



## Ride with Me

*Ruthie Knox*

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**Ride with Me** Ruthie Knox

**In this fun, scorching-hot eBook original romance by Ruthie Knox, a cross-country bike adventure takes a detour into unexplored passion. As readers will discover, *Ride with Me* is not about the bike!**

When Lexie Marshall places an ad for a cycling companion, she hopes to find someone friendly and fun to cross the TransAmerica Trail with. Instead, she gets Tom Geiger—a lean, sexy loner whose bad attitude threatens to spoil the adventure she’s spent years planning.

Roped into the cycling equivalent of a blind date by his sister, Tom doesn’t want to ride with a chatty, go-by-the-map kind of woman, and he certainly doesn’t want to want her. Too bad the sight of Lexie with a bike between her thighs really turns his crank.

Even Tom’s stubborn determination to keep Lexie at a distance can’t stop a kiss from leading to endless nights of hotter-than-hot sex. But when the wild ride ends, where will they go next?

**Includes a special message from the editor, as well as excerpts from these Loveswept titles: *In the Arms of the Law*, *Ivy Secrets*, and *Because of You*.**

## Ride with Me Details

Date : Published February 13th 2012 by Loveswept

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# From Reader Review Ride with Me for online ebook

## Jaime Arkin says

I think I have found another new favorite author in the Contemporary Romance genre. I really really have enjoyed Ms. Knox's books.

In Ride with Me, We meet Alex (Lexie) and Tom. Tom has a past that has influenced who he has become when we meet him...

*"Taryn, I'm 35, single, tattooed and antisocial. I'm the serial killer."*

Tom is not a people person and that's keeping things light. He's a suit, working as a bike mechanic, where he doesn't have to deal with people and the possibility of being recognized.

Lexie is the single woman with a few failed relationships behind her and she wants to find a cycling partner to ride the TransAmerica Trail with her. She's looking to meet new people and go on an adventure... what she ends up with is Tom Geiger. He's gorgeous and sexy, but his bad attitude and bitterness practically assures she'll keep her distance. So they make a deal... he'll stick with her until they can find a new partner for her along the way.

I love love loved the banter between these two. Both of them gave just as good as they took and I found myself smiling while reading this. I think while the story itself was a bit predictable... it had all the elements of your typical romance, Ruthie Knox really grabs you with her characters. These were two people I could connect with and that I found myself liking.

I know I said it was typical above but let me clarify... only in the sense of what you expect from a romance. What is different about this book is the journey these characters make. We're basically taking this bike trip with them and that was unique and different and I truly enjoyed it.

Tom, even in all his surliness was a wonderful character. I really enjoyed him and the chemistry between him and Lexie... hot!

*"—Right now you need to let go, sweetheart. Open your eyes and let go. I'll keep you safe."*

*He wouldn't let her look away. When she came, his gaze held her in place, his eyes huge and black and unspeakably tender, and he didn't allow her to shrink back from the tsunami of sensation that swept through her. He held her there and made sure she felt every last unbelievable second of it, and then he blinked and came himself with a helpless sound that was almost a roar. She watched him, holding on tight until it was over.*

*Still shuddering, her hot cheek pressed against his shoulder, Lexie closed her eyes and cursed him. Because now it was no longer possible to pretend.*

*Tom was going to break her heart, and she was going to let him.*

So... opposites attract is the basis of this, but it ends up being so much more! A sexy story filled with humor, romance and adventure that you must give a read to. The only thing I was disappointed in was the end... it

felt kind of abrupt to me, and I would have liked to see a bit more of them together there, but I still really enjoyed this.

Definitely go give this a read - you won't be disappointed. I'll be sitting here waiting ~~patiently~~ for the next Ruthie Knox book to come out!

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## Susanne says

**Beautiful scenery, beautiful and lovely story and lots of fun!** Not to be missed! Highly recommended if you are on the lookout for a sweet, hot contemporary romance with awesome scenery. 4.5 sunshine stars!

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## ?Karlyn P? says

*Ride With Me* was quite the journey, LITERALLY, and I enjoyed it a lot. It's a steamy romance where our hero/heroine meet on a cross country bike ride across the U.S. on the Trans-America Trail.

