



# All Wheel Drive

*Z.A. Maxfield*

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Healey Holly is battered, depressed, and looking to go to ground in his childhood home. He wants to rent the garage apartment, but it's Diego Luz's place now, and the last thing Diego wants is to share it.

Diego is recovering too—from the accident that put him in a wheelchair and the death of his mother shortly after. The garage apartment is where he's keeping his mother's things, and as long as they're up those stairs and he's down on the ground, there's no way he can deal with his loss. And that's just how he likes it.

Healey believes in science. Diego believes in luck. It will take a blend of both, and some prayer thrown in besides, for these two to learn that it's the journey and the destination that matters.

## All Wheel Drive Details

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Author : Z.A. Maxfield

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## **From Reader Review All Wheel Drive for online ebook**

### **Danielle Gypsy Soul says**

I haven't read the earlier books in this series and although I liked some things I was also a bit confused at points in this book about exactly what was happening. Both Diego and Healey are complicated, angsty characters that I just didn't feel were fully developed. They seemed to dislike each other and then they were wildly attracted to each other. Diego was easily offended and extremely prickly and Healey came across as a guy who really just wanted to take care of someone whether that was his ex-boyfriend Ford or Diego. I found the sex scenes a bit awkward but then I think that was intentional given Diego's disability. I'm not sure I believed the emotional attachment since Healey was still hung-up on Ford and the final scene between Ford and Healey was just weird. What I did love were the scenes between Healey and Nash and I loved Nash's character so much I will definitely go back and read his book. Although these two characters didn't really work for me I did enjoy this enough that I will read another book in this series.

A copy of this book was provided to me by NetGalley and the publisher with no requirements for a review. I voluntarily read this book and my comments here are my honest opinion.

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### **Lauren says**

I'm just about done with this story and I happen to be at a part that's driving me nuts...and not in a good way. About 65% into the book once more Diego and Healey go into a maddening macho male pride bullshit session - its like they're both speaking different languages and can't state their needs clearly (without the other guy misreading him). It happens throughout the entire book (thus far) and I just want to slap both of them upside the head. I love this author (I think Crossing Borders was one of THE best books I've read in this genre - great dialogue) but this constant misunderstanding just is a big turn off for me. Male pride is one of the most unattractive features of some men and yet I know first hand it exists, its a real thing. But I really don't want to read a book that uses it as a staple of the story. And Diego is so touchy (and yeah I understand why) but so over the top with it. This will probably be a DNF.

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### **Amazonaute says**

DNF at 48%. Reading this was Sisyphean.

Didn't hate it with the fire of 1000 firey suns, hence the two stars, but it was a clunking drag with characters I didn't warm to and didn't want to read any more about. It never seemed to get to the point, although there clearly was one?

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## Maria says

"Received an Advance Reader Copy in exchange for a fair review"

I really enjoyed this! I loved the characters in this story and how they start and engage in a loving relationship. The fears, the hesitation, the mistrust, but also the tenderness and sexiness are so well done. Intimacy and closeness really gain a new meaning through Z. A. Maxfield writing, when kissing, cuddling and making out become an end in itself. The first sex scene was surprising and awesome.

Diego is a delicious grumpy hero. His nerves and anxiety, his vulnerability and fears feel so realistic in a character who says "half my body divorced me". And emotional and uninhibited Healey is the opposite ("Healey doesn't have a mean bone in his body, but his funny bone seemed to be tuned to the key of awkward" - loc. 4369).

I also loved how the author portrayed Diego's disability and the writing style. The prose is beautiful, for example, when depicting Healey's attraction to Diego's "lovely, masculine feet", and the eroticism of those "big, velvety, silent paws" (loc. 2847).

The conflict, the setting and the secondary characters are well done too, as well as the realistic depiction of Diego's previous job as a photojournalist, all of these making an engaging read until the end.

I'm grateful to the publisher, Riptide Publishing, and NetGalley for providing a free copy

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## Chris, the Dalek King says

Healey Holly's last relationship crashed and burned...literally. After a life of being told he is special, and coming off of the high of getting his Doctorate, Healey should be flying high. His wings got clipped in a rather abrupt fashion, though, by the car crash that left him in the hospital and his ex cutting cords in the most dramatic way possible. Now, back in Bluewater Bay, Healey hopes going home will help him find his center again. Or at the very least a place where the world isn't spinning so far out of his control. Only trouble is that "home" ain't home anymore; at least not for the Holly's.

