



## Hunger

*Amanda Young*

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Amanda Young

**Hunger** Amanda Young

Genre: LGBT Erotic Contemporary

Disowned and cast out of his home, eighteen year old Declan Mayo turns to the only thing he can think of to help him get back on his feet. Working at the Chicken Ranch, a rural brothel that caters to women and gay men, seems like the perfect solution. He isn't about to let a lack of sexual experience stop him from taking what he sees as a way off the streets.

Falling in love with one of his clients wasn't in the game plan, but Declan can't seem to help himself. Killian Hamilton is sweet and kind, with a stutter Declan can't help but find adorable. Surely, if anyone could overlook Declan's choice of employment, it would be a kindhearted man like Killian.

But Declan didn't figure on Killian's connection to one of the brothel's regular clients, and now his love life's about to blow up in his face.

*Publisher's Note: This book contains explicit sexual content, graphic language, and situations that some readers may find objectionable: male/male sexual practices.*

## Hunger Details

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Author : Amanda Young

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## From Reader Review Hunger for online ebook

### Jimmy Hanson says

Not the most romantic or 'magical' sort of situations, with one character essentially being a whore in a brothel and the other being a sort-of customer, but Amanda Young makes it work. And not just work, but work \*well\*.

Declan is a character that has a great deal of pride and does things on his terms. He's not ashamed of resorting to selling his body, not really, though there's a little bit of guilt involved. He falls into the routine of it like most men fall into a 9-5; it's a job that pays, that's all. Thankfully, Amanda Young keeps us out of the bedroom and away from whatever johns he has. The only scene that is highlighted is the one where he loses his virginity - to Killian.

Killian isn't a pervert or even a regular at the brothel; it's a one-time thing that brings them together happenstance. Months go by without contact and then, another happenstance; they run into each other at the grocery store. Thus truly begins their relationship.

I was hesitant about the age difference because I'm not into huge gaps like that [18 vs. 30:], but Killian's almost timid and genuinely kind nature makes it easy to forget that he's so much older. His relatively easy acceptance of Declan's job - and his lack of instance that it's given up once their relationship progresses - was kind of odd to me as well, but he wanted to give Declan his freedom, to not push too much, and since Declan neither hated nor loved his job it didn't make much difference to either of them. Thankfully that second issue was tied up nicely.

All in all, an enjoyable read, with just enough story and conflict to keep it interesting, a good bit of emotional involvement without the whole cliché bits, and a wonderful happy ending. ^\_^

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### Jenre says

I have a fondness (perversion?) for stories which contain prostitutes as heroes, so this story based in and around an all male brothel sounded intriguing. On the whole I liked the story with only one or two minor niggles to dim my enjoyment slightly.

Declan is down on his luck. He's been thrown out of his home when his dad found out he was gay and all his dreams about going to college are now up in smoke. He can't get a job as he's living on the streets so he's starving and desperate. When a hustler tells him about the Chicken Ranch, an all male brothel on the outskirts of town, Declan decides that he'd rather sell his body than starve. After a somewhat unconventional interview with the owner of Chicken Ranch which included lying through his teeth about the fact that he's a virgin, Declan is taken on. His first customer who wants more than just a blow job is Killian, a shy accountant, who makes Declan's first time special. A few weeks later Killian and Declan come across one another in a local supermarket and arrange a date.

One of the best things about this novella is the contrast between Declan and Killian. Declan is quite happy-go-lucky despite his cares and worries about his father. In some ways he suits his job as he's good with people even if he does find the job demeaning at times. He's happy to make the best of the situation he is in and pragmatic enough so that even when he's earned enough money to perhaps move on, he keeps his job because it earns more money than the alternatives. In contrast Killian is very shy and speaks with a stutter.

He's not good at relationships and his only friend is a bit of an idiot who Killian is too nice to get rid of. Killian likes his job mainly because numbers are less confusing than people. When the pair come together therefore they are a perfect match with Killian's shyness and lack of self-esteem counterbalanced by the more outgoing Declan. It gave me a warm fuzzy feeling inside when they were together.