### **This is the journey Tom & Lexie went on:**

Oregon --> Idaho --> Montana --> Wyoming --> Colorado --> Kansas --> Missouri --> Illinois --> Kentucky --> Virginia

### **This is the journey the readers went on:**

Not With Me! --> Fight With Me --> Talk With Me? --> Not With Me --> Sleep With Me! --> Come With Me! --> Share More With Me --> Fight With Me --> Not With Me! --> Sleep With Me! --> Spend Forever With Me.

Overall I loved this book, I just would have like a bit less angst between Tom & Lexie. When Tom & Lexie got along, this was a great read and I couldn't put it down. I loved the sexual tension between these two, and I had no problem believing these two belonged together and would make a great couple. Their conversations were warm and funny, and could they burn up the sleeping bag! But when they were fighting or not speaking to one another, which was often, I found myself wondering why the heck are they continuing on this road trip. Especially Lexie, who I felt spent too many weeks on this trip in a miserable funk.

Tom had some real baggage from his past, and the guilt he carried was quite deep. I couldn't imagine being in his shoes and not feeling much of what he felt, so I never questioned his desire to be a loner on the bike trip.

I loved the conversation with his sister:

*"Please, Tom. You can't ride your bicycle across the country alone. It's insane. You'll end up being slaughtered by a serial killer."*

*"Taryn, I'm thirty-five, single, tattooed, and antisocial. I'm the serial killer."*

Lexie was a great heroine too. She gets him to open up and quit living in the past, and she discovers an

amazingly wonderful guy beneath a gruff surface. Their attraction turns into a bone deep kind of love, but they refuse acknowledge what is changing between them. They have much to work out.

*Somehow, she managed to be totally innocent and scorching hot at the same time, his Eve in the Garden of Eden. Tom was uncomfortably aware of her. Uncomfortably hard for her. You're not Adam, asshole. You're the snake.*

I'm still not sure how I feel about the ending. While it was abrupt, I also thought it was soooo sweet and yummy. I do recommend this book, especially to fans of steamy road trip romances mixed with humor, angst, heat and great scenic details.

### **The Trans-America Trail**

[image error]

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### **Penny Watson says**

Review of Ride With Me by Ruthie Knox

There are a lot of reasons I don't love contemporary romance. Too much reality. Recycled plot ideas. Lack of excitement. The ones that resonate with me usually have a real sweetness to them. Very romantic moments. I don't care about the sex as much as the love connection, baby.

Unfortunately, when I first read the blurb for this book, I thought to myself.....I'm never gonna read it. It just wasn't appealing to me. But because a lot of folks were chatting about how much they enjoyed this novel, I decided to read it for maybe 15 minutes? If I didn't like it by then, I would bag it.

It didn't take fifteen minutes.

Right from the start, the characters were engaging, the storyline was solid. There was a nice, slow simmer to this love story that was both believable and romantic. I don't care about biking. But I did relish the idea of a cross-country journey. I loved how Tom taught Lexie to loosen up and be more spontaneous. And I also liked the fact that Lexie was likable from the very beginning. Even as an uptight, by-the-book biker, she was a good person.....someone who thought about others but also looked out for herself. A very modern heroine. I think it's pretty difficult to make a strong and determined contemporary heroine non-bitchy and appealing. Knox does a great job with Lexie. And Tom is utterly delicious. A tortured soul (my fav!) who gets all hot and bothered by his new riding partner.

The parallels between the bicycle trek and the romantic journey in this story worked out well. The sex was an integral part of their relationship. It made sense. It wasn't just thrown in for kicks. And it helped to solidify the growing bonds between these two unlikely partners.

Ruthie Knox is a talented writer. The story was addictive. The characters were wonderful. I was feeling pretty nervous about the end. But in spite of gigantic obstacles, Tom figures out a freakin' fabulous HEA for them. (Go, Tom! Go, Tom!) Which was just perfect. He finally admits his love for Lexie. I turned the digital page, ready for the next chapter.

And there wasn't one.

At first I thought Amazon had flubbed up and cut off the end of the book.

And then I realized that I had finished the story.

NOOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If this book hadn't been so damned good, I guess I wouldn't have felt so cheated at the end. But it was damned good. Really damned good. And so the abrupt ending really sucked. I sat with a super-sad look on my face for a couple of minutes.

Prior to the non-ending, this book was heading for a solid 5-star review. But getting gypped at the end was a big downer. Nevertheless, I would definitely recommend this book. Especially for folks who enjoy contemporary romance. There are some very sweet and touching moments in this story. And Knox has a gift for bringing her characters to life.

Grade: B/B+

I'm really looking forward to reading her next book. And hoping that she gives the HEA the attention and time it deserves. If you are going to write romance, you can't skimp on the HEA.

Wondering what my hubby would look like in bicycle shorts,  
Penelope

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## **Sally says**

### **Rating 3.5**

I enjoyed this book, it was a fun contemporary read. The hero at the start was an anti-social hermit, angry at life and hiding. There was a time he had it all, a corporate career, wife but then he testified against his father's company, found out his wife was cheating on him with his brother and was left angry, hurt and bitter. So, he isn't happy that his sister has managed to find him a riding partner for the TransAmerica Trail and to his shock he finds out his partner is a woman.

The hero is really a jerk and boor at first but the heroine is no doormat, she gives him the silent treatment and is actually fun even if she does like to follow her charts and schedules.

The sexual tension was off the charts, I enjoyed the banter and seeing these both evolve, the hero taking an interest in being more human and coming to terms with his past gradually and the heroine becoming spontaneous and despite vowing to not let their emotions get in the way, they do.

I also liked the unique setting and a heroine who was not a stereotypical teacher, she was a modern woman with varied interests and I really respected her for the fact that after she pours her heart out she has self preservation instincts.

Enjoyable read.

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## Kathleen says

Content: Cussing, profanity, explicit sex. No violence.

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Spoiler Free!! **Commendations:** Great story! I was absorbed from the beginning. The characters, Tom and Lexie, seemed authentic and likable. I laughed out loud several times, but mostly in the first third of the book. I also reflected on Thoreau's *Walden Pond*, reading the excerpts right along with Tom and Lexie. Also, I enjoyed the unique setting, riding bike from Oregon to Virginia, stopping along the way in Yellowstone, Steamboat Springs, etc.

The dialogue was natural and flowing, not wooden or forced. Lots of good interaction between Lexie and Tom. Gradually, as they biked across America, they went from strangers to companions, eventually to lovers. Physical intimacy came about half-way through the book, after rising sexual tension. Deeper trust and emotional sharing came after physical intimacy, primarily delayed because of Tom's hang-ups with his past.

POV changed from Lexie to Tom, but was more often with Lexie. I liked hearing Tom's thoughts occasionally.

**Weaker areas:** I'd like to have seen more of the funny scenes, like the hot sauce scene. That was hysterical. The sex scenes were hot, and Tom was ripped ;-), but I could do without quite so much lovemaking -- instead, I wanted more humor. No need for additional serious conversation. The book had plenty of that, with the focus on Tom's sad and guilt-ridden past, etc. (A bit overdone. Life could be worse, Tom.) The ending was a bit abrupt. I would have liked more happy times at the end, given the long stretch of separation they endured. Also, I didn't think Lexie was fair to Tom, treating him like a leper for the last \_\_\_\_\_ miles, just because he...(no spoilers here).

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## Jill says

Alex (Lexie) Marshall has wanted to cycle the TransAmerica Trail for a very long time. Now she's found the perfect riding partner in Tom Geiger. Tom isn't keen on having a partner, but since his sister has set it up, what's a guy to do? Tom will do the right thing and start off the biking trek with this **guy** Alex, but as soon as he finds another riding partner for him along the way, Tom plans on ditching Alex Marshall.

This is a very good contemporary romance debut. Absolutely loved the different setting. I've read lots of road trip romances before, but none like this with the hero and heroine on a cycling trip. Both Tom and Lexie are very likable, with the attraction of opposites played out well.

