



Love Means... No Shame

Andrew Grey

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Geoff is in the city, living the gay life to the hilt, when his father's death convinces him to return to the family farm. Discovering a young Amish man asleep in his barn, Geoff learns that Eli is spending a year away from the community before accepting baptism into the church. Despite their mutual attraction, Geoff is determined not to become involved with him, but Eli has discovered that Geoff shares his feelings and begins to court him, neatly capturing first Geoff's attention and then his heart.

Their budding relationship is threatened by closed-minded, gossipy relatives and the society at large, a whole new world to Eli, and he must decide whether to return to the community, his family, and the world and future he knows or to stay with Geoff and have faith in the power of love.

Love Means... No Shame Details

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From Reader Review Love Means... No Shame for online ebook

Erotic Horizon says

4.75 Stars

Geoff is living the life of a young man with few responsibility and full of hormones - and with all the tail he can get in the city, he's living the life of Riley.

The bubble burst on Geoff life of burning the candle at both ends when his dad dies. Coming home to the ranch is a lot of things now for Geoff – but most importantly it's the fact that his dad is no longer there – that is, one of his dad's. He has two and with a few carefully placed words and some home truth he soon agrees to stay and take control of the ranch.

It's hard work but Geoff is strong and his heart is in it – so it becomes a labour of love to work the farm with his dad and the men who work for them. When all seem to be going well except for a minor family incident – Eli, a young Amish boy turns up in the barn. On closer inspection Geoff realises this is not a boy but a young man and quickly also learns that he is on a year out from home – what could Geoff do but offer him a job of course.

Thus begins a point in both their lives where something magical happened to them and they are lapping it up and enjoying it as much as they can. Things are not as wonderful however no matter how much they would like to think so, because family and community intolerance and ultimately that inner voice of responsibility call to them both to do the right.

Despite the decision that they have to make it is a bitter pill to swallow – but it is one they have to live with as more than just Geoff and Eli will be affected by the word of the few.

This is my first book by Andrew Grey and it is not going to be my last. I was attracted to the book by the cover – there is a wholesomeness about the cover that is such a difference from the usual crop of overdone sex up men that immediately I wanted to find out if this transferred to the pages between this book.

YES – it did, everything about LOVE MEANS... NO SHAME is geared at the heartstring and in such a way that I felt like I could reach out and touch these characters.

Geoff is the main protagonist, as the whole book is centred around him. He has been blessed to have grown up in an environment that allowed him to grow up into the man that he wanted to be, he loved, he laughs and he was happy on his terms. The one thing that Geoff has never had to deal with is a death in his immediate family and with his dad's death it brought a lot of home truth home to him - it was time to be a man.

Manning up comes for Geoff in different forms, it starts off with tackling the family bitches, then it was dealing with the farm and his dad. All of this he takes in his stride but the biggie comes in the shape of Eli, the scared Amish young man that he finds in his barn.

His sense of responsibility kicks in and as much as he tries to deny what he was feeling, Eli is like the little train that could and before long he was everywhere and everything to Geoff. At this point I fell in love with these two, Grey gave them life and wrapped them in so much layer of wanting and needing each other but also gave them solidity to have their feet firmly planted in reality so they knew right from the start that honesty is the best policy and also when to “fish or cut bait”.

Highlights

This is one of those books that once you click the last page – you think WOW – yup, that the feeling I had.

The main protags were dynamic in their personality – no two could have been more different and yet so alike in how they were brought up and their whole approach to tackling life's challenges and ultimately the responsibility that they must take on.

The support cast had their own little ball a rolling – and I admit, I was hard press to keep up with the love life of Geoff and Eli because the side stories were angst, topical and down right nasty in some scenes.

There was a simplicity to this book that made it a good read for me – it had none of the over the top lifestyle or personality. These characters were real, they got, up , worked, came home and went to bed – got up the next day and did it all again. When the chance to grab a little happiness came their way - I was most definitely on the sideline waving my pom pom's for Geoff and Eli.

I like the fact that Grey – wrapped the mystery of the angst and nastiness of the book nicely into the plot and I has another “DAMN” moment when all was reveal – that was a real surprise.

Lowlights

Very little to be honest...

There were scenes that I probably would have liked Grey to expand on, but that is just me not wanting to let the characters go.

The mystery was so well time and well played that when the DAMN moment was reveal – I was let down that I was not going to know more about this big mystery – but I soon realise that another book LOVE MEANS... COURAGE was out and I am on my way off to get...

