



Every Second Counts

D. Jackson Leigh

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Success for Marc Ryder means riding out eight seconds on the back of an angry rodeo bull. She's exactly the type of wild and reckless person artist Bridgette LeRoy has avoided since the senseless death of her brother. But circumstances throw them together, and Bridgette is drawn into a tumultuous ride of attraction, passion, and denial. When she realizes it's the only way to protect her battered heart, Bridgette's desperate mission to stop Marc's suicidal return to the rodeo becomes a race in which every second counts.

Every Second Counts Details

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From Reader Review Every Second Counts for online ebook

Terry Baker says

Twenty eight year old rodeo rider, Marc Ryder (Ryder to her friends) is fearless. She has no regard for her own safety at all. As long as she stays on the back of a hyped up, angry bull for the eight seconds it takes to win the rodeo, that's really all that matters to her. Unfortunately for her, her downfall was a bull named Funeral Wagon and she was badly injured. She ends up back in Cherokee Falls for the first time in twelve years to stay with her friends Skyler and Tory to recuperate.

Ryder hasn't had an easy life. Abandoned by her parents to her uncaring, mentally ill, grandmother, when she was a child, now she can't possibly allow anyone to get close to her. She's a player, she loves them and leaves them sort of. Until she meets Bridgette. It may just be that Ryder now wants more than just one night. But will Bridgette allow Ryder to get close to her?

When artist Bridgette LeRoy meets Ryder, it's lust at first sight. It could possibly be more. But when Bridgette finds out what Ryder does for a living, she tries to avoid her at all costs. Bridgette has avoided people who take chances with their lives since the untimely death of her brother Stephan.

Avoiding Ryder isn't easy when she keeps popping up in odd places at odd times. Before very long, both Bridgette and Ryder are on a rollercoaster ride of attraction, lust and complete denial. Something or someone has to give. What or who will give to allow the two women to love one another?

Things come to a head after Ryder leaves for Dallas to compete in another rodeo. Bridgette flies out to Dallas. She has to protect her heart and try to talk Ryder in to giving up bull riding for good. She's on a race against time and all odds where every second counts.

I've loved all of D. Jackson Leigh's books and this one, in my opinion, is her best ever yet. A sweet and tender, hot and sexy romance with some of my favorite characters from previous books. A real page turner from beginning to end, from a master storyteller.

The thing I love about DJL's books is that there is always an excellent story wrapped around a really true to life romance. I'm always sorry to reach the end of a DJL book, knowing I'm going to have, what seems to me, a long wait until the next book. But, all good things are well worth the wait.

This story is set partly among the horse world, the art world and bull riding rodeo. From the scenic descriptions it was easy to just lose myself amongst the characters.

The two main characters, Bridgette and Ryder are so obviously made for each other, everyone can see it except them. They are both well formed and multidimensional and interact so well together along with the rest of the cast of characters. Each of these characters plays their parts to perfection in furthering the story to its most satisfying conclusion.

This will join the rest of D. Jackson Leigh's books to be re-read. I hope to see more of these delightful characters among the horse world very soon.

Nikki says

Well done! Enjoyable read with intriguing twists and characters you can truly care about. Nifty sex scenes--both quickies and more intense, smoldering ones. Ryder is a complex character--strong on the outside, vulnerable on the inside. Just enough surprises in this story to keep you on your toes.

Dawn says

An interesting journey through the lives of 2 traumatized women, and their attempts at dealing with their own issues. Add some hot and steamy love scenes, and walla!! We have a winner.

IndigoIris says

This 3rd installment of the Cherokee Falls series was my least favorite. I liked the first two but I simply couldn't get into the characters. The playboy Marc character just didn't resonate. I think her background story and development in the story could have been fleshed out better. I was left with the impression of a rather shallow person and couldn't see how she could be redeemed. Enter the redeemer, Brigitte and well... it was simply too fast and too shallow to feel even remotely romantic. I ended the book feeling like I'd wasted time on two people who had no depth. This one needed a bit more development to be satisfying for me.

B.J. says

What a ride!

From the beginning, this story grabbed me and kept my full attention to the end. I love Leigh's stories and look forward to each new book. This one, however, is my favorite. If you like horses, this is your book. If you love romance and hot, smoldering lovemaking, this is also your book.

