



A Full Plate

Kim Fielding

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Opposites come together for a spicy surprise.

Bradford “Tully” Tolliver has everything—money, a great car, a beautiful condo, and a promising career as one of Portland’s hottest young lawyers. Sure, he puts in long hours and has no social life to speak of, but who needs romance when corporations pay top dollar for his expertise? He hesitates when a colleague asks if her cousin can live with him, but the arrangement will last less than a year, and then the cousin—Sage Filling—will return to his tiny hometown.

But Sage is handsome and intriguing, and his cooking makes Tully swoon. Sage has obligations back home, though, and Tully has offers he might not refuse from a persistent—and very wealthy—ex. Since Tully and Sage each have a full plate, can they make room for a side of love?

A Full Plate Details

Date : Published April 17th 2018 by Dreamspinner Press

ISBN : 9781641080019

Author : Kim Fielding

Format : Mass Market Paperback 218 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Lgbt

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From Reader Review A Full Plate for online ebook

SoCalBookReviews says

4.5 Stars

I'm normally not a huge fan of the Dreamspun Desires series of books, because they are usually a pretty low drama and angst, basic romance with nothing that really stands out to make them epic or really truly different from each other. But I wanted to check out this audiobook specifically because I am a huge fan of the narrator Kenneth Obi. And I'm glad I did, he did a great job with this one and I was delighted by the storyline we get in this book as well.

I really appreciated Kenneth's narration and effort into making this book stand out and separate it from the being just a general romance into something more. He makes this book feel like it's a true romance story, and his narration gives us the extra feelings we need; like we are right there alongside these characters as they go through and experience everything in their lives. His narration of this book makes me want to check out more in the Dreamspun Desires series to see if maybe this series of books are really just more pleasurable listening to in audio form than they are when just being read.

Tully is a lawyer who seems to have everything he needs in life. The job, the money, the home and cars. The only thing he still needs is to find a solid relationship. Sage is the total opposite of Tully. He's a line cook (not a chef) and has all kinds of baggage going on in his life, which isn't really his doing. Life just sucks sometimes and you have to make the best of it, which is what Sage has been doing for years. He ends up moving in with Tully and swaps free rent for some cooking. We get a very, very slow burning lead up to their romance before they even become friends in this book. Then they try to fight their feelings for each other trying to determine what boundaries they still have and will need to bend being friends and roommates. Then they become just a little bit more. And at around 50%, we get a twist in the story that you will NEVER see coming. I was extremely surprised by it and actually gasped out loud when I heard what was going on. I really thought that aspect added more to their story and relationship and finally pushed them in the right direction. We also get a little bit of some "ex" drama thrown in which I actually liked, because it showed these characters had a little more depth to them and their feelings. Also, be prepared when you are reading/listening to this one. There is a lot of really good intense foodie talk going on in this book which made me hungry and want to eat while listening to this book. But, overall, I liked this book and the narration we got along with it.

Sandra says

This was utterly adorable. And it's apparently true - the way to a man's heart is through his stomach.

At least, in this case, that old adage works - Sage seduces Tully with his cooking skills.

I'm getting ahead of myself though...

Bradford Tolliver aka Tully is a hot shot young lawyer, living in a fancy condo, driving a fancy car - and living an empty life. When his colleague asks for a favor for her cousin to live with Tully for a few months, less than a year, Tully reluctantly agrees.

Sage Filling (what the heck, Kim Fielding?) took a job as a short order cook for reasons, but his dream is cooking on a much higher culinary scale. He loves trying out new recipes, and Tully is only too willing to be the guinea pig. He doesn't mind the hot kissing either. He doesn't mind spending a bit of his cash on some fancy cookware either if that keep Sage cooking up culinary delights.

The focus of this story is on the slowly developing romance between the two men and the presumably inevitable ending - Tully's life is in the city, and Sage wants to go home to his small town.

There's a wee bit of drama with Tully's filthy rich ex Eddie who needs to learn the meaning of NO, and who comes across as a bit smarmy. I didn't like him much, though the Thanksgiving standoff was highly entertaining.

This is a romance, so of course they get their happy ending. That's not a spoiler, is it?

This is a really sweet, adorable story, which shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone - the author is Kim Fielding after all. Enjoy this with a glass of wine or two, or read it lounging by the pool this summer. You won't regret giving this book a chance.