Bottom line

Every now and then you read an authors work that leaves you thinking that you should have known about the author months ago or even years ago – but for me I read this book at the right time as I have a decent amount of back history to get through with this author.

LOVE MEANS... NO SHAME is a keeper and for more than just the cover. Each character in this book made a name for themselves, each scene was written with attention to detail and to get me involved in the life of the ranch and the people on the ranch.

I have read Amish books before and even met a few – and I thought that aspect of the book was done with such class and style and this more than anything else added that touch of realism to the book.

Mr Grey is an author that has pushed his way onto my auto buy list and it was a pleasure to have read LOVE MEANS... NO SHAME

Dreamer says

For all those who've not seen Weird Al's 'Amish Paradise' - enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lOfZL...>

3.5 stars here. A somewhat bland but likeable m/m romance. Geoff leaves Chicago to return to the family farm upon the death of his (gay) father. He falls for Elijah, a 20 year old Amish boy who is spending a year away from his community.

'If he were honest with himself, he really did like Eli... a lot. The way he looked in the saddle, the way he smiled, the way those eyes danced when he was happy. "Fuck, I've got it bad. Now if I just knew how he felt." Geoff had always had good gaydar, but where Eli was concerned, he didn't have a clue.'

Lily says

This is a well written story that is populated with characters you can't help but fall in love with and just like in real life with a couple you'd be thankful not to know. It's an emotional story that grabbed my attention right away and kept me interested all the way to the end. The main protagonists at first appear to be an unlikely match but as the story progresses the development of their relationship shows that indeed they are well suited to each other.

At the start of the book Geoff is happy with his life in the big city but moves back to the family farm when his Dad dies. One day he finds a young Amish man named Eli in his barn and ends up offering him a job and a place to stay. Eli is inexperienced with life outside of his community having had little contact with the English, or non-Amish, people. He's doing his Rumspringa, his year away from the community, before he becomes a full fledged adult dedicated to their community and way of life.

As time goes by Geoff and Eli form a friendship that gradually turns to love. The men are happy until someone, bitter and unhappy with their own life, stirs up trouble for them. Eli then makes a difficult decision that brings much heartache to himself and Geoff. Fortunately he is given some wonderful advice from someone close to him and at the end, after many tears have been shed, Geoff and Eli find true happiness.

As with the other books I've read by Andrew Grey there is a lot of emotion in this really sweet love story. There are also some hot sex scenes as well but they don't overshadow the sweetness. I found the protagonists well developed and interesting and the secondary characters were, for the most part, good additions to the story. The story could have used more careful editing and at times the pacing felt a bit off but overall I really liked this story and I'm looking forward to reading the other books in this series.

Emanuela ~plastic duck~ says

This story was cute and sweet and touching. Geoff and Eli couldn't be more different at the beginning of the story, because Geoff comes back from Chicago to the farm he inherited from his father. In Chicago he was cruising bars for sex and working as an accountant. Eli is Amish and he is spending the traditional time away from his community to see the world of the English.

What they have in common is their caring attitude. Geoff is much more experienced, but Eli's enthusiasm

makes up for his lack of experience. He's such a wonderful young man, he's open to what life has to show him, for Geoff's love and it seems he was just waiting to find the right someone to open his heart to.

The storyline is simple and it shows people who support Geoff and people who spread awful rumours about him, because they don't accept his sexuality. There's a little bit of drama, but not too much, the right amount to make us root for the main couple and to move us to tears.

I think the story lacks some characters' insight. It is told in Geoff's point of view and we see how things affect Eli only as a reflection, so maybe that's why I loved him so much even if I didn't know exactly what was going on in his mind. Geoff seemed a bit more shallow, or maybe I could not shrug off his initial behavior. I also think the transition from one scene and the next wasn't always so smooth, sometimes situations or thoughts seemed rushed or cut off.

I think this book is Romance - yep, with a capital R - so I'd recommended it to the very romantic souls who love sweet, cute and happy stories.

Bubbles Hunty Honest & Direct Opinions says

This book started out bad. The MC (I already forgot his name) is an Uber Slut (I think that means like extremely promiscuous, whorey, tramp, skank, no standards his man-hole is so loose it's like throwing a hotdog down a hallway) and to top that off he is an Uber Drunk Driving Slut or UDDS for short (please note MC will now be called UDDS from now on in this review). It starts off with UDDS waking up with a stranger after drinking too much and driving to stranger's house where he had sex, probably protected but who knows with UDSS.