The other characters in the book were less well drawn, mostly because the length of the novella made it difficult to focus on anything other than Declan and Killian. However, I liked the descriptions of the other prostitutes working at Chicken Ranch and the conversations where they swap their reasons for working there were amusing and insightful without being overly harsh. In fact, although these men sell their bodies for money, the story contained an upbeat note which was perhaps not entirely realistic for brothel workers but worked with the optimistic theme of the book. The character of Killian's obnoxious friend, Cash, was a tool only for the purposes of the story and as a result came across as very one dimensional.

As I mentioned there were a couple of little niggles. Firstly, Killian is completely accepting of Declan's job which I felt was a little unrealistic. He doesn't ask Declan to stop working as a prostitute, even when they are officially dating and having sex, when Declan's job, no matter how safe he is, may impact on his own health. Secondly, there was a minor misunderstanding late on in the book which completely lacked originality. In fact I was hoping that the author was not going to wheel out that particular chestnut, but she did and I was disappointed as the rest of the story had a certain flair and originality which was, in my opinion, tarnished a bit by the use of this particular plot device.

Overall, *Chicken Ranch: Hunger* is a bright, breezy read that I enjoyed very much. You may find that you have to suspend your disbelief a little when reading it, but I didn't mind that. Amanda Young writes interesting stories on the whole and this book is no exception. I'd recommend this book to fans of the author, those who like stories about prostitutes and anyone looking for a light, quick read.

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## Becky Condit says

Declan Mayo is an eighteen year old man at a low point in his life. He is homeless, hungry, broke and scared. He's desperate and this leads him to a decision he never thought he'd have to make, to become a rent boy at the local all-male brothel, the Chicken Ranch. Killian Hamilton is a 30 year old accountant. He is good looking and successful at his profession but social awkwardness keeps him lonely. He avoids dating so a drive out to the rural brothel that he just heard about seems like an easy way to satisfy his sexual needs. His visit happens to occur on Declan's first night of work and he is the one who takes Dec's virginity, although Killian doesn't know this at the time. This was a one-time occurrence. Months pass and Declan becomes good at his job but he never means to make this a career. He begins taking a few courses at the local community college. Miller returns to his lonely existence. Then the two happen to run into each other at a grocery store and they decide to meet outside the ranch in hopes of fostering a friendship that both need in their lives. An attraction is there and soon they are dating. Declan works hard to pull his life together and build a future away from prostitution. Killian steadfastly stands by his man being patient, understanding and loving-- all difficult to do in the face of his reality. I do find it a little hard to believe how little an impact on his life is the fact that Declan is a male prostitute. I mean of course it affected his relationship with Killian. Killian, who had little self-confidence to be begin with, struggled with the fact that Declan was constantly having sex with men who might be better than him in any and all departments. Jealousy is a real bitch to tame! But outside of this personal relationship, Declan went to work, went to school, went on with his life with no apparent repercussions from his type of employment. It just seems a little bizarre to me. Still, this is a fast, interesting read with flawed but oh-so-likeable characters who get their happy ending in a believable way. That's not an easy thing to say when discussing a male prostitute working at a place called the Chicken

Ranch! Considering where Declan was in his life at the beginning of the story, the end is that much sweeter. This is a good book and I cannot wait to read the next installment in this new series!

Roux's 4 sweet pea review appears at <http://mrsconditreadsbooks.com/index...>

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### **Sarah says**

I hate to say this, cause I know it will make me seem somewhat aged, but I do remember The Best Little Whore House in Texas coming out on video AND being allowed to watch it. My parents were obviously total freaks, for which I am extremely grateful because I LOVED it. Possibly because of the clip of the football boys dancing below. O-o It was cool beans. So, reading this book, which was very reminiscent of TBLWHIT crossed with Pretty Woman, made me a wee bit nostalgic.

