



## Tough Luck Cowboy

*A.J. Pine*

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**From this "fabulous storyteller" (Carolyn Brown, *New York Times* bestselling author) comes a sweet western romance between a rodeo cowboy and his best friend's ex-wife.**

What's the saying, bad luck comes in threes? If so, Lily Green is due for something good. First, her divorce is finalized---on her birthday, no less. Then the first job she lands for her catering company turns out to be for her ex-husband's wedding. To top it off, she's stuck working the event with Luke Everett, the sexy-as-hell best man who's never been able to stand her. When can a girl catch a break?

For years, Luke has kept his feelings for Lily safely hidden. Hitting on his best friend's ex-wife would definitely break the cowboy code of honor. But ever since an injury sidelined his rodeo riding, the two of them keep getting thrown together. It's only a matter of time until his true feelings come to light. When that happens, it will either be the biggest mistake of his life, or a sign that his luck is about to change.

## Tough Luck Cowboy Details

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Author : A.J. Pine

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## From Reader Review Tough Luck Cowboy for online ebook

### Kim says

Find this review and more at [kimberlyfaye reads](#).

If I'm being totally honest, cowboy romances have always been something I liked more in theory than in actuality. Or so I thought, apparently. I've read more of them this year than in any past and I gotta say — I'm loving them. Tough Luck Cowboy was so, so very good.

Lily and Luke's story hit all the right notes for me. First off, I really liked the characters. Lily was determined to move on from her failed marriage and driven to get her catering company off the ground. But, plot twist — her first client is her ex husband and his new soon-to-be wife. Nothing awkward there, right? What sounded like it would be an impossible situation actually ended up working out quite well. Throw in the fact she also has to deal with Luke on top of everything else and there was quite a little story there.

Luke wasn't the easiest guy to like in the beginning, but it didn't take all that long for him to grow on me. I do love me a grumpy hero and he certainly had his moments. I loved how he and Lily played off each other. Their chemistry was spot on and rather intense and it was pretty obvious they should've been together all along. Ah, if only things had gone differently that first night. Of course, if they had, we wouldn't have gotten THIS story and I would've been sad. As it was, I loved how everything came together for Luke and Lily in their kinda sorta second chance hate-to-love story.

A.J.'s Crossroads Ranch series just keeps getting better. I am loving the Everett brothers and can't wait to see what's next.

*I received a complimentary copy of this book for review consideration. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.*

### FAVORITE QUOTES

*"Today is the day I turn it all around. I messed up. Married the wrong guy. Put my dream on hold for his. I detoured. Today I get back on track."*

*"I think you think life is one big party, that you don't take anything or anyone seriously, and that you think it's charming women prefer you naked than any other way because that's probably the only time you give them your undivided attention. It's no wonder anyone in your orbit would think his life didn't measure up."*

*"I watch a lot of things, sweetheart. And you know I didn't step foot on the dance floor to meet your roommate."*

*"I'm going to make you lose control, sweetheart. I'm going to show you what it means to let go."*

*"I want more. Not forever. Just—more."*

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### Aly says

Always playing by the rules doesn't always work. Talk to Lily Green, who always did everything according

to plan. She ended up divorced and working in a business that wasn't exactly what she wanted.

Three years ago, Luke Everett might have been ready for true love or at least to make space for a woman in his life, the one he just met at a bar, but without knowing, his friend screw the plan and married the girl.

Lily is not having a good week. Her divorce just got finalized...on her birthday, and then, she propose to cater a stranger's wedding before learning that the woman is not only a big hotshot in the culinary industry but her ex-husband's bride. Sure, she could say no, but she have to start her new business somewhere. And since bad luck does not end with twice, she have to team up with Luke Everett, aka the man she's been verbally sparring with for the last three years.

Luke is training for a bull-riding competition when he's badly injured and have to, not only live with his brother and his family for a couple of weeks, but also help his nemesis with the wedding that's gonna take place on Crossroads Vineyard, his sibling's new venture with his fiancé.

As you can guess, nor rebound sex nor any kind of relationship, except an antagonizing one, was part of the plan. And then they want to believe they can have it or the other without the troubles that come with it and without committing their heart to it. Well, they probably haven't read many romance novels ;p In the end, it all come down to it : will they task a risk ?