All of chapter one is like that just UDSS remembering random hook-ups and stuff and he makes a big deal out of the fact that he went to bed on a Sunday night for the first time in months without going out trolling and getting drunk. Yeah that's all the development we have for UDSS. Then this is a spoiler but all happens in chapter one and two so not big spoilers. (view spoiler)

Lisa says

After his father passes away Geoff goes back to take over the running of the family farm. One morning he finds a young Amish man sleeping in the barn, Eli. Eli is on his rumspringa and Geoff offers him a job and a home. Over time the two fall in love.

I liked seeing Eli learning about the English and trying new things. Geoff and Eli were good together and apart from some angst towards the end it was a good story.

Kassa says

Parts of this book are interesting with a deep emotional connection but unfortunately the very uneven pacing drags the action and length of the book out. Also most of the conflict is resolved and told off page so the reader is unable to experience some of the problems and emotions as the characters do. Mostly this is a sweet, easy romance that throws a little texture in by way of bigoted attitudes but really those attitudes impact very little in the main relationship. The writing is average with some painful editing mistakes and awkward prose choices, but the strong relationship may draw some readers in enough to ignore those problems.

Geoff returns to his family home after his father dies from cancer. Geoff must now run the farm and in doing so, he discovers a local Amish man sleeping in the barn. The young man, Eli, is on a year away from his community and accepts Geoff's offer to work and live at the farm. Eli and Geoff have a strong attraction that neither fights too hard but soon Eli realizes his actions may have deep ramifications on his Amish family.

The story is decent enough but there is very little actual action. Geoff returns to the farm and he and Eli date rather quickly. They're together for a short time before Eli realizes that his Amish family may be affected by his actions and chooses to return to the community. Once there, though, Eli is unhappy and does return to Geoff. Unfortunately the story is told in third person POV from Geoff's perspective which greatly limits the potential of the book. What motivates Eli, how he deals with the new culture, community, his sexuality, and the problems inherent against his upbringing is never brought into the story at all. Instead Eli is very easy going, loving, and accepting of everything. His reasons for returning to Geoff and how he can reconcile the potential problems to his family – the very reason he left in the first place – is never resolved. Instead there is a vague statement that Eli will deal with that if it happens. Considering the concerns were enough to leave the love of his life, Geoff, this weak rationalization felt ineffectual and unsatisfying.

Furthermore, the emotional and intense scenes seemed to be brushed over quickly while day to day activities are drawn out almost to the point of boring. The prose is made up of short, quick sentences lacking description but stating action. Such as "Geoff walked to the door. He looked outside." This is punctuated with often awkward prose and dialogue which contradicts with word choices.

There are also several conflicts brought up that aren't resolved such as the aunt's damaging gossip. This is mentioned several times and even alluded to the reason that Geoff, Raine, and Eli are attacked in town yet other than Geoff's decision to cut the aunt out of his life, no action is taken or mentioned. Clearly if this gossip is enough to provoke violence and potentially affect Geoff's farm, then something else must be done. However, nothing is mentioned and if action occurs it is off page. Other examples such as this create the feel of unimportant details added in for texture and mild conflict. The relationship between Eli and Geoff is mostly conflict free and easy as they slowly and gradually explore the physical side of their relationship while going about their lives. There is the small problem of Eli leaving, which while an emotional scene, is muted by the lack of intensity and the easy, off page resolution.

Overall I was mostly bored reading this story and felt the writing didn't help much unfortunately. The pacing is inconsistent with extended scenes of mundane detail and often barely skimming by any emotional tension. The ending, while sweet, is completely unsatisfying with an off page resolution and no additional insight into the characters choices and thoughts. The majority of any action is told rather than shown and thus the reader is presented with a story that holds no connection and no energy. As a sweet, bland romance, perhaps this will appeal to some fans but the lack of tight writing and interesting dialogue is enough to recommend better choices.

Victoria love books says

Overall book rating: 4 sweet stars

Audio book: Narrator- R. Kirstein 4stars

Book cover: 3.5 Stars

This book is about little Geoff all grown up. This book started out sad but it just shows you to waist no time and to love to the fullest every minute of every day.

Little Geoff finds the love of his life. I truly loved this story.

