



Second Chance Cowboy

A.J. Pine

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Once a cowboy, always a cowboy

Ten years ago, Jack Everett left his family's ranch without a backward glance. Now, what was supposed to be a quick trip home for his father's funeral has suddenly become more complicated. The ranch Jack can handle---he might be a lawyer, but he still remembers how to work with his hands. But turning around the failing vineyard he's also inherited? That requires working with the one woman he never expected to see again.

Ava Ellis broke her own heart the night she let Jack go. She was young and scared---and secretly pregnant with Jack's baby. Now that he's back and asking for her help, Ava sees her opportunity to right the wrongs of the past. But how will he feel about the son he's never known? Could this be their second chance---or their final heartbreak?

“Cross my heart, this sexy, sweet romance gives a cowboy-at-heart lawyer a second chance at first love and readers a fantastic ride.”

Jennifer Ryan – New York Times bestselling author

Don't miss this second chance love story, the first book in an all-new cowboy romance series by A.J. Pine!

Second Chance Cowboy Details

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Author : A.J. Pine

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From Reader Review Second Chance Cowboy for online ebook

Booknerdingout says

Swoony Second Chance Romance!

This was my first book by A.J.Pine and I absolutely loved it! Jackkkk Everett ! Boy, was I smitten with that man. His story pulled on my heartstrings. Son of a drunk, and a reputation for being the town low life. He knew returning home for his fathers funeral wasn't going to be easy, and would bring back haunting memories from his past. What he didn't expect was to cross paths with high school sweetheart and love of his life, Ava Ellis.

I found Ava's character to be genuine and beautiful. I had so much love and admiration for her. She loved Jack with her whole heart and it truly showed in her selfless actions throughout the book. I also adored little Owen! His young, carefree character was very loveable. I just ate up his little mannerism's that were identical to Jacks. Too cute.

The author did an amazing job pulling me into this sweet second chance romance and I can't wait to read Walker's story.

Laura says

ARC Provided by the Author/Publisher via NetGalley

4.5 Stars

There was something about this book. The chemistry between Jack and Ava was scorching. There's a lot more to this book that is worth mentioning, but it isn't very often that the chemistry between characters sparks this strongly from their first meeting (well, the one 10 years later) and continue throughout the title.

This is my first book by A. J. Pine, and I absolutely loved it. I thought Jack was authentic, and my heart broke for him and all of the things he was denying himself because he was afraid he was like his father. I loved all of the moments he had to prove to himself, and those around him, that he was nothing like the man and the past that he was running from.

I liked Ava, a lot. I thought she was strong, and I respected the reasons for the decisions she made, even though I am not sure I fully agreed with them. Choosing to keep from someone that he is going to be a father is a big secret to keep, and she knows this. And, she owns that she did it without really making excuses. She gives explanations, but not excuses. Did I totally agree with her? No...although I see her logic.

But, it doesn't matter if I agree with the choices of the characters as much as it matters that I believe they do...and, I believed in the characters.

The best thing about a second chance, and it worked so well here, is that there is a history between the characters that heightens not only the first meeting, but the subsequent interactions. It was done so well in this title that you felt the tension between Jack and Ava, the longing, the desire to reconnect and the fear that them not making it this time would destroy them both.

This is also the first book in a new series yet it doesn't fall into the trap of being too much about the secondary characters in order to build the story (which is a pet peeve of mine). I think this worked so well because the secondary characters are his brothers, and other members of his family, so their inclusion in the story feels more natural than other first in the series titles.

This was an emotional read with amazing sexual chemistry. I loved it, I recommend it, and I can't wait for the next in the series!

Bibliojunkies says

We all look back on our past and pinpoint moments that we wish we could do over again. For whatever reason - be it circumstance, bad choices, timing - with some perspective we see where it went wrong and wish we could fix it. Second Chance Cowboy isn't a do over but an opportunity to own up to the past and plan a way forward. But for Jack and Ava, the past comes with such heavy baggage who knows how things will turn out.

I had a hard time with this because as romantic as it was, it was also emotionally heavy. At first I thought it was Ava who kept her pregnancy a secret from Jack and deliberately pushed him away for his own good. She was 17 or 18 at the time and made what she thought was the right move for both their futures. When he returns home to attend his father's funeral, the cat's out of the bag and suddenly he's hit with the reality of the past 10 years -- what he's missed with Ava and their son, but also how his younger brothers have grown up in his absence.

Not that Jack is in the clear. He's still terribly hung up on his past and carrying so much guilt. As a result he doubts his own ability to be a good partner and father. At the same time he feels the incredible responsibility

to overcompensate for everything his loved ones didn't have. Jack's doubts were what got to me and for my own personal reasons, I got his tormented soul 100%.

