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Chris Bishop has everything a high school senior could want—a loving family, a perfect girlfriend, and a bright, shining future. At his dad's suggestion, he spends a summer working at a law firm to gain experience, but he never bargained on meeting Josh. Josh is handsome and green-eyed and just what Chris doesn't want—or does he? Some things Chris has admitted only to his digital diary, but by the time prom comes around, he needs to make a decision: risk the pain of honesty about himself and his feelings for Josh, or play it safe and lose what matters most.

Dear Diary Details

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From Reader Review Dear Diary for online ebook

Elisa Rolle says

A nice novella, mix of diary and tale, following the afternoon before the prom of 17 years old Chris; aside for being the last prom before going away from home to College, it's also the day Chris is ready to admit he is gay and in love with Josh.

In the hour before the traditional photo with Chris in his nineties ready for the prom, Chris remembers how he met Josh the previous summer, how he suddenly realized why he was never attracted to girls, how Josh was able, with patience and love, to conquer Chris.

It's also a tale of doubts and fears, despite being able to accept Josh's love, Chris was not able to come out at school, fearing the same fate another guy suffered the previous year. Chris is aware that, even if he is in a privileged situation, good student, loving and supporting family, a future ready for him, the world can be cruel, and everything can crash down if he is not careful.

I also like that the author didn't make of these two guys some sort of careless heroes; when Chris's father found out about Chris's breaking the rules to meet with Josh, both Chris than Josh were scared to face the adult; that is, even if in love, Chris and Josh are only two teenagers, and the adult world and judgment is still something scaring and imposing.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0057PZWHO/?...>

Mr. says

This story takes us on the path of an eighteen-year-old Chris who, in the midst of getting ready for his senior year prom, decides this day is to be the day he purges his stories in an almost cathartic fashion, so he sets out to record the precious memories he had of a summer romance that changed his life – with a man named Josh, who was an intern for a law firm Chris was volunteering at.

This was all done through the use of a hand-held recorder he received for Christmas. In fact, this recorded version of these events is where the story lies, along with intermittent appearances from all the people that he holds dear in the present – his family and best friend. Together, Chris makes his prom experience one that is not merely just a step into adulthood.

But whilst this short story has the sweetest of intentions, and I truly tried to like the story (as I am a sucker for cathartic spilling) this story also had some of my pet peeves.

To see the whole review, go to:

On Top Down Under Book Reviews: <http://bookreviewsandtherapy.blogspot...>

Greedy Bug Book Reviews: <http://greedybug.blogspot.com.au/2013...>

ETA - Note from Mr. Austro-Hungarian: After I submitted my review to Greedy Bug Book Reviews, it came to my attention that this book is published as a M/M adult book. Not YA. This means that this book

was intentionally marketed as an adult M/M book. However, the language and content that was contained in this book was barely of a Young Adult nature, and - quite frankly - the use of the word 'Jimmy' to describe the anatomical male sex organ is absolutely disgraceful in a book marketed to adults.

I had originally given Dear Diary two stars, but for the aforementioned reasons, I have decided to mark the book down to one star.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Chris is getting ready for his Prom and as he's doing that he is reminiscing about his summer of love and discovery with Josh. He speaks his thoughts into a voice recorder, using it as a diary.

Short and sweet!

Serena Yates says

Sometimes risking everything is worth it. But knowing when that's the case, which "something" is the one to go for, is not as easy as it may seem. Chris works hard and has an easy life, but he discovers a few truths during his last year in high school, and they shake things up. Now, on the afternoon and evening before his prom, he is trying to come to grips with all of it, and the method he uses is fascinating. He speaks his story into a digital recorder, his "diary", to make sure he remembers it before taking the next step. His final rite before truly becoming a man, it is supposed to bring him closure and help him look forward.

Chris knows he is gay, but he's never admitted it out loud. He has a boyfriend, and hasn't really been hiding the fact he does, so he understands the truth. Yet, saying it out loud has so far eluded him. Speaking it into the recording device makes it easier for him, and it gave me hope that he'll find the courage to say it to his family and friends next.

