

Book Review: The Doctor's Choice, Book One of Badlands, by JD Faver

JD Faver fans are in for a treat with this modern day romance that brings not one but three cowboy hunks into the life of Camryn (Cami) Carmichael, a lonely doctor about to inherit a thousand plus acre ranch worth 13 million. All she has to do is accept the terms of the will that require her to live on her aunt's ranch for one year, turning her back on her lifelong dreams. Will she risk everything she's worked for or play it safe?

After her Aunt Silky's untimely death, Cami attends the funeral in the rural community where her aunt's family has lived for generations. Oblivious to the terms of her aunt's will, she plans to stay in this small town for two days before returning to Houston to accept a fellowship in immunology and to marry her "safe and steady" fiancé, Clayton Tremont, IV. Standing graveside, on a frigid day in February, she looks across the coffin where a broad shouldered, dark-eyed cowboy wearing a black Stetson meets her gaze, momentarily distracting her from the service. He is Breckenridge (Breck) T Ryan, her Aunt Silky's lawyer and friend, a "big overprotective cowboy," whose family ranch is as large as the spread that now belongs to Cami. Over the next two days, they are increasingly drawn to each other, more so after Cami suspects that her aunt may have been murdered, vowing to stay until she unravels the truth. Small town neighborliness welcomes Cami as she settles into the Victorian house that belonged to her aunt; the two ranch hands devoted to Silky assure Cami that they will stay on. The youngest, Frank, has worked on the ranch since he turned sixteen. More laid back than Breck, Frank's "dimpled grin" catches Cami unawares when he reminds her that he met her years ago when she was fifteen and he was a year older. Although Frank never openly pursues Cami, they establish an easy-going friendship. Had she decided to veer off course, Faver could have developed this friendship into something more romantic. Instead, she brings EJ Kincaid, a blonde, blue-eyed, movie star handsome, wealthy young man into the story. Kincaid's outsider status is similar to Cami's. While his father, Eldon Kincaid, made a fortune buying up small ranches, creating a "mega ranch," EJ stayed with his mother in Dallas. Despite his privileged upbringing, he determines to become wealthy in his own right. By the time Cami meets EJ, one of the visible signs of his success is the low slung jaguar XKR that he drives because "I am," he assures Cami, "my own man." All three men have requisite 6 pack abs, steely chests, Stetson hats and muscular arms. Each, in their turn, gathers Cami close as they dance the country two step with enviable ease. All of them are chivalrous cowboys, sweetly attentive to women. One of them falls in love with Cami and courts her with an endearing intensity that's impossible to resist.

Romantic love deep in the heart of Texas with a mysterious death and another decades old mystery to solve keep readers on their toes.

Written by Kathy H Porter