



Power Bottom?

Rowan McAllister

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Can a pickup line from a stranger completely change the way an ordinary man sees himself?

Adrian wouldn't have thought so, but after an ugly breakup where his self-esteem took a serious beating, he's willing to try just about anything to repair the damage... even return to a secluded bar in rural Maryland and the intriguing stranger whose words have been on his mind since they met.

Biker, bouncer, bartender, and tattoo artist, Wyatt is a rolling stone. After fifteen years, he is tired of a life on the run, but he isn't sure he knows how to do anything else or if he has anything besides a physical relationship to offer.

What's supposed to be a one-off turns into another and another, and the relationship looks promising until the mob and the FBI come knocking on Adrian's door.

Power Bottom? Details

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Author : Rowan McAllister

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From Reader Review Power Bottom? for online ebook

Annery says

This was a sweet surprise. In a very good way.

Going by the title and the cover, which apparently is how I choose books, you'd expect some smexy times with a guy recently discovering his love of bottoming and that he has skillz in said area too and Rowan McAllister, new to me author, delivers in spades but she goes the extra mile and throws in some welcome twists and turns to boot. Before I go any further I'll say I did most of this as an audio courtesy of the brilliant Nick J. Russo and he can officially take all my money. Always.

Adrian is sweet and ordinary guy who after being dumped on by life one too many times screws up his courage to try and get back a bit of his own. And does he ever! He meets Wyatt, a wet dream in the form of a mysterious, sex god, biker dude who is smitten by Adrian.

I won't spoil the fun for others by telling much more but I'll say HURRAY FOR ACCOUNTANTS and a big shout out to Beverley, a friend everyone should have.

It wasn't a five star for me because Wyatt is a tad dramatic, but I guess I can't blame him.

Line says

It's not that this was a bad book, it just never held my attention. It could be that it had been a long week, so for people interested in this book I will say; read it, 'cause it was fun!

So Adrian is an accountant and a proper fellow. After a picnic in the mountains with his then-BF, he stumbles into a gay-friendly biker bar to borrow a phone. Here he 'meets' Wyatt, who comments on his capabilities as a possible 'Power Bottom'.

This makes Adrian think/consider his life, and after his relationship with Martin IMPLodes (seriously Martin, should not be allowed in polite society) Adrian decides he needs to find out if the things Wyatt made him feel (in the short encounter) could possibly be real.

He trots off to the mountains, and luckily Wyatt is there.

Wyatt is a man on the run; what he is running from is not made clear from the beginning. But he is from the area where the bar is, he has his pseudo-dad, who wants him to stop running, and step up, and he has some interesting surprises.

The first time these two hook-up I was cringing like all get-out, and I felt so bad for Adrian, but I was laughing my ass off at the same time.

This dude wants so bad to be sexy and interesting, but ends up being all over the place (the worst part is, that Adrian already IS sexy and interesting, he doesn't need to change anything -IMO) Wyatt is just cool as a cucumber! These two start a tentative weekly hook-up at a motel, and Wyatt keeps pushing his leaving (aka. running)-date and Adrian keeps making their hook-up more and more elaborate (the trip to the grocery-store that ended up in candles and napkins... LOL).

Of course the smooching cannot continue undisturbed. Wyatt is worried his past has caught up with him, and Adrian is worried that something is going on at his work.

And dammit; why could Wyatt not give a proper apology for standing Adrian up? That pissed me off.

The rest of the book is this mish-mash of 'evil' characters, the mafia, smexy times and hardcore ex-military dudes with awesome dogs.

I can't really put my finger on the issues I had with this book, but it could be that the book didn't know what it wanted to be, and when we get to the 'mystery' part of the book, we were past the 50% mark (the beginning of the mystery WAS spread out through the book, but the meaty part didn't show up until then), so it seemed quite... 'rushed'.

I was entertained, yes, I liked Adrian, yes, but the rest was *so-so*.

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

3.5 Stars

Please note - I feel the title of this book is a bit misleading. I almost didn't mark it "to be read" solely because of it. If you think you're gonna get some kind of bdsm, kinky story, you're gonna be disappointed. And the MC as some empowered bottom? That isn't or doesn't happen either. What you will get instead, is an underdog kind of guy finding his worth with the helpful hand that only love can provide. I know, total schmaltzy sentiment right there, but it is what it is.

Poor Adrian has recently been given some horribly harsh "truths" by an ungrateful boyfriend. They break up and in order to rectify some semblance of pride, he finds himself back at a bar where a gorgeous hot biker had surprisingly hit on him. What ensues is some really nicely done smex as Adrian gets his groove back. Well... as much as an adorkable accountant with lots of self esteem issues can in a few short weeks.