Having a random dude show up at his door begging to rent his unused garage apartment is a bad way to start any day. But for Diego Luz, angry and unsure how to cope with his new life—in a wheelchair and grieving his mother, who had always been his constant center—it is an intrusion he doesn't need, want, or can cope with.

Both men are broken and unsure if all the pieces are even there to be glued back together. They are barely able to hold onto themselves, adding a relationship to the hurricanes they are feeling inside is only a recipe for a disaster on a grand scale. But every time they try to step away they find themselves back to facing each other, wanting to find a home...together.

While I won't say it is necessary to have read it, I will recommend that if you haven't got to it yet that you pick up *Hell on Wheels*, book 3 in the Bluewater Bay Series, before reading this one. It is Z.A. Maxfield's previous contribution to this Bluewater world, and *All Wheel Drive* is pretty much the sequel to that book, storywise. But where in *Hell* we got the story of Nash Holly, here we (finally) get to see his twin brother's, Healey. I actually didn't realize that these two books were connected (outside the connection all books in this series share), since it has been so long since I read Maxfield's previous story, but as I read this book I couldn't help but feel a desire to go back and do a reread. Not because I felt the story in any way didn't stand alone, but because all these characters made me remember how much I enjoyed getting to know them that first time.

As for the story itself...well, I think it was good. The characters are truly enjoyable, in a rather frustrating manor. They are both going thru a lot of shit related to their recent (and some not-so-recent) pasts, and as a result they come together and fall apart at rather regular intervals. While that could have been annoying, though, I found it made the story all the better. This book wasn't just paying lip-service to their grief, anger, depression, and just downright confusion. It makes you live every little bit of it. They snap at each other, push at each other's wounds; they are not nice...but also terribly in need of each other. Would it have been a more pleasant read if they had their shit together a bit more? Sure. Would it have been a better story? No chance in hell. The broken bits are the good bits of the story and the characters. It made them human and fragile, all the while also showing that putting each other back together is not easy or clean, but worth it.

I really appreciated the real-life take on what it is like to live with an injury like Diego's. Both for himself, but also for Healey. Granted, I don't know anyone who has to deal with his particular issue, but I am glad that it went into the detail that it did. Much like Healey, I greatly admire people who are able to take that kind of pain in their lives and force it into iron-willed strength. It is one of the reasons that I will almost always pick up books with characters that deal with disabilities and chronic illness and pain. And where some books really do the characters and situations justice, other times it is treated like a very small obstacle that impacts very little of the character or their lives. Here it isn't just that Diego can't walk. It is how being a paraplegic impacts his whole life, and how he has to deal with that now. I can not speak to the medical accuracy, but thematically and emotionally it works really well in this story. You don't feel sorry for Diego—because he'd hate that—but you understand why he is such an ass at times. You also come to understand the strength that is required to live his life, and just why someone could find that mesmerizing.

There is, however, a rather obvious flaw in this book. In my opinion, at least. There story seems to lack a bit of a resolution to a couple of the major subplots. At least one that left me satisfied. While I really loved—I mean *loved*—the slow unfolding of the truth about the crash Healey and his ex were involved in, there are no real answers to what happens with the lawsuit that haunts the edges of this book. It left me a bit disappointed, to be honest. I'm glad the confrontation at the end of the book happened, but it felt like there was at least one scene missing from this story. I maybe could have lived with some kind of wrap-up in the Epilogue, but we didn't even get that. There was also no real pay-off for the whole Bigfoot thing, but that was just a minor annoyance—mostly because I'm not sure why the set up was included in the final draft if there was no resolution.

I would have loved a better ending for this book, something that wrapped it a bit more completely, but the rest of the book was really good. I really liked these characters, even if there was frustration in their actions along the way. It served as a great sequel to *Hell on Wheels* as well as just a good story about how to move on when your life has been tossed around in every direction.

*This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.*

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## **Sarah says**

I was given a copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

The angst! Diego and Healey have way too much baggage and at times it was almost painful to watch them

tiptoe around each other. Healey is a scientist recently injured in an accident. Diego has learned to live with the injuries that put him in a wheelchair but he is grieving his mother and terrified of relationships.

It took me a while to even like either of these surly men. We learn about their pasts slowly and we see some pretty arsy behaviour before we know enough to have empathy for either of them. But they grew on me. Diego's vulnerabilities around sex and his disability are heartbreaking. But so are the memories of the mother he's lost. And it was impossible not to love Healey once I knew more about his accident and the toxic relationship that preceded it. But while I loved these two by the end, it took me some time to really engage with Diego and Healey.

