



The Other Guy

Cary Attwell

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Emory James is, by his own admission, not the type of person the adjective *exciting* would ever deign to touch with a ten-foot pole. *Cautious, reserved* and *staid*, however, all crowd around him like best friends. Still, he gets by -- or at least he gets by up until his fiancée dumps him at the altar. Out of spite, he takes a solo honeymoon to Thailand, where he can pretend to be someone better than himself for a little while. In meeting Nate, a fellow traveler, Emory slowly discovers how to stop pretending.

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The Other Guy Details

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From Reader Review The Other Guy for online ebook

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

4.5*

I have to thank Ami for bringing this book to my attention. Smooches Ami! :)

Emory is great, his humor is exactly my kind of humor, very dry and self-deprecating.

After being left at the altar (literally) he is understandably sad and mourning, but I loved that he didn't make Michelle

(the now ex) into an evil caricature, he never talked about her or put her down, yes he was mad and upset, but we didn't hear about all the things he had to put up with while being with her, no she was actually pretty ok.

So anyway, like any jilted groom he goes on his honeymoon and meets Nate.

They spend their days and evenings exploring Thailand and have one night together before they go their separate ways, not expecting to see each other again.

But his thoughts go back to Nate often and he confides in his good friend Linn about him, Linn also reminds me a bit of jiminy cricket, helping Em along the way to what he actually already knows!

Imagine Emory's surprise when Nate is in his office to bring his niece to an appointment. Their friendship picks back up and develops nicely, it was so much fun to watch this part, without everything ending about sex, or innuendos, just real relationship building!

Finally they move into being a couple territory but as Em still isn't all that sure and self aware they hit road bumps, but thank goodness for mature thinking and acting.

There is no real way to describe how sweet this story is, although the humor keeps it from being sugary, and I have to reiterate Emory's thoughts are so much fun, even when he is dealing with shit, his thoughts are still a real nice place to be.

We don't get anyone else's POV, but I didn't miss it, and all I can say, is if you like a cute, entertaining, no on page sex, and humorous, a story of a man not only falling in love but finally also realizing that yes, his life was fine before, but now it's as it should be then this is the book for you, it certainly was for me!

Kaje Harper says

This story could have been an angst-fest, beginning as it does with the narrator, Emory, jilted at the altar by his fiancée. But the self-deprecating, determined tone of Emory's first-person narration keeps that from happening. Instead this is a light, funny, sometimes sweet, sometimes frustrating book. Although Emory and Nate come together in very early in the story, in Thailand, as Emory determinedly takes his planned honeymoon alone, this is a slow-build relationship.

Emory's somewhat hands-off attitude to life both provides the low-key humor and also makes him prone to drifting, clinging to the status quo rather than taking risks. At times I wanted to shake him (and once could not believe his passivity) but the author makes him plausible. For me this was not laugh-out-loud funny or deeply emotional, but a book I did enjoy reading.

Ami says

Dear book, you made me HAPPY, HAPPY, HAPPY, with warm and fuzzy feeling. I wanted to squeeze you and hug you and kiss you all over. Thank you for putting a huge smile to my face ... because I rarely get that these days from this genre. You are like a ray of sunshine after a huge amount of rainy days. MWAH MWAH MWAH!!!

This was the story about The Other Guy. The guy that the heroine left at the altar to be with the True Love. The guy whose only fault was being boring or less-handsome or flawed...

My original review was about 1500+ words, that was how much I was in love with this story, I wanted to mention every single things that I love about it. BUT, I am able to control myself and instead, I will give you a list instead.

The Things I Love

- + The story didn't describe Emory drowning in sorrow or unhappiness or hating women in general. It was really well-written, with a dose of humor and dignity, in which Emory discovered how to find his new-self and true love along the way. I laughed with him, felt frustrated when he was acting stupid ... because Emory was not without flaws. He had tendency to pick the 'safe' road, that he preferred to run away from his problems or put them in a box to deal with another day. But because of that, it made him human too :). I smiled happily when he finally grabbed his own chance of happiness.
- + Even if the story was written solely from Emory's perspective, the rest of the characters were shining in their own way. Nate, the love interest. Linn and Hal, the best friends. Julie, Nate's big sister. Heck, even Michelle, the ex, whom I wanted to hate, ended up being kind of decent. Her return gave the right amount of drama without being overboard.
- + The story might start with long sentences of inner monologues -- but hey, Emory was just left at the altar, okay? He wasn't ready to bitch at it with other people. But once he made that connection with Nate, there were fresh and AMUSING banter.
- + AWESOME chemistry.
- + No personal pet peeves (THANK YOU, BOOK!)

