



## A Bar Tender Tale

*Melanie Tushmore*

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Twenty-two-year-old barman Nathan is always the odd one out. It's tough to get a date when his love of loud music, tattoos, and zombie paraphernalia usually sends potential candidates running for the hills. Trying to find anyone who wants to spend time with him, let alone stay in and watch trashy horror movies, has always been a problem.

Then, on his day off, Nathan does a friend a favor by covering a shift at a pub, and in walks a handsome stranger who shares his love of horror. It could be a match made in B-movie heaven, and Nathan is determined to pursue this new acquaintance, but—zombies aside—has Nathan got the guts to go on a real date?

## A Bar Tender Tale Details

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## From Reader Review A Bar Tender Tale for online ebook

### Gabbi says

<http://top2bottomreviews.wordpress.co...>

Nathan is coming off of a bad breakup. His ex-boyfriend has been stringing him along and cheating on him, with Nathan being none the wiser. When he finally realizes he's better off without his ex, Nathan decides he's going to put his ex behind him and have a good day. As a bartender who works two jobs, time off is precious to Nathan, so he decides to visit a friend of his, who is also a bartender. Nathan immediately notices that his friend is so exhausted he can hardly move, so as a favor to his friend, he offers to work on his friend's shift for a few hours. During this time, he has very few customers and is really quite bored. But when a handsome man in a suit comes in looking for his friend, Nathan is immediately intrigued with him and starts up a conversation with him. He finds out the man's name is Auryn and is recently coming off a very bad breakup. They soon realize, despite appearances, they have much in common, and when Auryn asks Nathan if he can meet with him after he gets off of work, it's an offer Nathan can't refuse. As Nathan and Auryn get to know one another that night, Nathan immediately has a strong attraction and feels a strong emotional connection for him. But, Auryn is worried that Nathan might not take a relationship seriously, and he is also concerned by the ten year age difference between them. Will Nathan be able to convince Auryn to take a chance on him and true love?

I really loved this book. I enjoyed both of the heroes and thought they had a very intense chemistry together. I liked that they are seemingly very opposite people, but as the story progresses, it was interesting to see how much they really did have in common. Nathan is pretty out there with his glitter and pomaded hair. He's a bartender at a gay bar and isn't afraid to let people know he's gay. Auryn is a lot more conservative and even though he's gay, he doesn't advertise his sexual preference like Nathan does. Where Nathan is pushy and demanding, Auryn is laid back and wants to take things slow, but somehow they fit really well together and I enjoyed watching their relationship develop into something very special.

Although both characters are uniquely interesting and appealing, I admit that Nathan stole the book for me. I loved his zest for life and his love for b-movies and he is a huge horror movie buff. His no-nonsense-I'm-going-to-take-what-I-want personality really was a lot of fun to read. I really enjoyed reading this book and hated to see it come to an end. If you're looking for a fast-paced read with some well written and unique characters, A Bar Tender Tale is definitely a book for you!

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### Debbie says

I expected to like this book, but I didn't expect to absolutely love it. Nathan - has there ever been a cuter MC? I don't think so. A curious blend of sweet and sass, vulnerability and spitfire. Really, Nathan is a pretty romantic, old school guy wrapped in a very unexpected package. I adored him.

This story definitely has a British flair, but it didn't pull me out of the story too much. Nathan and his friends very much act their younger age, and they are fun. Everything about the story felt authentic. Justin was a particular favorite ;).

I love the concept of finding love in unexpected places, and Auryn...yeah, let's just say that Nathan's luck in the boyfriend is about to change. For the better.

## Erica Pike says

Oh jeez. I've watched a lot of Hollywood films in the past, and I love them. Some I even watch over and over again. But then sometimes I'm in the mood for something different and chance on non-Hollywood films. In the past that has lead me to brilliant British movies like: Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels; Trainspotting; The Full Monty; Shaun of the Dead; and even Blow Dry (yes, love that one, largely thanks to Alan Rickman and that sexy tattoo under his foot). Those quirky, in-your-face-reality movies, a lot of them coming from the underground - a world very unknown to me - are the movies that really stay with me and instead of thinking "oh yeah, that was a lovely movie" I think "Oh hell, I LOVED that one!" (and gush into the brilliant scenes and characters).

Well this book, A Bar Tender Tale, is like those British movies. Absolutely brilliant. The writing is fantastic, the voice in the story is consistent and unique, and the characters feel so real I feel like I could just go to England and meet up with them at a bar (a book can't get a better compliment than that!). I'm very excited about this story and I will without a doubt read it again and again.

