



City Boy

A.E. Wasp

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Follow the money or follow your heart?

All Bryce Lowery knows how to do is play hockey. He's been playing professionally since he was fifteen. Twenty years later, he's rich, famous, tired, and alone. And possibly gay according to his ex-wife.

When a blown tire leads directly to mind-blowing sex with a motorcycle-riding white knight named Dakota, Bryce discovers he is most definitely gay. Now Bryce has a tough choice to make, follow the money to a new multimillion dollar contract, or follow his heart into the unknown?

All Dakota Ryan knows how to do is grow apples. Now at twenty-four, he faces losing both his home and his livelihood in one cruel twist of fate.

Then Bryce Lowery crashes into his life like the answer to all of Dakota's prayers. He's whispering promises to make all of Dakota's wildest dreams come true. But Dakota knows better than to give his heart to someone who could leave, and if life has taught him anything, it's that everyone leaves.

Dakota has a choice, sit back and wait for Bryce to decide his fate, or for the first time in his life, chose what he wants his future to be.

City Boy is a first time gay, fish out of water, May/December love story with a happy ending. It features snarky siblings, a dirty-talking farmer, lots of food, and big choices. (No poultry was harmed in the making of this book.)

City Boy Details

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Author : A.E. Wasp

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From Reader Review City Boy for online ebook

Shile says

3 stars for the Audio

2 stars for the story

I guess it is time for me to go into:

Its Me! not the Book! so many readers loved this. I just couldn't get into the story that much. Some parts were sweet, others i found really irritating.

My first attempt at reading this failed due to the many typos and the Insta between Bryce and Dakota threw me off. When i saw Michael Pauley was narrating this i decided to give it another try, i have to say as much as i love MP, here it was somehow a miss especially with Dakota and the female voices.

What worked

-The Characters were likable enough.

-Robbie i will listen to his book if it will ever come out on Audio.

What didn't work

-I couldn't feel the chemistry between Bryce and Dakota, all throughout the book, sometimes it just felt flat. Even the sex scenes fell flat.

-There were some inconsistencies when it came to Bryce's family, i think the author forgot how many Brothers and Sisters he had.

- It had the Made Marian Vibe all over it.

- The age thing was all wrong, IMO Bryce felt like 24 and Dakota 34, not the other way round, even the mentions it at some point.

-Overall, i just couldn't connect.

Again its me not the book! or I will just blame it all on Archer and Mallory! i am still reading it at a snail pace, not wanting it to end.

Cadiva says

I liked an awful lot of this book, the plot isn't beyond the realms of possibility - there are plenty of men who don't come out until later life for whatever reason - and it felt honest.

I believed that Bryce hadn't a clue why he wasn't able to make his marriage work even though he'd loved his wife (they're over by some years when this story starts) and that his weird feelings about other blokes he'd put down to either admiration of their skills or their personalities, rather than they'd been the crushes of an unaware gay man.

He was beautifully naive and it showed in every interaction with Dakota, making their mountainside hook up all the more heartfelt and emotional.

Dakota was also a nicely rounded character, his hurt and anger at what was happening in his life and how he felt once the new owner of the farm was revealed was also understandable.

But, once they got together, I think it became a little less realistic, there were only minor hurdles thrown in their path (and yes it's a romance and it's nice to see that the whole world aren't homophobic assholes and all their friends and family were fine because they'd all really secretly thought Bryce was gay) but I think a bit more conflict would have worked better.

There is a pervading masculinity in sport, especially in the US's top four, and I don't think perhaps enough was given to the real fears that should have been part of Bryce's decisions he was making regarding his future. It was mentioned but brushed aside slightly.

Now, that's only a tiny minor criticism and it's nothing which spoils the flow of the narrative or the romance of the book itself, which is really sweet and has a lot of stupidly hot sex, especially as Bryce is a total gay sex virgin. This was done really well, they didn't just jump into full on demon monkey sex all over the place!

I had an ARC so there are a fair few typos, grammatical tense mistakes and editing errors which I'd expect would be ironed out by the time the book comes out so they didn't distract too much from the over all story. This is the start of a new series from A.E. Wasp and one I'm looking forward to continuing.

#ARC received from the author in response for an honest and unbiased review.

haletostilinski says

Very much enjoyed this one!

RTC...

~*~

4.5 Stars!

I really loved this story.

Honestly, the only thing that truly bothered me, although it's not truly a complaint, is that I SO wanted a detailed scene of Dakota bottoming, because the book kinda built it up, him imagining it several times and them talking about it, but - can't have everything, and ultimately it's not a huge deal, just a personal thing.

But aside from that, this was very good. The sex was amazingly hot and scorching and passionate, and Dakota and Bryce were special together. I loved how even though these two become sexual with each other almost right away, it did not feel forced, because romance was not pushed right away. It was what it was at first - a hook up. But what brings them together again is, in my opinion, well done, and their chemistry was

off the charts.