Hunger was enjoyable and just a little bit grubby. Declan is a hustler with heart, cute freckles and a passion for Killian. While I found some of their relationship a little hard to fathom, and occasionally needing a little more warmth, they were overall a sweet couple. I was also really was interested to see how the author handled the transition from being a prostitute to shacking up with his one true love. Not to mention the whole semi virginal thing. Luckily my suspension of disbelief leapt into action, so it was all ok. Phew! The pacing was quick and a lot was packed in for a shorter novel, with the potential to flesh out more of the secondary characters for a series. Cute and quick read.

<http://sharrow.wordpress.com/2009/07/...>

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### **Ali says**

A Scattered Thoughts and Rogue Words Review An Alisa Review:

Rating: 4 stars out of 5

Amanda Young did a nice job with this story. Declan is forced to find a way to support himself when he is kicked out of his home for being gay and when he sees no other choice he goes to Chicken Ranch for a job. Killian goes to Chicken Ranch hoping to get off without the awkwardness of trying to pick someone up, but finds something much better.

I loved both of these characters. Both were innocent in their own way, Declan by age and experience and Killian by his shyness and lack of social experience. It was easy to connect with these characters and see their relationship slowly start to build after they see each other months after Killian visited the ranch.

The cover art is nice and caught my eye.

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### **Nic says**

Overall I enjoyed this story.

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Declan is down on his luck and desperate times call for desperate measures. Not sure of where his next meal is coming from and without a home, he takes a job at the Chicken Ranch working as a prostitute. **“Pride didn’t make him any less homeless or fill the empty ache of a stomach that had gone too long without sustenance.”**

Killian is an accountant with a steady job and home. But he is lacking something in his life and a one-off, spur of the moment visit leads him to Declan.

I like the way both characters are portrayed, particularly Declan. I felt very sympathetic towards his situation.

Declan is proud and doesn't accept his situation. He looks for ways to give himself the life he desires including taking classes to gain qualifications. But he struggles to come to terms with the life he has made at the Chicken Ranch and doesn't feel worthy of Killian. He is waiting for something bad to happen. **“If his own father couldn’t love him, what hope did he have of finding someone who could?”**

When things don't go smoothly, Declan almost believes this is what he deserves. **“The bad thing was, he wasn’t even sure he had a right to be mad. After all, he was a whore.”**

It was a big plus that even though Declan works at the Chicken Ranch, this book didn't spend too much time focusing on happenings at the brothel. It was more focused on the development of the romantic relationship between the two men.

I loved the slow and steady approach Killian took to their physical relationship and how much Declan appreciated sex with Killian. Even though he worked in the sex trade, simple kisses with Killian had Declan waiting in anticipation. **“Thankfully, he found the prospect of being with Killian completely different than work. The act was the same, but the purpose behind it was not.”** and **“This wasn’t just about sex. The actions were similar, but the level of intimacy was as diverse as night from day.”**

My only actual dislike with this story was the use of a couple of words which I personally find a bit of a turn-off: “...Grave’s **tool**.” “Killian’s **meat**.”

*This book was provided by the author in return for an honest review.*

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## **Chris, the Dalek King says**

Ok, peoples. I just want to preface this review by saying that a) we ran out of coffee yesterday in my house b) it feels like I have dwarven miners banging around in my head and c) I came home from an emotional PFLAG meeting to see that my cat had thrown-up on my bed. I am, to put it mildly, not best pleased with the world. So if I sound a bit more grouchy than I should, that is probably the reason.

This is not a bad book. In fact, I was expecting a lot worse. I don’t normally go out of my way to read books about prostitution, so when it came around to pick a book this month I had no idea where to go. And then when I finally found a book that sounded interesting, we found out that we couldn’t get our hands on it (for reasons), so I had to go back and re-choose. I actually was going to pick up the second book in this series, because it sounded interesting, but I do hate reading things out of order, so I figured I might as well start at the beginning.

So, in the beginning...

Declan, being 18 with no home, no money, no prospects of any kind, gets a tip from a prostitute that he might find work—that if not completely *honest*, at least *pays*—at a Chicken Ranch (brothel) just outside town. Declan doesn't know if selling his ass is the best solution, but it sure as hell seems like the only one available to him right then.