After some reflection, what I realized made it hard for me is the crushing weight of all the expectations heaped upon every single person involved. Everyone expects the other to behave a certain way and to make what they believe is the obvious or right decision. In Jack's case, it's also the pressure that he inflicts upon himself that adds to his misery. I loved the rekindled romance because seeing a more mature Jack and Ava approach each other is that hopeful second chance we all wish for. It's a beautiful sight to behold. The renewed appreciation for his hometown and the reconnection that they all make with one another make your heart burst. I think A.J. Pine did exceptional work in showing us that aspect of human nature where expectations can either lift us up or crush us.

Jack and Ava couldn't have known the love they'd rediscover or the riches they'd find within family. In the end, pushing past all the guilt, hurt and hardships, *Second Chance Cowboy* is a romantic, heartwarming and spectacular welcome home!

~ Bel

Jonetta says

Jack Everett left his family's ranch home ten years ago and never looked back, leaving his two younger brothers in the care of his aunt who rescued all of them from an abusive alcoholic father. Now he's returning for his father's funeral and finding himself very disconnected from his brothers. He has a per chance encounter with Ava Ellis, the girl-now-woman who was his first and only love who shattered his young heart, and learns he has a nine-year old son, Owen. His plan for a fast getaway back to his life now needs some adjustments.

Jack and Ava have a complicated history and I struggled with her decision to not tell him about their son for so long and for him to have essentially abandoned his family emotionally during that time. They had very good reasons for their initial decisions; it's just the length of elapsed time that made no sense to me. However, I really enjoyed how these two communicated with each other and the way their new relationship evolved. Owen was a great kid and made the story so much more enjoyable.

Jack had a bit more angst than I preferred, to the point where it became tiresome. However, the secondary relationships added a lot of layers to the story, harbingers of stories to come. Those characters had a lot of "meat on the bones" and I like how the story ended, not necessarily cleanly and neatly but nicely and realistically. I will definitely be continuing the series. 3.5 stars

(I received an ARC from NetGalley in exchange for an unbiased review)

Wit & Wonder Books says

****ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review****

Lawyer by day, Cowboy down to the roots in *Second Chance Cowboy* by A.J. Pine. Sweet, charming, full of angst love that I devoured in a mere couple of hours. As a fan of second chance romances, A.J. captured all my attention. The struggle in which this cowboy faces within himself versus others was gripping and heartfelt.

Jack Everett knows what destruction in a home looks like. As the oldest of his brothers he's had to bear the abuse, guilt and hardships from his father. It's the reason why he left at 18 years old to escape the turmoil. But as fate would have it, he's back to bury his father and to settle paperwork; what he didn't encounter was his ex-love, Ava surprising him with a matching mini me of him.

Ava has always held Jack's heart within her own. Back in high school, in their last days of senior year, she saw the worst in Jack, but she still loved him. Loved him enough to send him away even though she carried a massive secret that she withheld from him. That's what you do right? We do the unthinkable knowing it's what's best, but is it really?

“There was something in that moment before a kiss, in the anticipation of it. An exquisite ache. A rare hope. The promise of amazing -- or of unimaginable heartbreak.”

Now Jack and Ava are reconnecting and Jack is trying to process everything he left behind 10 years ago. The love still shines in Ava's eyes for him, she believes in him, but can he believe in himself? Trust and know he is nothing like his father.

“You deserve so much more than you let yourself believe,” she said. “But I can't make you see that, Jack. You have to see it for yourself.”

Family turmoil is sky high in this cowboy romance. The angst from the push and pull from Jack's brothers to the guilt/grief inner battle in Jack and to the intense reconnection between Ava and Jack all mends together in a fantastic second chance novel. New to Pine's work, I will say this won't be my last book from her. I enjoyed her writing, the easy flow from each POV and she managed to grasp all the emotions from all secondary characters. I hope there will be more books containing Luke and Walkers' happy ever endings as well.

4 Stars

Brenda says

This is an awesome second-chance story, ten years of loss and heartache not only for two estranged high-school lovers, who never stopped loving each other, but also of a family mentally and physically scarred by years of abuse. A small tow romance that is steamy, emotional as well as funny. Loved the chemistry between Jack and Ava. They made an awesome pair. I may not concur with some of things they did or the decisions they'd taken, but never did I feel anger or dislike toward them. I also loved all the other characters Jack and Ava's son, Owen, his adorable dog Scully, Jack's younger brothers --Luke and Walker-- and their young aunt, Jenna --who is only eight years older to Jack-- and even Ava's parents, even though, her father was constantly harsh to Jack.

