are dealt with well and thoughtfully.

Glass says

DNF

For once, I should have read reviews first!

K- says

Wow this was the instalove that topped all instalove. Did you know you could fall in love with someone from a 5 minute phone call? While they're DYING? No? Neither did I.

This was nothing like her Defiance series (which I LOVE & yes I know is apocalyptic) but I didn't like the characters or even the MC. A lot of the relationships felt forced. Super disappointed. 2 stars.
