



A Helping of Love

Andrew Grey

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If Peter Christopoulos has learned one thing from his last three years in a wheelchair, it's that people have a hard time seeing past the hardware. When he asks out Russ Baker after giving him a quote on equipment for a new Greek restaurant, he's disappointed but not surprised to be turned down.

Russ has been covering for his abusive boyfriend for so long it's almost automatic, but with a little help from his friends, he finds the courage to break it off. To his surprise, Peter is still interested, and soon they're falling hard and fast. But then their world is thrown into turmoil: Peter finds an old letter indicating he has a half sister he's never met, and Russ's past interferes when his ex makes it clear he'll do anything to get him back.

A Helping of Love Details

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From Reader Review A Helping of Love for online ebook

Serena Yates says

Like with any good series, A Taste of Love is beginning to feel like home. As I return to each new volume, I enjoy seeing how the previous characters are doing almost as much as reading the story of the next fascinating couple Andrew Grey has come up with. Café Belgie, in this third book, is the setting for a dramatic and very touching love story. This time, both men are out, and the issues they battle with are no less dramatic than those of previous main characters.

Peter may have 'only' spent three years in a wheelchair, following an accident that took his ability to walk, but he has collected a lifetime's worth of pain, rejection, and stupid reactions from people who cannot deal with disability. On the other hand, he has also learned to master his life and become truly independent. Some things may take him longer to deal with, but he has a job, is good at it, and gets stuff done. The one thing he has found very difficult to deal with is most people's reactions to him, or rather, to his chair. This is the story of Peter learning to trust that Russ does, indeed, see him, not the fact that he wheels himself around rather than using his legs.

Russ is quietly dealing with his own issues. He only recently noticed how bad his relationship with Barry is, and it takes him a long time not only to recognize that he's been abused, but to deal with the resulting anger and lack of self-confidence. Barry is a classic abuser, and Russ's experience in learning to deal with his own reactions and how to get rid of the behavioral patterns of the last for hellish years were as realistic as they were heartbreaking.

I thought it was fascinating (for Russ and me) to see how Peter stood up to Barry without being physically able to do so. It helped Russ see that a large part of his problem, definitely the initial step, was mental. He then had to go on and deal with the physical side of it (the stalking, continued unwelcome attentions, etc.), but without the mental willingness and ability to resist he would have never gotten there. In turn, he helps Peter regain confidence in some of the fun stuff he used to do, 'converting' running into wheelchair racing. This give-and-take between the two men was absolutely wonderful to watch, and a joy to follow. If you like books about characters with real issues, if following their trials and triumphs is what interests you, and if you want all that wrapped in a gentle and tender love story, you will probably like this book as much as I did.

Andy says

I normally really enjoy Andrew Grey stories. This one I found very hard to like. I don't know... the characters were somewhat irritating and grated on my nerves and they didn't seem to suit each other either... Nope I could go on but simply put I just didn't like it. Not my cuppa tea at all. :(

Patty says

This is my favorite book in this series. Andrew Grey is one of my must read authors. I have never been disappointed by anything he has written.

Melanie~~ says

Really liked this story. It might have been nice to hear a little more resolution about Barry in the Epi, but I was still satisfied.

Now, I suppose I should get and read the first two of the series. ;-)

Sushi (??) says

Andrew Grey ☆☆☆☆☆

Traduzione/Translation: ☆

Come sempre Andrew Grey è un grande e io amo i suoi libri. Una persona che sempre supporterò non importa con quale nome scrive. Ma appena finisco questa serie, mi manca un libro, tornerò a supportarlo in inglese. Ho iniziato con i suoi libri in inglese ed è ora di tornare a quello. Ho altre serie non di Andrew Grey iniziate in italiano e per fortuna non tradotte da Laura di Berardino. Ovviamente spero che la Berardino non traduca più niente di Andrew Grey e ne si azzardi a mettere le mani su Dirk Greyson. Già avevo dei dubbi sulle sue capacità negli altri libri ma con questo siamo arrivati al culmine, al top. Lettere mancanti come in gyros dove manca la S. Una volta può capitare ma tre o quattro è voluto. Conosco i gyros e sapevo che si scrive con una s finale ma non sapendo il greco ho cercato per scaramanzia e indovinate la parola gyro, senza s, non esiste. Poi non so sei dislessica o cosa? Parole invertite nelle frasi. Non una ma più volte. Mancanza di spazi tra le parole. A volte ho pure dei dubbi sulle frasi. Lettere in più e lettere in meno. Sta tizia ho riempito il libro di errori su errori. Naturalmente se avesse riletto la sua traduzione forse se ne sarebbe accorta. Ovviamente non l'ha fatto è piuttosto ovvio. No, perchè se devo pagare €6,80 per questa traduzione allora è meglio spendere \$6,99 che sono pure meno.

