



Townie and the Twink

Daisy Harris

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Insightful to a fault, Gabe Ashton knows Nick Flynn's gay even if Nick doesn't. And after seeing how the townie looks at his "buddy," Gabe knows Nick is in love with a guy who'll never love him back. So Gabe invites Nick to campus parties and to hang out with new people. But soon their friendship turns physical, and Gabe wonders if he's in just as much denial as Nick is.

Nick's straight—or so he's always assumed. But he can't deny that the things he's doing with Gabe are hot. More than that, he likes Gabe in a way he's never liked anyone else. Well, anyone else except his high school friend, John.

The hardest thing to give up is a fantasy, and the hardest thing to face is the truth. But if Nick wants the man standing in front of him, he'll have to give up the one he never had.

Townie and the Twink Details

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From Reader Review Townie and the Twink for online ebook

Nic says

I like this one just for the title - cute and fun, just like the story!

This series is pretty easy reading including this book which has a gay-for-you theme. Gabe befriends Nick. Gabe supposedly has a finely turned gaydar and recognises that Nick is gay although Nick doesn't think so himself.

Nick has always been a bit obsessed with his best friend John, something even his mother picks up on, but he denies his feelings are actually attraction. He continues to deny he can be attracted to men and may be gay, even when he and Gabe start a sexual relationship - it's just guys mucking around together, isn't it?

I liked the way Gabe was careful with Nick, letting him lead the way but I also like the way Nick was so into everything and accepting. He didn't have doubts that being physical with Gabe was something that he wanted. It was very cute the way they are relaxed and joking during sex, making it a fun experience. **"Yeah, it's different for me, too." ..(..) "Y'know, with you having a dick and all."** Although these are new experiences for Nick, it is also very new for Gabe as his experience of sex with Nick is like nothing he has experienced before.

A bit frustrating as Nick continues to deny his feelings but they get their in the end.

3.5 stars

V says

Another lovely sequel, this author really created such a cute and adorable characters.

I think this story was the simplest among this series, although very enjoyable.

The way this 2 characters got together was nicely done.

My humble opinion is, if you weren't happy with book 1 or 2, this story may not be for you.

If you are looking for lots of drama and angst, you won't find it here.

For me, it was perfect.

I'm looking forward to read the next sequel.

Ni_kii says

Gabe knows as soon as he meets Nick that he's gay; unfortunately, Nick doesn't realise himself. When he witnesses the lovelorn looks that Nick gives his best friend, Gabe recognises that he is mooning after a straight man who can never reciprocate his feelings. He tries to help Nick out and extract him from a potentially hurtful situation by taking him into his fold and trying to give him other friends. But the more time they spend together, the more the attraction builds for Gabe. Is he destined to get his heart broken by a man who is convinced he is straight?

Nick has always had girlfriends, always been very much attracted to the girls that he dates. He isn't stupid enough to ignore the feelings that he has for his best friend, but he squashes them, never really acknowledges

them or what they mean about his sexuality. When he starts to spend more time with Gabe, he finds it harder to repress his doubts on his sexuality. There is only so many times he can chant "I'm not gay" before he has to question who he is trying to convince? Can this mess of feelings and repression be untangled to become a relationship worth fighting for?

Well, this is book three of a series which I am truly starting to love. In this one we have the story of Nick (The Townie) and Gabe (the Twink). I really liked Gabe. He had no hang-ups, no baggage; he just had the misfortune of being attracted to a straight man. I did feel he took a little too much shit from Nick (and his ridiculous "I'm not gay" mantra's), but I'm sure I've done equally ridiculous things for boy's I've liked! I have to say that this review was questioned on the blog as I stated the character was gay and not bi; I stick by my assessment. Although he seemed to be attracted to women, it was merely as an appreciation of prettiness...I'm pretty sure he is gay!

The main character of this book is Nick. It is his story that we are seeing, his journey which is causing all the mayhem! He doesn't want to believe he is gay and his head was so far in the sand I'm surprised he didn't suffocate. He had blatant feelings for his best friend which he couldn't deny or hide. When his relationship with Gabe starts to develop more, he starts to become attracted to him. No matter what he thinks, men do not watch each other masturbate to homoerotic foreign films (yes, he tries to tell himself straight boys do it all the time...), nor do they allow a gay man to blow and kiss them. It started off being quite cute, but once Gabe started getting attached it got very fricking annoying. If I could have jumped in the book and slapped some sense into him I would; it was not fair on Gabe that all the feelings and tenderness they shared were dismissed in such a way. I didn't want them to part but I wanted him to appreciate what they had together...I suppose it's easier said than done.

