



The Wrong Man

Lane Hayes

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Successful owner of an upscale boutique in fabulous West Hollywood, Brandon Good swears by his personal edict to “live in the present.” After a bad breakup, he agrees to dog-sit to keep his mind off his ex. Never did he expect the dog to belong to a man from his past, the only man to ever truly break his heart.

When Jake Westley relocates to join the WeHo fire department, the last thing he anticipates is reuniting with his secret high school love. Thrilled with the prospect of reconnecting with Bran, Jake feels no guilt in using his charming old dog as an unwitting matchmaker. As he and Bran rekindle their friendship, it becomes clear the intense attraction they once felt is stronger than ever. But as hard as they try to leave the past behind, painful memories resurface. Bran will have to confront his fears and consider the possibility that the man he swore was absolutely the wrong one might be perfect after all.

The Wrong Man Details

Date : Published February 6th 2015 by Dreamspinner Press

ISBN : 9781632167828

Author : Lane Hayes

Format : ebook 220 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance

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From Reader Review The Wrong Man for online ebook

Meags says

3 Stars

All my enjoyment of this story lies solely with Mack, the beautiful old Lab! He won my heart the moment he arrived on page, and was pretty much the only thing keeping me glued to the story all the way through. I'm a dog lover (obviously) and I want to give props to the author for portraying the relationship and love between dog and owner so perfectly. I found the bonds built between Mack and Brandon to be even more entertaining and moving than the growing relationship between Brandon and Jake. Like with book one, I just didn't connect to the (human) characters here - although Bran and Jake were definitely a step up from Luke and what's-his-face.

I had a few qualms with the dialogue - I hated the way Brandon continually "zoned out" when people were talking to him and I most certainly had a problem with the way all the characters (particularly Brandon and Jake) kept cutting each other off when they were speaking. It drove me bonkers to say the least!! So freaking rude!

There is just something missing for me in this series that I can't quite put my finger on. Luckily, Mack was enough to sate my reading needs this time around!

BR with R! :)

Tina says

I already liked Brandon in the first book but loved him in the second. But my top favorite character is Jake's 13 years old Labrador Mack. What a dog! He acted as the perfect matchmaker.

The Wrong Man was an enjoyable, funny read without too much angst. The romance is beautifully told and Brandon and Jake are adorable. But Mack... Mack stole my heart. Loved the dog to bits!

Ann says

4.5 Stars

Audiobook Review

The author created an amazingly fabulous character in Brandon Good and the narrator brought him to life. The Wrong Man is the second in the Right and Wrong series but can be read/listened to as a standalone. I haven't read/listened to The Right Words yet (Luke and Michael's story) but I immediately went and added

the audiobook to my wish list when I finished *The Wrong Man*. I was so glad to see that it was the same narrator because Michael Ferraiuolo fits this series perfectly and I heard just enough of Luke and Michael to know I needed to hear more, especially of Michael, I mean, that accent, daaaayyyyyuuuummmmm.

Overall the story isn't overwhelming on the angst-meter in that there was no manufactured drama, just overcoming of teenage broken hearts and a reconciliation of teenage feelings with adult reality. Brandon and the oh-so-very delicious firefighter Jake are reunited in a little meet-cute through Jake's dog Mack, who I LOVED. As the story progresses we get more insight into the past these two shared and it's so very bittersweet and realistically heartbreaking.

The build-up is paced well with Brandon's trepidation and trust issues when it comes to reconnecting with Jake. And, while I wanted to throttle him for his insecurities at times, he sounded real and I completely understood his reasoning and I have to chalk that up to the narrator. He balanced Brandon's fabulous persona that he shared with the world with his true feelings and very sweet heart. Jake was the perfect match in that he saw right through Bran's diva moments, called him on them and then pushed him (very gently) out of his comfort zone and into Jake's life again.

There were a parade of ex-boyfriends along the way on both sides that provided the drama and difference between the teen years and their grown up selves. Those guys needed to be there to create some outside conflict and emphasize the difference of who they were to who they had become.

When the full story is revealed about what happened to Jake after high school, the story really moved past the push and pull of their budding relationship and into the realm of true adult communication. Jake had been through enough, so he was already there, but Bran's teenage broken heart took a little longer, but it wasn't overly drawn out and Bran was stubborn but not unreasonable.