The Things I Don't Love

Well, NONE, duh! Okay, maybe one, I wanted more pages *grin*

Advisory : If you are trying to get this book and looking for smut, you will NOT get it. All of the sex scenes are done behind closed door; which is like, YAY, for me *hahaha*

Heller says

4.75

The best thing that happened to Emory was being left at the altar. He goes on his honeymoon in Thailand and meets a photographer who is also on holiday. They become friends, chums, pals, companions for the

remainder of their time there and just maybe more than that but with the holiday over and real life back in swing there's no chance for them to ever cross paths again...or is there.

I loved being in Emory's head. He is so clever and snarky and fun. This is a wonderful read. Nate, the photographer, is a great character as well. Who has a very real and poignant storyline of his own to work through here. The secondary characters are fleshed out as well, I especially loved the stoic Hal and the completely awesome Linn.

There is a lot of emotion here and fantastic chemistry. Recommended.

Ajax1978 says

I'm stuck between 3 and 4 stars for this one. I enjoyed the basic elements of the story and the settings in Thailand and Chicago were described well enough to make you think the author actually has a working knowledge of both places. Both of the main characters were likeable and believable, not pedestal-worthy idealized super heroes. But I definitely agree that the book could have used some more editing, tightening up the story and descriptions and cutting out some of the lengthier sections of Emory's internal dialogue. The first person narrative was interesting for a while but eventually I tired of Emory wrestling with the same issues over and over. I would have appreciated knowing Nate's thoughts - I was never completely clear WHY he liked Emory so much.

In other reviews I've complained of gratuitous sex scenes and of skimming to get to where the story actually moves ahead. I didn't think I'd ever ask for MORE in a story but I would have appreciated ANY in this book. Not for a need to be titillated but to flesh out the character of Emory and his realization that he is actually gay. The guy was exclusively dating women, engaged and left at the altar, and within, say, five days had his first sexual experience with another man. Here is where a larger portion of the story (any portion) should have been, for me at least. Emory grappling with this terrifying and new experience of another guy's junk. And of how Nate handled the situation. Instead, one moment they are making the momentous decision to go to one or the other's room and the next, Emory is missing Nate because Nate has flown home. That is a hell of a lot to leave out of the story of a man's life changing realization that he is gay. Sure, Emory struggles with telling his friends and family about this, but he doesn't really have any internal struggle with hey, I'm sleeping with a guy now. It's just accepted, nothing to see here, move along. *shrug*

So I liked the story and I liked the characters. I just think a little bit of polishing would turn it into a story I REALLY liked.

Camille Adams says

Likes:

I enjoyed this author's vocabulary. Her word choices were great overall, though there were points at which she made some errors, seemingly having chosen the wrong synonym from the thesaurus. Those few occurrences gave the impression of trying a tad bit too hard.

I feel the same way about the witticisms and quippy banter. I had a general appreciation for it, though there were a few places where it could have been reeled in a bit so as to avoid coming across deliberately cutesy-clever.

The trajectory of this relationship's development was well plotted.

Linnea :-) She was a great friend and character.

The setting in Thailand. Ohhh, the gorgeous beaches and sunsets are beautifully evoked and lovely to envision.

Nate's chill forwardness in pursuing Em in Thailand.

Nate and Em in Thailand, particularly on their excursions and while taking pictures. Cute, sweet and funny.

Neutral:

The first 75% of the book. I wasn't overly excited. But it was a calm read with some delights along the way and a good way to pass a cold, rainy Saturday afternoon.

Not my favourite -- considering I am all about seize the day, love will make a way, trust your heart, and belief in love at first sight -- but I guess it was understandable that Em and Nate took time to develop a solid friendship once they'd reconnected in The States. For me, it just struck me as a waste of time; they've slept together already and know they have genuine feelings for each other.

Dislike:

The sex. Or utter lack of it on the page. Okay, PWP exhausts me and I have no real pleasure in it. But no sex at all? Seriously? No bueno. I believe it was especially necessary to have put the sex on the page the first time they slept together. This is the first time Em is intimate with a man. Fading to black and telling the reader after the fact that sex occurred does a serious disservice to the plot's advancement and the reader's engagement with the text.

Em's spinelessness. I blinking hate it when adults can't just be mature and accept who they are, world be damned, and would prefer to sacrifice love to fear and false loyalty. HATE IT. Let one's battles be against compromise of self and those whose love is conditional not against one's truth and opportunities to self-actualise.

