



Let it Ride

L.C. Chase

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Pickup man Bridge Sullivan is the kind of cowboy everyone wants—as a brother, a friend, a lover. People think he’s straight, but Bridge isn’t one for labels, and when a sexy male paramedic jumpstarts his heart, he charges in with all guns blazing.

New York City transplant Eric Palmer grew up in foster care. While he always had a roof over his head, he never felt love or a sense of belonging . . . until he joined the California rodeo circuit as a paramedic and found a band of brothers who took him in as one of their own. Now, one in particular is making Eric’s pulse race.

When things heat up between Bridge and Eric, Bridge has to prove to Eric he’s not just experimenting with the rougher sex, while Eric must overcome his fears of being unwanted and cast aside. He knows that trusting Bridge may be the key to his happy ever after, but getting in the saddle is much, much easier than learning to let it ride.

Let it Ride Details

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From Reader Review Let it Ride for online ebook

Ricardo says

Wow, this one was incredibly melodramatic. Authors need to remember that victimhood is not sexy

Christelle says

Easy read and entertaining story of a pick-up man and a paramedic, with a lovely HEA. It's all about friendship, family, and accepting that one can be loved. Sweet.

Tina says

4,5 stars.

“You’re the one. The only one for me.”

I loved the first book in L.C. Chace's Pickup Men series but this one was even better. It tells the story of paramedic Eric Palmer and pick up man Bridge Sullivan. I liked those two in the first book but this time they owned my heart... hook, line, and sinker.

Bridge is such a nice guy, easy-going and laid-back, just a friend who's game for anything. Open minded in his sexuality and attracted to Eric, he wants the paramedic with all of his heart. It doesn't matter to him if he's bi or gay, he accepts his attraction to Eric easily, and has the courage to approach him and tell him he's not looking for a one night stand - he wants a relationship.

“I’m not going anywhere, Eric. I told you from the very beginning I wanted you more than as just a friend with benefits, and I don’t give a shit what other people think or say or do, unless they hurt those I care about. That I won’t stand for. But there is no way I’m not going to be with you because of other people’s groundless issues. So you can get that shit out of your head right now, strip your damn clothes off, and get in my damn bed.”

Eric is openly gay and loves the companionship of his friends on the rodeo circuit. He enjoys being part of a band of brothers and for the first time, feels like he belongs. Abandoned by his own parents and in and out of foster homes since then, his childhood was anything but easy with emotional scars running deep. Eric lives with a low sense of self worth because no one has ever truly loved him and stuck by him.

So when Bridge seems to be genuinely interested in him, Eric just doesn't have the courage to start a relationship for fear of losing his friends, something he is familiar with when lovers have left in the past. Eric tries to protect himself by not getting too close, convinced there is something wrong with him and Bridge will eventually see this. Definitely a guy who needs and deserves someone who shows him how to trust.

I loved that Bridge so easily accepts his feelings for Eric, he's just an extraordinary guy who loves a person... not a female or male... that character trait is really well done. My poor Bridge, I suffered with him when Eric breaks his heart so badly. *sniffs* Nothing is easy when it comes to love.

“Why subject yourself to this kind of grief by dating a man when you don't have to?”

“Don't have to?”

The pitch in Bridge's voice raised a notch, as did the color in his face.

“The hell kind of bullshit is that? I have to go with my heart, and my heart is going with you. That's where there's no choice. You could have three eyes and green skin for all I care. Issues with same-sex relationships are society's hang-up, not mine.”

L.C. Chase did a great job of bringing Bridge and Eric's affinity to the page in a way that makes it feel like these two have a chance together. The story had me close to tears in places and with such hope that they could pull through. It's one of those rare books that pulled me straight into the scene and shows how important family is. I loved the rodeo setting and the friendship between Eric, Bridge, and their friends Marty, Tripp and Kent, the characters we got to know in the first book of Pickup Men.

Let It Ride is a beautiful, heartfelt and emotional ride, a story about finding oneself and shedding the past, a story about forgiveness and second chances. It's well written, the characters are fresh, real and interesting, the story line sweet and sexy and the plot is great, romantic, delightful, painful and heart breaking. Yeah, I admit that I'm a sucker for those kind of books! Only a broken heart can heal again, right?

I don't think it is necessary to know book one to enjoy Let It Ride, even though it would be a shame not to read it. Recommended for all the M/M readers out there who love hot cowboys and rodeos and don't fear a little heartbreak.

Nic says

I really liked book one of the *Pickup Men* series (which is a Lambda Literary Award Finalist for Gay Romance) so knew I would enjoy this one and wasn't disappointed. As with the first book, there is lots of emotion set against a back drop of the rodeo. The characters from book one are here to some degree - Marty, Tripp, Kent - but I don't think it is absolutely necessary to read book one (although it would be a shame to miss it!)

