



Treble Maker

Annabeth Albert

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On *Perfect Harmony*, the ambitious competitors heat things up on stage and off...

Cody Rivers is determined to be a rock star, but couch-surfing between bar shows gets old fast. Joining an a cappella group for a new singing competition show could be his last chance at real fame—unless the college boy from the heart of the country messes it up for him. Lucas Norwood is everything gothy, glittery Cody is not—conservative, clean-cut, and virginal. But when a twist in the show forces them together, even the sweetest songs get steamy as the attraction between them lights up the stage. Lucas wants to take it slow, but Cody's singing a different tune—and this time it maybe a love song...

Treble Maker Details

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Author : Annabeth Albert

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From Reader Review Treble Maker for online ebook

.Lili. says

Boy was I excited for this book after falling in love with previous books I've read from this author. She's got this nack for writing these sweet and steamy romances that are so much fun and endearing. Although I did enjoy this book- I didn't love as much as other books of hers I've read.

What I loved:

- *Opposites attract trope**
- *Love both the main characters**
- *Steamy**
- *It had some very fun moments**

What I didn't love so much:

These two boys would go from-

to-

After a while the constant back n forth and back n forth-

caused the book to drag a bit. I just wanted them to get together already! I think about 10-15% of this book could've been scrapped and it would've been great- or maybe substitute some of the time Lucas spent fighting his attraction and added more relationship/get to know each other time. I don't know.

That being said- after the 50% mark- this book became what I have come to love and expect from this author. Would I recommend it? Yes. Will I read book 2? Abso-freakin-lutely! 3.5 Stars rounded up because the book got better as it progressed! ♥

*****ARC kindly by the publisher via Netgalley for an honest review*****

Ele says

I've been putting this off because of all the mixed reviews but I ended up loving it!

I'm really not a fan of a capella, and although this story is based on it I didn't get bored, not at all.

I loved:

*The complexity of the characters, they are so diametrically different (or so they think) but they work together so well.

*Piercings. Hell yes, Cody has this Goth look going on and multiple piercings.

*The television music show is realistic. Fake and staged.

*Steam. So very steamy.

*No melodrama, just a guy who starts making his own choices instead of letting others decide how he should live his life.

I'm so looking forward Trevor's story.

Short review is short.

Denise H. says

*** This artfully written tale is amazing ! ***

This is the romance of two young, 20's "a capella" singers competing in a contest show on TV. Lucas, 21, a bass from Iowa, gay, but inhibited

by the contract his folks and school hold him to comply , keeping him restricted, keeping him from being his true self.

Cody, 23, a magnificent singer, left Iowa years ago
(I'm picturing some Adam Lambert rock)

because of the attitudes there. He's becoming famous, he's a tall, slim Goth man with tats and piercings. And for Lucas, Cody is the carrot in front of the horse, teasing the celibate Lucas. Wow, these two are drawn to each other, and each fights it. Although sometimes Cody enjoys baiting Lucas, because he's easy to rile, and it's fun. Lucas has his fantasies, but has never been with a man, not even a kiss! Nope !

As they explore this attraction, they are funny, so sexy and open, but Lucas is very guilt ridden. These characters are well written. We understand each one; ride along with them on their discoveries, throughout the contest, and the interactions with other contestants. And of course, the sexy times. Big time scenes of Lucas's first times are fabulous.

Annabeth Albert is really in tune with her characters, as she keeps the tale moving along.

It's interesting, fun to read, and informative.

It's delightful! I recommend it... ENJOY !

=====

At the end of this lovely story, check out the playlist she provides that coincides with the story from beginning to end. You will get a better understanding of the type of songs they sing, the meanings, and the fun, too. I checked the videos out, and they are fabulous.

=====

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

3.5 Stars

I'll be honest, this wasn't my favorite Albert story. While she has consistently touched on tough topics that range from drug abuse to disabilities to having HIV, unfortunately, closet cases and religious repression aren't my favorite tropes.

Cody is a talented singer, and though Perfect Harmony is a TV show pitting singing *groups* against each other, he's determined to use the experience to further his own career as much as possible. He's been on his own for years, having been rejected by his grandmother who was unable to accept his sexuality, and he's not shy about who he is, nor is he subtle about doing whatever needs to be done to gain advantages when he can. Cody is not going to mess up this opportunity - no one is going to stand in his way to success. That is, until the odd rules of the competition finds his group saddled with an irresistible guy who shuns his advances at every turn.