Commento finale. Spero tu non metta più mano a un libro di Andrew Grey perchè facendo così rovini i libri di chi amo e la cosa non mi piace. Datti all'ippica invece che alle traduzioni.

Susan says

This was a sweet story that dealt with some very serious issues. At the beginning of the book, Russ is in an abusive relationship and at times it was heartbreaking watching him come to terms with what had happened to him. Peter has been single since he lost the use of his legs in a car accident and the attraction between the two men is pretty instant, although there is a slow build to the physical side to his relationship. Russ and Peter made a good couple. They are both strong men who have had to overcome serious problems in their pasts. As always, it was good to catch glimpses of Darryl and Billy and the twins.

Laura says

How can you not love this book?

It's filled with everything you could possibly want; hot sex, drama, angst, friendship, family and above all else hope & love. Something that, in my opinion, all Andrew's books contain.

Another outstanding, enjoyable book.

Meggie says

Wonderful story, which is worth to be re-read or re-listened every year, the same I done! Great work by Andrew Grey.

2016/July/8 - 4 star rating

What a beautiful story. I'm always happy while listening to Peter and Russ romance in audiobook edition. Great work by Andrew Grey!

2014/February/27 - 4 star rating

I listened to an audio formatted version of this story and it was okay, I guess. I liked it better when I read it on my own.

2012/03/18

The story was really well written. I liked the storyline and all the created characters. The emotions between Peter and Russ were real and warm. I liked them as a couple.

Aine Massie says

Once again, Andrew Grey has brought us a story of love, compassion, and triumph. For any that know me, you all know that I just adore Andrew's books (Range, Bottled Up, Of Love especially), so it shouldn't surprise you that I have been eagerly awaiting the release of A Helping of Love.

A Helping of Love is the third book in the Of Love series by Andrew Grey. I was immediately drawn into the lives of Peter and Russ. As always, Andrew's writing held my attention (considering I finished it in one evening, just don't ask how late I stayed up) living up to both the passion and conflict I expect from his works.

Continuing to centre around the lives and loves of Cafe Belgie, we find that plans for a new restaurant are underway. Russ will be head chef and manager for Acropolis, a Greek restaurant. Peter is the supplier that comes in to help set everything up and sparks fly. Unfortunately, Russ is in an abusive relationship and Peter, having been hit by a drunk driver three years ago, is wheelchair bound and assumes Russ only sees the chair, not him. Don't be too down on Peter though, he's, mostly, gotten used to not being seen so it's no surprising that he assumes it this time.

Thankfully, Russ, with the help of his friends at the restaurant, gets wise and breaks free of the 'ex'. That's really the main focus of A Helping of Love . . . Each man has to learn to see himself as worthy of love and be strong enough to reach for what he wants.

The passion and sex are HOT and the sensuality and love are something to aspire to. As always, if you love a great M/M read, A Helping of Love is a MUST read! No one brings romance, triumph, and sensuality together quite like Mr. Grey.

Dawn says

Some spoilers (I think)

Andrew Grey's latest Taste of Love story hit me personally. I was in an abusive relationship and what Russ went through, I did as well. For me, Russ was the most relatable character I have ever read about lately and one that touched me deeply. I have been in Russ's shoes and know first hand how hard it is to leave the life you know, the relationship that has been your bedrock for so long. But the strength a person has inside them comes when you least expect it and when you desperately need it. The raw emotions a victim goes through can be overwhelming but luckily for Russ, he had a great support network of friends to help him when he was down or second guessing himself and the romance that flourished between Peter and Russ, first starts out as friendship and that is the best foundation a relationship can have, in my opinion. The characters are well defined, each beautifully written and fleshed out that if I met them out on the streets now I would feel they were like family.