** I received a free copy of this book from its publisher in exchange for an honest review. **

Bibliophile says

Uncomplicated, joyful, and filled with family values. If you're in the mood for a light and sweet m/m novel, this one should hit the spot. :)

Sara says

3.5 Hearts

This was a lovely and light read.

I am going to muddle this review up so I will try to keep it short.

Told from the POV of Bradford "Tully" Tolliver, we meet he successful lawyer as he is having drinks with his best friend Carrie who needs to ask him for a favor. Tully thinks it's something more complicated than Carrie needing a place for her cousin Sage to stay since Carrie's wife Leah and Sage don't get along. Tully's life is monetarily rich but it's also pretty damn lonely so Tully agrees with a bit of liquid courage to offer Sage a place to stay while he's in town.

I have to say how much I adored these two. I know the blurb reads as "city boy/country boy" and while it does have that element, make no mistake about how smart Sage is. His job may not be as glamorous or financially gainful as Tully's but in many ways it's much more rewarding. Sage is a cook, a chef really though not formally trained and I loved the hell out of the man.

You see, Tully and Sage are the same age in this story and while they are different, it's those difference that pull them together rather than push them apart. I liked watching Tully open up as Sage starts to talk about food and then really open up when Sage starts to cook for him. Sage is able to share his passion of creating with food with Tully and Tully is able to have a selfish passion which he hasn't before. Tully's world revolves around his work and making something of himself after being cut off from his family and Sage enters his world showing him what family can be and that it's not all about money.

The story was a bit slow to start off with but once these two got through the first kiss and finally on to the second, the pace picked up and I couldn't put it down. I enjoyed watching Tully and Sage become friends while being roommates. Tully never takes advantage of his wealth nor position of being a host to Sage and Sage never takes advantage of Tully's kindness to let him stay. These two have an open communication between them that becomes a slow burn romance that both men want but are afraid to reach out and grab knowing their time together is limited. I wasn't expecting Sage to have a secret back in his small hometown of Hair Shaker but it fit into the story and gave Sage more character development outside being an amazing self taught chef.

I was hoping the story would end the way it did and I was happy that these two got a beautiful yet quiet HEA they deserved.

CrabbyPatty says

A Full Plate is like one of those small plates with a solid protein, a tasty sauce and a dash of spice, resulting in one completely wonderful little taste experience.

The story is told from the POV of lawyer Bradford (Tully) as he lets his friend's cousin Sage (yup Sage Sage Filling) live with him in Portland for about a year while he earns money before returning to his small hometown. While Tully is flush with success and money, his life revolves around work and little else. His condo has a fabulous kitchen ... which Tully never uses.

Sage works as a line cook, slinging burgers and fries, while nurturing his inventive cooking skills and making homemade artisan cheese for Tully, along with incredible meals that slowly awaken Tully's taste buds and senses to the life that he is *not* living to the fullest. I especially liked the contrast between the two men as Sage doesn't aspire to become a celebrity chef - he simply wants to create good food in his family's little restaurant (The Filling Station) surrounded by those he loves.

This story slowly evolves and while there is not a lot of steam, there is plenty of sweetness and love. The HEA ending is all kinds of wonderful, and after finishing this book, I felt as if I'd just had the most marvelously unexpected meal. 4 very satisfying stars for *A Full Plate*.

I received an ARC from Dreamspinner Press in exchange for an honest review.

Review also posted at Gay Book Reviews - check it out!

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

***A Full Plate* is a very sweet story. There's almost no steam (no big surprise considering this is a *Dreamspun Desires* title), but lots of love.**

The opposites attract theme is one of my favorites, and it's done particularly well here. Tully is a big shot lawyer in Portland with a spacious condo, a Tesla, and enough money to buy a fancy pasta machine (or three).

Sage Filling (yeah, yeah, he's heard all the jokes) is a foodie. He loves creating new recipes and feeding people, but despite his vast culinary talents, he works as a linecook in a deli. Sage isn't ashamed of that, far from it; he does what he must to support his family.

Sage and Tully meet when Tully's friend talks him into accepting Sage as a roommate. Tully isn't thrilled with the idea, but he warms up to Sage quickly, especially following a very spicy kiss in the kitchen.

This is a quiet, relationship-focused story. There's no crazy drama, no misunderstanding—just the opposite.

As Sage and Tully get closer, they worry about the inevitable end: Tully's job is in the city, while Sage longs to return to small town Oregon where his family lives.