Lucas is part of an acapella group from a very conservative town and college. Despite that, his college has embraced its LGBTQ students and the entire student body agrees and signs an abstinence purity contract - no sex before marriage. Overall, Lucas is ok with this. He has strong religious beliefs and for the most part, wants to abide by the rules, especially since his family is so supportive and his dad is a prominent professor at said college. However, in his effort to stick by his values, Lucas hides a very important part of who he is, as he suppresses his attraction to avoid temptation. So technically, Lucas isn't really in the closet, but in essence, he doesn't want anyone to perceive him as a gay man and avoids bringing any attention to his sexuality. However, Cody is everything he secretly desires, and his will power is dwindling fast.

So yes, there's a lot of back and forth between these two as both struggle with who they are and what they want out of life. Slowly, Lucas realizes he's tired of living up to a standard that he didn't set for himself. Despite being afraid of letting down those he loves, he discovers that it's ok to be who he is, to express himself truthfully, while not needing to compromise or denounce his core values. Cody in turn, is no saint, but he does see the merit of having personal ideals and being in a monogamous relationship. Together they start to evolve, accepting their own truth.

Have no fear, in and amongst the above emotional roller coaster and the singing competition itself, sparks fly and things progress very hot and heavily. For a story about repression, Albert does not skimp *at all* on the lovely details. I doubt many will find fault with this story. The writing is top notch as always, but personally, these types of stories don't give me the joy my greedy self wants.

Fabi says

Oh my gawwwwd! I freakin loved this book!!! It had every single thing I enjoy reading about.

- ✓? A hot young gay couple.
- ✓? Talented singers.

- ✓? New adults forging their brand new lives.
- ✓? Learning about each other.
- ✓? Discovering themselves.
- ✓? Standing up for themselves and each other.
- ✓? The sexiest of sex scenes - because - love of course.

Five humongous heart melty stars!

Lisa says

See my review at Sinfully .

4 “Choices are everything.” Stars!

Treble Maker is the first book in Annabeth Albert’s new series entitled Perfect Harmony. I am a huge fan of this author, particularly her Portland Heat series. Her books tell fun and heart-warming stories that leave you happily sighing in romance lala land. This book was no exception from her norm. From the first page I was hooked and wanted to see just how things would play out between the two very opposite acapella singers competing in a reality show sing off.

“...this wasn’t just his big break. It was his last break, one he has to make work.”

Twenty- three year old Cody Rivers is a YouTube sensation trying to catch a break in his climb to stardom. When the opportunity arises for him to be the lead vocalist of an acapella singing group on a reality show, Cody is willing to step outside the confines of what he is used to. He is prepared to try this new format to get his big break, more exposure would mean more gigs. Even though Cody’s punky goth style is far from what one would assume an acapella singer looks like, Cody needs everything to work out in his favour. He knows the ins and outs of show business and understands what he needs to do. What he does not expect is to get caught up in a push and pull tug-o-war with the conservative and virginal bass singer from another group.

“Wanting was unavoidable, but indulging was a different story. Lucas has long ago made his peace with wanting – want was fine in carefully rationed chunks, as long as he cleared his browser history afterward and went on with his resolve to never turn want into action.”

Twenty-one year old Lucas Norwood is a part of the M & M's, a group from a conservative college in Iowa called Mount Monticello. Lucas is the youngest in his family and is also the poster boy of his professor father's religious works. Lucas is openly gay even though he has never even kissed another man. Frankly, he hasn't kissed anyone. Along with the other students at Mount Monticello, Lucas has signed a morality code. It's all about abstinence and waiting for marriage. His family wants him to find a nice boy with the same upbringing and beliefs as them. Little do they know that Lucas is not attracted to the predictable, sweet wholesome type. He yearns for kinky, raw and dirty. Everything that the sexy and flamboyant Cody Rivers seems to embrace.

When a twist in the show leaves Cody and Lucas sharing close quarters, the attraction between the pair becomes too hot to handle. Cody is all about casual hook-ups and he has no issues pursuing the straight-laced and uptight Lucas. He is the one that definitely pushes for more and wants Lucas to step outside his boundaries. Lucas is someone who has stayed far away from any physical exploits with anyone. How is he going to stand his ground when everything in him wants to give in and succumb to Cody's charms? When Lucas finally does give in, both guys have no idea just how powerful and real their connection would be. Falling for someone is always a scary thing, especially when the person you are falling for is your polar opposite.

“Rivers of hot fudge weren't nearly as deadly to Lucas' will power as Cody's sly smile.”