Nick's best friend makes frequent appearances as the barrier to true love. Nick is obsessed with him and Gabe is obsessed that Nick will never return his feelings as he has lost his heart to another. I thought the guy was a complete douche from start to finish; stand him and Gabe next to each other and there really is no comparison!

The sex scenes were fricking hot. From the steamy innocence of the masturbation scene to the scorching enactment of Gabe's fantasy, the whole thing gets the heart racing and the palms sweating. If I had one complaint it would be Nick's little kinky secret. I won't go into detail but it was very ick inducing!

This is a good addition to a very hot series. I loved the story and Nick's journey of self discovery; it was all very lovely and hot. Watch out for the masturbation scene....Daisy Harris really does write good hand jobs!

namericanwordcat says

3.5 Stars

I had avoided reading this series but well ManLove classic or not isn't a huge advertisement of thoughtful written romance. Also, this publisher can be a bit pricey and the books are never lendable so I can try a writer through lending without buying and with a ManLove title my library doesn't seem to be carrying them...

However, I am liking this series.

Gabe goes after Nick. The part of the book where Gabe has superpowers of observation is a bit underdeveloped and a bit arrogant as well. I would have liked Gabe to grow as much in this book as Nick

does.

Nick is well drawn. I love that he is a transfer student to the college and walking the working class/middle class change over that become more educated sometimes signals.

Gabe was very kind and loving to Nick and I liked the romance.

Andrea says

Full review can be seen at [Seductive Musings](#).

Daisy Harris is going down as one of my favorite authors of 2012. She's been writing for a while but I didn't discover her until this year when I read the first book in the Men of Holsum College series. I love her characters, the amount of emotion she manages to drag out of me and how genuine the romances feel. She delivered exactly that once again in *Townie and the Twink*.

Gabe has a superpower, after careful observation he can read people. He's been watching a classmate, Nick, for a while and thinks he has the guy figured out. Gabe sees that Nick is lonely and in need of some friends on campus. Gabe is a genuinely nice guy and makes it his mission to befriend Nick and make him feel welcome at school.

Nick recently transferred into Holsum College from the local community college. Nick finds himself on the outside of two different worlds. There is the world of his high school friends which he still sees but doesn't really fit in with and then there is the entirely separate world of the students at Holsum College where he doesn't know anybody. He feels like he has been thrown a lifeline when Gabe approaches him and invites him to a campus party.

As their friendship forms they both start to feel a longing for something more. Gabe is openly gay and recognizes his attraction and feelings for Nick quickly. Nick has no idea what is going on. He knows he likes Gabe a lot, he knows he likes when Gabe touches him but he's not ready to accept that he might not be as straight as he thought. There is also the problem of Nick's infatuation with his high school friend John. Gabe sees how Nick looks at John, knows he secretly loves him and it's something he can't compete with. Gabe can't force Nick to acknowledge his feeling for his friend but he can certainly nudge him along on the path to figuring it out. After that, it's up to Nick to choose what the future holds for them.

There was so much I liked about these characters. I thought Gabe's use of his superpower was a lot of fun. I liked that Nick and Gabe were two normal college guys. They weren't heroes or angels, just average guys trying to get by and have some fun while doing their best not to hurt anyone in the process. I loved that they didn't play games and respected each other and their friendship. They always stayed true to their character.

Gabe and Nick have a great romance too. It develops at the perfect pace and has just the right amount of angst to feel genuine. It's sweet but still has that raw, young love feel which makes it realistic rather than fluffy. Every book in this series has been fun, sexy and sweet.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Charnel's review posted on [Guilty Pleasures](#)

Gabe and Nick, WOW. The beginning of this friendship is fun to watch. Gabe is slick, that's for sure, getting Nick comfortable with him while showing Nick how gay Nick is. Straight guys look at other guys, straight guys masturbate together, straight guys kiss each other, and straight guys suck each other off. LoL

Gabe or how I like to think of him, Mister Know It All, falls quick and hard; as the reader I really feel for him because Nick has no, I mean absolutely no, really truly no idea what he wants and needs from Gabe. I found myself pulling for Gabe, holding back tears, because he fell hard and fast for Nick.

It's a little hard trying to understand Nick's logic, he's comfortable in an exclusive relationship with Gabe not wanting to see anyone else and not wanting Gabe to see anyone else but still this is all 'not in a gay way'. Townie and the Twink is really interesting. I laughed every time Nick said or thought, "Not in a gay way". This book is the perfect everyone experiments in college story: I had this thought and then read a quote in the book that describes not only Townie and the Twink but also the series as a whole.

Best Quote: "a lot of people say everyone is bi to some extent." Chris lip curled into a smile. "I'm pretty sure that's true in college."