Wyatt has a secretive past and is mostly always on the run. Of course, this prevents him from settling down anywhere for long. However, he can't resist what Adrian's offering, and instead of leaving it as a one night stand, Wyatt becomes addicted to the tenderhearted, caring guy who lets his inhibitions go. Mmmm hmmm.

The first half of this book was the evolution of Adrian and Wyatt's relationship which I enjoyed immensely, and then it changes tone and direction where the romance takes a back seat a bit. It seems Wyatt's past possibly catches up to him, while at the same time, Adrian finds himself possibly embroiled in illegal actions at his job. A perfect storm commences and things go haywire and life suddenly gets convoluted and scary. I admit I'm still a little vague on the details, but things are magically resolved, and love prevails with a well deserved happy ending.

So... expect wholly likeable characters. Adrian was easily relatable, simply wanting someone to equally care for him back. Wyatt was one confident, sexy beast who was kind and genuine. This was a sweet and smexy contemporary romance with a little cat and mouse suspense, made all the better by the excellent narration by Nick J. Russo. Overall, simply a satisfying read/listen!

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

Karen says

Take one adorable geek accountant add in one douchebag boyfriend...

and you get one crappy relationship...but on the upside...it didn't last long.

Adrian's a nice guy. He's got a good job, he's responsible, dependable, faithful and he just wants a relationship with someone he can love and spend time with and who maybe feels the same about him...sadly...he got Martin.

Martin is a jerk, he's a user and a player. He's every decent person's nightmare. Ok, in case you're wondering. I didn't like Martin...not even a little bit. Seriously in what world do you tell someone they're a good boyfriend but they're boring, cheap and lousy in bed? Really, WTF! and then he has the nerve to act like he was doing Adrian a favor because he hadn't cheated on him yet? Apparently bj's don't count as cheating...in Martin's world. Thankfully Adrian kicked his sorry backside to the curb and that was basically the end of Martin. Now we get to move on to the good part...

Adrian and Wyatt. Wyatt's hot, seriously magazine cover hot and if he had a boyfriend like Adrian there's no way he'd let them walk into a leather bar by themselves...how do we know this well, Wyatt told Adrian that when he went into said leather bar to use the phone to call for a tow truck when his car broke down. Of course Wyatt told Adrian this right after he tried to pick Adrian up at said leather bar and Adrian politely turned him down because 'he has a boyfriend.' Please, Adrian that wasn't a boyfriend that was an Albatross and thank heavens you got rid of him. Now off you go back to that bar in search of Wyatt...that's a good boy.

And that is how things started between Adrian and Wyatt. One simple comment between strangers and a few weeks later those strangers are meeting in a hotel room and yes there's sex...hot, steamy, sex but there's also talking and getting to know one another...until there isn't. Wyatt has things in his past that he's not willing to share and unfortunately he begins to think that his past is still chasing him and he needs to move on to keep the people he cares about from getting hurt. Sadly Adrian's life is starting to go sideways as well and pretty soon no one really knows who's after who, but Wyatt starts to realize that he's not ready to walk away from the first person he's found in years that he wants to be with, who seems to care about him as much as he cares about them.

Wyatt and Adrian's relationship plays out against a background of mystery and mobsters, FBI agents and embezzlement and a lot of general confusion about who's really after who.

I loved Wyatt and Adrian together. Wyatt was kind and good hearted. Everything that Adrian deserved and Adrian well he was the same. He was everything that Wyatt deserved and if the local FBI could just get their act together these two men might live long enough to do the same as soon as they face up to the fact that what started out as a weekend fling is turning into feelings that lasted all week long.

While I enjoyed this story from start to finish especially the romance and I'm normally a fan of good strong mysteries. However, in this case I was totally good with the mystery part of this story really just being a back drop to Wyatt and Adrian's romance. What I really, really loved was the ending. It was all that and a bag of potato chips...so there take that Martin.

Nick J. Russo was the narrator for this audio book and I'm not sure what more I can say about him but as always he delivered. I love listening to audio books narrated by Mr. Russo and honestly I don't even bother listening to the sample I know I'm going to enjoy it if he's the narrator. Now I just check and make sure that I'm going to like the author's story and in the case of 'Power Bottom' it was already on my TBR list, so this was a done deal in my world.