“Cody didn't usually go for baby bears, but there was something strangely appealing about a big guy who had a whiff of wide-eyed subby to him.”

I loved how different both guys were. Despite their obvious dissimilarities, they just seemed to work. Cody is this lovable and vibrant character and he is also a guy who is always searching and hungry, yet he does not know what he is longing for. At least not until the clean-cut, bass singer becomes an essential part of his life. Lucas may not realize it at first but he needs to break free from the choke-hold that his conservative family and life have around his neck. He has no idea just how much he needs someone like Cody in his life, not until the sexy goth-man saunters into his atmosphere. Lucas goes through quite a journey when it comes to his faith and entire belief system. He's lived his whole life a certain way and being brave enough to question what you have been taught and formulate your own beliefs is no easy task. Yes, he was frustrating at first simply because it was hard to see where he was coming from. However, there are many others like him. We are often defined by how we are raised and stepping away from that is not something that happens easily.

This was a tender, sweet and sexy tale as we watch the two men go from an antagonistic type of situation to something more. Something neither one of them expected when they ventured down the road of harmless flirtation and lust.

All in all, *Treble Maker* was a wonderful start to this series. I love how real and different the characters this author creates seem to be. Cody and Lucas were no exception. They had their flaws but in the end all that matters is finding someone who accepts you, the good and the bad. Someone who wants you to fulfill your dreams and perhaps make some new ones with you. This is definitely a series to check out for lovers of the M/M genre.

****An advance reading copy of **Treble Maker** by Annabeth Albert was generously provided to me in exchange for an honest review.

Keira Andrews says

This book is so delightfully dirty! I was not expecting that from the cover or blurb, so it was a wonderful surprise. I was rooting for Lucas and Cody from the start, and I really enjoyed the setting of the TV music competition. Lucas's parents were not typical disapproving parents, but they still wanted to control Lucas's sexuality and keep him in a neat, tidy box. That was a compelling struggle for Lucas.

As I mentioned, this book is surprisingly dirty, and I loved seeing Lucas get the chance to explore his kinky side. (view spoiler)

Loved this book, and am excited for the second in the series!

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

I have something to confess: I'm a HUGE a cappella fan.

In fact, my college all-male a cappella group was on the show, The Sing Off, that this book is based on, and I watched intently all season. I became sort of an a cappella groupie, and so I was THRILLED when I saw the plot of this book. I've also been loving everything I've been reading from Annabeth Albert. She is relatively new to the M/M scene, but she has just been *owning it* recently.

Cody and Lucas were electric together. This book is kinkier than you might expect, albeit a pretty tame level of kinkiness. *Kink-lite*. Still, I found Lucas's love of being bossed around and topless topped to be SUPER hot. And you guys know I LOVE me a virgin!! All of their sex scenes were so yummy to read, and I got really into them as a couple.

The plot was nicely done as well. I liked reading about Cody's struggling music career and Lucas's home/school situation. It felt authentic and well executed. All the people in the book, from the more important side characters to those that just made a cameo, were really thought out.

I liked everything about this story, and even though the plot had a few moments where it dragged a little, I give this book super high marks. Sing on, Annabeth Albert!

Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Renée says

3.5 stars.

This one is so hard to write. I adore Ms. Albert's writing. And a book with such a strong music theme? I'm in!

Strong writing. Strong emotion. This had all the makings of a successful 4-5 star read for me. But, sadly, it wasn't to be. There were just too many little things I couldn't get past.

These two were so judgmental of each other for most of the book. It really turned me off. And then the quick flip from a celibate-until-marriage stance to getting off with my roommate (before I even call him my boyfriend) was a bit far-fetched for me.

The end was so sweet and well fought for. And I still genuinely liked the book. I will still recommend it to Ms. Albert's fans, and I will continue to read her.

ARC kindly provided by Kensington Books through Netgalley.

CrabbyPatty says

What's not to love? Lucas, a tie/sweater vest combo-wearing Iowa boy from an uber conservative college in Austerity, Iowa with a great bass voice, and Cody, a Goth twink with a killer tenor pipes (who basically lives in his van in LA while trying to make it big) meet on the set of "Perfect Harmony," an a cappella singing contest / reality show (think extremely low-budget American Idol).

I loved the complexity of the characters in this story. Cody has come a long way from Des Moines, Iowa and sure, he's ruthlessly focused on his career, but he hasn't had a lot to depend on other than his talent and persistence. On paper, Lucas looks like he's won the lottery for support and encouragement. Attending a conservative college in Iowa (complete with purity pledges), he is gay and out and his liberal Christian parents support his "gay lifestyle" -- as long as that lifestyle means chastity until marriage, no gay bars, no booze, and "controlling" his actions since he can't control his "wiring".