A Helping of Love also shares a few plot twists that had me going "Oh my" in spots that left me turning the page quickly to see what happened next. This is an author who lets his characters shine in whatever story they are in. You will laugh, cry, smile and sigh as you run the gauntlet of emotions as Russ finds his feet again and decides to be the man he is destined to be as Peter watches on, cheering him all the way.

A Helping of Love is more than a guy meets guy, falls in love and lives happily ever after. It's about overcoming the odds, triumphing and finding the person you are meant to be, regardless of the obstacles life tosses at you. Mr. Grey does all that and more in his latest release and it's one I plan to get in paperback for my keeper shelf.

Way to go, Mr. Grey, in creating a story that shows the strength of the human spirit and how it can overcome adversity. I am eager to see if this author has another Taste of Love story coming soon.

Abril Camino says

Reseña en mi BookTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysUsI...>

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

This review posted on Guilty Pleasures

I feel I should start this review off with full disclosure, I have never read an Andrew Grey book I didn't like. A Helping of Love is no exception to this rule. It is the third book in the ...of Love series which is set in the restaurant world. You should know that you don't need to have read the other books to enjoy this story, but if

you have you will catch a glimpse of all the other characters.

A Helping of Love is the story of Peter, a restaurant equipment salesman who has been wheelchair bound for the past three years and Russ, a chef who is opening a new Greek restaurant. An ironic thing about this pairing is that Peter is Greek and Russ is not, which leads to some “schooling” for Russ by Peter’s father. I would have loved to see more cooking scenes between Russ and Costa, but that’s just me :)

When Peter meets Russ he is instantly attracted to the chef, but Russ declines his dinner invitation because he is already dating someone. Russ feels pulled toward Peter, but his abusive/possessive boyfriend is a huge obstacle. Because of business, Peter and Russ continue to see one another and develop a friendship, so when Russ escapes the clutches of the evil boyfriend, Peter (along with a few other friends) is there for moral support.

The relationship between Peter and Russ feels real even though it moves fast and they both have a lot of baggage. There are a few twists and turns, but as with other Andrew Grey books, the story really is about the characters and how they relate with one another and those around them who are their family of choice. I don’t want to give too much away, but suffice it to say that this story is a keeper and will leave you satisfied but wanting more.

Gennie Gee says

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Candice says

3.5 Stars

First off, I was a little confused about which Peter was which. In the 2nd book, there was server named Peter (I thought this story was about him!) and then there was a mention that Robert's colleague Jon's son was named Peter (which I thought might be the server). BUT, in this story this Peter was neither. Too many Peter's ;)

Okay now on to the story. I did like it, but I wanted more. Of what? I am not sure. Maybe of Peter and Russ getting to know each other without Barry always being brought up?

I did like how Russ didn't jump into bed with Peter. He was trying to work out his feelings, so it was nice to see. I did think that Peter was a little drama queen concerning the note he found, but that's just me. Not everything is about you, Peter! Oh and not everything is about you being a chair, Peter!

There were a few things though that left me wondering: (view spoiler)

My little rant over the 2nd book was kind of summed up in a couple of sentences and I am STILL pissed off about it. (view spoiler)

Overall, it was good and I liked how the chair came into situations, like trying to get through tables at a restaurant or getting the chair into the car.

Karen says

3.5 to 4 stars

This is the first Andrew Grey writing that I've read, and I chose it specifically because of the disability plotline. This novel has interesting settings and very well-drawn, memorable characters.

I do have a few quibbles. I wish the writing in general had been tightened a bit and that a few spots had been edited for clarity. There were more sex scenes than the plot warranted--but I know that some readers will vehemently disagree. (Personally, I like sex scenes to either further the plot or the characterization in a big way.) A larger issue was a plot element that felt a little far-fetched and perhaps could have been omitted.

But aside from those issues, the author dealt exceedingly well with one main character's disability and the other's abuse. These are topics which can be dealt with in too facile a manner in many romances, but that wasn't the case here. The author took the time and patience to make both the reality of the disability and the recovery from abuse believable. It was great to see the two men grow and heal, and especially to see Peter--the character in the wheelchair who was tired of being invisible to others--find love.