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## Mandapanda says

Totally loved this tale of the very cool Nathan. The book opens with Nathan, a bar tender and lover of all things 'B grade horror', disconsolately wandering the streets of Kemptown looking for his two-timing boyfriend. When he finally realises things between them are over he feels really downhearted. But then he fills in for a friend at the corner pub and he meets a gorgeous guy who might just be his perfect match.

The book is set in Kemptown, a real place in Britain which is home to musicians, creatives and a big gay population. The vibe and casual feel of the town is captured perfectly and Nathan's conversations and interactions with his muso friends and co-workers are so natural and fun that you could be sitting next to them in the pub.

Nathan steals the show in this book. He loves B grade movies, zombie kitsch, outrageous clothing and wears his heart on his sleeve. His love interest, Auryn, is a solicitor, older and quieter and more interested in long term relationships. From the reader's perspective it's hard to have the same connection with Auryn. He's just so overshadowed by Nathan. But they suit each other very well and Nathan's determined sexual pursuit of the reluctant Auryn is really amusing. Even though there's an epilogue I feel that the book ends just as Auryn and Nathan are starting off.

Have fun picking out your favourite zombie movies! Recommended for m/m contemporary fans. P.S. LOVE the cover! I wonder who did it?

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## Ami says

### 3.5 stars

"[A Bar Tender Tale](#)" is a lovely tale of 22-year-old Nathan, who lives in Kemp Town, Brighton (which is known its abundance of gay bars, lesbian bars, and everything-in-between bars), along with his friends (straight and gays), and the object of Nathan's affection, a 31-year-old solicitor Auryn. Told mainly from

Nathan's perspective, he is appealing for readers, with his love toward B-movies and action figures, and his wanting to get a more serious relationship after having a disaster with the previous one (his ex is a selfish 19-year-old).

The language is very Brit -- not one that I'm usually comfortable with, since I'm used to American English -- but with such colorful characters, wit, and charm, I find myself being easily engaged with Nathan and his quest to 'seduce' Auryn. I agree with MandyM, that the older and somber Auryn feels pale in comparison to Nathan. So it is amusing to read how Nathan try to react to a more serious guy. He wonders if he is too young. He gets frustrated for the lack of progress in anything else (Auryn wants to 'take it slow'). I do wonder why though -- there isn't enough background of Auryn, except that he shares the same nerdness with Nathan, as they quoting B-movie titles, and just had a nasty break-up.

All in all ... an enjoyable contemporary British-feel read.

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### **C.J. Anthony says**

I gave this one five stars because I absolutely loved the characters. The author does a wonderful job of making them feel real and fun and likable. They jump off the page, as does the scenery and the bars/pubs.

Nathan is just adorable and not at all what I expected from the cover & blurb. He has a sweet side to him, and it was cute to watch how nervous and unsure he is around Auryn, and how much he really likes Auryn.

Auryn is older, a little more quieter and holds back. Or rather he tries to hold back--Nathan is eager and hard to resist. :)

My only complaint...was that it was too short! :( I would love to see more of these two as they really get to know each other more and how they navigate a relationship. Yes they have a lot in common with their love of Zombie & B-movies. But they lead very different lives: Nathan is young and just discovering that he wants more from a relationship than just sex, and he works late nights in bars. Auryn is older, established, a lawyer. I'm a big sappy sucker for "opposites attract" who make it work so I would love to see them do this. (hint hint, if the author would like to write more about them. :)

Not to mention all of the colorful and fun gay characters working with Nathan at the gay bar -- they could all have their own story easily. :)

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### **Mandy\*reads obsessively\* says**

Barkeeper Nathan is a fun narrator of this story, he's getting over his ex Danny when he meets Auryn a shy lawyer who is 10 years his senior.

There are lots of friends introduced and I wonder if there will be more books set in the bar, since we were introduced to all the guys.

The British english took a few pages to get used to for me, but overall a good read.

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### **Julio Genao says**

### **Standard MM foolishness, at length and in tedious detail.**

Very nearly enjoyable.

Fortunately, anytime I was in danger of being entertained I could always depend on a diligent account of what everyone was wearing to quell any potential for lasting amusement.

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### **Jenni Lea says**

4.5 stars

That was just about the most adorable thing I have read in a long time! And funny too! I read the entire book with a silly grin on my face and had to hide all my laughter as I read this while at work.