The epilogue was perfectly perfect and all pet lovers, dogs especially will absolutely love it. I appreciated the author didn't use Mack for anything over the top, but instead made him part of the family just as he should be.

a copy of this audiobook was provided for an honest review

Ami says

The Wrong Man is the second book in Lane Hayes's newest series, *Right and Wrong*. Honestly, I haven't read the first book but I found no problems getting into it. This is a very solid second chance slow-burn type of story with a help from a beloved Labrador dog. When Brandon Good accepted his employee's request to babysit her neighbor's dog, he never thought that he would be meeting with his (sort of) ex high-school boyfriend again, Jake Westley.

I thought Hayes was able to paint Brandon's fear in a realistic and engaging way. Brandon was pretty much betrayed by Jake twelve years ago when Jake, who was still in the closet at that time, backed out from their plan to go to prom together and blatantly showed PDA with another teenage girl in front of Brandon. I could feel his hurt, the way he kept people at arms' length. The way Brandon refused to acknowledge his feelings for Jake or admit that Jake was anything more than just 'friends with benefits'.

I can be a sucker for characters who build walls around their hearts because when the walls fall down, it can deliver emotionally satisfying scenes. And it did here – the part where Brandon finally came undone made my eyes a little watery; especially because it involved Mack.

And I need to tell you about Mack. OMG, Mack. He was a thirteen year old Labrador and he stole my heart completely. In fact, he is probably one of the most beloved secondary characters I ever encountered in MM romance. It was clear that Brandon's caring for Mack helped him to open his heart to love; to cherish every single day being with someone (or some dogs) even if there is a possibility of losing them one day. And that helped Brandon to try rekindling his relationship with Jake even with his trepidations.

There was nothing dramatic about how Brandon and Jake found their way back to love. I thought they had beautiful chemistry and everything flowed quite naturally, even if they had a few bumps here and there. Brandon and Jake were an opposites-attract type of couple and it worked well here.

I also loved how they didn't really have 'external' issues to deal with – I mean, sure there were both Brandon's and Jake's exes in the picture but it was clear from the beginning that both men were committed with each other, even if they had not defined their relationship as, well, a relationship. Neither Brandon nor Jake gave their exes excuses to think they had any chance with them.

I do wonder about the exes though ... in my experience with her Better Than series, Hayes sometimes matched two men whom I never thought would be together. Could she plan Derek (Jake's ex) and Trevor (Brandon's ex) to be involved somehow? That might be very intriguing ...

Anyway, this is definitely my favorite Lane Hayes's story so far. I will try to go back and see if I enjoy the first book as well.

PS: I do have a question in my head – since Brandon has been together for several months with Jake, and Jake pretty much lets Brandon take care of Mack, and sometimes spend the night, I find it a bit strange that Brandon never knows where Jake lives! Oh, and personal pet peeve alert, the hatred endearment '*baby* *blah*.

Nick Pageant says

Gigi wrote an amazing review that says it all much better than I can.

***J* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

4 Stars!

This was a really solid second chance love story....of "fabulous" Brandon and his once secret lover Jake! Reunited after 12 years.

There were times Brandon was a bit too high maintenance.

And I really wish the exes would have been a bit less present! While there was no cheating or anything like that they both just needed to go away!

I enjoyed the slow build of Jake and Brandon's relationship. After their fallout in high school, to becoming friends and eventually lovers.

There was just the right amount of steam and drama.

But ultimately....a sweet lab named Mack really stole the show in this book!

He saved one guy from the pains of his past and gave two people a second chance at love.

Mandapanda says

One of my favourites from this author. I love the opposites-attract style of pairing. The relationship was slow burn and the sex was great. This author is able to inject a feeling of credibility into her dialogue and stories that I really enjoy.

Ele says

[Bran almost got hit by a car and Jake was worried (hide spoiler)]

.Lili. says

This book-

I've enjoyed every Lane Hayes book I've read, but this is probably my favorite since Better Than Good. A favorite trope of mine is second chance story lines and she certainly delivered a good one.

What I loved:

*It was a great combination of sweet and sexy.

*Story flowed naturally. Not a dull moment.

*The characters- including Mack the dog.

*Character development, growth.

*The way she developed their relationship.

*The epilogue. I became so emotional and before I realized it, I was crying. Beautiful. Probably one of the best- if not the best I've ever read.

What I didn't love:

*It's written in first person POV. We only get Brandon's voice. I so badly wanted to be in Jake's head- hear his thoughts.

Overall, this was a home run for me. Exquisitely written. Cannot recommend this book and this author enough. 4.5 Stars rounded up to 5. Can't freaking wait for this author's next book!

Kade Boehme says

This book wins all the win! God I just LOVE Lane's writing style. I've never been disappointed by her and I think I like this one better than the first. And can I say how much I adore her for writing a POC? Just lovely.