Nate's patience. Self-worth demands that one's partner acknowledges you and your love. That much patience just becomes enabling.

Emory's borderline chicklitiness. Self-image issues, malleability etc etc. *sigh*

The last 25% of the book. Serious skimming. Yaaay, reconnection and all that, but the re-entry of Michelle nearly made this a DNF.

Errors:

A few missing words.

The use of the word "describe" for "circumambulate".

The use of "whose" for "who's"

Some run-on sentences.

A few typos.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

This book was sweet and funny and passed the time perfectly on a 4 hour plane ride. I really enjoyed the story but it missing that extra umph that makes up a 5 star read. A very nice clean romance!

Laura says

The Other Guy has been hanging out on my kindle for ages. I'm so happy I finally clicked it open! It's lovely. From the beach to the wide open starry sky to the chemistry between the main characters. It all felt so natural and lovely to me.

Emory and Nate meet in Thailand. First off—I love Thailand as a romantic setting. There's just something special about the warmth and mystery and faraway-ness of Thailand. It's a magical place to meet someone in my opinion. These guys have such a "see you around" easy chemistry together too, which only adds to the magic. They spend their days talking and exploring new foods and places together. I adored walking with them. But can their warm, sweet attraction continue back home?

I enjoyed just being in this book. The way the days and nights slowly melted into the next felt lovely to me. There was very little angst or sex on the page. But the emotion got me right in the heart! Plus the words! I stopped and whispered "gorgeous" under my breath several times. Cary Atwell has a beautiful way with words. Listen...

"My fingers dug furrows into his hair, and his gripped at my back, clutching me closer and closer as if the laws of physics would even allow it. There were tongues and teeth, and gasped, airless breaths, searing brands onto each other's skin, the heat between us blindingly delicious as a dying winter wind coiled around us, as though hoping to preserve us forever in that moment."

Hope you meet The Other Guy soon.

Recommended.

Julio Genao says

This thing starts off so intensely funny it's like a shock-and-awe campaign: Operation Rolling Chucklethunder.

But once you get into the meat of the story, you find a certain number of troubling things to consider:

1. A delusional MC too chickenshit to do anything but wait for his life to deteriorate around him.
2. A kind of oddly anachronistic, condescendingly fustian attitude towards sex that produces a situation where two grown men circle round one another sniffing one another's balls—but heaven forfend actually fucking—for months, without any indication that this is in any way **HIGHLY IMPROBABLE** or at the least **UNIQUELY EXCITING**, as per a two-headed calf or a kitten born with a disapproving face.
3. The odd moment where you read something that you're not sure is a joke, but sort of assume probably is, as when Emory squawks "this is untoward!" when his lover piles into the same bed. But as per point 2, they lie quietly after lights-out, holding hands but six inches apart, until they drift off to sleep.
4. The above was after a funeral, granted—but I can tell you the *last* thing I wanted after my last 3 funerals was to be any distance whatsoever from the one I loved. And while that is an edge-case scenario—where my experiences almost certainly do not align with everyone's—it is hardly so fringe as to sound that crazy, either, given a libido like dead lizard, like Emory's, or one like a fire in a henhouse, with starving wolves gathered round waiting for the timbers to cool, like mine.
5. WTH were we talking about, again?

But if you ignore the sundry headdressery of some truly gothic sexual politics and some slightly alien ideas about Whose Life Is This, Anyway, you'll find the kind of scary-good word-smithing that makes a lesser talent weep in despair. For Cary Attwell is, if not the reincarnation of a Lesser Bronte, at the least supremely gifted with a sense of comic timing, and the kind of literary instincts I find enviable.

This book is funny, and touching, and frustrating as all fuck—but I inhaled this puppy all the same, with "untoward" relish, until I collapsed into bed to sleep at 6AM.

Chastely.

Vio says

Serves me right, next time I will listen to the warning bells that kept going off in my head, this is why I stayed away from Mechanical Heart. I should have known it wouldn't work its magic on me. Sorry, "runs and hides" tiny lone voice of didn't love it here. Likable and cute in parts and frustratingly difficult to get through in other parts. Its not a bad book, I can see the appeal and all my friends so far have loved it, I only wish I could have felt that connection to the story too. No rating from me for now.