I haven't read the first book in the series before (but it's waiting on my bookshelf). I began with the novella (Saved by the cowboy/Crossroads Ranch # 1.5) where we got a glimpse of Lily and Luke's simmering chemistry and I'm so glad the author put the scenes already showed there but with the MC's point of view this time. I liked that A.J. Pine talked about friends and family as a support system. I don't remember seeing it being mentioned in other books with those exact words but it's an expression and concept I know I'll think about now. I also appreciated Lily's insight about her fail marriage. She knows that the cheating wasn't her fault but she understand it didn't work because they both didn't tried enough or couldn't because they weren't in love. But it still made her sad to think she couldn't be the one to make him want to do the efforts. She's also wise enough to realize that things between her and Luke can only lead to : " it's more likely we'll explode." I think Luke paid too much attention to Tucker's opinion about him and Lily but at the same time, loyalty to a friend is one of the greatest quality. I don't understand why Lily didn't change her last name after the divorce though, but it's just a question, not a complain ;p

And last but not least, I loved this moment :

"Then he placed his palm on the small of her back, his thumb stroking the ridges of her spine as she continued to feed the calf. And they just sat there, the three of them, in comfortable silence."

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### **Irene says**

4.5 stars

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### **Brittany from Can't Quit Books says**

My oh my!! This was the first book I have ever read from this author and I can guarantee it will not be my last!!!

Lily is a chef who just agreed to cater her ex-husband's wedding. Luke is her ex's best friend and best man. What is the worst thing that could happen?

Lily is such a hard worker who prides herself on her cooking. She wants to have her own restaurant and won't let anything or anyone get in her way.

Luke is a bull rider who wants to end his career on his own terms. Unfortunately for him, he is now being distracted.

I loved the push and pull of their relationship. These two have had feelings for each other from day 1, but both put off acting on them for their own reasons. The way they came together and tried to be mature about everything was refreshing.

I also loved how mature the other characters were as well. They weren't dramatic over certain situations and realized that some things are and aren't meant to be.

This was such an excellent read. I am definitely going to go back and read the 1st book in this series.

-An ARC was generously provided in exchange for an honest review.-

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### **Morelia (Strandedinbooks) says**

**\*\*3.5 STARS!**

Forever picturing Luke, and any cowboy for that matter, as Scott Eastwood in *The Longest Ride*. \*swoon\*

Also, my first cowboy romance!!! F YEAH!

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### **Avid Reader says**

Tough Luck Cowboy (Crossroads Ranch #2) by A.J. Pine

4 stars

M/F Romance

Triggers: Cheating, tumultuous upbringing

I was given this book for an honest review by Wicked Reads.

Lily and Luke... Their names go together, but for years, they were enemies. Lily married Luke's best friend, leaving Luke out in the cold, so to speak. With the baggage that Luke carried, he was not in a place where he felt he could offer Lily what his best friend could, so he stepped aside.

When Lily finds herself catering her ex-husband's new wedding, she also finds herself back in the pathway of Luke. Neither of them can seem to get their animosity under control - Lily likes to refer to them as oil and water. However, what they perceive as hate is actually a slow burning fire that will have the power to flame up at any time.

This is a true enemy to lovers story. There is a large secret that Lily is keeping for her ex-husband, despite his terribly immature attitude. Luke is also somewhat immature in his quest to ride one more bull, even

though he is on his last concussion.

I thought that the characters were very immature at times and that was somewhat annoying. However, the slow burn and build up of their relationship was well developed. Luke shows he's capable of more than just letting things slide and Lily realizes that she deserves more than just settling. It was a cute story. I have not read any of the previous books, but I hope to read the next one soon.

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## book bruin says

**Tough Luck Cowboy** was such an unexpected surprise! This enemies to lovers/second chance romance hooked me in right from the start and though this is my first time reading a cowboy romance, I know it won't be my last! This is book 2 in the interconnected standalone Crossroads Ranch series, and can be enjoyed without reading the previous book, **Second Chance Cowboy**.

I really loved both Luke and Lily. The tension and build up between them was so delicious and fun. I loved seeing their oil and water mix and watching all the sparks fly. ;) There is so much unsaid between these two and their circumstances couldn't be more complicated, with Lily being the ex-wife of Luke's best friend. Through it all though, you can't help but root for these two to get their second chance. One of my favorite things about the two of them is that even with the threat of loss looming or the odds stacked against them, they don't give up their individual dreams and hopes (much to the dismay of the other at times). Even though Luke was emotionally closed off and Lily's instinct was to run, I still found these 2 characters very brave and strong. Things move pretty quickly in the book, but considering this has been three years in the making, it didn't feel rushed or like instalove at all. Though I really enjoyed the ending and epilogue (I'm hoping for more details or an epilogue further down the road in the next book or beyond), I was left curious about the future of Tucker and Luke's friendship. Their reckoning was quick due to the timing of their discussion and just didn't seem fully resolved to me. Perhaps this will also be addressed in the next book.