~◊~Doxni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~◊~ says

4.5 stars

Here are all the stars for Mack, the sweet 13-year-old golden retriever who stole my heart.

And even more stars for the epilogue that made me sob happy tears!

Be prepared for angst. And tears. And angst.

But also for sweetness and a rekindling of a first-love, take-my-breath-away romance that's broken by one boy's desperate fear.

Love isn't a fairy tale. The real thing challenges you. It asks for your time, your faith, your understanding, and a fuckload of patience.

We only get Brandon's first-person POV in this book, and he's not an entirely reliable narrator. I desperately wanted to know what Jake was thinking!

Bran is self-conscious and so wrapped up in his insecurities, he misses what's right in front of him. Until he

breaks his own rules and finally SEES.

"Why do you think I'd risk life, limb, and another perfectly good pair of Italian loafers at the fucking beach?"

There is just the right amount of love and sex in this book. It isn't overtly dirty, but it's plenty hot, sensual, and tender.

The small moments, sharing coffee, braving the beach, falling asleep on your boyfriend's shoulder at a soccer game, are everything.

The parade of ex-boyfriends, particularly Jake's ex, the beautiful, self-assured Derek, really got on my nerves. But that's ME. Once a relationship is done, I want it under lock and key. I don't keep in touch with any of my exes, and I wanted Derek and Trevor, Bran's shallow actor ex, to take a long hike to nowhere.

I didn't read the first book, and this easily holds up as a standalone.

Hayes' writing is lovely and evocative; the epilogue took my breath away.

I love dogs in real life and in books, and I appreciate the way Hayes made Mack an honorary MC. Mack is joy and life, all the good in us we have to dig deep to see.

R * A Reader Obsessed * says

Basically a no fuss, no muss story about second chances. I give credit to Hayes for writing a low angst romance, with a well executed progression of reconnecting with the past and building on a foundation of friendship. However, I didn't readily connect with MC Brandon, and I would have really appreciated insight from Jake's point of view. To say that a dog pretty much stole the show, means something - what, I don't know. This didn't hit a lot of my favorite romance buttons, but overall it was easy breezy reading.

Macky says

4.5 Stars.

How could I not love this story when one of the main characters is called Macky...well it's Mack really, but there's definitely a 'Macky' moment happening. He's blonde, gorgeous, lovable, handsome, loyal, sweet, loving and gives great tongue...okay...the tongue is slobbery, he's got four legs, a tail, and he pees on trees but...Yay!...I'm sort of in a Lane Hayes book...I'm a dog ...but I'm in a Lane Hayes Book! Hahaha....

Oops, I'm digressing now, so back to how much I loved everything else about this story.

Just like Frank Sinatra had his 'Brat Pack', I've got my 'Mack Pack' of go to m/m romance writers who never fail to deliver what I think of as the perfect feel good m/m romance, and Lane Hayes is one of its members. Palpable chemistry, tummy tingling sexual tension, hot yummy sex, three dimensional characters you can't help loving; that's my shtick and Lane Hayes has never disappointed in ticking any of those boxes so I wasn't surprised at how much I enjoyed this. Having met and taken to Brandon's character in The Right Words, I was really looking forward to his story, and pairing him up with a hunky fireman and a cuddly golden lab certainly didn't hurt its chances of pulling me in.

Brandon is quite fabulous. He's outwardly gay; flamboyant, very well put together, loves his designer clothes and is a touch neurotic. He plays the 'Diva Queen' very well, but that's the show he tends to put on for acquaintances and it works well for him with his easily impressed, rich clientele, who shop at his designer store. But beneath the fussy, camp persona is a savvy, strong willed, business man who started life in an abusive family environment and suffered the pressures of being an openly gay teen at school. I really do love Brandon.

Jake is the gorgeous fireman who breezes back into Bran's life with his adorable, old pooch: Mack. The only problem is that Brandon's memories of his ex school boyfriend, in the days when Jake was the quintessential 'straight' Jock and he was the conspicuous gay teen, aren't happy ones at all. Their secret relationship ended badly and since then, he's had other relationships but has been able to fully give himself emotionally to any of them. Newly single after yet another good looking but shallow guy has let him down; even though he gets the tingles when his ex walks in the door of his shop, Brandon's walls go up the moment he sets eyes on the man who broke his heart. No way is he letting him back into his life...or that's what he thinks! Because who can resist the lure of a beautiful and strong but gentle natured man, with an extremely loveable, friendly dog that's as cute as a button? Especially when that man begins to sweetly pursue first a friendship, then a romance, using the canine cutie to reel Brandon in. A man who can still make his heart flutter. He gave me a few palpitations too...of the "be still my beating heart" kind!...

