



The Rancher's Son

R.J. Scott

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A man without memories, and the cop who never gave up hope.

When he wakes up in hospital, the victim of a brutal beating, John Doe, has no memories of who he is or who hurt him. The cops can find nothing to identify him and he can't remember anything to help... except the name Ethan and one recurring place from his dreams. Three words, and they're not much, but it's a start. Crooked Tree Ranch.

Cop, Ethan Allens has never stopped searching for his brother and his brother's best friend who vanished. When a report lands on Ethan's desk that may give new leads he jumps at the chance to follow them up. The man he finds isn't his brother, but it's someone who could maybe help him discover what happened ten years ago.

What neither man can know is that facing the very real demons of the past could very well destroy any kind of future they may think they have together.

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The Rancher's Son Details

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From Reader Review The Rancher's Son for online ebook

Jaime says

5 Stars!! For a romance and a mystery all in one!!

This story follows MC Ethan Allen and Adam Strachan, who starts the story as John Doe, Adam is one of the missing boys who disappeared from Crooked Tree Ranch over ten years earlier along with Justin who is Ethan's brother.

Ethan has never given up the search for his brother and when he is alerted to a John Doe in Chicago who hits red flags on his search parameters, he only hopes it's his brother. When he gets to Chicago to see that once again, the lead has not returned his brother but instead this time it has returned the boy he was falling in love with over 14 years earlier. Only problem is Adam, has no idea who he is, where he has been, or who anyone is...he does know the name Ethan and he trusts Ethan. So after some quick talking and fast maneuvering Ethan checks Adam out of the Hospital and they start their journey back to Montana, home to Crooked Tree Ranch.

The trip home takes a while because Adam can't seem to tolerate traveling longer than a few hours. There are definite moments between the two during their trip that you can't help but hope will turn into more, however Ethan isn't about to take advantage of Adam. Once they get back to Crooked Tree, the entire gang is there and they quickly start trying to help Adam remember. Will Adam get his memories back? Where has he been? Is anyone looking for him? What about Justin? These are all questions that everyone in the story wants to know, that are slowly revealed and that you will find out by reading the story!

R.J. Scott did a great job adding some twists and turns in this story, with slow gradual revelations that you won't see coming and a simmering romance builds between Adam and Ethan at the same time. This is a very busy story with a swift moving plot, realistic twists, and characters who will keep your attention. This story is written in alternating POV from both Adam and Ethan which adds depth to both characters that we would have missed out on had it only been told from one person POV. The chemistry between Adam and Ethan is seriously hot, although Ethan tries to be good, those old feelings they once started to share when they had their first kiss, quickly spark back to life. It doesn't help that Adam is one seriously hot guy with ink to boot, put him in jeans and boots and he is every cowboys wet dream! Ethan just can't resist! In addition, there are great supporting characters and of course we get to see all the guys from book one. Since this book is part of a series, it's important to note you can enjoy it as a standalone however I think you will get more from it if you read book one first.

I can't wait for the next story in the series where more secrets from Crooked Tree Ranch will be divulged and we will get to catch up with these great Montana Cowboys!

5 Stars -

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and Gay Book Reviews

Ezinwanyi says

In Book 1, Crooked Tree Ranch , we met Marcus Allen, who tended to the financial aspects of Crooked Tree Ranch, the 300 acre land in Montana shared with The Todds (see book 1) and The Starachs. We also got a small glimpse into his strained relationship with his son Ethan especially regarding the disappearance of the youngest son Justin.

Marcus' wife died and his son Justin disappeared 12 years ago with his best friend Adam when they went swimming. Marcus' oldest son Ethan Allen never accepted the "death" of his brother Justin and best friend Adam, and left his family's ranch and joined law enforcement.

In this sequel, Marcus still struggles with his health and still doesn't believe Justin is alive. His relationship with his son Ethan was still strained and the return of Adam absent answers to what happened twelve years ago added to the tension. As a police officer, Ethan had put out feelers and one day got a call about a John Doe asking for Ethan and Crooked Tree Ranch. At the hospital, Ethan comes face to face with Adam, although, now Adam is an amnesiac. Ethan brings Adam back to the Ranch to help jog his memory.

