

RELENTLESS IN TEXAS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THE BOOK

There's a reason they call this cowboy relentless

Gil Sanchez was once rodeo's biggest and baddest hotshot. Now he's thirteen years sober and finally free of the pain that ended his skyrocketing career. Given one last, near-miraculous shot to claw his way back to rodeo glory, he can't let fantasies of happily-ever-after dull his razor edge...but Carmelita White Fox is every dream he's never let himself have.

And from the moment he saw the spark of challenge in her eyes, he hasn't been able to look away.

Carma may come from a Blackfeet family noted for its healing abilities, but even she knows better than to try to fix this scarred, cynical, and incredibly sexy cowboy. Yet she's the only one who can reach past Gil's jaded armor, and the fiercely loyal heart buried beneath the biting cynicism is impossible to resist. Gil needs Carma just as much as she needs him, but as the pressure builds and the spotlight intensifies, they'll have to fight like hell to save the one thing neither can live without.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kari Lynn Dell is a native of north central Montana, a third generation ranch-raised cowgirl, horse trainer and 2018 Canadian Senior Pro Rodeo Association Breakaway Roping champion. She attended her first rodeo at two weeks old and has existed in a state of horse-induced poverty ever since. She currently resides on the family ranch on the Blackfeet Reservation, loitering in her parents' bunkhouse along with her husband, son, and Max and Spike the Cowdogs, with a tipi on the front step, a view of Glacier National Park from her writing desk and Canada within spitting distance. The third book of her Texas Rodeo series, *Tougher in Texas*, was a 2018 finalist for the Romance Writers of America's RITA® awards.

PRAISE FOR THE TEXAS RODEO SERIES

"Dell takes you on a fun, wild ride!" —B.J. DANIELS, *New York Times* Bestselling Author

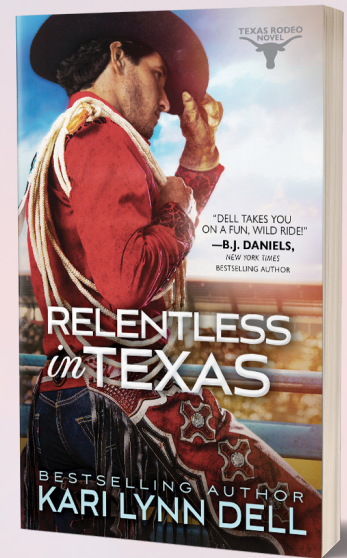
"Look out, world! There's a new cowboy in town." —CAROLYN BROWN, *New York Times* Bestselling Author

"An extraordinarily gifted writer."—KAREN TEMPLETON, author of *Wed in the West* series

"Real Ranches. Real Rodeo. Real Romance."—LAURA DRAKE, author of *Sweet on a Cowboy* series

"A sexy, engaging romance set in the captivating world of rodeo."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Illuminating...a standout in western romance."—*Publishers Weekly*



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Gil's long-term recovery from addiction play into his characterization? Where does he show growth and stability? How does it feed and support his relationship with Carma? Where can you see his history with addiction or the demands of recovery getting in the way?
2. What would it be like to have Carma's gifts and challenges? How do you see her empathy making her life challenging? Where can we see her working to center her own needs and how is that important to her ability to have a successful relationship with Gil, who can be very draining?
3. What do you think of Carma's gifts? What do you think is the source of her intuition and talents? Do you think it is all explainable by science, psychology and neurology? Do you see a spiritual or other component to her abilities? Do you or someone you know have similar experiences.
4. There are a number of sponsor, mentor, trusted advisor relationships in this book. How did the author use these characters and relationships to further the plot or build character? Putting yourself in Carma's place, would you find it challenging to accept that your significant other is involved in a very emotionally intense sponsor/sponsee relationship that for the most part excludes you? What would you ask of Gil to make it easier to accept?
5. Discuss the themes of family, especially those of the various "sons" in this book and their relationship with their fathers and mothers. How does this play out in the relationships and actions of Gil and some of the other characters? How does the physically obvious difference in ethnicity between some of the parents and children in this book complicate their relationships, and also affect the overall self image of the children?
6. Both Gil and Carma have to make adjustment in their lives in order to be together. Where do they need to adjust? Discuss their resolutions and compromises.
7. In the beginning, Carma is presented as the chronic enabler who can't help jumping in to try to fix things rather than allowing her family, Jayden, etc. to deal with their own problems. As we see Gil in action, though, it becomes clear that he has a similar nature—thriving on the non-stop crisis management of his job, finding it extremely difficult to delegate, making decisions about what's best for those around him without their input at the expense of his own time and energy. In him, it's considered being driven and a control freak, but Carma is seen as either interfering or allowing people to use her. Do you think there's a gender component to the difference in perception? In a professional setting, how could this affect the success and advancement of a male versus female employee?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS CONTINUED

8. How does Gil's unsolicited self-sacrifice affect his relationship with Delon, and how does Carma trigger a change in that status? Do you think she did the right thing, or should she have respected Gil's boundaries no matter what? Do you see this conflict arising between Gil and Carma in the future, given their personalities?

9. Every ethnic group has a diaspora—a scattering of their people and resulting loss of cultural, religious, and other traditions—along with the genetic dilution that results from interbreeding with other races. In nearly every case this generates a debate regarding who can really call themselves a member of that group. Native Americans are unique in that with the reservation system the government established the blood quantum system, by which your percentage of Native blood is calculated based on your parentage and kept on record. The majority of tribes use blood quantum to determine who has enough of their blood to be an enrolled member, which can carry rights from the ability to own property on the reservation, to voting in tribal elections, to job preference, to access to healthcare and other social benefits. There has been much pushback against this system, saying it's an arbitrary limit set simply to make bureaucratic decisions easier, and that being Native is about more than simple genetics. What do you think makes a person someone who can represent an ethnic group? Genetics? Cultural immersion and adherence to their religion/traditions, etc.? Given that even within individual tribes there can be wide variations in beliefs, who decides what makes a real Native?

10. How has the situation above formed both Carma and Gil's personalities? How have each of them chosen to deal with their Native status? After reading this book, do you have a different perception of the indigenous population of our country? In what way?

11. Both Rochelle and Krista have chosen to leave their sons with their fathers while they tend to the needs of other family members. Would most people consider their situations comparable? Why, or why not? Is race and social standing an issue in that perception? How, in both cases, does the Jacobs clan and the 'found family' that they've assembled come into play, and does this make each woman's decision more or less understandable? How does the Navajo culture come into play in Rochelle's case?