An audiobook of 'Power Bottom' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Nile Princess says

DNF @ 45%. This started off great. Wyatt and Adrian seemed like interesting characters, but everything just seemed so long and drawn out, even the sex scenes. I was so excited because Wyatt was this tattooed biker and Adrian was this geeky accountant, but Adrian's insecurities were a real downer and I couldn't really get a handle on Wyatt. By the time I hit 45% I was already skimming, and finally just admitted that I didn't care. I was already bored. Promising beginning, but started to drag early.

Juxian says

It's insanely lovely. There is nothing I didn't love about this book. Starting from the title, which made me do a little "ngh?" at first but soon made perfect sense and was very cute, with its question mark in the end :) It's sweet, hot, low on angst and at the same time touching and emotional. It's a modern fairy tale, not an exaggerated one, but one you can and want to believe in.

Okay, I'm really fond of stories where a character is living routine, not happy but, like a horse in blinders, not knowing there could be a different life. And then something happens, or he does something, something unusual - and he blossoms, and his life changes... once he's brave enough to make the first step. And it was very easy to like Adrian. (view spoiler)

Serena Yates says

“Not everything is what it seems” and “what you want is not always what you need” could be the two mottos of this novel. It is an adventure and a mystery as much as a character study and a journey of two men who end up in very different places from where they expected. It is deceptively slow to start, but that time is used to set the scene for what follows – and that was well worth the wait.

Adrian is a pretty ordinary guy, but the events that follow his first visit in the improbable gay bar in the middle of the Maryland mountains are so far from “normal” it is scary. Adrian goes from what he thought was a great relationship to a nasty breakup when his lover cheats on him. His self-confidence is so shaken that it takes him quite a while to recover. And when he does, thanks to Wyatt’s help, he begins to notice that Wyatt is very weird in his own way. The evidence keeps piling up and by the time both the mob and the FBI want to talk to Adrian, he is up-to-his-neck in trouble.

Wyatt is a mystery for most of the book, and that works well for keeping up the suspense. It was evident to me that he was running from something, but the author only very slowly revealed what that might be. It means I can't say more without mentioning a spoiler or two, so I will leave it at the comment that I think it was masterfully done.

Both Adrian and Wyatt fascinated me because they change a lot as the story unfolds. Adrian behaves in a certain way mostly because of what others expect of him (or what he thinks they expect), and he has to learn to see himself as he really is and that admitting what he wants and needs is by no means a weakness. Wyatt is running from himself – he is not ready to deal with who he knows he could be, until he learns to deal with his past and face the facts.

If you like stories that start very slowly and lull you into believing it's safe to relax before turning into thriller territory, if you want to see two men who are both trying to define who they are and what they want figuring things out together, and if you're looking for a read that is as mysterious and full of secrets as it is suspenseful and hot, then you will probably like this novel.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Heather the Queen of (Smut)Books says

Liked this one. The mystery was lame but I really liked Wyatt and Adrian together. I love when the geek gets his guy. Adrian truly deserved his HEA after his nipplesdick ex. Good riddance to that fucker.

Viv says

I liked this one, but I couldn't help but feel like the mystery and action towards the end was not necessarily needed. I would have been happier just having this book focused on the development of Wyatt and Adrian's relationship. Their instant connection and attraction was well done and I enjoyed their one on one time a lot. I did not enjoy the OTT mob and bad guys storyline that much.

Tara♥ says

I really enjoyed this, which surprised me a bit because that title. Really?

But ignore the title and you'll get a sweet, kind of silly, kind of funny and kind of actiony story about 2 adorable MC's and dual POV!!

I love dual POV!!

I really liked Adrian, I could relate to him a lot at the start but unfortunately his constant questioning of himself started to annoy me near the end. I get that he took a blow at the start (his ex is basically a total douchecanoe) but Wyatt could not have been clearer about how attractive he found him and to be honest I'd get well fed up with having to reassure someone ALL THE TIME especially after fabulous nookie. But Wyatt is pretty damn awesome so he doesn't seem to mind much.

I liked the little mystery and action element that was thrown in here as well. Just made it a bit more fun for me and even though it was utterly ridiculous it kept me totally entertained. I would've liked a bit more closure on some things but overall it was good.

For me this was just perfect escapism, which I need right now, fun and well written with a few steamy moments and a bit of action. What more can you ask for?

BR with Marte and Susan!!

Thanks ladies. Much fun was had and I learned that pancakes for breakfast is not a 'thing' everywhere. Learning all the time! :D

Susan says

BR with Tara and Marte

What really stood out in this book was Adrian. He was awkward, clumsy, and just adorable all around. His inner dialogue was hilarious.