I actually have not read book 1, **Second Chance Cowboy**, but Ava ended up being one of my favorite characters. Her friendship and loyalty to Lily was unwavering and her analogy to being Lily's bra was the best! Everyone can only hope to have a friend like her. I also am very intrigued by the youngest Everett, Walker, and am excited for his book next!

*\*I voluntarily read an advance reader copy of this book\**

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## A.J. Pine says

Who's ready for Luke Everett's book?!? I had so much fun with Luke and Lily's story. I can't wait for you to meet them! Here's a little preview...

"I was just wondering—I mean, what if someone else walks through the front door. Are you—gonna put a shirt on?" Lily asked.

Luke lowered himself into a chair, looked down at his bare, bruised torso and then up at the only woman who ever seemed to have a problem with it. Sure, he could finish getting dressed, but what would be the point? It wasn't like he was leaving the house today. Plus it would hurt like hell to get up again.

“Wasn’t planning on it,” he said. “Most women actually prefer me this way.”

Lily groaned. “Yeah, well, I’m not most women.”

He raised a brow. “Then I guess you’re missing out.”

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## **Beth ~ Panda & Boodle says**

**“Why do I get the feeling you’re more trouble than I realize?”**

**The corner of his mouth quirked up. “Lily Green—you have *no* idea.”**

I’m sitting in the same spot I was 24 hours ago when I started *Tough Luck Cowboy* by A.J. Pine—the school pick-up line. And maybe it’s the fact my baby just started Kindergarten that has my emotions on high alert . . . or maybe it’s this book.

At the very least, PART of it is this book—an enemies-to-lovers romance with heartbreak and triumph, fallout and falling in love. I can’t deny I was a little unsure how it would work—though I was plenty intrigued after *Second Chance Cowboy* and *Saved by the Cowboy*, not required reading but definitely worthwhile—with the ex-husband/best friend connection between Lily and Luke.

I shouldn’t have doubted Ms. Pine, however. She navigated this story so very well—showing the chemistry between Lily and Luke, while being gentle with their fractious past, and letting it build in a way that felt right. Add to that the fact that these characters—including the secondary and returning characters—are all so darn likable, if imperfect, and you have a book that’s capable of turning your heart and your world topsy-turvy.

The *Crossroads Ranch* series has well and truly roped me in. (Yes, that’s a cowboy pun. No, I don’t regret it.) So much so, I’m already anxious for Walker and, I reallllly hope, Jenna, to get their own stories. After all, now my baby is in Kindergarten, I going to need something to read . . .

**“I don’t know how to walk away,” she said, and there went a second tear. “Even knowing you’ll leave, eventually, that you’ll have to, because this isn’t what you do, I don’t know how to do it myself. Because you’re *not* out of my system, Luke. You’re so goddamn far from being out, I don’t know what the hell to do.”**

~ FIVE *Impossible* STARS ~

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## **TeriLyn says**

**\*\**Tough Luck Cowboy* generously provided by the publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.\*\***

### **4 "Famous last words." Stars**

It's become more apparent I have a thing for cowboys. The second installment of the Crossroads Ranch series was just as enjoyable as the first. It's a flirty, fun, second-chance, enemies to lovers romance that

captivated me from the start. This author has a wonderful way of drawing into her charming characters for whom have big personalities. The friendship and loyalty in this featured family goes a long way in making the story that much easier for the reader to relate.

Luke and Lily's relationship has straddled a line between hate and friendship for years before they act on the simmering tension. Their love story was an easy one to be entranced with as the banter between the two stemmed from being complete opposites. It was fun to read just how well they meshed together even when they were at odds.

The setting of these books is as endearing as the characters. The contemporary life of cowboys seems like a world so distant from mine and it's been fun to escape there through A.J. Pine's words especially in *Tough Luck Cowboy*. I look forward to the next book featuring the next and even more tortured and broody Everett brother.

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## **Bette Hansen says**

### **Awesome**

Loved it!! Couldn't put this one down. Sometimes the love you're craving is right in front of you. Take a chance and you may find your happy. Luke and Lily may act like enemies but deep down they are anything but.

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## **Happily Ever Chapter says**

☆☆☆☆ 4-STAR ☆ REVIEW ☆☆☆☆

>> Judging a Book by its Cover <<

Intense looking cowboy taking up the cover, hay rolls in the background. Synopsis sounds interesting and fun.