Josh is a great guy, and while we only get to see him through Chris's eyes, he emerges as a pretty amazing friend and lover. He's only a year older than Chris, but I got the feeling he's been out longer than that, and it wasn't at all an easy process for him. He lives in the dorms and never talks about his family, so there will be things to deal with in the sequel, I am sure. But the way he supports Chris made this a very sweet story indeed.

It's a pretty unique way of telling a story, and I have to say it really grew on me. Chris's emotions are so raw, even though everything he talks about is in the past. But as he reflects on them, he brings them back not only for himself but for me to see and understand what was going on in his head. And the ending of the story, as he walks downstairs to meet his date for the evening, is just perfect!

If you like sweet stories that make you smile as much as they make you think, if you enjoy reading about fresh realizations of deep truths and how a young man might deal with coming out to himself, and if you're looking for a book that will touch your heart and move you deeply, then you definitely need to read this novella. I adored it and cannot wait for the next installment.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Keren Hughes says

I have just finished reading this book and I thought it was amazing. It's only the second book of this genre I have ever read, and I am so glad I read it. Allison has a way of making you feel a real connection with her characters. I have to say, I really needed a tissue handy as I did shed a few tears.

Thank you Allison for writing such a wonderful short story, and for helping me broaden my horizons by reading it.

Anke says

Can't say it better than Tam, so I won't even try it:) Now off to reading the sequel.

Tam says

This sweet little short takes an interesting story-telling perspective. It's Chris' senior prom and as he's getting ready, he starts telling the story to his "diary" about how his life changed and how he discovered he was gay. His parents gave him a little voice recorder and rather than use it for class notes, he uses it as a personal diary. He doesn't really get the big deal about prom and didn't want to go, but his mother was all excited so he agrees. As he's telling the story of how he met Josh while volunteering at a law firm the summer before, he is interrupted by his ex-girlfriend (whom he broke up with once he figured out he was gay) but is also going to prom, his little sister, and his Dad, who are trying to hurry him to get ready, but he just wants to finish pouring out his story of how he met Josh, figured out he was attracted to guys and the process he took in admitting he was gay.

It's very sweet, and Chris is just 18 and may seem a bit starry-eyed and melodramatic in his telling of how enamoured he was of Josh (who is a year older), and the process of discovery for him, but that's how teenagers are, everything is the "most" for them. (At least the ones I know. Of course because it's just his version of what happened, you don't know anything much about Josh, except that he was much more confident in his sexuality, and is a freshman in college now. But Chris' thoughts and emotions, from his puzzlement at crushing on a guy when he'd never thought about that, through his freak-out when Josh kisses him, to his first sexual experience, and getting caught sneaking out of the house by his parents are all clear and entertaining.

I won't reveal the ending, but it caught me by surprise, in a very good way. It's an equally sweet, and upbeat ending for Chris as he heads off to this last big event in his life before heading off to college, where he's looking forward to being able to be himself, without fear of the reaction of his friends in high school. So when you're in the mood for a feel-good read about young love, realistically portrayed I think, with all the insecurity that comes with that, in addition to coming out, I recommend this story.

I also think this story would be suitable for a young person who is dealing with coming out, and coming to terms with their attraction to guys. It's not overly graphic, but I think it handles Chris' confusion, and the thrill of being sexually attracted to someone for the first time ever, along with the fear of what that means for

friends and family, very well, and might be an interesting read for young people in a similar situation.

Sunscape5 says

I loved this story. It only took me about 20 minutes to read since I couldn't put it down. I loved Chris's tender heart and how he wanted to be a good son & boyfriend, but also true to himself on his new found identity. I was so happy and relieved that this story had a happy ending. I loved how Josh and Chris were now an open and out, official couple, included and loved by his family and friends.

Candice says

Short, sweet and just perfect.

Jessica Pullum says

Dear Diary is Chris's adorable coming out story, of how Josh flipped his world upside down. Chris tells his memoirs to a voice recorder the evening of his high school prom. I love the fact that Sarah didn't completely run out on Chris. She stuck by him wholeheartedly loving him for who he is as any real friend would do... Great story with a wonderful ending. =)

Erin Hayden says

I love the way this woman writes, she sucks you in and gets you hooked! I am hoping to pick up her Immortals book soon! Love her! You have gotta read! You will fall in love!