Kinda like this:

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### **Lucy says**

Reviewed for [heartsonfirereviews.com](http://heartsonfirereviews.com)

Bar Tender Tale has the most larger than life characters. They just jumped off the pages for me, and made the book so interesting. Nathan is a bartender, working at a gay pub called Rainbows, in an area filled with all kinds of pubs. He is a self proclaimed nerd who loves zombies, B movies, action figures and comics, yet has many tattoos (including the Bat symbol) and dresses at times in club gear (glitter makeup and pomade). He is 22 years old, past the time of party all night and maybe looking for a something a little bit serious. What he has in the beginning is a 19-year-old party all night boyfriend named Danny, who drinks, drugs and cheats. Nathan really has just had it. Nathan wants someone who wants to spend time with him. Cheating Danny is just not it.

On a search to find Danny, after he is a no show, Nathan sees his friend straight friend Gary (Gaz), who works at a different pub. Gaz has gotten no sleep due to a chatty bed partner and is exhausted. Nathan, in a moment of pity, offers to watch the pub for him while Gaz takes a nap. Nathan is bored, and is cleaning the place and scrubbing, getting sweaty and dirty, when Auryn, a close friend of Gaz', walks in. Nathan is smitten when it turns out despite the suit (Auryn is a solicitor) and the seriousness, Auryn is a fellow zombie, B movie, action figure and add in gamer nerd. The two get to know each other, over drinks and dinner. Auryn is coming off a bad breakup, and he wants to take things slow. Nathan apparently doesn't know the word SLOW, and not only that, but keeps embarrassing himself in front of Auryn. Auryn is 31, and seems even older sometimes, while Nathan comes across as younger than his 22. Nathan is just so happy, silly, sweet. His friends, Tazz and Gaz in particular, are funny, supportive, and well, what you hope friends would be.

Can Nathan convince Auryn that they do belong together? That they should be having sex? That they should be spending time? The one quibble I had with the story is that Nathan acts like "going slow" is killing him, when in reality the time frame is just a few days. The book is really about their beginning, and I felt it ended just where it should have. I love the cover, and I felt it captured the spirit of Nathan. Auryn is a little "less" in

the book than Nathan, but I think they balance each other well.

I enjoyed the writing and felt the whole story flowed well. It was a really fast read for me, because it was funny and just so interesting.

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### **Ann says**

Nathan is just so awesome. I was completely hooked and sucked into his world right away. From his inner dialog, to his punk sing alongs in the bathroom, to his love of all things B Movie, he had me.

His world is simple, he's a good friend a happy guy and deserves way better than his boyfriend who is constantly MIA. When he does a favor for a friend by working a morning shift at a neighborhood pub, he meets Aurnyn, who is just too good to be true.

The story is faced paced, smart and funny. I laughed out loud more than once.

I have to say, my favorite scene was when Nathan was putting the moves on Aurnyn, he was trying so hard to be sexy and seductive and instead he spazzed out and knocked over everything within reach. The dialog between the two following was perfectly witty and sweet. It summed them up perfectly I had to root for the two of them to be together.

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### **Sara says**

Had I known what an absolute joy this book was I would have read it much sooner, but I am glad that I didn't. I was looking for a book that would make me hug my Nook and fall in love with two boys, and I hugged the hell out of my Nook so much I got a cramp in my forearms! I also have about a dozen new laugh lines from this as well, and yet it was so cringe-worthy at times. In a good way, of course.

Nathan is the type of boy I love to read. He is in his early 20's, works hard at his job(s), wears insane T-Shirts, glittery makeup along with Kohl eyeliner and his taste in music is brilliant. His taste in movies I will forgive because I don't watch that much horror but the mention of Bruce Campbell ("This, is my boomstick!") and Sam Raimi movies had me giving a fist punch into the air. There was just so much about this book that I loved. What am I saying? I love every word or this book. It was perfect!

It's Nathan's day off as a bartender at both his jobs and all the boy wants to do is hang out with his never present boyfriend, Danny. The start of Nathan's day made my day; not only does he crank up the music and dance around Au Naturale, but he talks to his figurines on the shelves, which is so me. I do the same thing when I am alone, though it's either to figurines I have or my dogs. Either way, Nathan and I both hold conversations virtually with ourselves, and I loved him for that.