This book was more emotional and angst than book one, but I love it just the same. Ethan was a really great guy. He was so hopeful, steadfast and patient with Adam as the families tried to figure out what happened those years ago. Again, the narrator gave a masterful performance as he returned the reader to Montana with the same families, giving more detail to the subplot of the Allen's family. RJ Scott does a great job slowly building these characters and their stories. These characters feel like people I could relate to and I definitely rooted for their happiness. I had a hard time deciding which couple I liked best, Ethan & Adam or Nate & Jay. Plus, Gabe (Nate's middle brother) & Ashley (Jay's sister) was an added extra dose of sweetness to this story. While this particular love story ended well, some other threads remain loose and I look forward to the author's next book.

I received this book for free from in exchange for an honest review.

Serena Yates says

The Crooked Tree Ranch and the three families who own it are back, and this second book dives deeply into the secrets of their past that were mostly hinted at in book one. Since the Todd family, or rather the three sons who are left after their parents died, is the one who runs the ranch, their story was an excellent introduction to the series, and I do suggest you read that book before this one or you'll miss too much of the background. Nate as the oldest brother and his newfound partner Jay are still around, and I loved that. The Allens family, with widower Marcus and his two sons Ethan and Justin is a little less involved in ranch business, and the Strachans are pretty much absent – Cole is in the Navy and Adam, like Justin, hasn't been seen for twelve years.

Ethan never got over the loss of his younger brother, and essentially became a cop so he could keep looking. This is the story of what happens when he finally finds one of the two men he's desperate to find – in Chicago. At first it's not easy for him to deal with the fact that the John Doe who triggered law enforcement's flags is not Justin. But as it turns out, finding Adam has its benefits. Dealing with Adam's loss of memory is hard for both men, and their struggle to make sense of who they are now and if they still mean to each other what they were beginning to figure out when they were teenagers was heartbreaking. Ethan's stubborn determination is incredibly impressive, and he has Adam's back all the way, no matter all the scary and strange discoveries they make.

Adam has been severely beaten and suffers from amnesia as a result of brain trauma. He struggles to remember who he is, and the names (Ethan and Crooked Tree Ranch) he mentioned when police questioned him make no sense to Adam. But when he sees Ethan and they begin to talk, things begin to pop up in his brain. Flashes of memories first, and as they make their way back to Montana, Adam starts to make sense of what happens in his nightmares, and the feelings he sometimes gets when Ethan tells him something. But the more he remembers, the clearer it becomes that whatever happened twelve years ago drove him away for good reasons, and the slow reveal of the horrific events had me glued to the pages.

If you like family drama, mystery, and the gradual discovery of the truth, if two men reunited after a long separation and loss of memory sound exciting, and if you're looking for a suspenseful read with complicated characters, stressful family relationships, and plenty of twists and turns, then you will probably like this novel. I can't wait for the next volume – that was a clever twist right there at the end, RJ. Way to maintain the suspense!

NOTE: This book was provided by Love Lane Books for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Nerea says

In the first book they told us about these strange happenings in the town 12 years ago. Two 15 year old boys banish and never have any news from them.

Ethan, the brother of Justin, one of the disappeared guys, go away from the town after the incident to become a cop but he was always searching for them.

So in this book a man with amnesia appears in a hospital with the power to resolve all this mystery! A selective amnesia you know... luckily I see a ton Korean drama so I used to this LOL

The main plot is the mystery about what's happening to the disappeared boys. But of course we have the slow burn love story between Ethan and this amnesia guy with a lot of secrets ;)

alert amazing FINALE!!! Waiting for Montana #3!!

Susan says

I really liked this one. The romance was sweet, but I have to say that it was the mystery that had me on the edge of my seat.

Ethan is a cop who gets a call about a file of him that got flagged. A man has been found who was beaten up so severely he lost his memory. All he remembers is the name Ethan and Crooked Tree.

Ethan has been looking for his brother and his friend, Adam, for the last 12 years. They both disappeared when they were 15.

It turns out to be Adam who is in the hospital, but he cannot remember anything. Not even Ethan, the boy he was in love with all those years ago.

Ethan decides to take Adam home to the Crooked Tree Ranch in Montana, hoping something will jog his memory.

When Ethan spends more time with Adam it is clear to him Ethan is just as much in love with him as he was 12 years ago. But they need to find out what happened to Adam before they can be truly happy together. And what happened to Justin, Ethan's brother?