Jenre says

This is a review where I get to eat my words! I've read several Andrew Grey books and stories in the past and had pretty much come to conclusion that whilst I appreciate that he's a well loved author with a large, loyal fan base, his writing just doesn't appeal to me and I wasn't going to read his books any more. Then someone suggested that I read *Love Means...No Shame*, and so I decided to give the author one more chance. I'm glad I did because I really liked this book.

The story begins with our hero, Geoff, who works as an accountant in Chicago. He spends his days crunching numbers and his nights out on the town picking up anonymous men for one night stands. Then one day he gets a call from his father's partner, Len, to say that his father has died. Geoff then comes back to the place where he was brought up to pick up the running of the farm. It's a sad time for him and Len, but things get easier especially when Geoff finds a young Amish man, Eli, sleeping in his barn and offers him a job. As the two men get to know each other their feelings grow, but Geoff is not certain whether Eli will leave his Amish family and stay with him permanently.

If I was asked to describe this story it one word it would be 'charming'. I was charmed by the whole book, the characters and the plot from start to finish. This was a book about a couple of good guys who find love with each other. There are a few potholes on their road to love, but mainly this was a gentle tale of meeting, falling in love and then settling into a HEA. The characters of Geoff and Eli are perfect for each other. Geoff has spent the last few years living it up in Chicago, sleeping around and looking for the next distraction. When he returns to the farm he is worried that he will find the pace of life dull, but instead settles into a hard working routine of learning about running a business. When Eli comes into his life, the gentle, peaceful man steals his heart with his naivety about the life of a 'white man' and his innocence when it comes to sex. This

led to a number of tender and beautiful sex scenes between them, which were emotionally fulfilling for me as a reader, as well as hot.

Another part that I liked a great deal was in Geoff's relationship with Len, his Dad's partner. There's a lot of respect between them and their shared grief over Cliff's death helps both men through that difficult time. Cliff is never relegated to 'the dead guy' and forgotten after the first few pages, but rather both Geoff and Len's memories of Cliff are dealt with at different points in the story. This made Cliff just as real as a character as some of the other secondary characters in the book. The emotional intensity of some of the scenes between Len and Geoff brought tears to my eyes on a number of occasions, a sign that Andrew Grey has done his job well.

This was also a book which taught me a little of the Amish community, of which I am woefully ignorant. I liked that it was an important aspect of Eli's personality and that I got to learn much about the way he had been brought up and the expectations placed on him. I also liked that it made him a kind, hard-working man and compared to some of the 'white men' we come across in the book much more civilised. It made the choices that Eli makes later in the story all the more believable for me, when you compare his sweet, gentle way of looking at the world with the cruelty of others.

If there were any niggles in the book, then I thought that maybe the character of Geoff's evil aunt was a little too overdone. Geoff is also rather too good to be true at times, especially for such a young man and I was rather sceptical at the expert way that he managed the expansion of the farm, as well as negotiations with neighbours, given his lack of business experience. Also (and this is really minor) at one point in the book Geoff and Eli go for a ride with one of the farm hands, Joey, and then he is mysteriously forgotten about. None of these niggles were enough to spoil my enjoyment of the book too much.

If you're looking for a sweet, but not overly sweet, story of two nice men who fall in love then you can't go wrong with this book. I enjoyed it a great deal and recommend it to those who like emotional, romantic stories. This is the first of a series and I'm very much looking forward to reading the other two books which are now on my TBR pile.

A.K.M. Miles says

I loved this book and the whole time I was reading it, I was patting myself on the back for buying 3 others of his at the same time. Really good book, y'all. Really.

Wade says

I think this is a wonderful book. I love the message. I love the characters. And I love Andrew's style of writing. I read it a few years ago and since then several more times. I own it in paperback. I think Eli's character is my favorite. I loved his tenderness.

I think everyone who deals with prejudice and fear should read this book. I think Andrew spells out LOVE in a poignant way. It was a book that meant a lot to me the first time I read it. The theme of "no shame" stupid out in a personal way. I am truly grateful for Mr. Grey's thoughts on coming out. And following your heart. Eli and Geoff are one of my favorite couples.

Caipi says

This was a sweet but also very sad read!

I read this after Love Means... Courage (the story of Geoff's dads Cliff and Len), that's why the death of Cliff at the beginning of this book had me especially sad.

So, here we got the story of Geoff and Eli. Geoff, who came back from Chicago (where he had worked as an accountant during the day, while he had spent his nights with meaningless one night stands) to take over the farm when his father died and Eli, a sweet, young and innocent Amish man. Two very different men, who had found the love of their lives in each other.

