



# Artistic Appeal

*Andrew Grey*

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### **Artistic Appeal** Andrew Grey

Brian Watson knows close friends Gerald Young and Dieter Krumpf have an ulterior motive when they invite him to their Christmas party. Brian has taken over the case to secure the return of the famous painting called The Woman in Blue to Dieter, but they don't want Brian to be all work and no play. They intend to set him up with a friend, but he's not who catches Brian's eye. Instead, it's Nicolai, the deaf art restorer caring for the works already returned to Dieter.

But pursuing Nicolai won't be easy. A year ago Nicolai had to fight to regain his independence after a bad break-up, and he's reluctant to give up his freedom a second time. Plus, Brian has competition in Justin, Nicolai's ex, who wants him back badly.

Nicolai's reluctance isn't the only roadblock. Brian was married to a woman for almost ten years. Now he has to confess to his mother, his ex-wife, and his young daughter that he loves a man—all while conducting a potentially groundbreaking court case and trying to convince Nicolai that love isn't about co-dependence, it's about support.

### **Artistic Appeal Details**

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Author : Andrew Grey

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## From Reader Review Artistic Appeal for online ebook

### Aimee says

Gotta be honest here. I borrowed this book from the library based on the cover and author alone. But the story was so amazing that I bought it and have reread it several times.

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### R \* A Reader Obsessed \* says

#### 3 Stars

Having recently read a few of Grey's works, I've realized that he's kinda the consistent go-to for simple everyday romance with a decent amount of heat.

This sequel pretty much starts where *Legal Artistry* left off. Dieter and Gerald have won the first battle in obtaining Dieter's family's works of art that were lost amidst the chaos of WWII, and now Gerald's law partner, Brian, is taking over to see the rest of the legal battle through. When Brian was introduced in the first book, he was recently divorced from his wife, whom he married because she became pregnant. Though he worked hard on his marriage and raising their daughter, Brian always knew he was gay. Now free, he's finally able to explore that side of him, having never had the chance to do so.

As Brian's friendship deepens with Dieter and Gerald, it gives him the opportunity to meet the man who's helping Dieter restore the paintings he's already recovered. Nikolai immediately intrigues Brian, and Brian can't resist the mysterious man. Luckily, lust and attraction goes both ways.

So, basically this is a tale of how Brian finally puts himself first and explores his sexuality, dating for the first time ever. These two take it slow and for the most part, they have a nice natural progression. What made this story for me was Nikolai. He was a sweet character, strong and independent, and it was interesting to see how he adapted to his environment and various social situations. This showcased the everyday struggles he goes through, and it was done tastefully and with sensitivity. Nikolai's been burned pretty badly by a past relationship and though Brian is attentive and caring, he's reluctant to let go and trust others. Brian on the other hand, is not timid in letting Nikolai know just how much he wants him in his and his daughter's life.

At times, this did veer off into some instances of great melodrama, mostly involving Nikolai's disturbing stalker of an ex and Brian's over the top, horrible crazy ex-wife. Also, beware of some lovey dovey cheesiness and a 9 year old who's too smart for her own good.

In all, I'm very satisfied in finding out what happened with Dieter and his quest for his family's legacy, and I'm glad that both Brian and Nikolai find their happy ending with each other. Like I've said before, this was easy simple romance reading.

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### Danni says

I finished *Legal Artistry* and just continued on to this book. Brian has taken over the case that his good friend and co-worker Gerald was working on, to bring back a number of paintings that belong to Gerald's lover, Dieter. Brian is recently divorced and has admitted to himself that he is gay, but what is most important to

him at the moment is to care for his young daughter. Then he meets Nicolai, a deaf art-restorer, and although he tries, he just can't stay away from him. The two guys really hit it off and they like each other, but starting a relationship isn't always easy. Brian has to convince Nicolai that he won't lose the independence he worked so hard at building up again after breaking up with his last partner. Nicolai on the other hand has to show Brian that they can all be a new family, Nicolai, Brian and his daughter. This along with two mad exes and a big court case hanging over them.

Again this was such a pleasant read. I love the way Andrew Grey writes and the characters he creates. The characters have enough insecurities and issues to make them feel real, but without the read being too angsty for me. I love Nicolai and Brian together and how they become a family.

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### **Becky Condit says**

Mr. Grey has written another great book with characters to love even after the book is over, an exciting plot to follow eagerly, and an HEA both expected and received with relief. I really enjoyed this story and will continue to consider Mr. Grey's books auto-buys because I know I will not be disappointed, no matter what the storyline is about or who "stars" in the book.

Please see my complete review at <http://mrsconditreadsbooks.com/index....>

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### **Robert Helms says**

4.4??. Great sequel to Legal Artistry. A must read after book #1 in the series.  
HIGHLY RECOMMEND!

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### **Denise H. says**

\*\*\* This story continues Dieter and Gerald's quest to get their family art returned from the Nazi theft.