Lucas' problem is he doesn't *want* a good conservative Iowa gay boy with whom he can lose his virginity within the bonds of holy matrimony he wants Cody -- every tattooed, pale, graceful inch of him.

You. You. You. I want you. In all sorts of terrible, wonderful ways. I want you to hold me down, make me beg for it. I want more of this. I want every kinky, twinkly thing you can dream up. Put me at your mercy.

Once Cody and Lucas end up as roommates, the sexual tension ramps up until you could bounce a quarter off of it. And, as the singing competition ramps up, Lucas wonders if Cody is only looking out for himself, while Cody despairs if he can ever crack through Lucas' misconceptions and doubts.

The only complaint I have about the book is that there is an awful lot of wondering, pondering, misunderstanding, questioning, angst around the 2/3rds point of the book, and Cody tends to be way too self-centered, while Lucas isn't willing to examine his worldview.

Toss in some great a cappella singing (you'll want to check out Annabeth Albert's play list at the end of the book), a *really* awkward meeting with the parents, a Bass Off, a "not-so-perfect" perfect ending, and you'll be eagerly awaiting the sequel Love Me Tenor.

Kaje Harper says

This book was a real mix for me, parts that I liked a lot, others that I was not so crazy about. It's a long story about two young men who enter an a cappella competition. Initially competitors, they end up in the same group, with very different expectations, and their interactions alternately blow very hot and very cold. (I might note here, beware of POV section changes between the two MCs with no indicator whatsoever - once I realized the POV would sometimes switch from one paragraph to the next, it became a less-frustrating thing. It's not headhopping, just an all-too-familiar format issue.)

Cody is a guy whose grocery money depends on how well he does with his music career. He has no savings, no home, no back-up plans, and a lot of single-minded determination to make it big. He's out and loud, eyelinered and tight-clothed and in-your-face about it. He lost everything by coming out, and he's never going to hide again. He is willing to barter sex, and schmooze and scheme, and do whatever it takes to make an impression and take a step forward in his music career. Any relationships he has are all about pleasure, or usefulness, nothing more.

Lucas is on the show because his college group is. He's not so much into winning for himself as he is part of something bigger, a brotherhood of singers from his small, conservative college. He's out as gay, but he's bought a precarious acceptance in his college and family by embracing a very circumscribed version of being gay. He, just like the hetero guys he sings with, have taken virginity pledges and made commitments to live a righteous life, saving sex (with either gender) for marriage, and avoiding temptation. But Lucas never bargained on meeting Cody.

I liked many things about Lucas. His integrity, his kinks, his kindness, and his confusion. Cody... not so much. To be sure, his past rejections and precarious situation excuse a lot. But I didn't like the way he assumed that it was impossible for Lucas to really mean what he pledged about no sex before marriage, etc. Cody made no attempt to see if Lucas was serious. He kept tempting and teasing and pushing him and pushing him, until Lucas fell, bit by bit. And that was treated as a good thing.

As the book goes along, you do come to believe that external pressures (rather than personal beliefs) are responsible for Lucas's position of rejecting anything less than a monogamous, permanent relationship. But that wouldn't have to be the case. If we had a book where the girl said she didn't want to have sex before marriage, and the guy kept pushing her a bit further and a bit further... "Oh, it's just touching. How can you know if you really like sex with men unless you try it? Frotting doesn't really count. Oral doesn't quite count. Try it, you'll like it..." Would we be cheering that guy on, or wanting to kick him in the nuts for not respecting her chosen position?

The guys were hot together (and the sex was plentiful, maybe too much so.) The music parts were great - in fact I'd have loved a bit more of that, in place of some of the sex. The second half got better, as Lucas began to take a deeper look at who he was and what he really wanted, when his past assumptions were stripped away. The secondary characters added a lot to the story. The ending was a bit too easy, keeping the guys from having to address a couple of conflicts, but still it was a warm HEA. In the end, I did enjoy the book, but that little bit of disrespect for Lucas's initial position rubbed me wrong, all through the first half.

J *deep in the heart of Texas* says

3.5 Stars!

Rounding down because I skimmed quite a bit of the last half or so.

I thought this one was too long. Too drawn out. Cody and Lucas spend the first half to three quarters of the book going back and forth with each other. Hot and cold.

It started getting old. And I started getting bored.

I started to lose interest in both Cody and Lucas and what happened between them.