Tristan says

I love a good cowboy story. I grew up wanting to be one in the worst way and ended up coming pretty close, lol. The bronc riding, too-wild-for-her-own-good Marc Ryder could have been an interesting character especially when injured. When stripped of the one thing that was everything to her could have been a great jumping off point to explore her deeper self. I thought that was going to be THE central issue. In fairness, the book did lightly touch on that moment in one's life when the realization hits you that it's time to grow up. There are those that get that message, then there are others that don't...ever. Marc Ryder is in that latter group surrounding herself with hero-worshipping enablers. Starting off with the airport sex scene should have been my tipoff which way this story was going to go. No doubt that scene was an attention getter, (the whole

point, I guess) but not in a good way. The plot repeats this type of gratuitous sex throughout. (view spoiler)

There just wasn't much to latch onto here.

PJ says

Another winner by D Jackson Leigh! It was nice to return to Cherokee Falls and all our "friends" there. Old favorites are back (Skyler, Jess, Tory, Leah) and new characters are introduced - the dashing and handsome Marc Ryder, the focus of this book. Bridgett LeRoy is our other "lead"; the beautiful artist you should remember from "Long Shot". It's difficult to write a review without giving away too many plot points but suffice to say this was a good and satisfying read. The characters are all well written and have distinct and separate voices. We gain insight as the book progresses and that's the way it should be when meeting new "people". All the elements are here and they work.

A definite re-read is upcoming, without a doubt.

Now, I'm going to re-read "Long Shot" because, honestly, it's still my favorite.

PS - A quick note to those folks who might not be "horse" people. When I picked up my first D Jackson Leigh book, "Bareback", I was hesitant because it so obviously centered around something I had no familiarity with at all ... the world of Horses and the people who love them and share a special connection with them. I'm city girl, and horses are foreign to me and frankly did not interest me at all. That being said, purchasing and reading "Bareback" was one of the best decisions I made because D Jackson Leigh has become a favorite author of mine, and I've read all her books ... each a guaranteed good read, for sure. These books are about characters, and that's what truly matters.

Heidi says

Enjoyed that previous characters are back again in this story. They really are a family of friends. The rodeo descriptions are very detailed and accurate. Details and passion are front and center to this writers style. Not to mention details of passion, it has it's hot and steamy moments. The story also has some humor, at least it made me chuckle a few times.

Kathryn Bundy says

This is definitely the best yet from D. Jackson Leigh. It moves along well and has several threads going at the same time. The characters are multi-dimensional and there's enough backstory provided for each one to make her actions understandable, though not always sympathetic. Marc reminds me of Shane on the 'L Word'.

For me, the best part was the amount of detail about things I am unfamiliar with. The rodeo descriptions were so well done that I felt like I dlearned something about that unfathomable sport -- both what happens in the ring and what the rider might be doing and feeling. This is a hallmark of Leigh's books for me, because

she writes about things completely foreign to me, and I still enjoy the reading.

Velvet Lounger says

Marc Ryder rides the rodeo bulls in a mindless attempt to keep the adrenaline flowing. Between the rodeo and the women she leads a jet set life with nothing to tie her down. But when an ill-judged dismount leaves her leg in tatters and in need of recuperation she accepts an invitation to go 'home' for some R&R after 12 years away. There she finds that the world has moved on, her mad-cap friends have grown up, and once again the people she desperately wants to love and need her have left her behind again.

Bridgette LeRoy finds Marc irresistible but just cannot seem to get away from her. Between shared friends on the ranch, on the softball team and at the bar she keeps bumping into the woman she would rather avoid. And when the college she teaches at needs a donation from Marc it seems fate keeps throwing them together.

Despite their on-again off-again fling Bridgette is determined to keep her emotional distance from the woman who brings up so many painful memories. Can she let herself care for the vulnerable woman she sees under the bravado? And can Marc even begin to understand her own demons, the pain that pushes her to self-destruction?

Marc Ryder is a brilliant character – warped, damaged and dangerous. She oozes sex appeal, conquers just about whatever she fancies and lives in a world where she is untouchable – which keeps her from harm, but prevents her from feeling. The rodeo accident is a trigger that starts to unravel her protected world. Suddenly she can be hurt physically and soon she starts to open up emotionally. But as a deprived child she doesn't have the tools to handle either. She has no self worth because everybody always leaves her. Everybody wants her lust and her passion. Nobody wants her heart.

D. Jackson Leigh has created the archetypal bass-ass heroine. She is an extreme, but one we recognize instantly. The challenge she faces is to stop running and start living, and the author holds us, just on the brink, hoping Marc can emerge from the image of Ryder. It is an emotional rollercoaster full of suspense and passion.

Bridgette (from "Long Shot") is the opposite in so many ways. Calm, reflective, meditative. But inside she is just as scared and withdrawn and has her own demons to battle. Between them they present a delightful tug of war where their obvious and overwhelming lust for each other battles their fear. Enormously engaging and charming in the most subtle of ways.