\* Brian, their friend and lawyer, in his 30s, is handling the appeal, that includes a trip to Vienna, many meetings, and also a Supreme Court hearing about the legality of the return to an American citizen. Brian is divorced and has custody of charming Zoe, 9. Her Mom, Barbara had cheated on Brian, and now harasses him for more alimony.

\* Nicolai, also in his 30s, is an art restorer and is deaf. Nicolai and Brian meet and become fast friends. Brian has never acted on his M/M desires until Nicolai. As Nicolai becomes closer, Brian and Zoe go to classes at the Deaf Institute to learn sign language. Their romance is subtle, sexy and lovely. Brian is not afraid of his first times, because he's happy and open to this new set of emotions. These men are a terrific couple. The story is fascinating and different. There is a stalking ex of Nicolai's, the irritation of Barbara, plus the artwork lawsuit all in progress.

This is calm, sweet, loving and full of great friends who help each other. It's a marvelous tale of love. Here we have gentlemen who are strong, solid and successful. Sweet Nicolai captures our hearts as he manages his daily life as a deaf man. We see the challenges and how they are overcome. We also get the beauty in the love and melding of a special family.

I give this true romance a high recommendation ! ENJOY !

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## **Teddies says**

This was one of the sweetest and most compelling books I have read by Andrew. I bought the book and read the book in one day. I could not put it down.

The interaction between the main characters and the daughter were perfect. I can just see it happening in my own home as my family gets a little crazy with video games themselves.

I shut down my e-reader with a smile on my face and wanting another Andrew Grey book to read immediately.

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## **Gavin Stephenson-Jackman says**

Fine art, stolen in WWII by German forces in Austria found in a museum in Vienna. Dieter is the last remaining member of the Meinauer family after the death of his grandmother. Gerald has recovered some of the stolen art and now has turned the case over to Brian for the appeal process and he feels too much emotional connection to Dieter to remain objective.

Brian has his own emotional baggage as his marriage is failing and he soon finds himself raising his daughter Zoe on his own. Brian is Gerald's direct supervisor in the law firm and finds that he and Brian are now quite in demand after their first win in having the stolen art works returned. Brian has also made an admission to Gerald that he is not alone at the law firm. Dieter and Gerald do their best to introduce Brian to the local available bachelors and soon he finds Nicolai. Together they fight the next court battles. Nicolai has to also deal with his jealous ex as Brian has to deal with his vicious ex-wife as well as his less than accepting parents.

Again Mr. Grey has constructed an enthralling story and characters which make the book hard to put down. I finished this book very quickly as a result and look forward to reading the last of the trilogy soon.

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## **Mainly Stories says**

Attorney finds physical and emotional chemistry with fine art restoration expert who is deaf.

I didn't read the precursor to this story but that was not problematic as this was perfect as a standalone. Brian is an attorney and in fact, a managing partner of his firm, raising his precocious young daughter (9) following divorce. He is for the first time, forced to take a look and explore his own identity, admitting that he is gay. Introduced by friends to an expert in art restoration, Brian is attracted and interested in Nikolai. An added flavor to the story is Nikolai's deafness and his own work to be comfortable as a professional independent man.

The setting or framework of the story is a legal case involving provenance and ownership of a friend, Dieter's family art recovered following WWII.

This author explores intimacy in the relationship as a secondary factor to the relationship itself. Each man is somewhat recently single, learning about themselves and learning about each other. They are also developing and exploring how they are as a couple and as a family with Brian's daughter. I strongly appreciated that deafness was integrated into the story and how communication changes. This man, Nikoli was a strong, intelligent, talented professional with a need to use alternate methods of communication. Perfect handling of

this sensitive topic.

The journey includes stressors involving Nikolai's ex-boyfriend, Brian's ex-wife who wants money, money, money and uses their daughter as bait. I didn't feel that the storyline regarding Justin, Nikolai's ex-boyfriend was complete. One day he was stalking Nikolai and then he stopped. I think that this could have been resolved a little better but in the scope of the story, this was a small hanging thread.

The setting or framework of the story is a legal case involving provenance and ownership of a friend, Dieter's family art recovered following WWII.

Story 4, Emotions 4, Sizzle 3.5

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## **Karen says**

3.5 stars rounded down to 3 because still no 1/2 stars here on GR and this was definitely better than the first book it didn't quite hit 4 'I-love-it' stars.

### ***Things are looking up!***

I really had to think long and hard on whether I was going to give this one a chance. Mostly because book 1 in this series was barely ok for me and I'm a bit of an Andrew Grey fan so, truthfully this made me a bit sad, I'm also a firm believer in second chances so ultimately I figured I should put my money where my mouth is so to speak and that's how I came to be here writing a review for the audio book 'Artistic Appeal' book #2 in Andrew Grey's 'Art' series.