Adrian and his boyfriend are stranded out in the middle of nowhere. They walk to a bar to try to call a tow truck since they have no cellphone reception. Of course Adrian is a bit hesitant to enter the bar.

But at least his outfit was better than the orange skinny jeans, white boat shoes, and tight orange-and-pink-plaid short-sleeve button-down Martin had on under his white nylon jacket. In this neck of the woods, Martin might as well have a flashing neon sign above his head—"Homosexual here! For beatings, line up to the left!"

It turns out he has nothing to worry about because it is a leather bar with all kinds of hot gay men. He even gets hit on. Him, the invisible one.

They are finally able to make it home, but it's not long before Adrian and Martin get into a fight. Martin is pulling no punches. Besides telling Adrian he is boring as hell, he also tells him he sucks in bed.

"You can't tell me you're that oblivious. If you want to lie to yourself, that's fine, but don't lie to me. You know the sex sucks."

Since Adrian has nothing to lose after Martin moved out, he goes back to the leather bar to find the gorgeous tattooed man who hit on him a few days back.

When he arrives there he is thrilled to see the man is indeed there. Wyatt has no trouble at all whisking Adrian out of there for a night of hot man on man sex, so they end up in a motel.

Of course Adrian is still Adrian.

Adrian tripped on his own feet, knocking his knee into the inside of Wyatt's, and then Wyatt bonking his head on the door when he lost his balance and fell against it.

But they end up having hot smoking sex in bed after all, and Wyatt tells Adrian that Martin was definitely wrong, he is not a lousy lay.

Adrian really doesn't want to say goodbye the next morning, so they agree to see each other again in that same motel two weeks from then.

A hot and heavy relationship ensues where they meet every week at the motel. It would have been perfect if not for Wyatt saying he can't do a real relationship at the moment.

Wyatt and Adrian grow closer even though they're supposed to have an agreement, but everything falls apart when Wyatt tells Adrian he can't see him anymore because of Adrian's safety...

I really liked the first 30%, Adrian was awkward, adorable and funny. But somewhere along the way the atmosphere changed. Adrian became a little less funny, and the relationship could have used some more emotional development.

Still, I really liked it and would recommend this if you like a low-angst first half, and an action-packed second half (no real relationship angst to speak of overall).

Jaime says

Warning: This review is NSFW and May be Offensive - Be warned

This story starts out with two men, Adrian and his boyfriend, broken down stranded in the mountains near a roadside bar that doesn't look too friendly. Adrian figures he is about to enter biker heaven and may never be seen again. Little do they know they are by Deer Park – a gay bar deep in the mountains of Maryland? It couldn't be, could it? It is. After Adrian goes inside to use the phone he finds himself being hit on by a drop dead gorgeous man and thinks it must just be a fluke because men like that were not interested in plain men like Adrian. Either way Adrian has a boyfriend – so he leaves with a little pep in his step.

Not too long after, Adrian comes home to his boyfriend and wouldn't you now the lying creep is getting busy on Adrian's couch! So, Adrian who thought him and his boyfriend were a good, solid couple – after all he helped him pay off his bills, helped him save money and let him live with him rent free while he pursued his dreams, Adrian was doing all he could to help the man he loved. When he asks him the dreaded question of, Why? He is told simply – “you are boring. You lack passion and creativity – you are the type of boyfriend one has until they find the one they will spend their life with.”

Can I just say I wanted to jump into the book and kick the ever loving hell out of this man - whom I won't even name, he doesn't deserve to be named. The only good thing that happened out of this entire relationship between Adrian and he who shall not be named is the break up. That break up forced Adrian to make some changes – and guess where he went? That's right – back to Deer Park to see his Hottie!

Wyatt, he is a huge mystery much of the book. He is guarded. We know he is hiding a lot but we don't know why and the glimpses the author does show us are severely limited. I almost had to skip ahead, I know, I know – but it was driving me nuts trying to figure out what his deal was – and then it was revealed! So don't give up, Wyatt's secrets are slowly – almost too slowly – revealed to you.

So I liked this story – it wasn't one that I felt the need to tell everyone about but it was a good solid read. I think my main issue with this story was the plot went all over the place – like I wasn't sure if I was reading a romance, a thriller, a mafia book, a BDSM book, or what – there are secret places, people hiding, it's really crazy at times and I almost felt like the author didn't know which plot he wanted to stick with. When there are books that have so many plot twists it's really easy to leave something flapping in the wind or to lose a reader and like I said I almost gave up and skipped ahead because I wanted to know and the mystery wasn't cutting it for me.