I really enjoyed reading this book, even though I think I cried during the half of it.

3,5 stars

Pime says

Estoy pasando por una etapa en donde se me metió en la cabeza que quiero leer novelas de temática lgbt!! La verdad que me estoy sorprendiendo muy gratamente!! Los libros que leí últimamente son sencillos, cortos (prácticamente los leo en una sentada) y tan adictivos que no puedo soltarlos!! Obviamente no son GRANDES HISTORIAS, con enseñanzas trascendentales, pero son bonitas y me hacen pasar un muy buen rato!! Andrew Grey hizo que me enamorara profundamente de Elijha y le voy a agradecer siempre el haber creado un personaje tan tierno y bueno al cual quería apapachar cada vez que aparecía!!

..•*°*~Gwendolyn~°**★°**★ says

Aww man this read.....

I just did not understand Geoff's treatment shown to Len?

I did not understand the why(s) of the slut'ness of Geoff's persona?

And, I do not recall the use of condom's?

And, why is this book so poorly edited, from DSP, where I pay top dollar for my books?

The Book & What I Loved and Took With Me~

The letter from Cliff *sniffle*

The adorable hospital scene.

The courting and Len's comment about the courting.

The cuddling

The warmth of the farm" home"

Len's strength

Geoff and Eli's sweetness. (Eli is YA'ish in this book, I glad he is GROWN-UP'ish in the books that move forward).

Gosh, I loved all that! And, this book is more like **3.5 Stars** rounded down due to MAJOR editing issues.

Here are just a few editing issues....

1. "good is love" no, no I think you meant "God is love" otherwise your sentence is off.
2. And Geoff said, like my brown hair and my brown eyes....well in book 0.5 he had blue eyes and blond hair.

Ooh, and please note, the reading timeline was off.....mixed up by date of pub..... I was opening up and closing books left, right and sideways....because I need my books in chroniLOGICAL order. I hope this helps you...

My recommended reading order...for timeline ease.

1. Book 0.5
2. Book 1
3. Book 4.5 (Joey is in high school)
4. Book 1.5
5. Book 2 (Joey graduated from college)

Indie Reviews says

Love Means ... No Shame by Andrew Grey is a touching story of loss and love, family and belonging. It is very well written with strong characters and fluid narration that pulls the reader completely in from the start.

The central focus of the story is the relationship between Geoff and Eli who come from two very different worlds and cultures. Grey takes his time in growing their relationship by exploring many of their differences in a thoughtful and respectful manner. As Geoff gets to know Eli he realizes that many of the everyday things he takes for granted, such as orange juice and riding in a car are completely foreign to Eli. Eli is spending a year away from his community because he is questioning many aspects of his upbringing and as the story unfolds he accepts that he is gay. If this were known in Eli's community he would be shamed and banished, as would his family. While Geoff doesn't understand or agree with these beliefs and practices he is very respectful of Eli as Eli struggles to come to terms with his true self versus his upbringing and religion.

Geoff and Eli slowly get to know one another, first as friends and then through courtship with a slow build-up to the sexual aspect of their relationship. Grey writes Geoff and Eli's relationship with sweetness and romanticism but also with a sense of realism. Their relationship is not without difficulties. Both Geoff and Eli must deal with mean-spirited members of Geoff's family and homophobia with some serious implications. Also, as Eli's year away from home nears its end, he is torn and must make a life-altering decision as to whether he will stay with Geoff, the man he loves, or return to his family and community to lead a life that although is familiar and expected, would ultimately be a lie.

A cast of well-rounded and interesting secondary characters support the main story and characters. There's

Len, the life partner of Geoff's biological father who he considers his other father, Geoff's loving aunt Mari, Joey the boy that Geoff takes on as a part-time ranch hand and discretely looks after, and Geoff's best friend Raine. Grey inter-weaves primary and secondary characters, their feelings and relationships adding a richness and depth to the overall story, but also creating a sense of family among the characters. Although Geoff has lost both his biological parents he's not alone. He is blessed with a loving and supportive chosen family to which Eli has also become a member.

This story is written with heart. It is both bittersweet and uplifting, and reminds us that love can be generous and selfless and that a true family and sense of belonging don't necessarily require blood ties.

If you are looking to sink into a well written, poignant, sweet and romantic reading escape then I highly recommend *Love Means ... No Shame* by Andrew Grey.

NOTE: This review was originally published online by Rainbow Reviews on September 27, 2009.