The Everett brothers may be a messed-up lot, but they sure know how to throw out the welcome mat to all those whom they care for and exude so much fun with their non-stop banter and ribbing -- although I personally felt they went a bit overboard with the profanities. I loved their relationship with their young aunt, how caring she was toward them and how protective they were to her, and I found it amusing how their antennas would be on high alert whenever they got to know she was dating and wanted to know everything about the guy.

I also loved Ava's 'mom' moments especially when she sees Owen on the horse or when he goes to the rodeo. Being a worrier mom myself, I could totally relate to it.

Gist of the story --this part contains spoilers (view spoiler)

Emotions ran high in the book and there was depth in every character and every relationship and the reader is kept hooked right through. Loved Jack's proposal in the end. Scully's eager reply had me chuckling loud. Overall, it was an enjoyable read.

The end of the book had a sneak peek of the start of the next book in the series that's Luke and Lily Green's story --she's the part owner of the diner in this book along with her husband who is Luke's best friend, but is divorced in the second book-- and found it amusing. Looking forward to reading it.

Leigh Kramer says

I first encountered AJ Pine through her fantastic Kingston Ale House series. I did not guess she'd follow it with a contemporary cowboy romance. Going from Chicago to California wine country cowboys? After reading *Second Chance Cowboy*, Pine made a believer out of me.

Jack is headed back to his small ranching hometown for his dad's funeral. To say Jack has complicated feelings about being home is an understatement. It was interesting to see the roles each Everett boy plays and what their dynamic is like as adults as Jack reconnects with them.

Into that mix comes Ava, Jack's first love and the girl who broke his heart. It turns out they have a 10 year old son together and she never told him she was pregnant. It's heartbreaking but her reasons were valid. But now Jack has to figure out how he feels about having a son and what his role will be.

Jack is off kilter but he's such a good guy. He's always looking out for other people. Part of that is because of how he shielded his brothers from their dad's abuse and part of that is because he believes he owes them a debt for leaving town. He lives on the bare minimum so he can send money to help with the ranch. He doesn't believe he deserves better and oh was this hard to see.

Ava's life has been put on hold in many ways. She loves being a mom but she wants to rely less on her parents and start pursuing her art again. She's such a strong, generous woman and I loved how she tried to balance taking care of the people in her life. She has plenty of reasons for keep Jack at arms length, chief among them that he's just going to leave again. But these two have never gotten over each other.

I loved how they got to know one another again. It's not always easy- the question of what Jack will do about Owen always hangs between them- but it's clear they still have feelings. They also have big issues to work through. Jack needs to deal with his past and confront his fears about being like his dad. Ava needs to own up to how she lied to Jack and caused him to miss ten years of Owen's life. Ava and Jack are able to tell each other hard truths and they're better for it.

I struggled with how much time Ava, Jack, and Owen spent together without Owen knowing Jack's relationship to him. You just know it's not going to end well. I also really struggled with Ava's dad. He was a real jerk, almost over the top. I didn't understand his logic at all and it just pissed me off anytime he was on the page. But it was gratifying to see Ava finally stand up to him.

I adored Jack's brothers Walker and Luke. I cannot wait to see what happens in their books! There's so much promise with the ranch and vineyard settings. I also loved Aunt Jenna and I've already asked Pine to give Jenna her own HEA. She deserves it and then some.

This was such a sweet, fun read and I'm looking forward to seeing how the series develops. Bring on the cowboys!

Disclosure: I received an advance copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Beth says

Ava Ellis has never gotten over Jack. She let him go 10 years ago when he was setting his sights on a career as a lawyer. But now he's back for his father's funeral and he's thinking of her too.

It's all about second chances. A chance encounter, a connection that cannot be denied and a love that never could be forgotten.

Pine perfectly struck that emotional cord, invested her readers and took us into the hearts of her characters.
5*

I received this ARC copy of **Second Chance Cowboy** from Forever - Grand Central Publishing. This is my honest and voluntary review. **Second Chance Cowboy** is set for publication Feb. 27, 2018.

My Rating: 5 stars

Written by: A. J. Pine

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Reviewed for: <http://tometender.blogspot.com>

A.J. Pine says

I'm so excited for you all to meet the Everett brothers and the women who capture their hearts! Join my newsletter [HERE](#) to find out more about upcoming books. And if you want to hang out in my reader group where we sometimes talk books, sometimes have exclusive reveals and excerpts, and sometimes just talk about our favorite celebrities named Chris, join my reader group, Pine's Page Turners, [HERE](#).