I thought this would be more Bridge's story as he deals with his attraction to Eric and finally wakes up to the fact that he may be bi or gay, something his one-time experiment with a guy in college didn't clue him up on. But he accepts his attraction to Eric easily, having the courage to approach the man and push for a relationship. Surprisingly there's not a lot of issue with anyone else's reaction to his new path in life either, somewhere I thought the story would go.

The emotion surrounds Eric, with his low sense of self worth based on his childhood - abandonment by his own parents and subsequent foster homes - and experience with relationships. No one has truly loved him and stuck by him.

"A cold sliver of panic tickled across his chest. Disposable people didn't get to keep lives like this."

Eric believes there's something wrong with him and that Bridge will eventually see this. He looks for excuses and struggles to accept the truth of Bridge's feelings.

This is a story of sexual exploration (there's no hesitation from either man when it comes to the joys of sex!) with lots of soul searching thrown in. This cowboy isn't afraid of emotional conversations and going after his man. Of course, there's the big dramatic moment of the men coming together for their happy ending - I'm such a sucker for these types of resolutions! :)

This is a single sitting read - sweet and sexy with nice characters - an enjoyable way to spend an evening.

A copy of this book was received from the publisher via Netgalley in return for my honest review.

For m/m romance reviews and more check out *Because Two Men Are Better Than One!*

Bitchie says

I was wavering between 4 and 5 stars, but because this one ticked off all of my "gay for you" boxes, AND it managed to draw a few tears out of me, I'm giving it the bump.

As to my boxes, when I read a gay for you, bisexual for you, whatever, and the story centers around the guy exploring his gay side, there are certain things that I want to see, on page. Call me a dirty perv if you want, but I want to SEE all the firsts: first BJ, both giving and receiving, first time topping AND bottoming, if the guy does both, and first time being rimmed is an added bonus. I'm thrilled to say, this book ticked ALL those boxes!

Oh, but you guys want to know about the plot? That was great for me too! Bridge has always been thought of as straight, although he himself knows he's been attracted to men before, and even fooled around once with a guy in college. He just never met a guy tempting enough to explore things further, until Eric. Eric has been left behind by everyone who was ever supposed to love him. His parents actually sent him to foster care when they learned he was gay, foster families always sent him back, even boyfriends. So he is understandably wary of Bridge's sudden attraction.

I loved how Bridge went after what he wanted. There wasn't a bunch of waffling around or angsting about falling for a man, and that was brilliant for me. I also loved Eric, he was SUCH a good guy, who just didn't trust that anyone could ever stick around for him. I dunno why, but I'm always a sucker for this type of MC, so long as it isn't over the top on the "woe is me" attitude.

I remember enjoying the first book in this series, but this one definitely hit more of my buttons, and is going on my favorites shelf!

JR says

This is a wonderful follow up to *Pickup Men*. This is the story of Bridge Sullivan, a pick up man and Eric Palmer, an EMS on the rodeo circuit. They have known each for over a year, which has lead to a mutual attraction. The thing is Bridge is straight and Eric is openly gay. If that is not enough to keep the relationship on a "just friends" level, Eric is snake bit when it comes to love.

I loved this story. A very worthy successor to Pick Up Men. The entire cast is there Tripp, Marty and Kent. This is the best romance I have read this year. If it doesn't make you go cuddle someone, you are not among the living. The romance would be enough, but there is also a message about learning not to let the past color your future. Well done L.C. Chase! I give it an arena full of stars.

****Dorian Bane's narration is spot on. Bridge is so sexy*****

Anke says

Perhaps 2.5 stars.

Couldn't really get into it. But I finished! Not much more to say about it.

Vanessa North says

This was a better book than Pickup Men--which I enjoyed--in just about every way I can think of: The writing is stronger, more assured, and more understated. More is left to subtext, more is shown rather than told, and the plot/conflict feels more authentic.

I am very much enjoying the way LC Chase's voice is evolving in this series and I hope there will be more to come!

Catherine says

***4.25 Stars ***

Well that was sweet and lovely. Definitely a better book than Pickup Men.

Teri says

4.5 stars

I loved this one, so much better than the first one in my opinion. Bridge was sexy and sweet and too adorable. I liked Eric a lot, too, though he was breaking my heart and I was upset with him at times, but I kind of got him, too. It was good to see Marty and Tripp from the first one as well. Love the friendship-Kent is an awesome friend. There was some hotness, but emotional too. Super enjoyed this!