Once on his way through town, Nathan runs into his friend Gary, who could use a nap, for reasons, and Nathan being the awesome boy that he is lends Gary a hand and keeps an eye on his bar so the giant of a man can rest. It's a good thing Nathan is so giving as he gets a chance to meet, ogle and hold a conversation about all things zombie and more with the tall, dark and handsome Welshman Aurnyn who comes in for a drink.

Aurnyn... can we get some audio of that accent? I know Gary has the same one, but I want to hear Aurnyn say Nathan's way the way Nathan describes it, so I can squirm in my chair and fall to a puddle on the floor. Did I

mention the puddle this book put me in? It had many moments of goo inducing lines that I was lost in all of it, and I barely paused to highlight or update where I was. The story just sucked me right in that I was sneak reading at work and made sure I was in bed early enough so I could ignore any and all responsibilities for the night and just read.

Nathan and Auryn, they were so damn good together. I loved how they met and cringed when Gary decides to give them a push and ask a certain question. I couldn't stop laughing and was so embarrassed for them both, but what happens after was so good. I keep saying that, I know, but it was. I loved that Nathan was trying to be this seductive guy and ended up being a total mess because that was real to me. I would have been the same way after that many drinks but along with the humor, we get the vulnerability of both men, and that is what turned me into goo and like the shelf says, goo is goo.

While goo is good, and laughing does wonders for your abs, these boys were on fire! Good lord. The moments where Auryn gives in had me face on fire, and I was so into those moments and scenes my husband had to ask me if I was okay. I just nodded and kept reading. Not exactly sure what he saw or heard as I was reading, but I am sure I let out an audible moan at the words, "**Take it, then.**" \*whistles\* Yeah, that was hot.

So, did I love this book? You bet your ass I did. A Bar Tender Tale was hilarious, and it was endearing, it was swoony and it was sexy. It was the perfect book, and I am going to go hug my Nook again just to give the boys a squeeze.

**Rating: 4.5 stars**

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### **T.A. Webb says**

Nathan is not your average young man. He's twenty-two, loves tattoos, loud music and...zombies? Old horror movies. Not exactly your mainstream guy. And he's gay. Not like there's a lot of guys who share his interests.

One day, he's doing a friend a favor by filling in for him as bartender in a pub, and in walks a good-looking guy. Suit, tie, the whole nine yards. And they strike up a great conversation and it turns out they have a lot in common. Can quote silly old movie lines, and there's a spark.

Turns out his name is Auryn, and he's a friend of Nathan's buddy. He's looking for something slow and serious. But all Nathan's experience is quick meet-ups, relationships that flame out all too quickly, and one-offs. It's a new experience for him to actually...date. What a concept.

Is it worth it? Can Nathan slow down and actually wait for the man of his dreams? And will Auryn give him the chance?

I love Melanie Tushmore's works. She introduces us to wonderfully off-the-wall characters, makes us see them in all their beauty and weirdness, and fall in love with them. Then she slowly seduces us into her stories with romance and care. This book is a wonder - funny, sexy, and oh-so-sweet, despite the horror movies and zombies.

Nathan is so young and so youthfully full of himself, but also very clueless. He's a smile-a-minute, rip-your-heart-out gem of a guy. He wants Auryn so much he can't stand it, and has to go against all his instincts to meet the man on his terms.

And Auryn. Just a walking heart of a guy, every gay romantic's dream. He's exactly what Nathan needs and wants. And it goes both ways - Nathan brings out the spontaneity and fun hiding behind the laced-up serious guy.

Great pairing. This books is so good, I had to turn around and start back at the beginning just to try to catch another smile I might have missed.

Ms. Tushmore knows her way around a love story. Thank God!

Fantastic.

Tom

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### **Connie says**

I'm still smiling.

A Bar Tender Tale is a great love story, fun to read with adorable MCs.

Nathan in all his nerdy glory,sweet attitude and what a pushy bottom that boy is! LOL

Auryn is the older guy, everything that Nathan needs - perfect boyfriend material.

What I loved about these two is that they can be awkward together. They both feel like they don't fit in their friends circle or that they are always the weird ones, but together they totally make sense.

First time reading Melanie Tushmore and if all her MS have Nathan sense of humour it wont be the last time.

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### **Justin says**

A Bar Tender Tale is a great book that is high on entertainment and low on drama.

Nathan met Auryn while covering a shift for fellow bar tender and friend Gaz. He is instantly attracted to the slightly older but very handsome, Auryn. Auryn seems really smitten with Nathan also but for some reason is holding back.

I really enjoyed this sweet, romantic bar tender tale and if you like light, low drama romance, you will too.

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