When Killian goes to the Chicken Ranch, he only wants an hour or two of no strings sex. And he finds that quite admirably with Declan. It isn't until he bumps into the man a couple months later that he starts to think that there might be something more between them. But Declan is a prostitute, and Killian was once his john...that does not exactly spell out success for either of them.

For about 3/4 of this book I was really digging it. It was a quick read (which I *really* needed this week) and the whole 'I do dudes for money' thing didn't really factor into their relationship (which, yeah, was actually weird and I never got it, but oh well) so there was surprisingly little angst.

Then after they have have sex...ugh! Let's just say Killian does an incredibly stupid thing, refuses to realize how incredibly stupid it is, and then is put out that Declan doesn't come running back to him after a half-hearted attempt at an apology.

And I knew (I mean I would have put serious money on it) that the scene in the diner was going to happen. Because it always fuckin does. It was so obvious and served no real purpose, and, to be honest, just pissed me off (probably an irrational amount).

So, for the first 3/4 of the story, 4 stars, last quarter...about 3. I feel pretty good at a 3.5 for the whole thing. Decent story, decent characters, and I did like the sex. Even the unappetizing first blowjob job interview at the beginning.

3.5 stars

*This book was provided free in exchange for a fair and honest review for Love Bytes. Go there to check out other reviews, author interviews, and all those awesome giveaways. Click below.*

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### **Tanu Gill says**

It was an okay book.

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### **Daisiemae says**

I didn't know what to expect when I bought Chicken Ranch: Hunger by Amanda Young. I honestly wasn't sure if I would like it or not. But, since I have loved almost all of Amanda's books in the past, I thought I would take a chance and read it. I am glad I did!

Declan Mayo is an eighteen year old man who has hit rock bottom. Because he is homeless, he is unable to find a job to get him off the streets. Tired of being hungry and sleeping on a park bench, when Declan hears about an all male brothel called the Chicken Ranch, he decides he must try to get a job there if he wants to

survive. Although, he is nervous and not overly thrilled about being a “rent boy” he decides he would rather sell himself, than starve to death. There is only one problem. Declan is practically a virgin. He hasn’t had intercourse, but has experienced other physical sexual activities. To get the job, Declan fibs about how much experience he has had to the owner, and after a thorough interview, he is hired.

Killian Hamilton hasn’t been on a successful date in over two years. His job as an accountant isn’t exactly the greatest avenue to meet someone new. Pushing 30, he is beginning to wonder if Mr. Right even exists. What doesn’t help matters is when Killian gets nervous, excited or anxious, he has an uncontrollable stutter. His disability embarrasses him, and keeps him from reaching out to others.

When his friend tells him about an all male brothel called The Chicken Ranch, Killian initial reaction is to never go there. But, as Killian starts to realize how much he misses the touch and company of another man, he decides to take a chance and go there for some companionship. Even if it’s for one night.

The moment Killian lays eyes on Declan he knows he has found the right man to spend the night with. Declan’s cuteness appeals to Killian in more ways than one. Declan on the other hand is glad that Killian will be the first customer he will have intercourse with. Although, both Declan and Killian immediately like one another, neither one is looking for anything more because it is just business.

It’s a different story with Declan and Killian run into one another three months later. The attraction they feel for one another is undeniable, but will it be enough for them to build a relationship on?

There are a few things I want to point out about Declan and Killian’s story. Although Declan is a prostitute, there aren’t any scenes in this book where he is pleasuring someone else. Other than the blowjob he gave the owner of the Chicken Ranch in the beginning of the book, all of the love scenes are Declan and Killian together. I will admit that I loved that about it. One of the worries I had when I bought this book, was that I would have to read about Declan being with many men, and/or being in a ménage scene. That didn’t happen, and I have to say I was very relieved about that.