I feel like the amount of time it took them to fall in love could be considered a little rushed, but they were so good together and I was able to feel their passion for each other come off the page so much that I didn't think it was rushed.

I also never got that feeling that I've gotten with other books that deal with a character just realizing they aren't straight, and are completely new with it with this one. Bryce wasn't pushed into coming out after only knowing for only a few weeks that he is gay. There were times were Dakota came close to it, but he understood when to back off and let Bryce have some time. I thought Bryce came to terms with his sexuality pretty quickly actually, but it didn't feel disingenuous or anything like that. It was actually refreshing to read about someone just realizing they're gay in their 30's coming to terms with it fairly easily - not that there wasn't angst with it, but just that Bryce came to terms with himself fairly easily - having a wonderful, accepting family helped with that, too.

I also enjoyed how these two worked out their problems - they did not always get it right, but they both talked things out eventually, got everything out on the table and I loved that. Not miscommunication trope to be found in this.

Also, what could have become cliché and contrived with Dakota's ex didn't, and the guy was only around like twice, and he was easily dealt with, and that was refreshing too.

I definitely recommend this, because the story, the chemistry, the characters are just too good, in my opinion, to pass up. Loved this! :)

Copy provided by The Alpha Club

Virginia Books says

Sexy read about self discovering and love. A sweet *sport* romance with no sport in it (Bryce is a Hockey player recovering from an injury so no play time for him) but with a lot of cute-hot moments.

I don't know why but when the setting in a book is Colorado I go crazy and very invested just because. I could blame Kristen Ashley's books or the fact that just imagine the Rocky Mountain made me nostalgic... a nonsense since I am from Spain and even if a traveler, the nearest I've been from this mountain has been Denver and for a couple of hours so... the longing is a craziness of mine.

"At least I picked a gorgeous place to have a crisis. And a gorgeous guy to have it with"

You're probably asking yourself why this tedious intro... Well, just to say the first time these two met was on the road, with the Rocky Mountain as background, in the middle of a funny situation, with an also funny dialogue, and amusing thoughts. And there, the book got me. I'm that easy, even if the hookup felt a bit hurried to me since I didn't even notice they exchanged names...

Established that I'm easy, I must say I'm not stupid, and I need more than landscape and a roadside sexual encounter, so let's expose the stuff you want to read:

Point one: Two gorgeous and hot MCs. I liked both, the curly blondie and the dark long haired one. The farmer and hockey player, the gay and the oblivious-*I-don't-know-what-I-am*.. The dubious and insecure

country young man and the mega kind City Boy. Both.

Point two: the story itself was cute and sweet. They didn't steal my heart but it was very enjoyable and easy to read.

This book is about knowing ourselves and finding home. It's low on angst and it contains some good humor so I would recommend it to anyone who wants a light read about two cute MCs who really care for each other.

And for the first time, ladies and gentlemen, I didn't miss the point... or not that much, right? RIGHT? I even enumerated my highlights when I'm usually like this guy:

You are welcome! (Please, read with the ironic tone it was written)

Reviews for Book Lovers

~Mindy Lynn~ says

This was a sweet romance..

I really enjoyed this book. It was low on angst and drama and just what I needed for a relaxing day of reading.

Bryce is just a big old naïve teddy bear. I wanted to cuddle up to this big guy. For a man to have such an intimidating exterior he was quite vulnerable with one of the biggest hearts. All he ever wanted to do was play hockey and take care of his family. But lately he's grown a bit wore down with all the injuries and time away from his family and is considering retirement. But he worries about taking care of his family. He has his own dreams of finding someone to love and have a family with, but he's never had a relationship with a woman to where he felt completely connected to or sexually fulfilled. His ex-wife accused him of being gay in a heated argument. It seems everyone around him thinks he is gay but him. But that all changes when he blows a tire and he finds himself in the care of Dakota.

Dakota has lost just about everyone he had ever cared for. And now he's about to lose his home and farm to a distant nephew of the man who took him in and was like family to him. Before Tom passed he promised Dakota he had drawn up another will making Dakota the benefactor of all his possessions, including the farm and all his land. But the will couldn't be found so everything was being given to this distant nephew. Out on a bike ride trying to clear his head Dakota finds himself on the side of road with a huge man that looks so damn handsome and vulnerable. He is especially attracted to all those muscles and finds the man endearing when he admits he doesn't know how to change the tire. Dakota thinks he's getting a "gay vibe" from Bryson and curiously starts flirting with him. Bryson takes the bait and soon things get heated with a little B&E thrown in.

The book is strongly about family, love, acceptance, being true to yourself, falling in love, and finding your HEA.