Yvette says

Loved this book! I think it took me about a hour to read it because i couldn't put it down. A young man whose family are like the perfect american family, good grades, popular at school, girlfriend and knew where his future was heading until he met another guy who put his head in a spin and made him question everything, changed him so to speak. Very easy to read book, making you want more when you get to the end.

Chris Jeffreys says

"Dear Diary" is a brief snippet of a look at a young man's coming out journey. Virtually the entire story takes place as Chris, an all-American high school senior, is getting ready to go to his senior prom. The story is a mixture of first person and third person points of view, which makes it a little difficult to follow.

Briefly, Chris wants to get down the story of his first love in his digital recorder before leaving for his prom. His first "girl friend" is named Sarah, and he ultimately breaks up with her because he has fallen for a college freshman named Josh.

As he tells his story, it appears that Chris will be attending his senior prom with Sarah as a friend, but, of course, since this story has an incredibly sticky-sweet happy ending, we know who his real date is for the prom. This is a very sweet story, but there is absolutely no conflict. Even when the author sets up a conflict because Chris violated curfew by sneaking out of the house to be with his boyfriend, all we get is Mike Brady from the Brady Bunch telling his kid that "he'll be fine, but he has to tell his boyfriend that he is being grounded for a few weeks." What?!? If that's supposed to be conflict, I want to live in that make-believe world because there is no doubt that any other parent in the real world would not be acting like Ward and June Cleaver after their supposedly straight son has crawled out of his bedroom window after midnight to meet his gay lover for some quick and dirty car sex!

This is a long short story -- it's not really a novella. And, it looks like the author has planned a second story for these same characters (concerning Chris' first gay pride event). Maybe there will be some actual conflict to drive the story forward in the sequel.

As for this short story, I give it 3.5 stars.

Monika says

Review posted on World of Diversity Fiction

Dear Diary is a fast, fun read. It's a coming of age story told by Chris on his prom night. He's given a voice recorder as a gift from his parents and he uses that to record his "diary". The story is sweet and the ending has a cute twist.

Chris tells the story of how he meets Josh, comes to realize he's gay and how he now understands why his relationship with his girlfriend Sarah isn't what it should be. I wish there had been a bit more of Josh but this isn't his story, there is a sequel and I'm hoping to hear more about him in it.

I loved how this was written, a first person narrative by Chris but also a third person narrative of the other characters in Chris's life, it gave me a small understanding of everyone's thoughts and feelings. Chris tells it all in one day as he is getting ready for his Prom, all the excitement of first's and the growing relationship between Josh and Chris feel real.

There is no angst, it's not graphic and I think this could be put in the Young Adult genre just as easily as the Contemporary M/M romance genre it's in.

I recommend this novella, it will put a smile on your face it's such a feel good story.

Lucy says

Dear Diary is an interesting running monologue, told in first person by Chris. Chris is a high school senior who uses a gift from his parents, a hand-held recorder, as his diary. It is this, interspersed with third person narrative, that make up the story of how Chris discovered, and embraced, his true self. The story is told on the night of Chris' senior prom. His mother had made a big deal of Chris going, and to make her happy, he agreed. He isn't particularly excited about it, but Chris is very close to his family. He is in the process of getting ready as he is dictating his story.

Chris is a popular guy in high school, with great grades, a lot of friends, a steady girlfriend and an amazing family. His life is unfolding nicely. To that end, he interns at a law firm, where he meets Josh, an intern a year older than himself. Meeting Josh is an upheaval, a turn-around and a shake-up of all Chris thought he knew about himself. The slow progression of how he felt and how he deals with it, are told by Chris.

There are times in the "diary" portion that I stopped to question, "Would an 18-year-old talk like that? Especially to a diary?" Things such as, "I fought the brewing disappointment", seemed incongruous to how Chris spoke otherwise.

And then there were other parts, "His fingers wrapped around my downstairs business, and my heart started to pound so hard I could feel it in my ears. I just knew I was about to die.", where I could so envision an excited, amazed teenager saying just that.

Allison Cassatta has captured some of the little quirks that make people realize they have met someone special, noticing how they hold their pen, or what they do when they are uncomfortable. Dear Diary is an endearing coming of age story, with a lovely twist at the end that made me smile and reread it, twice. There is no angst in the story, just a sweet stream of consciousness from an 18 year old.