I loved Ethan and Adam. This book has no relationship angst, just as I like it. The guys just feel drawn to each other and cannot help but to fall in love again. I loved them.

I'm giving this 4 stars because I'm convinced we will get the answers in the next book. We do get some answers in this book, but nothing is really resolved at the end. Even the romance could have used something extra. That's why I'm just going to believe we get more in the next installment.

I know it's about a different couple, but I cannot believe R.J. Scott would just leave us hanging like this. I'm sure she's not that mean.

There has to be more!

Christelle says

I liked it, quite a lot, and I'm digging into the whole series now (book5 to be released this summer).

This is part of the "Montana series" written by an author whose writing agrees with me.

Three men built a ranch together : this series is about their kids who grew up together. In Crooked Tree Ranch, we got the story of Nate, the one in charge of the ranch, and Jay, an "outsider". The rest of the series cannot be read as standalone, imo and it's better to have all the background from book1 to fully appreciate the bonds between all the characters.

This instalment is focused on Ethan, 31 and a cop in a city close to the ranch, Justin, his brother, and finally Adam, Justin's best friend. Adam and Justin disappeared when 16, just after Ethan and Adam declared their love for each other. Ethan never lost hope to find Adam and Justin. And 12 years later, he finally finds Adam. But their reunion started on an expected twist : Adam has lost his memories, has just been brutally attacked and there is no Justin around.

I kept reading and reading to get bit by bit answers to my questions : What happened ? How all this will affect the lives of the ranch families and friends, as they already had been so affected in the past ? And what about Ethan and Adam ?

I was captivated by the MCs and their struggles : Adam, obviously confused and so in need to have his identity back and Ethan who dealt with so many emotions during the past ten years, all of them exploding with Adam's reappearance. Not very steamy but how not to melt for the reawakening of first love ? There is also emphasis on family and friendship. And of course, there is some mystery that is far from being

resolved, so I went straight to book 3.

Note for Lisa : Thank you, dear friend, for this gift. Another winner, yeah !!!! <3

Nic says

I loved this book, even more than the first book in the series. It was wonderful to get to know Ethan, and to follow him as he deals with heartache and happiness in equal measures. I won't say too much as I don't want to give the story away. This book takes us on a journey to solve the mystery of the disappearance of Adam and Justin, that was mentioned in the first book. There's some suspense, and mystery, and of course love. But the love isn't easy as there's twelve years of separation and the unknown to deal with, but this was handled beautifully. Highly recommended.

Wendy says

This was a very interesting read :) I didn't read book 1, and I had no problems following the storyline, so this can be read as a stand alone.

Ethan is a cop, who has been searching for his little brother Justin and his friend Adam for 12 years. When Ethan was 17, these two boys just went missing one day, never to be heard from again. Not only was Adam Justin's best friend, he was also Ethan's childhood crush. At 17 and 15 years old, Ethan and Adam declared they loves each other. On that same day....Justin and Adam went missing. Ethan still misses both of them and has never stopped looking, he never gave up hope, that maybe someday, his brother and his friend would turn up again.

Being a cop has made things easier for Ethan. Over the years he has put out some red flags, but most leads never turned into anything. This call however is different, because John Doe has specifically mentioned Ethan and the Crooked Tree Ranch. The ranch were the brothers and their friends grew up.

Ethan hauls ass over to this hospital in Chicago, not knowing what to think or to hope. When he arrives he is struck by two different emotions. Grief, because this guy clearly isn't his brother and shock, because he finally found Adam. This gives Ethan new hope, because maybe Adam will know more about Justin.

There is one problem though. Adam doesn't remember anything. He knows about the world in general, but he knows nothing about himself personally and the doctors don't really know why. He doesn't even know his own name and age, much less what happend in the last 12 years.

Ethan, as well as Adam, hope that his memories will come back when he returns home to the ranch. So this is were they go. They spend a lot of time together, and slowly...very very slowly starts to remember some things. Especially about Ethan and how he felt and still feels about him.

This was a nice slow built romance that was sweet, it didn't have a lot of steam, but for me it was perfect for the storyline.

Question is...what happend all these years ago, where did Adam and Justin go and where the hell is Justin now. To be honest....not all these questions were answered. At least not to my liking. I'm sitting here, pissed off with a lot of freaking questions that were left unanswered. There will be a next book in this series, so I guess I will have to read it to get my answers. But the next book won't be out untill October !!! I hate it when that happens !!!

