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Knight Of Ocean Avenue (Love In Laguna Book 1)



Synopsis

A Love in Laguna Novel How can you be twenty-five and not know youâ™re gay? Billy Ballew runs from that question. A high school dropout, barely able to read until he taught himself, Billyâ™s life is driven by his need to help support his parents as a construction worker, put his sisters through college, coach his Little League team, and not think about being a three-time loser in the engagement department. Being terrified of taking tests keeps Billy from getting the contractor&s license he so desires, and fear of his mother&s judgment blinds Billy to what could make him truly happy. Then, in preparation for his sisterâ™s big wedding, Billy meets Shazâ™Chase Phillipsâ™ a rising-star celebrity stylist who defines the word gay. To Shaz, Billy embodies everything heâ™s ever wantedâ™ stalwart, honest, braveâ™ but even if Billy turns out to be gay, he could never endure the censure heâ™d get for being with a queen like Shaz. How can two men with so little in common find a way to be together? Can the Stylist of the Year end up with the Knight of Ocean Avenue? Winner: GLBT - Contemporary Romance 2015 Rainbow Awards Best LGBT Cover Runner-Up The William Neale Award for Best Gay Contemporary Romance Runner-Up Best Gay Book Runner-Up

Book Information

File Size: 929 KB

Print Length: 254 pages

Publisher: Dreamspinner Press (May 1, 2015)

Publication Date: May 1, 2015

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01HLORZ7I

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #26,721 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #82 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > Women's Fiction > Single Women #464 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender eBooks > Romance > Gay Romance #488 inÂ Books > Romance > Gay Romance

Customer Reviews

I feel very fortunate that I enjoy such a wide variety of M/M romance fiction. Some favorites include firefighters, law enforcement, BDSM, M/M couples with children, military boys, hockey boys and hurt/healing/comfort. (I have so much to choose from!) But there is a special place in my heart for your basic, straight forward M/M romance which feature protagonists who are regular, good, honest, decent folks who overcome great obstacles to reach their entirely well-deserved HEA. Knight of Ocean Avenue will go down as one of these special books for me. MC Billy Ballaw is a incredibly hard working construction worker with a heart of gold. He gives half of his salary to his parents, after his dad suffered a heart attack and could no longer work. He helped put his sister through college. He coaches a little league team because he feels it's important to have a safe place for children to explore their interests without the fear of bullying and he always shows up for the family dinner at his parent's place every Sunday. He also has two cats which he absolutely adores, which just clinched the deal for me. Just a regular guy that anyone would love. And, boy, did I fall for him! On top of his personally-plus persona, he is a hulking 6'5" of gorgeous man meat. MC Chase "Shaz" Phillips is a professional stylist. He owns his own business where he treats his employees like family, usually thinking of their welfare before his own. After being thrown out by his biological family at the tender age of 16 for being gay, he has worked hard to make a place for himself in this world. He is extremely flamboyant and makes absolutely no excuses for his exaggerated homosexuality.

Billy Ballew is a dud with the ladies. Three broken engagements lay at his feet on the eve of his baby sister's wedding. At 25 years old and still a bachelor, his fiercely religious mother is impatient for grandkids, and always willing to make her desire known. Billy is a hard-working man; always has been. He's qualified to be a licensed contractor but suffers test-taking anxiety after years of ridicule in school. He'd been a late bloomer in terms of reading, though now he's fully literate and supporting himself—and, to some degree, his parents ever since his father's debilitating heart attack years ago. Billy dropped out of school and worked to help pay the mortgage and his younger sister's college tuition—and his sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. In prep for the big wedding of his sister to a hoity-toity rich guy, Billy allows himself to be talked into working with his sister's stylist, Shazam, so that he'll be fashionable for all the wedding events. Still questioning what keeps going wrong with his relationships, Billy is stunned to find Shaz, the effeminate redhead, strangely appealing. Billy has only been sexually active with a man once—if you consider paying a trick for some oral distraction a "active"—and he is freaked out. Shaz is more than a little attracted to his straight client. Dressing such a big, burly man—one who had

interfered in a possible bashing of himself “is a fun challenge, and Shaz is determined to make friends with Billy, if only to spend more time with him. Thing is, the more time they spend, the greater the attraction simmers between them. Okay, so there are a lot of issues at play in this story.

This book was wonderful and sweet and romantic and just a curl up on a rainy day and swoon you book. You will fall instantly in love with Billy and Shaz. Billy is a kind caring good man who is admired by many and a role model for all. He has struggled with school not because he isn't smart but because of being made fun of, he takes care of his family, is loyal and hard working. He is adorable in all ways that matter. He is also confused and lost. This book has Billy learning who he is and coming to terms with himself. He gains confidence in himself due to finding Shaz. Shaz who is a boisterous out and proud man that works hard and is kind. They both have instant attraction for each other. For Billy though this is difficult because he didn't realize he was gay until Shaz. He is a quiet hard working man who just hasn't really been able to explore who he is because he was always trying to help others and working. So when Shaz comes along he begins questioning himself. It doesn't cause angst or upset him. He sees himself the way he needs to, comes to terms with the help of Shaz and then accepts himself for who he is. It is healthy. There are moments where he feels ashamed not because of who he is but because of his actions. Or his inner feelings that he doesn't let out. He does though realize they are wrong and does what is right. Shaz helps him in so many ways and he helps Shaz as well.

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