I also seem to really dislike at least one of Annabeth Albert's MCs. In this case it was Lucas.

If I were Cody I would have said

a long time ago. Not so sure Lucas was worth the trouble.

I will say once they do get their shit together, there was relatively no drama with Lucas and his family which was a definite plus.

All in all, this one was just okay for me. Not my favorite my Annabeth Albert read.

ARC kindly provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Meags says

3.5 Stars

This is a tricky one to rate!

Unfortunately, I am not a fan of many of the themes explored here. All the religious repression that Lucas struggles with throughout the story just brought my mood right down. There was a bit too much judgement and moral superiority going on for my liking. As sweet as Lucas was at times, I just didn't like what his hot and cold attitude did to poor Cody, who was already struggling with issues of his own and certainly didn't need the added pressure of feeling shitty about himself from someone he was growing to care about.

Putting aside the whole "I can't go there, it's wrong" bullshit, I liked what ultimately developed between Lucas and Cody, particularly during the second half of the story, which I believe was much stronger than the

slower, slightly frustrating first half.

As always the writing is fantastic, providing emotional weight and great character depth to what is essentially a new adult story about a singing competition. I will say that I had a small issue with some of the abrupt scene transitions and the sudden POV changes, which isn't an issue I've ever experienced while reading a story by Albert, so it came across as unexpected and surprisingly out of place.

As a huge music lover, I'll admit that I did love the a cappella reality competition backdrop. It was fresh and fun and it helped balance out the heavier moments throughout the story. And although not technically part of the story itself, I also went a little nuts over Albert's *Treble Maker Playlist* that she so graciously supplied at the end of the book. I spent a good hour post-read on YouTube watching all the a cappella groups she mentioned and I may or may not now be slightly obsessed with the Dartmouth Aires - good one, Annabeth!

This may not have been my favourite Albert read to date but I certainly look forward to continuing with this series, even if it's just to get to Michelin's story in book three.

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

~4.25~

"I want to go home," [Lucas] said ... He needed out of this place and out of his own head.

"To Iowa?" ...

"No. To us."

There is nothing real about television. Every competition "reality" show is staged, every elimination carefully scripted.

Cody knows this and is willing to play the game. He has an incredible voice and moves like Adam Levine, but he's living out of his van and has no prospects on the horizon.

Cody slinks around in his tight pants and eye liner, working the modern Goth look. He's snarky and unabashedly, flamboyantly sexy. When Cody first meets Lucas, he openly smirks at the "farm boy" from Iowa.

Lucas is gay, though, gay and out ... sort of. He's taken a virginity pledge to save himself until marriage. But Lucas doesn't fantasize about the sweet and tender. He yearns for the raunchy and dirty; he yearns for Cody.

Cody and Lucas do the whole hot and cold thing. Neither wants to admit that their relationship is more than just friends getting off. Cody pushes Lucas, but Lucas judges Cody.

Watching Lucas give in to temptation is hot. DAMN HOT! Mutual masturbation turns into something much (MUCH!) steamier.

I loved the dual POV here, as it helped me understand both men. Lucas craves his parents' approval, and Cody, who is used to being lonely and unloved, is scared to trust.

I loved watching them come together, and seeing the connection between them.

Words still weren't cooperating, so he did the only thing he could and kissed Lucas. Not the earlier gentle slide of lips but a raw, emotion-driven attack ...

His brain played a soundtrack of every love song he'd ever sang ...

The secondary characters in this book are very well sketched. We see all the pettiness and jealousy that can happen during a competition, when people whom you thought were your friends turn their back on you.

I especially liked Ashley, Cody's slightly bitchy friend, and Trevor, Lucas's friend from the same conservative college who crushes on Lucas.

While Lucas's parents are clearly strict and controlling, the predictable family melodrama doesn't happen. The family dynamics are far more subtle than that.

Likewise, the competition, which is central to the plot of the novel, doesn't overwhelm the romance. Indeed, the resolution (who wins?) may surprise you.

While a couple sections dragged a little in the beginning, the last 25 percent was perfection.

These boys are hella sexy and sweet together, and Annabeth Albert's writing is a joy to read.

This is a fun, enemies-to-lovers, coming-into-your-own story with complex MCs, lots of music, and a big-smile-worthy HEA.

I can't wait for Trevor's story in book 2!

~Kristin~ says

3.75 Stars

This one started off slowly and was a little boring and the authors abrupt change of POV was difficult to follow, but it picked up steam and drew me in. By the end I adored both Lucas and Cody.