Mandapanda says

4.5 stars. This book has one of the most irresistible first chapters I've read in a while. It's impossible not to relate to good-guy Emory and his bad luck with love. After being jilted at the altar he goes to Thailand alone and meets Nate who re-ignites his passion for life. But Emory is still too wounded emotionally to let someone in, so they part, not thinking they will ever meet again. Several months later Nate turns up and a beautiful friendship starts.

This is just a lovely gentle story. Emory is quite flawed in many ways. He seems to let things happen to him rather than go out and grab life by the balls. But the author is able to make him totally relatable. I was so invested in his journey to a HEA with the steadfast Nate. There's no sex and even though I didn't miss it I would have liked to see Emory questioning the physical side of his new-found gayness amongst all his internal dialogue.

Arthur says

4.5 stars

You know those stories in sitcom or romantic comedy where the girl is about to marry the other guy until the love of her life suddenly appears in the church, declaring his undying love, and then they run away? Great for the girl and the her lover. Suck for the other guy. This is the story of *that other guy*. The one who was left at the altar. Emory.

Since everything was already paid for, Emory went alone to Thailand (where they were supposedly to have honeymoon) and had vacation by himself. There, he met Nate, a fellow American. They enjoyed each other's company, and slept once at the end of their vacation, thinking they were not going to see each other again. It turned out, Nate was an uncle of one of Emory's patients (he's a speech therapist). From then, they forged a close friendship. Just when they started to take the relationship to the next level, Michelle--the ex fiancee who left Emory at the altar--returned and asked for a second chance. What would he do?

A sweet (but not tooth-aching level) and nice story. The scenes in Thailand ends at around 40% into the book, and the rest are Chicago. I appreciate that when they got back to the US, it took long time before they slept together again. For months, it was purely platonic friendship although not without a lot flirting on both sides.

While the writing is a bit heavy with long sentences at the beginning, it gets better later. I enjoyed the banter and the inner thoughts that often were funny. There is no explicit sex scenes.

"Well, it's romantic... And also pretty depressing."

"All great love stories are," he said. "You know, your standard Romeo and Juliet..."

"That," I interrupted, "is a story about a couple of infatuated kids with poor communication skills."

That the plot involves the innocent party that often has to be sacrificed for the sake of the romantic story makes this more interesting for me.

Susan says

4.5 stars!!!!

My love letter to this book...

Dear Emory “Archibald” James:

Hello! How are you? What a pleasure to get to know you in “The Other Guy”. Will you be my best friend forever? As I see it, we are kindred spirits and are MEANT to know each other. I love that you are witty, self-deprecating, silly, cracked in places, yet so kind. You’re totally unaware of how awesome you are...which just makes you...MORE AWESOME.

Your man, Nate, is quite possibly one of the swoon-worthiest men around. I so love the story of your travel escapes, your friendship, and your growing relationship. Please do what you can to make sure you’re worthy of his devotion and goodness. He deserves it.

Yes, there are times when your cowardice, your fear, and your insensitivity made me very, very angry. You can be quite dense and clueless, you know.

But, it does not stop me from adoring you.

And to your creator, Cary Attwell...please write MORE!

When do you want to move in? Or I can just come down to Chicago and move in with you. Let me know what works best.

Thanks,
Susan

Edina Rose says

I liked this as much as I liked How to Repair a Mechanical Heart. I am freaking in love with this author's style, humor, characters. The plot is very simple and it seems like just another gay-for-you story when you read the blurb, but it's not. It's not even gay-for-you (if there is such thing as gay-for-you. Gay is gay, isn't it?). I liked that there was no explicit sex. I am deeply bored by unnecessary sex in romance, especially when it's not hot, when it's just the average MM romance sex with one digit, double digits, going to town and climax. B.O.R.I.N.G.

This author's style reminds me a bit of Josh Lanyon's.

Jenn says

Hugs adorable ebook in my Kindle tightly to my chest!

OK, so this had the dreaded last 1/3 of the book a character does something that makes you go, "noooooooooooooesss!" It bothered me, obviously. But, I thought on it, and as much as it hurt, I realized it felt natural for that character. I may have not liked it, but I could at least understand it.

The rest of the book though was pure joy. I had a perma-grin on my face from the first page, and literally laughed out loud throughout my reading. It was nice because the humor never tried too hard. It was just quick wit.

I fell in love with both characters. That's sometimes hard from first person, but the author truly made me see what each character found attractive in the other. I believed absolutely in their chemistry, and the author did it all with zero sex on page. Awesome.

Also, I want to thank the skies for how all the female characters were written. I was so prepared for them to be one dimensional, and they absolutely had mutiple sides. So, kudos.

I simply adored this book.