While the MCs in 'Artistic Appeal' are a different pairing a lot of the events from 'Legal Artistry' the first book in this series carry forward to this story resulting in the fact that while I may not have enjoyed the first book as much as this one, I am glad that I took the time to listen to 'Artistic Appeal' because it definitely was to my benefit when I got to this story.

Brian Watson is good friend of Dieter and Gerald the MCs from 'Artistic Appeal' as well as Gerald's colleague and the lawyer who takes over Dieter's case that started in 'Artistic Appeal' and resolves with this story.

When Gerald and Dieter invite Brian to a dinner party with the hopes of playing matchmaker with one of Dieter's friends things don't work out quite the way they're anticipating. It's Nicolai who captures Brian's attention. Nicolai is an art restorer who has been taking care of the artworks that have recently been returned to Dieter and he's fast becoming a dear friend to Dieter as well.

I really liked the character of Nicolai. He's deaf but he's portrayed as an independent, capable and very functional person. Like anyone who has a sensory impairment he's learned to adjust and compensate for his hearing loss.

Brian's recently divorced and has custody of his daughter, Zoe. Being single and gay is new for him and he's doing his best to keep his life balanced between work, parenting and just being a newly out gay man.

Both Brian and Nicolai had their share of added drama. Brian with his ex-wife, who to say the least is a real piece of work and his mother who, thankfully got her act together. For Nicolai it was his ex-boyfriend/turned stalker who randomly decides he wants Nicolai back after a year of separation.

Once again John Solo was the narrator for this story and overall I enjoyed his narration. He has a pleasant voice and adds variety and expression to the voices of the different characters ensuring that everyone doesn't

sound the same...a definite plus in this listener's opinion. Admittedly my niggle was Zoe's voice and maybe I'm just too damned fussy, I'll own that. When it comes to children's voices I admit it, I'm a tough sell.

'Artistic Appeal' is an easy and sweet romance with a bit extra for added interest. I definitely enjoyed this more than the first book and plan on checking out what's going to happen next in this series.

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An audio book of 'Artistic Appeal' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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## Gennie Gee says

I really think most anything Andrew Grey writes is amazing and this book is no exception. I love that this story, like many, is one about friends, family and chosen family. Read it if you get a chance, but make sure that you read it after reading "Legal Artistry."

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## Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

Note: This **audiobook** was provided to me through Hearts on Fire Reviews in exchange for an impartial review.

In a continuation of the saga of the pre-World War II painting hanging in a museum in Austria, this story focuses on a different couple but includes a lot of "air time" for Gerald and Dieter, the original couple. The famous painting is one that was stolen from Dieter Krumpf's family when the Nazis occupied Austria, and this installment features Brian Watson, the attorney who took over the case from Dieter's now life partner, Gerald, when the two became a committed couple.

Previously married, Brian has a little girl named Zoe who's a sweetheart. A bit precocious, she's not overly so, and when Brian meets a man who lights up his heart and libido but who happens to be deaf, Zoe joins Brian in learning sign language so Nicolai, an art restoration expert and the wonderful man who captured her father's eye, won't feel left out of conversations when he comes to visit or they go places together.

Those who love Andrew Grey will recognize his work as he builds an interesting story, no doubt based in part on a news story that caught his attention, but as always, it's filled with love, romance, friendship and family. The good guys will prevail—eventually, and in the meantime, Brian and Nicolai will fall in love. The epilogue conclusion is in part a conclusion for both stories as the courts make a final ruling on just who owns the Krumpf family collection, and our guys make good on their promise for a bright future.

I enjoyed this audiobook narrated by John Solo whose vocalizations were definitely distinctive, and he even managed the nasty ex-wife and the little girl without sounding campy. The pace was good, the story interesting, and as I said, the narration was quite pleasant to listen to. Fans of Andrew Grey's work and those who enjoy an MM romance with an older man, or a bisexual man in his first male romance, or even those who like stories of men with children should all find this very satisfying.

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## **Jacq says**

Ok read...

Somewhat dry, I just had a hard time finding the chemistry. The smexy scenes are still glossed over until  
69%

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## **Serena Yates says**

The story of a court case involving art stolen by Nazis then confiscated by the Austrian government that started in book one of this series continues in this second volume, but from a different set of main characters' perspective. While the first court case was won, Dieter and Gerald now face the appeal, and Gerald has asked his boss, Brian, to represent Dieter due to his own emotional involvement. Brian has agreed to take it on with Gerald supporting him, but he also faces some challenges in his personal life that don't make it easy to focus. Nicolai gets involved when some of the already returned artworks need restoration but once he and Brian meet, things quickly become very personal. What follows is another exciting, suspenseful story that combines legal details, personal challenges, and a great love story.

Please find my full review on [Rainbow Book Reviews](#).

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## **Kristie Crawford says**

Another good book in another good series from Andrew Grey

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