Vanessa theJeepDiva says

Each book in this series seems so realistic to me. Now granted that thought is coming from a heterosexual woman's opinion on these fictional men's relationships. It's just that Daisy has written these men in a way that they seem so real to me. The emotions these guys go through just seem to me as open heartedly genuine. Part of growing from teen to adult people discover new things about themselves, they meet new people, and some move off.

Nick falls into most of the above. He has transferred into Holsom College after spending several years at a neighboring school. He is trying to fit in, get to know new people, and still trying to keep some of his friends from childhood. The obvious thing with one of his childhood friends is that he never realized he was attracted to him.

Gabe not only has a high functioning gaydar, but he can read people exceptionally well. He knows Nick is gay. He also knows that Nick has got a serious crush on his best friend. Gabe likes Nick. He thinks Nick is a great guy and would love to be more than just friends with him. Gabe just needs to figure out how to enlighten Nick into something he does not realize about himself.

I loved Nick and Gabe. I wanted to scream at Nick a few times. I guess like most people Nick learns things the hard way and sometimes unintentionally hurts those that mean the most while learning. Gabe is a good guy. I hated reading him being hurt. He was the perfect person for Nick though when Nick was on the other side of those hurt feeling though. Nick and Gabe made a great must read couple.

I just have to say that Nick and Gabe's first kiss is ridiculously hot! These two... oh my. There are so many things that are new to Nick. Man on man loving is completely uncharted territory for him and reading him and Gabe was just...wow. I mentioned above that this series has a very real feel to me. Everything that happens between Nick and Gabe could easily be something Daisy picked from someone's real life experiences.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

Like the first one in the series there was an out and proud MC and a clueless MC.
It was sweet watching Gabe help Nick realize that he wasn't as straight as he thought he was.
A light cute easy read.

Breann says

Well, hell. Could these college boys get any hotter? I don't know if I could handle it if they did.

So if you're in the mood for some light, sexy fun... c'mon, let me tell you about Nick & Gabe.

Nick is straight. Of course he is, why else would he let his new friend Gabe blow him? Gabe has excellent gaydar. It's like his superpower and knows Nick is gay at first sight. He slowly but surely gets Nick to realize this about himself as well.

Daisy Harris knows how to write some good sexual tension. Oh my, with the tentative touches, the accidental rubbing and the innocent mutual masturbation... I thought I would burst into hot flames and they hadn't even had The Sex yet. But when they did have The Sex? It was hot and rough, just how I like it.
licks lips

So, yeah. They were hot. But Nick & Gabe were also really sweet. So sweet I caught myself talking to my book out loud saying, "Oh my gah! They are so friggin' cute." And they were. I loved how their relationship developed from friends (with benefits) to an eventual real relationship. They really did care about each other and it definitely showed through their interactions. So darn adorable.

My only tiny gripe is the whole 'I'm not gay' thing went on a little too long for me. Seriously, you had a guy's dick in your mouth. That is definitely gay territory. How in denial could he possibly be? But, I was glad it didn't really change how he treated Gabe. He knew he liked Gabe and that he was someone special so he continued to treat him as such.

This series is basically all sex and fluff. But it's goooooooooood sex and fluff.

Chris says

Very good m/m romance about a college student who can tell that the cute townie from class is closeted, even from himself, although his blatant lusting after his lifelong best friend gives him away.

Jen Davis says

This third installment in the Men of Holsum College series was kind of a mixed bag for me. There were

some things I really liked, while others didn't quite work. Let me give you a little set-up on the story.

Gabe is an openly gay college student who knows Nick only as an acquaintance through class. But Gabe is a very perceptive guy and he recognizes the fact that Nick is likely gay. In fact, after running into him at a pub one night, Gabe realizes that that Nick is in love with his very hot and very straight best friend. Of course, Nick is in denial. He's never considered himself gay in his life.

As a local, Nick doesn't live on campus, but as he strikes up a friendship with Gabe, he starts hanging out at Gabe's house... and eventually sleeping on his sofa. It's during a sleepover that their friendship turns physical.

I'm going to stop here and tell you what really works about this book: the sexy times. From making out, to mutual masturbation... to eventually the big enchilada, Daisy Harris delivers. The sex scenes are hot and believable, and every single one of them was great. The other thing I really like about these books is how they are all so different from each other. I would imagine it would be easy for these stories to feel the same, but they don't. The characters have clearly defined voices and the issues are unique to each couple.

Now for what I didn't like. The first is a small thing. I felt like too fine a point was put on Gabe's "mind reading" skills, especially early on. It was off-putting, redundant, and just didn't feel organic. The second problem was more significant and that was the fact that I had a hard time keeping up with elapsed time in the story. Sometimes I wasn't sure if a chunk of time had passed or just a day. By the end of the story, the guys referenced their relationship had been going on for "a few weeks," but that was closest we got to any time reference that felt clear to me. And this ties into my third (and biggest) problem, which is the fact that these dudes are throwing the L-word around in a nanosecond. A week, maybe? Talking about living together and "forever" in less than a month. Love too soon is my biggest peeve in romance of any kind. It rips all the realism away from the emotions between the characters and leaves me feeling annoyed.