Still gonna give this story 4 stars though, because it really pulled me in, I will just have to hope the next book won't leave me hanging again ;)

Kathleen says

50.0% "I'm about halfway through this audiobook and it ranks down there with some of other poorly written stories I've read or listened to this year. Great idea, crap execution."

60.0% "Chapter after chapter of round & round dialogue and a group of adults acting like adolescents. Kill me now."

DNF. Absolutely awful. So many things wrong with this book. Police procedure...what police procedure, men acting like children, men acting like stereotypical women, drama for the sake of drama, and I couldn't check enough disbelief at the door. I could go on and on, but this book just isn't worth it. I want my hours of wasted listening time back.

Note: I love narrator Sean Crisden, but I don't think he was the right voice actor for this story.

Ula'ndi Hart says

Overall book rating: 4

Audio Book: Sean Crisden - 4.2

Book Cover: 3

Yes. I enjoyed this one. I really enjoyed the whole memory loss aspect. It made the story so much more interesting trying to find out who and what Adam really is or have become.

I really liked Ethan as well. Really just everyone on the farm is great and this is just a nice read. Can't wait to find out what the story behind the story is.

PS: Sean Crisden did good on this one. The audio was nice.

Karen says

4.5 stars rounded up because still no 1/2 stars here on GR and holy hell!!! this one was so freakin' good that I may need to resort to the e-book to find out what happens next.

In 'Crooked Tree Ranch' we met Nate and Jay along with their friends and families and there was a whole lot of background about the Crooked Tree Ranch that we were given and if you hope to read this without being lost you need to read that book first because in 'The Rancher's Son' we find out more about the storyline that threads from story to story in this series. In the first story we learned that the Crooked Tree Ranch was owned by 3 families...friends wanting to build a legacy for their children. But 2 of those children are missing...disappearing without a clue where, why or what had happened to them.

In the first book we met the Todd Brothers...Nate and his brother's Gabe and Luke the baby...well, not really but he is the youngest. We also learned a bit about the other two families...the Allens, Marcus is their dad and then there's Ethan the oldest son who became a cop and never gave up looking for his missing brother Justin. But when Ethan follows a lead that takes him to a hospital in Chicago it's not his brother that he finds but Adam the friend who disappeared with Justin all those years ago.

Ethan's torn because of course he's ecstatic to have found their missing friend and the young man that he'd confessed his love to all those years ago but he's no closer to finding Justin because Adam's lost his memory and he has nothing to offer when it comes to information about what happened to him or even who he really is.

The Rancher's Son was narrated by Sean Crisden and once again I slipped into this story with ease and comfort as I listened to Ethan and Adam fall in love all over again and they struggled with the past and the bits and pieces of it that slowly begin to creep back into Adam's mind answering questions and leaving even more in their wake and leaving everyone wondering what's happened to Justin is he dead as his father fears or is he out there somewhere needing his family to find him as Ethan believes?

I am so ready for the next book in this series and thankfully it's out on audio so I'm off to get my Crooked Tree Ranch fix and see if I can find out what happened to Adam and Justin all those years ago? How did they get separated? and where is Justin now? Is he still alive? Questions so many questions and hopefully I'll find at least some of those answers in 'A Cowboy's Home'.

Amanda says

I feel like such a grown up reading this book because the content doesn't revolves around M/M smut. In fact, while I'm reading it I realize that the sex is at its bare minimum and the two heroes doesn't walk around with a perpetual hard on for each other.

Ethan Allens is a cop who had been searching for his missing brother, Justin for 12 long years. He never once gives up hope of finding his brother along with his missing friend, Adam, one day.

Adam is the John Doe who woke up without his memories from a brutal attack in Wyoming. The only thing that flashed through his mind is '**Crooked Tree**' and '**Ethan**'.

Ethan didn't have high hopes that the John Doe he will be meeting will be Justin, but he was shocked to find out that he is Adam. His brother's best friend and the first boy he ever loved.

By this point I'm very intrigued with the mystery of Adam and Justin. What happened to the boys 12 years ago? Why did someone tried to kill Adam?

While, Ethan is bringing the injured Adam back to Crooked Tree Ranch to help him recover his memories, both of them also starts to redevelop their long lost feelings for each other again. Can a teenage first love

withstand such a long separation?