Link to rest of review: <http://bit.ly/1KBhr0d>

?SINFULLY...Addicted To All Male Romance

Formerly

Gigi says

The second story in Lane Hayes's Right and Wrong series tells the story of successful boutique owner and decorator MC Brandon Good. (*Yes, this can be read as a stand-alone. The first book The Right Words centers on Brandon's best friend Luke and his relationship with soccer player Michael, but The Wrong Man does a good job of explaining Luke and Michael so you won't be lost.*) Brandon reconnects with old, closeted high school boyfriend MC Jake Westly after 12 years. Jake has recently moved to the area and taken a position at the local fire station. (*Sorry fellow men-in-uniform fans, no firefighter scenes. Jake's job is in name only. We don't even get to go to the station.*) The catalyst that brings Brandon and Jake back together is Jake's geriatric yellow lab, Mack, who isn't in the best of health.

Brandon lives by the motto of always living in the here-and-now, never the past, and has never allowed an ex-boyfriend back into his life, even for platonic friendship. While sparks initially fly between the couple, Brandon resists, choosing his life motto to taking a second chance with Jake. Of course, that doesn't last and the boys start a hot 'n heavy physical relationship best described as "friends with benefits". Well, at least as far as Brandon is concerned, since the story is told strictly from his POV, so we never do get a glimpse into Jake's head. I made up my own mind as to what Jake was thinking, and given the ending, I was spot on.
dreamy sigh Loved him!

It isn't all smooth sailing for the boys and this is a nice, medium angst story. How the two of them fall in love and deal with life's hurdles was delightful and sweet and lovable Mack was a personal favorite. Interesting characters, heart, hot sex and an easy to follow story line made this a great read and I can **highly recommend** it to any and all M/M romance fans. I actually enjoyed it much more than the first story The Right Words.

By the way, I have to give a huge thanks to Lane Hayes for (view spoiler)

◆*Arianna◆* says

A second chance love story "*The Wrong Man*" is the second book in Lane Hayes's series "*Right and Wrong*" and tells the story of Brandon and Jake. I haven't read the first book in the series, but I didn't have any problems getting into it. So you can read this one (and every book in the series) as a standalone.

Brandon Good is the owner of a successful boutique in West Hollywood. His store makes him happy, but lately he's less than happy and content in his personal life. Since he broke up with his ex, he's been a little cranky. One day he agrees to dog-sit for one of his employee's neighbors. Never did he expect the man in cause to be his first love and his first heartbreak, Jake Westley. Brandon doesn't hate him anymore for hurting more than 10 years ago. While Brandon was out and proud when they were in high school, Jake was deep in the closet and didn't want to come out at that moment. In the process he lied and betrayed Brandon, hurting the first boy he cared about.

Jake has recently moved in WeHO taking a position at the local fire station. He never forgot Brandon or how much he hurt him. He regrets and he's willing to do anything the other man to really forgive him. As they rekindle their friendship, it seems Brandon starts to forget the past and their attraction they once felt is stronger than ever.

Is Brandon ready to confront his fears and to let go of the past and embrace the future with the man he

wants?

Even if this was not my fav book from this author, I enjoyed it. The story is sweet and sexy, but angst as well. I liked both Brandon and Jake. Brandon is really like he says – fabulous- and I just loved his personality. He's flamboyant and he loves his designer clothes. He's sweet and strong and a great boss and friend. Jake is sweet, funny, charming and attentive and for sure knows what he wants, or more exactly who he wants. Their character development is great and I liked how naturally their relationship progressed. I loved the way they are with each other and how great their connections is. Their chemistry and sexual tension are fantastic and the sex scenes were hot and intense at times.

I absolutely loved Mack who's Jack's 13 years old gold Labrador. Unfortunately Mack is old and terminally ill. He really stole my heart. There are some scenes very sad and maybe even emotional for some readers.

The side characters are great too, Brandon's friends Luke and his employs.

I didn't like Brandon and Jack's exes. I wanted them out of the picture as soon as they were introduced. Anyways, I'm glad there was no drama with them or any kind of cheating. The entire story is told from Brandon's POV and overall I enjoyed it, but I must admit in this case I really wanted a dual POV. There were more times than I can count when I really wanted Jack's POV.

Overall, a feel good, enjoyable read!