I also liked that even though Killian isn’t aware of it at the time; he is Declan’s first lover, even though it was strictly a business transaction at first between them. I liked that even though Declan would have many lovers after that night with Killian; in the end Declan remembered his first more than any other. Call me a hopeless romantic, but that appealed to me in more ways than one.

This story is also told in 3rd person, so we get BOTH Declan and Killian’s point of view. I have to admit that I loved that too. It was really great to read about what both men were going through throughout the book. I really enjoyed that.

Lastly, I want to say that I liked both of the characters in this book. Amanda has a gift of making her characters very real and lifelike. Between the issues they have to go through with Declan’s job, to admitting their feelings for one another, this book kept me on edge until I read the last word.

I really loved this book, and I hope that this is the beginning of a series of books by Amanda. She really hit it out of the ballpark with this one, and I am looking forward to reading many more great books written by her.

She has a great website, too. It’s filled with great information, plus she gives us some free reads! Check it out at:

<http://www.amandayoung.org/blog/> (The guy wrapped up in pearls is some lovely eye candy to look at too! Whew!)

5 stars

## **Pam Kay says**

I was given this novel in exchange for a honest review so here it is....I enjoyed this book quite a lot. The story line was good and the characters were well developed. A story of two different men who met under unconventional circumstances. Declan was an 18 year old who had been kicked out of his own home for being gay, finding himself on the streets. Desperate, he was told about a place called the Chicken Ranch which was a male brothel. He decided to try and get a job there selling his body. Going into it as a virgin, his second customer, Killian, was nervous and shy at first, then turned out to be someone Declan enjoyed being with and losing his virginity to. After it was all over with, both of them continued to think about the other. Several months later, Declan goes to the grocery store finding Killian in the store. Their story together starts from there agreeing to start dating....Killian wanted to go at it slow because he wanted to show he was there, not because Declan was a whore, but because he was really attracted to him and interested. After several dates they were both ready for more. After a wonderful lovemaking session, Killian made the mistake of trying to pay Declan which was like a slap in the face to Declan. Feeling like he was being treated like a whore, he storms out of the apartment..Several days later Killian goes to the Chicken Ranch to apologize to Declan, but it didn't go well. Disheartened by this Killian didn't know what to do next. He knew if Declan didn't want him, there was nothing he could do. But later that night Declan appears on his front door. The feelings and attraction they had for one another demanded they had a second chance. This was a beautiful love story between two beautiful men who were determined to make it work regardless of the age difference and outside forces that were against them. A great HEA. If you love MM Romance/Love you will love this one.

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## **Macky says**

REVIEW: This is my first outing with Amanda Young as a writer so she was virgin territory for me. I had no preconceptions so I started to read not knowing whether this would tick my boxes or not. I like that, because being such a fan of M/M novels, I tend to think I've exhausted most authors and finding decent new authors (to me that is) is a bonus.

So how did I like this one? Well I'm happy to report that I was very pleasantly surprised.

I must admit I do like such type of stories - the hustler/hooker element with a romance that blossoms between a client and a male prostitute (who's forced into the life due to rotten circumstances, in this case an awful family life) but who wants to get off the streets to make a better life. However, hooking up is the only way they feel they can do it, which always has a great scope for some sexy and emotional story-lines.

"All I have to do is get through one more night on the street and then things will get better. They can't possibly get any worse."

Declan Mayo is very young at 18 to be put in such a position but he knows its the only way to keep himself off the streets and he'd rather be in a safe controlled environment than putting himself in danger out there, so he goes to the Chicken Ranch and pleads for a job from the owner, Mr Graves..... Read rest of review at <http://sidlove.wordpress.com/2013/05/...>

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## Nichole (DirrtyH) says

I am really starting to like Amanda Young. And she has a pretty sizeable back catalogue. I wish I'd picked more of it for my 100 book challenge...

This was a really great story. I do have a few small complaints:

\*The second half was a little overloaded with the phrase "his lover"

\*I would have liked to see a little more of the reasons behind Declan and Killian's connection. They were unquestionably very cute together, but I was never really sure *why* they were so into each other.