Although I'm fascinated with the mystery, the main focus of the story is still on Adam's recovery and his relationship with Ethan. We get some new revelations along the way and is not until towards the end that we finally came to the 'WTF' moment. Honestly, I'm not satisfied with some of the answers because I still have a ton of questions. I know that there will be a 3rd book, but I believe it will be center around the new couple and I guess I will have to deal with those unanswered questions on Adam and his choices.

I need Book 3 now!

Ami says

3.5 stars

At first, I was a bit annoyed because no progress really happened regarding Justin's disappearance and fate until the book almost ended. But after I thought about it, this book *isn't* about Justin anyway. It is about Adam and Ethan. The missing Justin sure contributes to their story but not everything must be about him.

Overall, I thought it was pretty engaging. It sure kept my attention until the last page. I liked that RJ Scott took time with Adam's memory, and not making it easily returned just because he met Ethan. There was quite a long journey for Adam to get there, even if he was reassured with Ethan's feeling for him along the way.

I was a little miffed with the resolution between Ethan and his father, Marcus, though. It happened off page, between the last chapter and the epilogue, and I felt like I was robbed a very significant moment.

PS: I haven't read the first book but I totally had no problems following the story

Adam says

I went into this book not really knowing what to expect. I gave the first book in the series, Crooked Tree Ranch, 3 stars but I had trouble recalling what went on in the book. Though I didn't have to worry, because 'The Rancher's Son' works fine as a standalone, and RJ Scott did an excellent job with both the romance and the mystery plot.

It was at times heartbreaking reading about Adam and Ethan's interactions from Ethan's POV. He's spent twelve years searching for this boy, this man, who can't recall more than his name. Amnesia isn't something I've read much of, and it's not something that particularly appeals to me. But having read a bit of Ethan's story in the preceding book, I was willing to give it a try.

I don't know how realistic Adam's amnesia was, but I do think that this author handled Ethan and Adam's gradual reunion very well. Though Adam can't recall details, he does subconsciously, through his dreams and feelings of *deja vu*, know that Ethan means *something* to him.

That made their feelings for each other more believable, as opposed to if Adam had absolutely no recollection of his past life.

'The Rancher's Son' is a slow-burn romance. Like *very* slow. And I loved that, because I would have been writing a snarky review if Ethan and Adam had jumped straight into bed. Aside from the amnesia, these two haven't met for over a decade, and have since gone from being boys to men. They're complete strangers. So while there's an intense attraction, the two instead spend their time together talking and getting to know each other. I highly enjoyed seeing them rediscovering their love. It was sweet and slow, with just a touch of angst, and put a smile on my face.

And when they eventually get to the 'jumping into bed' part, it is **hot**.

The mystery of Adam and Justin's disappearance is just as prominent in the book as the romance, and at the end I had more questions than I did answers. The few answers that I did get were exactly what I'd expect from RJ Scott - mind-boggling and skirting OTT. If you've read her Texas series, you'll have a sense of how RJ Scott likes her action. I'm a fan of it, so I took every twist and turn as it came.

'The Rancher's Son' was a very good read, with a sweet romance and an engaging mystery. I'm not usually a fan of a reunited lovers theme, but with Ethan and Adam it worked well. I'm eagerly waiting for the next book, which will hopefully answer all of my questions!

Cadiva says

That was so different than book one in this series!

This is more of a mystery/thriller with a romance thread running through it and more of the series long storyline is revealed in this one.

After being missing for 12 years, Adam is found, but there's no sign of his best friend Justin and he has no memory of where he's been or what happened.

Ethan, Justin's older brother, goes to fetch Adam back to Crooked Tree. Along the way, he'll need to call on all his training as a cop to process information when he realises he's just as much in love with Adam as he was when he was 17 and Adam was two years younger.

There's a lot of slow burn in this, understandably so given the circumstances, but it's clear from the start that these two have a history and feelings beyond friendship.

I felt so bad for Adam, unable to remember anything but still having emotional connections to Ethan and not sure what to do about it.

The main story arc, about the boys disappearing so many years ago, is advanced along quite nicely but we're still no wiser to knowing why they ran.

I'm dying to know what happened with Justin, whose book is next, and not only where he's been, but also why a meth lab was such a big deal that two teenagers ended up in the witness program!

#ARC kindly received from the author in return for an honest and unbiased review.