Tom is a loner by choice these days, free-spirited, burned-out, bitter and disillusioned. Here's Tom's description of himself when his sister Taryn worries about his safety riding alone -

*"Taryn, I'm thirty-five, single, tattooed, and antisocial. **I'm** the serial killer."*

Lexie is a people person, loves company, conversation and is hyper-organised. Lexie's description of herself in an ad for a cycling partner -

*"I'm easy to get along with and am looking forward to a grand adventure!"*

There's a really wonderfully written scene with Tom and Lexie having a competition eating chips with chilli sauce escalating in degrees of heat. They don't talk (they're giving each other the cold shoulder) but the narrative is brilliant and reminded me very much of something that SEP would write.

I loved *Ride with Me* but did wonder at one point if there could be a case here for too much sex in a romance novel. This one I think borderlined. Not that the scenes were overly explicit, they weren't. Just at one point they did seem to be taking over the plot. (I'm guessing this will not be seen as a problem for most readers.) The ending also felt somewhat abrupt.

*Ride with Me* is a really well-written, fun debut. Recommended for readers who love a straight-up contemporary romance (with a touch of sports romance thrown in). In a world drowning in paranormal and historical romance debuts Ruthie Knox's contemporary novel is refreshing. I'm looking forward to her next novel *About Last Night*.

**Steam:** 3.5

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## **Jae says**

A beautiful and scenic romance. I had a wonderful time with the story, the studly Hero and the cute-as-a-button heroine.

When I grow up I wanna be exactly like Sexy Lexie. She was so determined on cycling her way across the TransAmerica Trail that she even invented an imaginary husband so that her cycling companion would agree to take her on. And I just lurved how Tom was all jerk like in the beginning. You just can't help anticipating the moment when he'll wobble his jackass self at Lexie's feet.

And he can be very blunt with his plan:

*"Let me make a suggestion," Tom said after a moment. "We don't have to make this complicated. You and I will be ... companions, let's say. We'll ride together, we'll sleep together, and when we get to Yorktown, it'll be over. You'll go home and find somebody else for your happily ever after. But until then, I get to have you."*

And boy did he *HAD* her (sex in a tent had never been this HOT).

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## **Wendy says**

Such a sweet, light and entertaining story. Tom is absolutely adorable! If you're up for a fun read, look no



further because was truly fab.

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**?lleskelle - teamSøren? ?I like big b00ks? says**

??????? **4 stars** ???????

I will go anywhere with Tom... ;)

Thanks to **Crystal** and **Mirjana** for the rec! Ruthie Knox has some great books out there!

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**Elizabeth (Liz) says**

Well, this is one heck of a debut, I'll say that! What an adorable, funny, sexy, well-written story!

I'm not much at all for bicycling, and didn't know what I would ultimately think of Ride With Me. But, wow, way to go, Ruthie Knox! I felt like I was seeing America on the backs of Tom's and Lexie's bicycles right along with them. This was a lot of fun, and a nice change of pace!

4 Happy Stars!

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**Crista says**

This book took me on quite a ride. It was smart, funny, engaging, and very sexy!

I love a good road trip romance, and I haven't read a great one for a very long time. The wait is over....Ride With Me was awesome.

Tom Grainger was excited to get outdoors into the open country and tackle the TransAmerica Trail, a 4,262 mile cycling event that begins in Astoria, Oregon and ends in Yorktown, Virginia. Unknown to him, his sister advertises for a cycling partner to ride with him. She is concerned for his safety. Here's a quote from the book:

*Please, Tom. You can't ride your bicycle across the country alone. It's insane. You'll end up being slaughtered by a serial killer." Tom replied, "Taryn, I'm thirty-five, single, tatoed, and antisocial. I am the serial killer!*

Alex (Lexie) Marshall, a high school english teacher who's been burned by love, is also excited to embark on the TransAmerica Trail. She answers an ad to accompany Tom on the road trip as she is nervous about being a woman alone on the trail.

Tom believes that "Alex" is a guy, and when they meet for the first time, Tom is not pleased to see that Alex is very much a female!

This begins their 4,000 mile journey together, and I went right along with them. They start out as enemies, and then it morphs into a friends to lovers story. Tom was hot with a capital H, and I adored his abrasive, rough exterior. Lexie was also a fun character. I loved her rigidity and her attention to the smallest detail. The contrast between Lexie's OCD type personality and Tom's easy-going laid back approach had me smiling inside and out.