I adored many of the characters in this book and the animals. I loved Bryce and Dakota together and how well they took care of one another even if the other was upset with the other. They truly cared about each other. It showed in every touch and kiss. They were quite adorable and very bad at hiding their feeling's.

I can't wait to see what happens in the future books!

If your in the mood for something fun, easy, sweet, with some great characters then pick this one up.

Happy reading dolls! xx

****An ARC was kindly given to me by the author in exchange for an honest review.****

Jenni Lea says

Super adorbs

This is exactly what I needed right now. A super sweet read about two adorable idiots fumbling their way through love. Completely pocket worthy. These two put a smile on my face that's still there after finishing the book.

DW says

4 stars because Bryce and Dakota were just way too cute!!

City Boy was such a sweet book. It also had a couple of sexy moments.

First off... Hockey Players are about as sexy as they come and then you throw in a farmer that rides a motorcycle!! ??

I got my sugary sweet fix that I was needing!!!! ♥?

Gabriella (Gabi) says

[Bryce is a 34-year old hockey player, and he thinks he might be gay. So when his car breaks down in the middle of a road in bumfuck Colorado, and a hot guy offers to help, he suddenly *cue eye-roll* realize

~☆~Dœni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

Adorable and sexy!

I really enjoyed this low-angst story about a hot shot hockey player finally coming to terms with his sexuality and the country boy who steals his heart.

Bryce is one of the most endearing MCs ever. He has such a huge heart.

The ending made me feel all gooey inside. This is love at first sight done right.

Gigi says

This book was an ooey-gooley delight! And the next book comes out tomorrow. Yay!

Len Evans Jr says

This book started out a bit slow for me, part of that problem was the fact that within pages of the beginning of this book it was obvious what the connection was between the two MCs. That of itself was not the issue... the fact that the two MCs did not know what it was till 30% of the way through the book was. However, after reading the whole book it totally worked for me. Though it meant I put the book down a few times, and shifted to reading something else, in the end I kept being drawn back to this book, needing to know just how these two got together. Just a warning I am a hopeless romantic, so like the last 20% of the book a box of tissues was required. I really loved both Bryce and Dakota, and though both men are sexy as hell I gotta admit there was something about Dakota that just really did it for me. Though Bryce did totally surprise me with one thing he did late in the book, it blindsided me and made me gasp. Bryce's family was also incredible, as well as the circle of Dakota's friends. Once I got past that first 30% this book grabbed my heart and just ran away with it!

Other than the Christmas short that is a part of this series, this is my first book my Ms. Wasp. I will be finishing this series and also checking out her other ones. She has shown an awesome ability to not only make a movie in my head with her writing but also write characters who become very real to me as a reader, people who I care about. I would highly recommend this book!

Susan says

I guess I'm going to be the odd one out with this, since everyone loved this. I mean, I liked it, but I also had some issues with it.

Bryce is a 34 year old professional hockey player, currently recovering from a knee injury. He is traveling to Colorado to see a house he inherited from a long lost relative when he gets a flat tire. It is 24 year old Dakota who comes to his rescue.

And while the two are trying to change the tire, Bryce can't help but check out the beautiful younger man. A lot of people have previously assumed Bryce is gay, but he himself never got that memo. That is until he meets Dakota.

These two start out with an experimental hook-up to figure out if Bryce really is gay. But end up seeing more of each other when they find out Dakota lives on Bryce's new land as a tenant...

I really liked these guys and thought they were very sweet together. I loved how oblivious Bryce seemed to be about being gay. Even his ex-wife knew before him! But he did admit it pretty fast once he met Dakota, so no dragged out gay freak out or anything.

My main problem was that it felt as if the relationship was steadily building 'til about 50% and after that it just stopped. From then on all they were talking about was Bryce coming out and his future as a hockey

player.

And while the (view spoiler) could have been super romantic, the author decided to make it a thing for the MCs to fight over. Yes, I got that Dakota wasn't happy (view spoiler) I was very disappointed the author decided to go that way instead of the romantic hearts and flowers way it also could have gone.

But there is enough steam in this for all the dirty boys and girls to be happy, so that was a good thing.

Editing was not so great though. There were lot of missing or misspelled words, but I don't really mind that in my books, so that wasn't a huge problem for me.

While I definitely see the appeal of this book and I really enjoyed the first half, I was disappointed in the second half and the lack of relationship development in that part.

But don't let my opinion keep you from reading this book! This had an overall sweetness that a lot of readers will love.

This review has been cross-posted at Gay Book Reviews.

Jay says

3.5 stars – Though I have several of her books on my Kindle already, *City Boy* is the first of A.E. Wasp's books that I have read. Low on the angst and quick on the insta-love, this is the sort of easy reading that's perfect if you're looking for a sweet and uncomplicated romance.