Tully is also being pursued by his ex-boyfriend, and current client, Eddie, who flirts shamelessly and has a silent standoff with Sage. I wanted to hate Eddie but couldn't. The Thanksgiving meal scene was actually really funny. (Oh, and no worries, there's no love triangle here; Tully knows exactly whom he wants, and it's not Eddie.)

The first half of the book dragged a tiny bit, but the story really grew on me. **The ending is all kinds of glitter and joy. God knows I needed a happy book to read this weekend, and *A Full Plate* didn't let me down.**

Ami says

3.75 stars rounded up

Bradford “Tully” Tolliver reluctantly agrees to help out his colleague, Carrie, to let her cousin Sage Filling (yes, snicker all you want) to stay at Bradford’s spare bedroom for about a year until Sage gets enough money to send to Sage’s family back at Hair Shaker, Oregon. Carrie promises that Sage will not bother Tully much, and he can help Tully with some housekeeping, including cleaning and cooking, as payment.

First, I need to highlight the number of FOOD TALKS here; because Sage is an AMAZING and BRILLIANT cook!! The way that he passionately works with ingredients to create food for Tully makes me salivating. I genuinely wish that I can be inside Tully’s house so I can try the food that Sage prepares.

I enjoyed the relationship between the two men ... at first, because of their busy schedule, they are two strangers sharing the same condo. But slowly, as Sage leaves food for Tully, and Tully comments on them via post-it, they become friends and start finding time to spend together; just enjoying the food, or shopping for groceries.

I love that the progress feels natural. Both men don't immediately jump into their physical attraction. There's this slight matter of the difference of their economy level; and how Sage doesn't want to feel like he's taking advantage of Tully's money. There's also another complication with Sage's responsibility back home and that his time at Portland is not indefinite. All of these make the 'I love you' revelation worth waiting for.

I think the only 'letdown' of this book for me is because it is only told from Tully's perspective. I still want to know what's going on in Sage's mind; to know him better than the person I learn via Tully.

All in all, *A Full Plate* is a sweet opposite-attracts story with a low steam spectrum that fits nicely to the *Dreamspun Desires* line.

A Guest Review for The Blogger Girls

The ARC is provided by the publisher for an exchange of fair and honest review. No high rating is required for any ARC received.

BWT (Belen) says

A Full Plate is well-narrated by Kenneth Obi. He provides different character voices, a good emotional range in bringing the text to life, and has a smooth delivery style. His pacing was a bit slow, but overall it was a pleasant listening experience.

***A Full Plate* is a single, third person, POV, sweet opposites attract romance with low steam, low angst, and a wonderful HEA ending.** This is one of my favorite Dreamspun Desires titles and the audio definitely adds that little something extra.

Audio copy of A Full Plate provided by Dreamspinner Press in exchange of an honest review.

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

BWT (Belen) says

A Full Plate is told from Bradford "Tully" Tolliver's POV. Tully agrees to help out his colleague and friend, Carrie, by letting her cousin Sage Filling (Yes, he's heard all the jokes!) live in his spare bedroom for a year

while he earns some money to help his family back home. In exchange for the room Sage, who's a brilliantly inventive cook, will cook and do some light housekeeping for Tully.

At first the two don't spend all that much time together. They both have busy jobs that take up a lot of time and, for the most part, Tully's glimpses of Sage are rare. Their few interactions have spark though, and it's only a matter of time before it all ignites.

This is a low steam story in keeping with the Dreamspun Desires line, which I was expecting, but it was a little slow to get going for me, which I wasn't. However, towards the middle - mainly when Tully and Sage start spending actual time together - this picked up and I couldn't devour Fielding's words fast enough. I loved Tully and Sage being together and navigating how different their lives really are. It made my heart happy to see how much Tully, who really only wants to find a home, came to love Sage and his family.

A Full Plate, is an opposites attract, sweet, low steam, low angst romance with a wonderful HEA ending that just made me happy while reading. I think this has been my favorite Dreamspun Desires title so far.

Advanced Review Galley copy of A Full Plate provided by Dreamspinner Press in exchange of an honest review.

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

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

3.5 Hearts

As the Desires line goes, this was overall a win for me.

Just like the blurb says, Tully and Sage live together as a matter of convenience. Sage needs a rent free place to save money to help his family and Tully benefits by having delicious home cooked meals awaiting him on a daily basis. These two have vastly disparate lives with different goals and responsibilities, but despite the stark divide in their social status and upbringing, they slowly develop a friendship and eventually fall in love.