While the chemistry between Diego and Healey is hot, Diego's disability makes the actual sex quite complicated. And while the sex scenes are sometimes uncomfortably realistic, they are also surprisingly sexy. Because of the trust involved, the sex between these two builds a really beautiful intimacy between these two.

Unlike most of the Bluewater Bay books, this one doesn't completely stand alone and readers will probably need to read Healey's twin brother Nash's book 'Hell on Wheels' before they will fully understand this one. Here, Healey's past is drip fed to readers out of sequence in a way that could potentially be confusing.

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### **Amanda says**

At the beginning of the story, is confusing for me to understand what the hell is going on. A lot of circumstances revolving around Healey and Diego's background is not explained clearly. It seems like the author is holding back and trying to divulge it in doses. But it just make me feeling puzzled all over.

Healey and Diego never really show the sparks to me. Even their initially meeting feels pretty lukewarm and I'm not even sure they are both the romantic interest if not for the blurb of the story. One moment they hardly know each other, and then the next they are all over each other. There isn't sufficient build up of sexual tension. Considering that Diego is paralyze waist down, writing the sex is going to be challenge and interesting. There seems to be a lot of maneuvering going on to make things work, but some of it is hard for me to visualize in my head. Healey and Diego both getting off can be counted as success, but I don't feel much emotional connection between them.

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### **Barb ~rede-2-read~ says**

ARC provided by the publisher through Net Galley in exchange for an impartial review.

Nash Holly's genius twin brother, Healey, is finally finished with his doctorate in physics, but instead of taking a position in industry or academia, he's come home to heal—physically, spiritually, and emotionally. He was a passenger in a high-speed collision with his long-term college boyfriend, Ford, and the mystery surrounding the crash comes home with him. Ford's wealthy family has managed to secure a gag order on all concerned with the accident, which according to news reports involved road rage. Ford suffers from Bipolar Disorder and only Healey knows just how bad he's been lately in complying with his meds.

Healey comes back to the place he always called home—his brother's and dad's garage and apartment (Hell

on Wheels), but it's now owned by a new guy—a paraplegic with an attitude. When Healey tries to buy his way into renting the upstairs apartment with a ridiculously large lump sum of cash, the guy can't resist. But the apartment his twin brother always called home is filled with boxes from the landlord's recently deceased mother, and in Healey's exhausted and injured condition he's happy to collapse among them, using his backpack as a pillow. Needless to say, this doesn't last long and Healey ends up at the The Burnt Toast B&B (Bluewater Bay #5) where Nash eventually finds him.

What he can't get past, besides the injury and emotional loss of Ford, is his crazy attraction for Diego, the guy who now owns the garage, so he goes back again and again, making attempts to befriend the sexy guy, and when that doesn't work, his attempts turn to pleas for being friends with benefits. Yes, Diego can have sex, but it involves prep and can't be spur of the moment as many relationships are, so he had despaired of ever having anything long term. But he's willing to try with Healey, and the two have an amazing night together, though Diego doesn't allow Healey to spend the full night in his bed. Over time, though, the two begin to know each other as no one else can, and without even realizing it's happening, they both begin to heal from their past emotional damage.

I liked the premise of this story, but it was difficult to warm to either character until the second half. Healey was sweet but at times he didn't seem real. When I read *Hell on Wheels*, Nash's story, I identified much faster with Nash, and though Healey was mentioned, he didn't really appear in that one, so this book is the first time we get to really meet him. He was a bit too flaky and couldn't seem to make up his mind if he wanted a relationship with Diego or if it was too soon after Ford. Then he spent time spinning about how he might still feel about Ford. Add to that the fact that Diego wasn't sure he wanted, or could even have, a relationship with Healey, and his gruffness and bad attitude made it difficult for readers to get close to him. As I said, it wasn't until the latter part of the book that readers could establish that yes indeed they were together and they were now apparently willing to commit to being together for more than a casual fling.

I did, however, appreciate the research that went into the medical issues surrounding Diego's SCI and the psych issues related to Healey's ex-boyfriend, Ford. Neither issue was glossed over and both issues were treated respectfully.

Another character I really liked more in this story than in the first was Healey's dad. He was much more endearing and was very supportive of Healey, whereas my impression of him from the first book was that he was somewhat of a scatterbrain and absent-minded professor. Diego's habit of comparing both Healey and his dad to American Staffordshire Terriers was an excellent descriptor and really helped me picture the characters more clearly.

