



RIDE A PAINTED PONY

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Suggestions For Discussion

1. Book titles are SO important, and I was ecstatic when the powers-that-be accepted RIDE A PAINTED PONY for this book. In what ways does it fit the story?
2. My heroines are often, like me, white women sojourning in Indian Country. Does the fact that Lauren is white figure into the story or the relationship, and if so, how? Does Nick's perspective as a minority play a role?
3. Do you think Lauren is using Nick? Is she justified?
4. How willing is Nick to be involved with Lauren, and what motivates him as the story progresses?
5. Lauren and Nick both have secrets. How do they differ? Who or what are they protecting and how do they deal with the threat of exposure? What if Lauren had told Nick her whole story right off the bat?
6. Lauren and Nick come from different worlds and seem to have little in common at first. Put that together with their secrets and forging a relationship seems unlikely. What bridges the gap, and what does each one bring to the "bridging" table? To what extent do you think common interests may be important in a romantic relationship?
7. How would you describe Nick and Dillon's friendship? What does each personality bring to the "friendship" table? How are they different? What do you think would have happened if Dillon had been the one who found Lauren?
8. While Indian issues often play a role in my books, it's important that they serve the story, not the other way around. The Indian casino is a relatively recent phenomenon that is largely misunderstood by the American mainstream. While Indian gaming is not a major focus in this story, it does provide a major plot element. How does it serve the story? What, if anything, did you learn about Indian gaming from this story?
9. What kinds of powers struggles are represented in this story? To what extent is there a resolution in any of them?