This has absolutely no flash and bang (and sadly no smex either). However, I was mostly ok with that ;)

Perhaps to add in a little conflict there is an annoying ex which I suppose serves to drive the point home just how much Tully and Sage are meant to be despite what they perceive as insurmountable problems, that such roadblocks are simply inconsequential in the grand scheme of things.

Narrated by Kenneth Obi, he continues to deliver a solid performance and I have no complaints. This was obviously a sedate romance which I'm finding I prefer to the crazy silly ott ones at the moment. Each definitely has their place depending on one's reading mood and preferences. Apparently, this fit my romance requirement at the right time!

Thanks to the author/publisher for the audio in exchange for an honest review

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

4.5 stars

I liked how this worked out. Tully set very professional boundaries and it took a bit, but the guy finally understood he wasn't the perfect partner to Tully. Tully never anticipated finding a soulmate, but the more time he spends with Sage, and consuming his culinary creations, the more Tully knows he's can't live without his small-town man. It's especially gratifying when Tully learns that Sage is gay, out, and interested.

This is a sweet and tender romance with just a hint of steam and a slow roll into love once friendship has been firmly established. Tully and Sage are both sweet guys, neither anticipating their connection will blossom into love. Sage is only planning to be away from his family for a year, but Tully gets involved in more than just Sage's lodging. It was so fun to see Tully in Sage's world, and his reaction to the complete acceptance he felt there. The juxtaposition to Tully's own family life, well, that was rather special. Tully tells this story and he's an honest narrator. He falls for Hair Shaker like he falls for Sage: hard and without reservation. The resolution to this one was total fairytale in the way that I love: happily ever after with a side of sexy men living out their dreams. I really liked it.

Read Veronica's review in its entirety [here](#).

Kim says

This book gave me the chance to write one of my favorite tropes: big city rich lawyer/small town boy. But I also had a lot of fun with the lawyer's ex, a tech bazillionaire with big plans, and with the small town boy's culinary creations. And I set the story in one of my favorite places. I added a few surprises too. I hope readers enjoy this as much as I enjoyed writing it!

Catherine says

[wedding (hide spoiler)]

Karen says

This dish was sweet and served with a side of cute...

Sometimes it's just really nice to read a book that has an uncomplicated romance that while it may not be totally uncomplicated, it's not loaded with a ton of drama and angst and has MCs who are both just adorable and cute.

'A Full Plate' fills the order on this. Bradford 'Tully' Tolliver pretty much has everything that money can buy. He's got a gorgeous home, drives a Tesla, works as a junior lawyer at a prestigious law firm and a non-existent social life, but when you work the hours that he does what else can you expect and Tully's convinced himself that this isn't a problem and quite honestly until his friend and colleague ask him to take in her brother, Sage for a year and give him a place to live while he works at a nearby diner to earn the money he needs for his obligations back home.

But all that changes when Tully agrees to help Sage Filling...seriously, that's his name I'm not making this stuff up I couldn't if I tried, so Tully agrees to help out and gives Sage a place to live. As Sage and Tully get to know each other they discover that 'opposites attract' is more than an over used turn of phrase.

Problem is Sage doesn't have time for romance because he's got responsibilities and they have to come first even if he enjoys Tully's company and how they are together...which is abso-freakin-lutely adorable.

I loved these two men together they were cute and sexy and they worked as a couple they fit together so nicely. Sage wanted to make food for Tully and feed him while Tully wanted nothing more than to do whatever he could to make Sage's life better...easier, after all he had the money and what good is it if you can use it to help those you love? Except Sage has his pride and he's not looking for someone to take care of his responsibilities and it's this impasse that makes Tully realize that what he really wants is to be with Sage and love him...to be his partner and honestly I loved the ending for this one. It was sweet and just so perfect for both of these men.

Add in some interesting, likable and maybe a not so likable character and you've got a romance story that's not only sweet with a side of cute but it's also got that little bit of extra to keep it interesting as well.

This is my third audio book narrated by Kenneth Obi and with each book this narrator is earning a spot on my 'narrators I like' list. His voices are consistent, expressive, emotional and overall the voices that he gives the characters just work and listening to an audio book narrated by Mr. Obi has consistently been a true listening pleasure.

An audio book of 'A Full Plate' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Skirmish says

Book Reaction: <http://neverhollowed.tumblr.com/tagge...>

Soundtrack: <http://neverhollowed.tumblr.com/tagge...>

Rating: 4.5 Stars - perfection is only half a step away