And last, but not least, I loved their well-earned and well-deserved HEA when it finally came, though the scenes with Ford were spooky and felt unfinished. Maybe he'll show up in a future story? I honestly hope so.

I love this series, and even though the authors change with each book, there's still an underlying common theme and some might sweet MM romance. I highly recommend this one. It's definitely got some very interesting MCs and very nice-to-see-again secondary characters as well.

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**Tracy~Bayou Book Junkie says**

### 3.5 Stars

The cover drew me in. It's gorgeous and the blurb sounded amazing too, but this book just didn't quite work for me. Diego was not a likable character and although I'm sorry he is paralyzed, for me that doesn't give you the right to be a complete asshole, and that's exactly what he was. He seemed to hate Healey on sight and he just rubbed me the wrong way.

While I liked Healey better than I did Diego, I thought he was still too broken after the break up and all the drama between him and his ex, Ford, to be ready to move on and be with Diego.

The storyline and the character's backstories were interesting and intriguing, but I was missing the chemistry and connection between the characters. The story is well-written and I'm sure others will enjoy it, but it just wasn't for me.

\*copy provided by author/publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*

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### **Christi Snow says**

#### My Review:

Wow, if you like angst and broken characters, then this is the book for you. Going into this book, my heart simply ached for both these men. But because of the two different personalities of the men, I did find myself much more empathetic to Healey. I loved the way that ZA Maxfield wrote him as such a broken, but still incredibly strong character. He has moments of vulnerability where I simply wanted to crawl into the pages of the book and hold him. Gah...he broke my heart.

Then there's Diego...also broken in his own way. He's dealing with paraplegia, and although he seems okay and very adapted, his is a bundle of self doubts about what it means to be in a relationship with him. He can't see anyone wanting to deal with those kinds of difficulties for the longterm. But Healey has a sister who had a spinal cord injury. Out of anyone, he's very aware of what that means for Diego's life.

I loved how much Healey was into Diego. Healey is brilliant, and a mental mess, but he's so sweet and honest in how attracted he is to Diego...seriously I fell for this character...HARD. He's just the perfect mix of awkward and gorgeous and perfect and a mess.

But for how vulnerable and sad Healey is, Diego is prickly and rude...but for Diego that's simply a defense mechanism. He doesn't know how to relate to people with his new normal in his life. And he hates to think of someone feeling sorry or being sickly fascinated with him.

Note: There were moments reading this book that it felt like it maybe needed a stronger editing hand on the details of the story. I felt a disconnect with the story line with Diego's mother, and it felt like that story fell by the wayside. There were mentions of him being to blame for her death, but that was never fully fleshed out and I also never really understood just exactly who she was supposed to be to the world that it was so important for them to share the full scope of her story. I wish that had been fleshed out better in the end, because I was fascinated with the bits and pieces we got of that aspect of the story. I wanted to see Diego's finished project, plus I think he needed that done to finish that part of his mental healing... and it just wasn't quite there on the page. Also, we never found out the outcome with Ford and the possible legal issues happening there.



This book was everything I love in a romance...high angst, high emotional turmoil, high conflict, but it just felt a bit unfinished to me. No, those little unfinished bits didn't really matter in the long run for the romance, but I hate it when a book ends with loose threads hanging everywhere. I would have liked to really know what happened with all those stories, because I was emotionally involved with their outcomes. This book would have had a 5\* rating otherwise.

But even as it is, I still recommend it.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

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## **Barb Manning says**

All Wheel Drive by Z A Maxfield is a romance novel about beginnings and endings. The book takes place in the world of Bluewater Bay, a small logging town on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. All Wheel Drive is the eighteenth novel in the series. Some of the characters who occupy the stage will be familiar to readers who know the series penned by several popular LGBTQ romance writers.

Nash Holly and his partner, Spencer Kepler-Constantine, the main characters in Hell on Wheels appear at strategic points in this novel. Lovers Ginsberg Sloan and Derrick Richards, the primary characters from The Burnt Toast B&B also briefly enter the stage.

Healy Holly and Diego Luz, the main characters in All Wheel Drive are both dealing with traumatic life events when they find themselves together. Just after a pain-filled break up with his boyfriend, Ford, Healy discovers Diego. Meanwhile, Diego opens the door to Healy just as he is starting to work on a documentary and archive of his renowned Mother's life and art.