Will be reading more from this author...is Cory getting a story next?

Wart Hill says

You can read this and other reviews at [Things I Find While Shelving](#)

[I received a free ARC of this book via NetGalley. This fact has no bearing on my review.]

OMG THAT WAS SO CUTE!

Seriously. It was like curling up and watching a chick flick. Except it's a book. And gay guys (well, one's gay, one's bi-ish). This is a great book for a gloomy day, it will have you grinning like a loon. Well, it had *me* grinning like a loon.

Since meeting Eric Palmer, Bridge has found himself having some interesting dreams. The kind of dreams that generally confuse your average manly man, totally straight cowboy. After a very odd prologue in which Bridge discusses the matter with his penis (seriously, he questions it, then pictures people, and determines his level of attraction), Bridge accepts that he is attracted to men as well as women, and that he's particularly attracted to Eric Palmer.

So he has to figure out how to broach this subject. Everyone thinks he's straight, including the object of his affections, so when they meet up at a rodeo pre-season clinic (Eric's the paramedic on sight), Bridge needs to find a way to get Eric alone to talk to him. Bridge also spends much time flirting with Eric, and we find that Eric's not opposed to Bridge, either.

Except for one thing: Eric has abandonment issues. After foster care and a number of boyfriends who left him despite promising they wouldn't, Eric is terrified of committing to anyone for fear that they will only leave him. So while he gives Bridge a chance, he tries to keep his heart out of it.

There's romance, there's adorableness, there's sweetness, there's some heart break, but it's okay because it doesn't last.

And there are some awkward as hell phrases ("*Eric parted his lips and invited Bridges tongue inside to play.*"), some rather cliché bits (like dueling tongues during kissy times, and explosively transcendent orgasms...).

BUT over all this is super adorable and sweet and I'm definitely going to have to read the first book in the series :)

Jo * Smut-Dicked * says

The narrator really makes this shine. I can not get enough - he has the perfect cowboy voice all gravely and western. The story is fun - though Eric drove me batshit crazy at times with all his drama. Bridge was a little too nice - but the HEA made me feel better.

Gigi says

The second book in L.C. Chase's Pickup Men series tells the story of Pickup Man Bridge Sullivan and EMT Eric Palmer.

Bridge, despite a single male hookup in collage he brushes off as an experiment, has always been straight, but ever since he met Eric, he finds himself drawn to the man. When he starts having erotic dreams about Eric, he starts to seriously consider the possibility that he could be gay, or at least bi-sexual. The next time he sees Eric at a rodeo function (they do not live in the same area) he plans to discuss this with him.

Eric, who has always been gay, has a big 'ol "everyone who has ever said they loved me has left me" chip on his shoulder. When Bridge expresses his feelings, Eric must decide if the possibility of losing Bridge's friendship, along with the friendship of their five man tight-knit circle of friends, is worth being Bridge's "gay experiment."

There it all is in a nutshell. We get to watch as Eric introduces Bridge to the joys and wonder of seriously hot gay sex, and let me tell you, it was smokin'! Bridge was almost *too* perfect, but damn, gotta love a sweet, hot, well mannered cowboy who only has eyes for one man. Eric's woe-is-me attitude grated on my nerves a bit, but I understood that plot point to move the story forward and bring these boys to their explosion of angst, which was painful and heartbreaking, but made their HEA taste so much sweeter.

I did read the first book in the series, but I honestly don't think you'd need to read it to understand what is happening here. As long as you understand that Bridge, Marty and Kent all grew up together on neighboring farms and are best friends that work the rodeo together, you'll be fine. And here is an explanation of a pickup man.

I can **highly recommend** this book to M/M romance readers, especially those that enjoy gay-for-you and cowboys. This one was delightful, romantic and the epilogue was sappy sweet perfection.

This review is also posted at Gay Book Reviews

Valerie ✨M/M Romance Junkie✨ says

This was a very nice addition to this series. I really liked Bridge in the previous story, so I was glad for him to have his own HEA. He has to work hard for Eric to trust his feelings and their relationship. I will admit to wanting thump Eric on the head a few times because he continued to let fear rule him. All in all, I was very happy with how things went.

Lisa says

Ok. Man meets man at rodeo. Nothing happens and they go home. A year down the line, same said men are back for the start of another rodeo year. Each have been thinking about the other. Alls good except one man thinks the other is straight. Thank goodness there isnt alot of time spent with Bridge trying to convince Eric that he is gay and not just experimenting. All goes well until nearly the end when Eric runs because he still cant believe Bridge wont leave him.

A pleasant way to spend a couple of hours on a Sunday morning catching up with old friends.