Only two weeks until SCC is here! Keep your eye out for Jack to pop up in your local bookstore as well as Target, Walmart, and Sam's Club!

Upcoming books in the Crossroads Ranch Series...

SAVED BY THE COWBOY (a special novella coming the end of July)

TOUGH LUCK COWBOY (Luke's story coming in August)

HARD LOVING COWBOY (Walker's story...release date TBA)

TeriLyn says

4 "*And that would never change.*" Stars

Great romance. Perfectly angsty second chance story with a few twists along the way. Third person point of view writing that keeps you engaged from beginning to end with charming characters and a zany family to go along with them.

Mandi Schreiner says

After Jack's mother died when he was a teenager, his father took a dark, deep turn into alcohol. This resulted in him also being physically abusive to his three sons. All Jack wanted to do was leave his town and start life over somewhere far away. While in high school he fell in love with a girl named Ava. She was sweet and

kind and everything he wanted - but he knew he couldn't stay near his father. He leaves his small town, and his family ranch and becomes a lawyer in San Diego.

But Ava isn't the only person he leaves behind. Right before he leaves, Ava finds out she is pregnant. But she doesn't tell Jack. For ten long years she keeps it a secret - because he broke her heart when he left, and the one time she thought to tell him, she saw him with who she thought was his future wife (are these really good reasons to keep this secret?? I will discuss in a minute).

Ten years after all of this, Jack's dad dies and he comes back home for the funeral. It is here he is reunited with Ava, meets her ten-year old son, realizes it is his and needs to make decisions. He was offered a promotion at work, but that means moving across the country to New York. His father had invested in a local vineyard, which his two brothers do not want. Ava also works at a vineyard....so they now have a common interest besides their son.

Secret babies is a tricky trope for me. I need solid reasons for the baby to be kept a secret. The reasons Ava uses to keep her son a secret from his father in this one makes no sense to me. I think it's really unfair for the kid and the dad to not know the other exists. A phone call, a text, an email - these are all things one can use to break news to someone. Then if the dad acts like a dick and doesn't want to be part of the kid's life - then you can be angry and keep him away etc.. Ava gets angry, admittedly irrationally angry, that Jack was not there to support her - for a kid he knew nothing about.

"You - you were getting married after I'd spent years changing diapers at four in the morning...joining the preschool PTO because yes, there was one...buying two extra car seats because the only way to be included in the carpool clique was to have all of the necessary equipment!"

But - he didn't know. So.....?

I do enjoy second chance love stories - but I wish in this one that Jack and Ava had a little more tension in their relationship once reunited. They start a physical relationship really quick and it just felt like a bit of a let down. There are issues that arise because Jack is still dealing with feelings about his late, alcoholic father and what that means for him now that he is a dad. And he has two brothers who run the ranch - both presented as moody and gruff...a good set-up for future books.

I guess it comes down to the facts that I didn't like the secret baby trope (the way it was handled) and the romance just seemed too pleasant after all the secrets and years apart. There was something missing for me.

Grade: C

Babs says

Jack couldn't wait to leave home when he turned 18. Being abused and trying to escape his bothers he was ready to get out.

He did good for himself and became a lawyer. Letting his brothers take care of the ranch and sending money back home.

When his dad dies he heads back home.

he has to take care of his affairs and learn they have a Vineyard to now take care of.

Ava was heartbroken when Jack left town. She kept a secret from Jack that she can not hide any longer now that he is back. But will he forgive her.

Hope and love with some drama keeps the reader turning the pages. Second chances sometimes do have a happy ending.

I voluntarily read a copy of this book.

Isha Coleman says

The world according to A.J. Pine is a canvas of past heartaches, mistakes and ever rising stakes. It's the lessons we learn, memories we make and the moments of laughter that help us through the rough times. From first love to broken heart, Jack and Ava take readers into the eye of a storm. With realism and wisdom, Second Chance Cowboy shows the pureness of heart and the naivete of love. The road is treacherous, the work is strenuous but the reward can be advantageous in the end. Youth broke their hearts can adulthood help mend them? The author and her characters twist and turn their way right into your heart.

Courtesy of Night Owl Reviews

Jennifer Blackwood says

LOVED this second chance romance. Jack is everything I want in a swoony hero. Full review to come closer to release <3

Bette Hansen says

LOVED!!!

Loved this one. It's a great way to start a new series because now I'm completely hooked! Jack and Eva's story is a fantastic second chance story and Owen is such a cute kid. Can't wait for Walker and Luke's stories. I highly recommend this one.
