



# Game On, Game Over

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## **Game On, Game Over** Chris Quinton

Game On – John Jones, alias Aidan Whittaker, is undercover in Tajikistan to broker a deal with tribal leaders, a mission complicated when two Americans arrive to document the Silk Road and one starts asking very awkward questions. The other, Scott Landon, is a different kind of trouble; young, gay and single-minded, he clearly wants John. Unwilling to jeopardize his operation John rejects Scott, despite being attracted to him, but then events spiral out of control; will this be the start of a new life for both of them – or is it Game Over?

## **Game On, Game Over Details**

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Author : Chris Quinton

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## From Reader Review Game On, Game Over for online ebook

### Julie Bozza says

Really enjoyed this tale of two men who meet (and part) while on an archaeological dig in Tajikstan, and then meet again in Avebury, England. These are two very cool locations - and if Avebury was perhaps more vividly written as a setting, the half set in Tajikstan contained the more vividly written adventure, so that balanced out rather well.

The sex scenes were hot, the romance evolved nicely, and the characters (both main and otherwise) were engaging. I particularly enjoyed 'That Bloody Cat' who features in the Avebury half, with plenty of well-observed feline detail.

I had a few LOL moments on public transport while commuting with this book on my Kindle... The funniest line was 'Bugger the cat!' but I'll have to let you work out the context of that for yourself...

Nice one, Chris!

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### Marge says

Exciting action story in the first half; nice slow-building romance in second half. I really liked it overall.

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### Lisa says

Scott is a freelance photographer who whilst in Turkistan meets Aiden, an undercover MI6 operative. Whilst being evacuated, Aiden is shot and Scott is told that he died from his wounds.

Fast forward a year. Scott has never forgotten Aiden and eventually tracks him down to a small English village.

The build up to the HEA is slow and interesting. Scott slowly breaks down Aiden's defences.

Best part of the book though was Aiden's war with 'That Bloody Cat'.

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### Snowtulip says

3.5

I'm a bit Jekyll and Hyde about this book. The book is setup as two separate parts and I absolutely enjoyed the first part. It had action, adventure, academics, secret lives, and sexiness. I liked both characters and had a good sense that John was a likable person that was just trying to avoid complications in his mission. I did feel some connection with him and Sam.

Part two just left me a bit flat, John (Aidan) was so crumudgeony that it really took away from his personality and the story as a whole. I kept reading in hopes that he would get a clue, it came a bit too late for me. I absolutely loved the first part, didn't quite have the patience for the second part. I do love the time and effort that the author takes in developing a sense of place and history for the story. Still a good read, but

having a taste of the first part just left me craving more in the second.

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### **Serena Yates says**

This is a book full of interesting contradictions. John/Aidan is an agent, but also an archeologist. Scott is attracted to him, but John/Aidan cannot allow this to interfere with his secret mission (of course, it does, and chaos ensues). The first half of the book reflects this more turbulent situation, whereas the second half is almost too quiet and relaxed. I loved how the situations and the language in each half of the book reflected what was going on in the story as well.

John/Aidan is a dedicated agent but also an enthusiastic archeologist and a passionate gay man. He is determined to finish his mission, but when he does decide to change his life, he does so with the skill and stealth I would expect of a former secret agent. His complete withdrawal is understandable, his hesitation over Scott wasn't as easy for me to follow. I loved his 'tense' encounters with the neighbor's cat which is such a contrast to the terrorists before, but that makes it only all the funnier.

Scott may be 'just' an archeologist, but, deep down, he is a fighter as well. When in danger he holds up to what is needed and the way he follows John/Aidan to track him down? Definitely worthy of an agent himself. The reunion was as slow as the first meeting was fast. Passion was the driver for both, but the way it showed itself was very different. I really liked that.

If you like adventure stories with a touch of science, if a little bit of added humor makes the story even better for you, and if you want to see a former secret agent settle down, you will probably like this book.

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### **Pixie Mmgoodbookreviews says**

4 Hearts

Review written for MM Good Book Reviews

<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.com/>

John Jones/Aidan Whittaker is on a negotiation mission, his plans begin to be derailed by Babcock who is sticking his nose where it could cause trouble. Scott just wants to take pictures... and get in the hot archaeologists bed, but he gets more trouble when his boss Babcock arranges a meeting with a local tribal leader.

