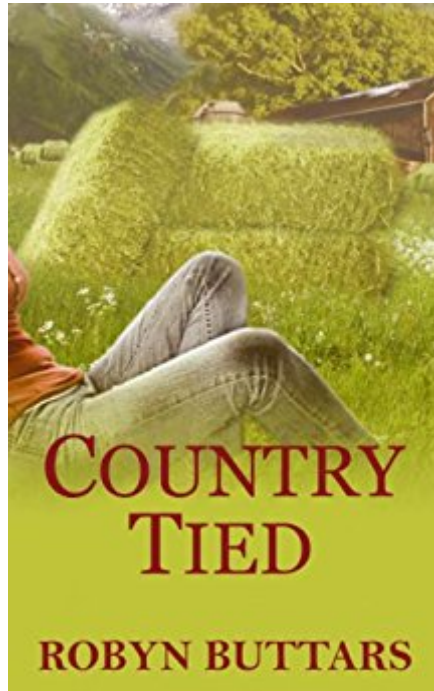




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Country Tied (Country Stories Book 1)



Synopsis

From a lush valley in the country to a fast-paced city under the California sun, Jenny's story is a true to life adventure. Mature and disciplined with a competitive spirit, Jenny enjoys working alongside her father. However, problems arise when her father is injured and she is responsible for the care of the family farm. Matters of the heart become an issue when David captures her attention. After he seemingly drops out of her life as suddenly as he had appeared, Jenny is puzzled and hurt. She heads off to California for a visit and meets the intriguing, handsome Mic. Stepping into Mic's upper-class social scene is an ego boost for Jenny until her background and dreams are mocked. Feeling alone in the crowd, Jenny faces choices that could change the course of her life.

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Customer Reviews

Disclosure: I received a request to read and review this book, but I purchased the book

myself. Jenny, a farm girl from Utah, has few problems, but being being torn between two "first loves," is a biggie for a 16-year-old. This is a very gentle book, inoffensive, light on conflict, with a lesson appropriate for Young Women's. However, it has a few problems. The first (and biggest) problem is the voice. This is not the voice of a 16-year-old girl, nor the voices of 18-year-old boys. This is the voice of a grown woman, and all the characters' voices are the same. Some teenagers may talk and act like these characters do, and I would not be surprised to learn that the kids in the author's life actually do talk like this. But I found it unbelievable. Further, there were no smartphones, no texting, no email anywhere in the story, and one of the teenage boys said he looked up the girl's address in the phone book. In the age of Google, 4Square, Twitter, Facebook, and Tumblr, I found that completely unrealistic. I didn't find it particularly unrealistic that one of the boys would write a letter in pen and ink to the girl, but the letter itself was very adult, as in, middle-aged adult. Third was a) the completely unnecessary introduction of a boy at the beginning of the story who was far too important to the protagonist, only to drop out of sight; and b) the sudden dropping-in of a boy who was never referred to until he was dropped in, complete with info-dump. Fourth, though the story arc was complete (with room for a sequel), it was a bit boring. There was never anything on the line, no real conflict, and was written in an almost travelogue tone. The writing was serviceable, but the storytelling was lacking. I do think the author shows some promise as a storyteller, though, and I would encourage her to a) find someone who can help her find her storytelling spark; b) not write about teenagers or c) spend some time with teenagers and see how they talk, speak, act, and think; and d) catch up with how technology is used by digital natives.

Loved the simplicity of this book. Great book with great values. Would recommend to all. I'll be reading the next books put out by this author.

Great book! I really liked it and wanted to keep reading and reading to find out what happened next! Definitely recommend reading this book! Can't wait for more by this author.

Country tied was a heartfelt cowboy kind of story, down to earth and made for simpler times. I genuinely loved it. At first, I was completely riveted by the farm. Although classified as a soft romance for young adults, the first couple of chapters had not even a hint of romance, if you ask me. It was all about the farm, and I was enchanted. My grandfather was a vegetable farmer, and I have lots of wonderful memories of summers growing up on the farm, picking acres of strawberries with the other kids and sitting in the back of a pickup piled high with corn to be husked for that night's