Ride With Me had some seriously hot moments with these two characters, and I felt fully engaged throughout this entire read.

For a light, fun, entertaining, and pure escape read, I can not recommend a book more highly. I loved every minute!

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## **UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says**

Sometimes I'll read a new-to-me author and wonder what the heck is wrong with me? Why did I wait sooooo long, when I've seen nothing but raves about their writing? Well, I'm doing that now - questioning and kicking myself - and this time the author is Ruthie Knox.

From the cover -

When Lexie Marshall places an ad for a cycling companion, she hopes to find someone friendly and fun to cross the TransAmerica Trail with. Instead, she gets Tom Geiger—a lean, sexy loner whose bad attitude threatens to spoil the adventure she's spent years planning.

Roped into the cycling equivalent of a blind date by his sister, Tom doesn't want to ride with a chatty, go-by-the-map kind of woman, and he certainly doesn't want to want her. Too bad the sight of Lexie with a bike between her thighs really turns his crank.

Even Tom's stubborn determination to keep Lexie at a distance can't stop a kiss from leading to endless nights of hotter-than-hot sex. But when the wild ride ends, where will they go next?

Like I said, start to finish this is a great story. A bike ride across the United States? How fun is that! I love that Ms. Knox made me feel like I was included in the adventure, taking me places and showing me things I'll never have the chance to see. From the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic, and everything in between - mountains, deserts, plains, clear skies or torrential rains...instead of just reading words on a page, I was there, riding right alongside Tom and Lexie. And. Loving. Every. Minute!

And speaking of Tom and Lexie...

Tom and Lexie are so awesome! Total opposites, but this is one of those cases where opposites not only attract, they're helplessly drawn together. I say helpless because even when they didn't want to give into their attraction, they couldn't help it. It was out of their control, almost as if destiny demanded it. I enjoyed their push and pull, their struggle to deny the obvious, because when they finally give in, they did so with a vengeance!

It was also fun to spend time with the people they met along the way. Such interesting, quirky people!

The Bottom Line - I've seen review after review praising Ms. Knox's storytelling, and now I understand why. *Ride with Me* is one of those stories that, start to finish, grabs hold and doesn't let go. It's fun, sexy, romantic, poignant... the perfect feel-good read.

*This spot is normally reserved for thanking authors or publishers for providing me with a copy of their book in exchange for an honest review, but since I bought this one for pleasure, I'll thank all the wonderful people on Goodreads whose reviews tempted me beyond reason, until I could no longer control myself and just had to buy this book! Loved it! Thank you!*

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## **Searock says**

This is a "Good Read". I really, really liked it.

Not sure what this says about my reading lately, but I liked this book as much for *what it didn't have in it* as much as *what it did have in it*.

It did have a great road trip across the US.

It did not have a complicated angst-ridden storyline. Great when you need an easy, breezy breather.

It did unfold in a way that kept me turning pages wanting to know the scoop.

It did have characters I liked. I wanted to see them happy and together.

It did not have any TSTL moments.

It did have a set of issues that had to be overcome between the two leads, but I felt the subtle psychological one in the latter half of the book was very well done and I totally bought into it.

It did not have an overly-contrived set of misunderstandings and deceptions. The secrets were revealed parallel to the intimacy. Or rather, they were forced out when the intimacy demanded it and I thought that felt like a natural tension. I didn't end up feeling manipulated so much as I felt the genuine angst that comes with having to "get over yourself" in order to reach out for something fabulous.

It did have a satisfying, albeit, *abrupt* ending. I would have enjoyed an epilogue or any additional glimpse of their life after the ride....

It did not have the writing issues I have been seeing so much lately. This writing was smooth, well-paced, comfortable to the eye, smart and delightful. I never pulled out of the story to stare at the words, which is unusual. I did have to google "chiaroscuro", however, especially in the context it was used ;)

Tell me you didn't google that sh\*t!

I went back immediately and re-read several scenes.

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## **Ridley says**

Huh. Would you look at that? The rating system goes up to five stars. I had no idea...

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