The sex – it's hot. It's really hot. If that is all you look for in a book is some hot as hell sex – well this book will have you taken care of, because yes Adrian definitely finds out after years of being gay that he is a Power Bottom. So overall, I recommend this book as a solid story that you need to have patience with – the story does get there – and I think the author could definitely continue on with these characters because the ending was abrupt.

3.5 stars ~ 4 Stars

Review Copy of Power Bottom? provided by Dreamspinner Press for an honest Review.

BWT (Belen) says

Nick J. Russo does not disappoint!

Power Bottom? has enjoyable narration with great character voices and spot-on pacing. I have yet to find an audiobook narrated by Russo that wasn't a treat to listen to.

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

*** ** ** ** **

Told from both Adrian and Wyatt's POV the story centers around their relationship, Adrian's job and life issues, and the mystery surrounding Wyatt.

I enjoyed it.

I thought the pacing was great. The story opens with Adrien trying to bring a spark back to his relationship and pretty much failing. Adrian's feelings are realistic...there's a moment when Adrian's boyfriend is drunk and brutally honest and...*damn*, but it was emotionally merciless.

What follows is Adrian going outside his comfort zone in order to prove, if even to himself, that what the ex said was, well, maybe not *wrong*, but that he could be *different*.

Adrian gets together with Wyatt and it's wonderful, but Wyatt is only able to commit to one weekend every couple of weeks for hot sex. Adrian agrees and they quickly come together (pun not intended) many times. But Wyatt's past is always lurking and, after fifteen years of being on the run, he's not prepared for the feelings he has for Adrian or what he needs to do about it.

But when Adrian needs him, Wyatt steps up to the plate, and knocks a home run. They were sweet together and I was very happy with their HEA.

The story may require a little insta-love suspension of reality, but it is an entertaining romance with some mystery, a little light angst, lots of hot pound-you-into-the-mattress sex, and a sweet HEA.

Advanced Review Galley copy and Audio copy of Power Bottom? were provided by Dreamspinner Press in exchange of an honest review.

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

Theresa says

2.5 stars The story was a hodgepodge and all over the place. It could be titled "The Adventures of Boring Accountant Adrian". Poor guy was so insecure and clueless that he was unlikeable. His new boyfriend Wyatt

wasn't as fully developed. It felt as though he was just a vehicle for Adrian to rework his self identity.

Ami says

I quite like Rowan McAllister's books – but this one was not my favorite of hers. The initial set-up was good. Adrian's break-up was harsh. The words that Martin said to Adrian made my jaw drop. Boy ... that was brutal! In a sense, we share same traits, Adrian and I. I am introvert as well. I prefer the comfort of my room and read rather than going out. I can totally spend 24 hours inside my house on weekends, doing nothing but reading, watching TV, or browsing the Internet. So I feel him!!

I wanted to see Adrian happy – I was intrigued by what this biker/tattooed guy could offer and how he could make Adrian happy. Unfortunately, what happened next was not what I could enjoy. I am never a fan of 'educate the other person about the joy of sex' trope. With Adrian and Wyatt making an arrangement of one-offs on weekends, they seemed to be focusing on sex, on making Adrian felt better with sexual intercourse, teaching him what he could get... rather than getting to know one another.

Well, it was BORING for me. Probably it has to do with my asexuality, but I am rarely charmed with sex alone when I don't feel like I get enough story, romance or characterization. I got to the point where I skimmed those scenes because I truly didn't care about it.

Also, because there was lack of Wyatt's POV in this book, I was rather baffled with what Wyatt saw in Adrian. Sure, sure, he explained that Adrian was sexy, so he was drawn to him. But I guess I wanted more than that, especially since Adrian didn't seem the type of guy that people easily got attached to because of his personality.

In addition to that, the whole running-away situation that Wyatt had been going through for the past 15 years didn't seem to fully materialize on page. Fifteen years is quite a long time, so I kept thinking whether it was truly that dangerous or was it just exaggeration on Wyatt's part; a reason for him to never fully commit to anything.

There was another 'mystery' that happened with Adrian's work-place. That seemed to be more solid than Wyatt's. I kind of liked that part, even if I was also asking myself whether Adrian and his friend, Bev, were that naïve about everything. I would be very SUSPICIOUS if my boss started asking me what their boss was doing to them.

So some parts were enjoyable, some parts were not. I have definitely read better from McAllister, that's for sure.

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.