corn festival. If we husked it all by that evening, we'd each get a dollar to spend at the fair, and of course, our fill of wonderful fresh crunchy corn on cob to eat! Although we didn't have animals, we had people, and farmers, and greenhouses, and tractors, and haystacks and barns with high lofts to jump from. There's just something really special and magical about farms and this book brought me back. So when the romance part of the book hit, I was not only flustered and irritated, I wasn't thrilled with our first guy, David. Besides the fact he had left once before with no explanation, we didn't have a whole lot of background for the romance. (Yeah they were kids together and played together, but when did the spark happen and how?) I wanted to go back to the cows and the shows and the hay and Jared, her main show competitor. But after a while, Buttars finally won me over with her soft spoken main character, Jenny, who had strength and integrity you so often see in kids who grow up on a farm. Although she wasn't described physically too much in the beginning, probably to force us to fall in love with her personality first, we come to know her as an auburn beauty, and she ends up getting lots of attention. At first I thought the romance was a little light, and had to ask who the target audience was. Because if it's a typical young adult of today, there just wasn't enough heat. (ie backstabbing, love triangles, angst, etc.) Not that I'm saying I like all that, but if we look at popular teen novels of today, like Twilight, we see a lot of that. But after finding out it was labeled a "soft" romance, I felt it was written perfectly. Books today for teens don't need to have all that stuff to make it good, and it's perfectly fine and even somewhat wonderful to add some morals into the novel. And it doesn't have to be labeled a Christian romance or an Amish romance to be that way, although you could almost label this one that way. I really loved how Buttars addresses the sex-before-marriage in a straightforward but realistic way that can really apply to any teen today. I also love how Buttars didn't specifically say Jenny shouldn't have sex before marriage, but instead gave the opinions of some adults Jenny respected and in the end, left it up to her to decide what was best for her. In this way it probably wouldn't go over as well in today's conservative Christian market. One aspect of the romance that bothered me, and I'm not sure if Buttars did this on purpose, but between the different men in her life, I wasn't sure who we were rooting for. Usually there's a little hint or foreshadowing as to who the winner will be, but halfway through the book, I really wasn't sure, and I honestly didn't care for the contenders that much. Would it be David, the guy who left her not once but twice without a word back home, but understood her life on the farm and who she was? Or would it be Mick, this new slick Californian, with the big house and fancy car, that cared about spending time with his nephew and seems irritated at the references of him as a playboy? At this point, Jared was my favorite, the boy who didn't even seem like a contender but made an impression back in the beginning with beating Jenny in the top prizes for showing cows, but was the

first one to show compassion when her father was hurt. I'm not sure if I liked the surprise or if I didn't like the fact that I didn't know who we were rooting for. And by this point, the farm was long gone and it was all about the boys, which left me a little disappointed as well, except that I was still riveted. Would she stick up for herself and her life? Would she show her country colors proud in the face of these rich little brats who probably never had to work a day in their life? I just didn't know. I loved that for a 16-yr-old, Jenny knew herself very well, and knew what she wanted out of life. It was one of the main things that made me fall in love with her. In the end, we come to an even better, if not typical ending, a lack of choice. A risky move on Buttars part, but very satisfying in my opinion. We finally realize the reasons behind David's distance and can understand him a bit better, if not like him. But then Buttars leaves the book open a bit and I think this was an elegant way of showing that every girl teenager doesn't have to be "boy crazy". And instead use intelligence and logic to understand that she's still young, and has her whole life ahead of her. I loved this idea and it made the whole book light and refreshing for me, a real change of pace from the usual romance. Overall, I don't read romance as much as I used to, but I did read it a lot at one time, so I know what's out there. I think this book has a unique style all it's own, I just wish it hadn't strayed so far from the farm where it started. I would love to read another Buttars where the entire book is set on the farm, it would do my heart some good.[...]

This was a clean, short novelette about a young girl coming of age in rural Utah. We see how she handles the adversity of her father's injuries, taking care of the dairy, her first feelings of dawning love and even problems with the self-esteem issues of most young girls. Although I loved this book, some might find the absences of any conflict or action in this story, to be off-putting. I loved that the author allowed Jenny to come to mature decisions without all the adults "pushing" her to make them. Jenny showed how to handle the pressures of her life with aplomb and gentleness. I could understand the romance with David, but to tell the truth I think that Jared would make a better love interest. Even though David and Jenny played as children together, David "did" stop coming around or even explain that he was waiting for her to grow a little. Jared also understands her life much better than David. Jenny was extremely naive about her beauty and life in general, but I did see her grow so much in this story. I highly recommend this book to young teens and even adults who are looking for a nice book.

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