Bryce Lowery's life has always been about hockey, but after twenty years of playing professionally and currently sitting out for a lengthy recovery after an injury, the idea of signing a new multimillion-dollar contract to keep playing doesn't hold the same appeal that it once did. When he unexpectedly inherits a farmhouse and orchard from a distant relative, it looks like the perfect opportunity to get away for some perspective. Dakota Ryan's life has been marked by people leaving him, most recently through the death of the man who took him in at sixteen when his adoptive parents were killed, and by bad choices coming back to bite him in the ass, most recently the one made eight years ago not to allow that man, who was like a grandfather to him, to adopt him. Unfortunately, that decision will probably now cost Dakota not only the place he's lived for most of his life but also his livelihood growing apples as the property gets transferred to the man's distant nephew instead of to Dakota. When a chance meeting between Bryce and Dakota results in a lot more than just a tire change on the side of a mountain road, Bryce's realization about his sexuality gives him one more thing to question, and the very real possibility that Bryce will be just another person to leave him makes Dakota wary.

City Boy is ultimately a story about trust and decisions. It's also a story about family and taking care of important people in one's life. And it's also about staying true to yourself and going after what you want. The strongest part about the novel is the fact that the situations that lead up to both Bryce's and Dakota's decisions were compelling in their realism. All of these individual factors were wonderfully woven into a believable and heartfelt story that, despite being low on the angst, had plenty of emotional punch.

But it wasn't without its problems. In the acknowledgments section of the book, the author states that this is the longest book she has written. In comparison to romance novels as a whole, this book isn't long, but there were several scenes in the book that either dragged for me or didn't work for me because they were so long. I

know many readers will disagree with me on this, mainly because it is a first-time-gay story, but my primary example of this is that after the book starts with three chapters of mainly individual introductory material, it follows with a nine-chapter-long scene where Bryce and Dakota meet, most of which is an extended sex scene. Yes, nine chapters. Sure, the delicious descriptions of Bryce's first time with a man were nice, but after we barely know anything about the characters—and when they know essentially nothing about each other—nine chapters of increasingly intimate interaction where by the end they're having intimate conversation about their dreams and such was just too unrealistic for me. I just couldn't buy it. Sorry.

Fortunately, once that mess was complete, the plot of the book kicked into gear and I was able to get into the story a lot more. Sure, it was insta-love, but at least Dakota reacted to it in a way I felt fit his character based on his past. For the most part, I found Dakota's character realistic based on everything we are told about him. On the contrary, throughout the book, as much as I liked him for the incredibly caring individual he's portrayed to be, I struggled to find Bryce's character as realistic, solely for the reason that the author identified him as a professional hockey player who has had a much-longer-than-average career. He just struck me as too naïve about so many things. Put the same character in a different life and I'd have loved him to pieces. As it was, however, it was a big challenge for me to get beyond the difficulty I had.

Considering the two big issues I had with *City Boy*, if the story had not been as compelling as it was, I likely would have put this aside unfinished. Fortunately, it was a well-conceived plot that resulted in the right balance at the moment of truth, where neither character's decision felt more important than the one the other had to make. And, yeah, even though that initial scene between Bryce and Dakota was far too drawn out for my liking, the romance was full of good moments of its own. The result is a novel that's well worth the time to read, and it has me looking forward to the next one in hopes that the storytelling style will be crafted as well as the story itself is.

Though I am a book blogger, this is my honest review of a book that I purchased myself.

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Teal ?specializing in the DNF? says

For the majority of this book I thought I'd be giving it 4 stars. The drama level was low, which I'm fine with - - there needs to be *some* level of struggle for the character(s), but I hate being bowled over by misery and suffering. There was no gratuitous angst here.

And there was a lot I enjoyed, mostly in the first half of the book. There were lots of funny bits worth highlighting. But somewhere in the second half the fun leached away.

It was due to a gradual accumulation of things. For example, way too much time was spent with the 50 family members who showed up for the holidays. Okay, there weren't actually that many -- only a DOZEN of them -- ALL getting page time -- PLUS almost as many friends getting page time too. Yikes. I don't like big groups like that in real life, and apparently I don't enjoy them in fiction either.

The interactions between the MCs turned too sappy for my tastes. The villain was evil -- no, make that EVULLLLLLLLL -- and without a discernible motive. Eventually I realized I was no longer enjoying the book, just trudging along to the end and in a hurry to get there.

Three stars represents an averaging of my feelings, good and bad. But those who like things sappier than I do (which is probably almost everyone), and who love big family gatherings, may really enjoy this book. I'm not planning to read the next in the series, but I'll probably at least sample it and give it a chance.

Elsa Bravante says

Un libro dulce, low angst, poco realista, con agujeros enormes en la trama, pero dulce. Es 2.5 estrellas para mi, pero la cantidad de typos, errores, que tiene es increíble, necesita un revisado muy urgente.