This is an interesting combination of settings, you have the first part of the book set in Tajikistan near the Afghanistan boarder which is dry, dusty, dangerous and fraught with tension then in the second part of the book you have the quaint village of Avebury, Wiltshire in England which is green, lush, quiet and fraught with murderous stories of the long dead.

In the first part we have John Jones MI6 Negotiator who is trying to broker a deal with some of the tribal leaders, his cover is that of an archaeologist, complications set in when a reporter turns up sticking his nose in where it's not wanted and his photographer who John feels an instant attraction to, there is danger, a recuse mission, hot sex, a parting of ways and a gun-fire fight which ends with John's life hanging in the

balance.

In the second part we have Scott Landon Photographer who has been affected more than he thought over what happened to John, he starts to investigate when he realises that all may not be as it seems and it leads to the discovery of Aidan Whittaker expert of Ancient Languages and Literature and an archaeologist. From then on we see Scott's pursuit of Aidan as he tries to become friends and something more.

This is a brilliantly woven story about two men who get their wires crossed, both of them thinking the other doesn't want them when they both actually want the same thing. We see Scott trying to get through to Aidan that he wants more than just quick sex, while Aidan thinks that Scott couldn't want an older man with a damaged leg who just wants to settle down in the little village he found.

So this is a great book that has a little of everything for everyone, danger, tension, hot sex, gun-fights, slow romance, quaint setting, local hauntings and nosy villages... oh and keep an eye out for the cat TBC (That Bloody Cat) that does battle with Aiden every chance he gets. I highly recommend this one, so get this book, read it and enjoy.

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### **SueM says**

3.5 stars

A good contemporary MM Romance between an John, MI6 agent and Scott, a photographer, after they meet on an archeological dig in Tajikistan. I admit I much preferred the first half of the story where the action takes place mostly on the dig site. The second half of the book, which takes place about a year after they last saw each other in Tajikistan, is set in Avebury, England. While I enjoyed the push & pull between the two men, it didn't have quite the same intensity as the previous half. It also seemed a little over-done at times, with John dwelling too much on the age difference between them, as well as a few too many scenes concerning a cat... All up, not a bad story....

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### **Arthur says**

4.5 stars

This book is divided into two parts. The first one takes place in Tajikistan, and the second one in UK.

In the first part, Scott and John (Aidan) met. Since the beginning, they had some chemistry although John hid it behind mask as a grumpy anthropologist. When John appeared to be killed in an attack, Scott was devastated, but somehow didn't believe that John has died. He started an investigation, and managed to locate where John lived. In the second part, Scott moved to the town where John (now goes by his real name, Aidan) lived, and tried to woo him. First as friend, and then lover.

I love the slow development of the second part. It's fun to see how Aidan is even grumpier than when he was in first part. Oh, there's an additional main character on the second part. A cat who likes to stay in Aidan's house, despite Aidan's hatred toward it.

This is a nice book. The characters are likeable, even when Aidan is grumpy. Both are males, not damsel in distress. It shows the difficult lives of journalists, sometimes they face challenges like the MI6 agents.

## **DayDreamer says**

I liked the side characters as well as the main characters.

TBC = grumpy cat. Funny thing is, Aiden is grumpier. :D

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## **Katherine says**

The first book I've read by this author. I liked it. Although, it felt like two short stories instead of one novel. The first, Game On, is an action/adventure story. The second, Game Over, is the romance.

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## **T.A. Webb says**

John is a MI6 (equivalent CIA) spy on a mission in a former Soviet block country, trying to broker a deal to shore up Western support against the Taliban. In his "real" life, he is also a talent linguist, writer and archeological specialist. Closing in on 40, he has made the conscious decision to forgo love and commitment for his career.

Scott is a photographer, 25 but not new to risky situations. He is in the area of the dig John is assistant director of, working with a jerky journalist to photograph the Silk Road for a book, and maybe catch a scoop in local politics while he is there. His attraction to John is immediate, but not returned immediately. That won't stop him though - he sets his mind to it and pursues John with single minded purpose.