\*I thought Killian was far too accepting of Declan's job as a whore. He had very little trouble or discomfort with the whole issue, which seemed a little unrealistic.

But overall I really liked this story. Young has a very relaxed writing style that's very easy to read, and the sex scenes were great. I liked it and look forward to reading more.

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## SheReadsALot says

My first Amanda Young story and I'm in...like. (I always have trepidation when really liking a new-to-me author)

I love rent boy fiction. The romantic angle always intrigues me. And "Hunger" book #1 of the Chicken Ranch series did not disappoint. 18 year old Declan Mayo has been kicked out of his home for being gay. He's homeless, starving and doesn't have many options. Joining the all male brothel, the Chicken Ranch, was his last resort. He might have forgot to mention he was a virgin but it doesn't matter right?

His first client is stuttering, geeky, loner Killian who is 30, lonely and okay with not having a partner. A friend suggests visiting the Chicken Ranch which he does.

The story is evenly paced through out the end. It should not be shelved as porn. The plot's good, the main characters even better. Even the secondary characters added to the story. There's sex but it is well written that could totally picture each action. Plus, this story more than sex. Surprised? Killian was my favorite character of the book. He was sweet without being mushy. His reactions and reasoning were sound. Love between an 18 and 30 year old? It can happen. And these two were deserving of one another, plus there was time for their love to build.

**Thank you** for Killian's introspection around 85% because I was seriously was wondering if he *really* did not have an issue with his boyfriend working as a prostitute after months of dating. It takes someone with bigger balls than me (and I don't even have any) to be able to sort of be okay with it.

On one hand there's a lover's jealousy with their partner having sex with others. (obviously open relationships are not included) And on the other hand Declan has a job and he shouldn't give it up just because he has a potential mate. \*shrugs\* It's up for debate. But I appreciated it.

A believable HEA (view spoiler) does happen. :)

I'm actually reviewing the next book of this series but I wanted to familiarize myself with the author. Happy I did. It looks like it might be a possible beautiful reading relationship.

## Lily says

This novella is the story of a rent boy and the "client" he eventually falls in love with. It's entertaining, the characters are well written and the sex scenes are hot.

I really liked the slow development of Declan and Killian's relationship. They meet on Declan's first night as a rent boy at the Chicken Ranch and while Killian is not his first customer he is the one to take his virginity.

They meet again weeks later in town and start a friendship that slowly blossoms into more. When they have sex for the first time since that night at the Chicken Ranch it ends badly. However they soon get back together and are happier than ever. Eventually feelings are declared and they move in together. The epilogue shows a happy and bright future for Declan and Killian.

As I said before, I really liked this story although I do have a couple of small issues with it. I found it hard to believe that Killian had virtually no problem with his boyfriend continuing as a rent boy after they get together. Another little niggle was the age difference. I don't have a problem with Killian being 12 years older than Declan but what I didn't like too much was that Declan was just eighteen. A 12 year gap just seems, to me, a big difference when it's 18 and 30.

However, overall I really enjoyed this story. I would have given it 3.5 stars because of those two reasons but since Goodreads has no half stars I'm rating it a 4.

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## JenMcJ says

I wish gr had 1/2 stars. This book was well written as you would expect from Amanda Young, but I think she missed a few areas that would have added more depth to the story.

I don't want to be too spoilerish so I would just say in general, I think this was a watered down version of what the story should have been. It felt like it was rushed to be written without the author really knowing her characters that well yet. The sex was very much about the emotional connection versus the physical. The scenes were well written but they were mostly vanilla and less hot than some of her previous books.

One point that really pulled me out of the story and made me scratch my head was Declan's reaction to meeting Killian again in the grocery store. I don't think it was well thought out. I hate to think that after only three months, Declan would forget his first "John". It made him seem really shallow and emotionally gone which did not seem to be the purpose of that part of the book.

Since this is Amanda Young and she is such a good, steady writer, I am willing to bet that if this is a series, we will get more out of the next books as AY has more time to live with and think about her Chicken Ranch family.

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