Behind these two are a wonderful cast, many of whom we met in 'Bareback'. Here we see the studs tamed and corralled by their soft yet powerful southern women. We have lesbian parents, horny ranch hands and great new characters like the extremely hot TSA Officer Claire.

The sex scenes are steamy from page one, fast and furious. If you don't like full on bodice rippers this may not be the one for you, but they are well written and sizzling hot. While Marc is a player she is respectful, caring and honest – even when slapped hard in the face for a 12 year old transgression.

I loved this book, it kept me up all night with pure entertainment. Another great story of southern women,

horse breeding and romance. Definitely one for the re-read pile.

Lexxi Kitty says

I started off rather disliking Marc. For many varied reasons. But it's Bridgette who really pisses me off in this book. Talk about taking miscommunication to an extreme. She keeps herself bottled up tightly, leaving many to get the wrong impressions, etc. Including me, the reader.

I said in the last book's review that I saw Bridgette as cold in the first book she appeared in, and then realized I was wrong when I'd seen inside her head and saw how emotional she actually turned out to be. But then I realized a truth. She is cold. To everyone outside of her. Not letting those 'others' know how she actually feels, and . . . etc. etc., I'm just repeating myself now.

And Marc, despite being a reckless manic seemingly eager to kill herself as a guard against feeling lonely and unwanted sure seems to keep putting herself into positions to be punished. Despite many attempts to blow her off by Bridgette, Marc kept going back for more. And then when she was at her lowest, weak, concussed, broken, whimpering in an emergency room, she clung to Bridgette's promise to stick around. And, of course, Bridgette didn't. Didn't even say bye. Can you see why I kind of loath Bridgette? She's in her own little pain filled world, acting hot and cold with Marc, and basically apparently not caring about anyone else outside herself. Because. She be broken. She watched her brother die. By bulls. And Marc rides bulls. This pisses off Bridgette. Not that she ever actually even hinted at what kept making her go all cold towards Marc, but, bah. Hot and cold. Hot and fucking cold.

Already knew Marc was crazy, I mean, you have to be to get onto a bull and ride one for money. Repeatedly. So she might actually be 'perfect' for Bridgette, eh? Since Bridgette's a crazy little bitch. Even when she realizes where her heart truly lies, she still acts like a crazy little bitch. (view spoiler)

Bridgette: You scare me.

Marc: Scare you? I scare *you*? Every time we get close, you disappear on me. I feel tossed back and forth, worse than the first time I rode a bronc. Is sex all you want from me?

Well. At least Marc's been paying attention.

Bridgette, paraphrasing, 'all I ever do is turn up, fuck you, and flee. Continue riding bulls and we are done. *flees after saying that.' Self-centered little fucker. "God, she needed Marc's passion. She also needed her trust." Um, what the fuck? Why should Marc have any reason to trust her? Has she ever shown any sign Bridgette is deserving of trust?

Bridgette asked Marc to give up her life, her career, and in returned offered to give up . . . nothing. No, you can't say something like 'offered her heart.' Not when love's a two way street and both were giving up their hearts. So, to reiterate, Bridgette wanted it all. And was going to give up nothing to get it.

Debby says

Great mix of new and old characters.

Nathan Burgoine says

Really enjoyed this audiobook (though the performer rushed a bit too much). More thorough review to come.

Margaret says

Actual score 3.75

I haven't read any of the related books so am reviewing this 'cold' so to speak.

I did find the cast of characters a little overwhelming at first but settled into it after a few chapters. I want to make a point of what PJ said in their review re this book being worth a read even if you don't really like horses. I fall into that category and agree that, while horse riding and relationship with horses is a strong theme through the book, it is written in a very accessible way.

I found Ryder's character particularly well drawn, with her angst believable, rather than just there to create a convenient plot point as is often the case.

I don't usually comment on these specifically, but I found the sex scenes particularly well done. +.25 bonus

It made me grumpy, however that this is yet another lesrom that keeps the main characters apart for most of the novel and then, once feelings are admitted, the book abruptly ends. I want longer to bask in the HEA and/or see the characters realise their potential for growth now that they've let themselves be loved...but no. Another I love you now end book. Grump

Overall a better than average read that left my heart happy but cheated AT&T the same time

Lex Kent says

3 1/2 Stars. This was good and I enjoyed it. But, I didn't realize this was the third in a series around the same characters. I wish I would have read Bareback and Longshot first as I think I would have enjoyed this even more. The author filled in parts of the backstory so it wasn't ruined for me, by any means. I was just missing that connection to the secondary characters I would of had if I read this in order.

I've only read two books by Leigh, but have enjoyed them both and am looking forward to reading more.