Scott and his boss get into a bit of trouble, necessitating a rescue, which puts not only them, but the dig, in trouble. As they are evacuated, the worst happens, and Scott and John are separated, possible for good.

The chemistry between these two men is immediate and believable. The storyline rocked along, taking us nicely into the lives of these two men, unlikely as they might initially be together. We suffer when they do, and I felt for Scott when he thought he lost John.

Then the second half of the book happens, and the tone changes to a lighter, funny mood as reflected by the sleepy English countryside. Scott begins his quest to find John and let him know he wants him for more than just a night of sex.

Ms. Quinton weaves a nicely told tale here. At first a thriller, then a romantic comedy, I was captured immediately and charmed by the banter in the second half of the book. Loved the feline nemesis. And fell in love with these two guys. I would love to see them revisited.

Two HUGE thumbs up here!

Tom

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## ?? ? says

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## Kendra T says

I enjoyed this book. The struggle between John/Aidan trying to deal with being undercover and having to figure out who he is again when that falls away was very well written. I liked Scott's persistence and I'm glad Aidan finally came to his senses. They were cute together.

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## Feliz says

This book in its entirety wasn't quite what I expected from the blurb. Part one was fraught with tension in every aspect, moving along at a fast pace. Okay, the setting was perhaps a little romanticized, but not so much as to appear unrealistic, and the rivalizing tribesmen's knives and bullets were certainly real enough. I liked the descriptions of life at the archeological site and the way this emphasized John/Aidan's professor persona. He was very believable as adept yet half-hearted spook, and his ready retirement when he had the opportunity was only logical.

The romance fit the setting just fine with its surging, adrenaline-fueled passion. What suffered a bit during the first part were the other characterizations, the secondary cast's as well as Scott's, but the latter is remedied as we get to be in Scott's head more often during the second part.

I had a few small issues with this book too:

After the fast pace of the Tajikistan part, the book grinds to an almost full-stop once the plot focuses on Avebury. As we see Aidan through his days (the highlights of which seem to be his daily skirmishes with the neighbor's cat), the story starts dragging. In regard to Scott, Aidan ponders over the same hangups on and on. When he asked himself for the umpteenth time what Scott could possibly want with him, I even found myself asking the same question. The way Scott tracked Aidan down might have come across as stalkerish, but it actually didn't since Aidan needs to be pushed towards his own luck.

And the setting? If there was one cliché missing about what I always thought of as "typically heart-of-the-country English", I didn't notice it. Cozy cottages with open fireplaces, hedged back gardens with flowering white lilas, roses-covered potting sheds, nosy neighbors, standing stones, sheep and crows, a pub rife with gossip – all check, down to the human extras populating the scene. It worked, though – the setting was perfect for Aidan's and Scott's slow reunion. It was skillfully written, too, with just the right amount of self-deprecation and humor to keep it from turning into a parody. What had started as a fast-paced action-adventure turned into a sweet and wholly satisfying romance, and I closed the book with a sigh and a smile.

Warmly recommended.

Review originally written for [reviewsbyjessewave.com](http://reviewsbyjessewave.com)

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## Mandapanda says

**3.5 stars.** This is an interesting story and the author writes the archeological and spy/action scenes with authority but I wasn't really sold on the romance. John Jones is a specialist negotiator with MI6 who's masquerading as an ancient documents translator on a dig in Tajikistan. An obnoxious reporter and his attractive young photographer arrive at the dig wanting material for a story. John finds himself drawn to the photographer but doesn't want to risk his cover. But no sooner do John and Scott become involved than the rash actions of the reporter bring trouble to everyone involved.

I felt a bit disconnected between the two parts of the book due to the very different settings. The whole tone of the book changed. The first setting is a dangerous and remote Islamic state and the second an almost Miss Marple-like English village. I don't know why the story of John and Scott's romance doesn't appeal to me more. They certainly suffer enough setbacks and separations but I don't think the author uses the plot effectively enough to pull at my heartstrings. I think the couple needed more time together initially for me to become invested in their connection. Perhaps one or two more scenes which showed us their irresistible attraction to each other and Scott could have ached more when (view spoiler).

Overall it's an entertaining tale that would probably appeal to fans of action/adventure, e.g. Neil Plakcy's *Three Wrong Turns in the Desert*.

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