All Wheel Drive pulls you into a complex romance between two traumatized young men working hard to find a new life. Artistic Diego is hiding; living in Bluewater Bay apart from his family in a house where he can't reach his deceased Mother's stored work. Brilliant Healy, on the other hand, runs away from the hospital to a home his family no longer owns. It's almost painful watching these two fight towards a new normalcy. Healy struggles to find a life without Ford, his old boyfriend, while Diego works to cope with using a wheelchair and losing his mother, the central focus of his life.

Maxfield has a strong voice and a notable talent in evoking emotional responses to her characters. While reading All Wheel Drive is sometimes difficult. For example, why is Healy bound by a Gag Order from lawyers who are not representing him in the aftermath of his accident with Ford? Or, why is Diego the one responsible for developing a documentary of his Mother's life?

Healy is definitely smart enough to know that he needs his own attorney to face the consequences of the horrendous last night of his chaotic life with Ford. Diego, who declares that "half my body divorced me", still can't accept that someone has a sexual attraction to him that doesn't involve his wheelchair.

Diego and Healy are definitely worth the effort of getting to know them. The only fault I have with All Wheel Drive is the end coming too soon. The main characters are just beginning to develop a relationship with each other when the door closes on their romance. How do they deal with each other during their planned road trip? How does the court case with Ford play out? Several questions are left unresolved and for that reason, All Wheel Drive gets 3.5 stars.

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## Beebs says

3.5! Set in the Bluewater Bay world, Healey is the twin brother of Nash from book 3, Hell on Wheels. i have not read all of this series, I tend to dip in and out on occasion but I don't think that matters as each book reads well as a standalone.

Healey has made his way home after being in a serious accident with his ex? boyfriend but his home is no longer his, it was sold to Diego Luz who is in a wheelchair having been in a serious accident himself.

The relationship between these two is rocky from the start, Diego is determined to push Healey away and Healey is just as determined not to go. There is a lot of misunderstandings between the two which could have been solve by a candid conversation but it was maybe understandable as they've both been let down before and are afraid to trust again. One little niggle, I thought the impending court case thread was left unfinished and since it was such a large part of the story that I found that a bit unsatisfying. An ok addition to an ongoing story.

**\*Received from NetGalley in exchange for an honest review**

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## Karen says

*This one's not 'Hell on Wheels' but...*

it did take a toll on my heart...

'All Wheel Drive' is book number 18 in the 'Bluewater Bay' series and like the third book, 'Hell on Wheels' it's written by Z. A. Maxfield, an author that I'm kind of partial to. So of course I was all grabby hands for this one because 'Hell on Wheels' is one of my favorite books in this series so far.

If this is a series that you're reading than you'll remember that 'Hell on Wheels' was about Nash Holly and in this book, we get a closer look at Healey Holly, Nash's twin brother and seriously can we talk about that name? Healey, really? I have to admit it just wasn't working for me, but, aside from the name, I really liked Healey. While Nash and Healey may look alike on the outside it's inside where the differences really begin, although both of these men are good and decent people who love their family and are loyal to the extreme with those they care about. Healey is crazy smart and has spent most of his adult life in the world of academia unlike his brother Nash.

The last thing that Healey expects when he knocks on the door of his childhood home broken, battered and bruised on the outside and just wanting to rent the apartment over the garage so that he can let his shattered heart and body heal is to be greeted by a man in a wheelchair who recognizes the look of helpless anxiety that he sees in Healey's eyes after all Diego's seen that same look often enough in the mirror in the days following the accident that put him in a wheelchair and again after losing his mother it's become a familiar sight as he tries to piece his own life back together.

For me 'All Wheel Drive' was as much a book about learning to live with a new reality and forgiving

yourself as it was about finding someone to love. Both Healey and Diego have issues...lots and lots of issues.

Healey's come back to his childhood home in Bluewater Bay more as an emotional reflex reaction to his recent experiences than any kind of practical or even logical decision. He's hurting physically and emotionally following a car accident and the end of his long-time relationship with 'Ford' the man he loved and the man who nearly cost Healey his life.

'All Wheel Drive' was for want of a better word at times a bit convoluted. Especially the part that dealt with Healey and the circumstances surrounding his relationship with Ford and why he returned to Bluewater Bay and while I'm not often a fan of stories that twist and turn the way Healey's does, in this instance I don't honestly think that there was a direct path to take with his story. His relationship with Ford was complicated to say the least because of Ford's circumstances and his family. The dynamics between Healey and Ford were...well let's just say 'it was complicated' and truthfully from the information we were given it never really seemed that they were meant to be, but we don't always get to pick who we love and when that love ends sometimes it takes a while for the heart to understand what the head already knows and this seemed to be part of what Healey had to deal with in letting go of his relationship with Ford.