>> Looking Deeper <<

POV ~> Third-person

First, I'd like to say that I'm not sure why there were hay rolls on the cover... the Everett brothers run a cattle ranch and winery. At no time were they growing or harvesting hay.

Anyways... Luke's story is the second to be told in this series, his older brother Jack (Jr) received the first one with *Second Chance Cowboy*. Despite it being the second book, AJ Pine does a good job in filling in any backstory that was needed so new readers (like myself) do not feel left behind or out of the loop.

Luke's been in love with Lily since the day he first laid on her three years ago. Unfortunately, his insecurities got in the way and his best friend swooped in and stole her and married her.

Lily never thought that only a few years after saying "I do" she'd be saying "I'm out". But that's what she's done. She's done with Tucker's late-night partying and certainly done with Tucker's cheating.

Luke thinks she's a controlling hag, she thinks he's an irresponsible party boy that's to blame for corrupting Tucker. But things take an unexpected turn the day she signs her divorce papers and inadvertently gets herself hired to cater a celeb's wedding... to her ex.

The cast of characters are alright but it seems like there's a lot of drama to be had at the Everett ranch. Three boys dealing with daddy issues is almost as bad as a sorority house with PMS. Luke and Lily's chemistry

was undeniable but their interactions were occasionally irritating. (Again, too much drama, baggage, issues). Communication was terrible between them and they often tried to solve their problems with sex, which really was not the key to resolution but I'm sure most readers won't complain.

The story flowed well and the writing is smooth. Conflicts could have been easily avoided with more mature discussions. Predictability was on the low end. The conclusion was cute and provided a satisfying HFN / implied HEA ending. I'm sure their story will play out, along with Jack and Ava's, some more in the background of Walker's book.

Rating: [R] ~ Score: 3.975 ~ Stars: 4

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? ? \*\*\*\* Disclosure of Material: I received a copy of this book from Netgalley via the Author/Publisher with the hope that I would voluntarily leave unbiased and unsolicited feedback. I was not asked, encouraged, or required to leave a review - nor was I compensated in any way. I am posting this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising". \*\*\*\*\* ? ?

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### **Danielle from Short and Sassy says**

Who knew I would love a cowboy/bull riding named Luke Everett as much as I do?? Sure he is grouchy and moody, but underneath all that, he has a real good reason. You see, he is in love with his best friend's ex wife! And has been for years. Now, Lily is a single women. Too bad she hates his guts and blames him for what her ex did to her.

I went into this book blind and loved every second of it! I am a city girl who loved this cowboy romance!

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### **Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says**

Tough Luck Cowboy is a heartfelt story of two people finding love once they let their guard down and let love in. Luke Everett thought he met that special someone but lost her to his best friend. Now she's divorced and still not available and must be avoided at all cost. Unfortunately for Luke he finds himself crossing her path all the time. She's slowly wearing him down and revealing more of his true self. He's never let anyone get that close and be that vulnerable before. Can he take that chance?

Lily Green can't believe that her plan is back on track now that she's free to pursue her own dream and start all over again. She impulsively agrees to cater her ex-husband and his pregnant fiancé's wedding reception but knows that this could be the job to jumpstart her new catering career. To her Luke is a gorgeous aggravating person. What she can't understand is how someone he gets on her last nerve can also stir her up and make her hot? Her past shaped her and she usually take the safe route. When it comes to being around Luke he makes her feel anything but safe. But in that state, he pushes her out of her comfort zone and she think its time to stretch herself a bit. She doesn't know if she can make herself vulnerable for Luke but she feels that he might be the one she trusts with her heart.

Luke and Lily may have thought themselves as oil and water but were actually more alike than different. The heat they generated with one another was sizzling and there was no denying they are compatible in the bedroom. What they needed to work on is communicating with one another and finally revealing their true

feelings for one another. Each of them had to prove something to themselves so they understood what the other person felt. Luke's big gesture was wonderful but I knew it couldn't be smooth sailing with these two. There were some cute moments with Luke and his brothers and how you see them deal with one another and how they want to make the winery and ranch work together.

I was fortunate to meet AJ Pine at a book conference and the cover for Second Chance Cowboy caught my eye and intrigued me to want to read it. Once I read it I wanted to read more. Her writing is crisp and inviting. I love the way she creates her characters and the growth they go through as individuals and as a couple. She's a new author to me and I highly recommend this story and series for contemporary romance readers.

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### **Jasmine says**

Damn. Okay. Yeah. That was really good.

Thanks to Forever Romance for sending me a copy for free!

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