As well Healey and Diego definitely had issues when it came to communication but given how emotionally fragile both men were...especially Healey. I'm not sure I would have believed anything different. I certainly would have found it a bit of a fairytale if the author had given us an 'insta-love, all-my-problems-are-solved-now-that-you're-in-my-life' kind of story. Healey didn't even trust himself anymore much less trust someone else and Diego because of his accident believed that there were things in his life that were lost to him forever...especially the physical aspects of an intimate relationship and both men were trying to protect themselves from further heartache...so communication at best between these two was guarded and putting everything out there when neither of them had fully pieced themselves back together was a scary concept and often times done in a very roundabout fashion.

'All Wheel Drive' is by no means a typical romance story, it was complicated and as I said at the beginning it was often 'convoluted', but for me it was also the epitome of second chance stories and finding love when and where you least expect it. There was definitely some sexy times between these two, that on more than one occasion turned out to be funny and messy and so very fragile as both men tried to guard their heart and still be what the other man needed.

Just like real life 'All Wheel Drive' was complicated, messy, frustrating, funny, awkward, sexy, full of love and kindness and in the end worth the effort.

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An ARC of 'All Wheel Drive' was graciously provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Veronica says**

I received a free copy of this book to read and review for Wicked Reads.

My first impressions of Diego and Healey were not great. Diego seemed like a bit of an a-hole with a chip on his shoulder and Healey seemed really stubborn and pretty clueless for a guy that is supposed to be super

smart.

For a while I was wondering how these two were going to end up together because 1. the first few interactions they had were cringe worthy and 2. they both had heaps of baggage. But during one of their conversations Deigo points out that they are complete opposites and from that point on things started to improved for the characters and I really started to get into the story.

If, like me, you like lots of conversation in your books you'll like All Wheel Drive. Diego and Healey talk a lot - even during sex. And not really sexy talk either. With Diego's spinal cord injury sexy times require a bit of adjusting and consideration but the sexy times are still sexy.

I would have liked to have delved more deeply into Healey's relationship with Ford. Certain things are hinted at and was hoping to have more detail. Early in that was what I was expecting. I was waiting for a big scene or reveal to make me cry but it never panned out that way.

When this story wound up I felt that it could have kept going. This is couple I'd be happy to see more of in the future to see where their lives leads. So my verdict is 3.5 stars. I rarely give a half star rating but in this case I'm making an exception. I really enjoyed All Wheel Drive. It is worth reading.

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## CrabbyPatty says

What's that line about the two porcupines? How do two porcupines make love? Very .... carefully. Well, think of Healey and Diego, the two MCs in All Wheel Drive, as those porcupines. Issues? Yeah, they've got a few.... hundred.

Afer a horrendous car accident caused by his ex Ford, busted-up Healey returns to Bluewater Bay, and in sort of a daze, is drawn to his childhood home, which is now owned by Diego. Diego is in a wheelchair due to .... an accident which is never really explained. Healey's accident at first can't be explained (some sort of gag order from Ford's family) and later even when it's explained .... umm, it's still pretty incomprehensible.

Healey has checked himself out of the hospital against medical advice and gives Diego \$3,000 to rent the garage apartment, and then passes out in the apartment which has nothing in it but old boxes. If this sounds weird - I read the darn book and I *still* can't quite figure out what was going on at this point. Later, Healey and his twin brother Nash (his story is in Hell on Wheels) clean out the boxes in this apartment for Diego. The boxes contain .... umm a bunch of stuff from Diego's mother, who may (or may not) be a famous photographer.... or something. Again, we're not really sure. Diego's mother is dead because .... well again, we don't know ... and Diego is pulling together a book or a documentary or who knows, maybe a PowerPoint ..... again not clear at this point ... about her work and her life.

Diego and Healey seem to be wildly attracted to one another ....or maybe not. Healey has loads of guilt, Diego takes offense at just about everything, and they alternately spar, sorta dislike each other, spar, like each other, become boyfriends (or not) in a rapid succession of scenes. By the time I got to the scene where Healey was comparing his ex Ford to frosting - I think he wanted him to be purple? whereas Diego is yellow-frosting man? - I thought I was totally losing it.

Those that read this book and loved it, gawd bless 'em. While I generally adore Z.A. Maxfield, this book was crazy-making for me. 2 stars.

*I received an ARC from Riptide Publishing, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.*

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