So like I said, mixed feelings. A sexy diversion, yes. A romance that touched my heart, no.

Rating: C

**ARC provided by author for review*

Camille Adams says

I really liked this one! It exceeded my expectations. A well-written, light read. I thought the characters were great. And the portion where Nick had to come to terms with maturing past an idealised image he held in his mind was wonderful. I would try this author again :-)

Silkeeeeeereads says

When you are ready to just cuddle down and read hot sex scene after hot sex scene, this is the book. Fortunately I love hot sex scenes.

Lucy says

Reviewed for Hearts On Fire Reviews

I am a big fan of the Holsum College men (and I feel like a complete idiot in that I never connected Holsum=Wholesome. Maybe Ms. Harris didn't mean it that way, but suddenly it hit me they are wholesome men. OMG). Anyway, this is a series I enjoy and I am happy that I liked this one as well. Actually, I adored Gabe (the twink). He is funny, insightful and kind. The man is never mean, though he could be. He does things because they make him feel good about himself and they help others as well.

Nick is the townie, embarrassed because he went to community college while he saved up enough to go to Holsum. He lives at home with his mom, and he's fairly shy and self conscious. He is also in love with his best friend, John. He doesn't admit it, of course, because he isn't even gay. He isn't! The first time Gabe sees Nick with John, he knows immediately that not only is Nick gay, but that he loves John. John seems clueless about it and Nick is in denial. A nice situation.

Gabe gets to know Nick, and since he is friendly, he invites Nick to stay over at the house he shares with Matt and Sarah, his roommates, so that he can go to the big frat party. Nick is always thinking people are looking at him, judging him about being poor. Gabe and his friends don't do that. When Nick goes to the party, Gabe and friends are there. Nick is shocked to find Chris, from soccer, is also gay. He is also broke like Nick and no one makes a big deal of it. This is a truly nice group of people. The same can not necessarily be said for John and his friends. The John that Nick "loves" is a fictional thing, more someone from the past than who John really is. Really, that isn't John's fault, it's misperception on Nick's part. Nick is VERY much in denial. Things aren't "too gay". You are sexing up and kissing a guy. Sounds pretty gay, Nick. He puts what Gabe calls a "straight charade".

When Nick hurts Gabe I wanted to slap him. Hard. He spends a lot of time giving out mixed signals and then (maybe unintentionally) hurts him anyway. I was shaking my ereader at this point, as if I could shake some sense into Nick. Silly, but did I mention, I love Gabe? John can be an ass. He doesn't appreciate Nick. Hell, it doesn't even seem like he likes Nick. When they have a heartfelt conversation, you wonder what Nick ever saw in John. Nostalgia? At least at this point Nick starts to be honest with himself.

We get to revisit Chris and Peter from the first book, who are still together. Chris is a good friend for Nick as well. He is there for Nick when he realizes that he needs to talk to his mother. That scene was a little bit heartbreaking, and pretty happy. I liked the ending, a little resolution to things. It's another worthy entrée in the Holsum College boys series. I just like these guys. Very recommended.

Gabbi says

Alright...I admit that the Men of Holsum College series has become a favorite of mine. Ms. Harris has an ability to grip this reader into these characters' lives. Each one of her books in the series has had well-written characters that easily live in this reader's heart and mind long after I finished reading these books. Although, I've really liked all of the books in the series so far, The Townie and the Twink, is my favorite in the series so far.

If there is such a thing as a perfectly spot on 'gaydar' Gabe has it. He's proud that just in a few moments, he can instinctively tell who is straight and who is gay. Lately, Gabe has been eyeing a fellow classman, Nick, who even though he looks and acts straight, Gabe instinctively knows he's gay. When Gabe spots Nick sitting alone at a local pub, Gabe can't help but approach the quiet man and is soon invited to sit with him.

As Gabe and Nick begin to talk, Gabe is more than a little positive that Nick is not a straight man...even if Nick doesn't realize it himself. But just when their conversation is just getting interesting, they are joined by Nick's childhood best friend, John, and Gabe immediately senses the attraction and love Nick has for his very straight best friend.

Days later, Gabe can't get Nick off of his mind. Determined to get to know the man better, Gabe invites Nick to a party and encouraged Nick to stay with him and his roommates afterward, instead of going home across town. Although Nick tells him there's a very good chance he'll not be able to come, he does end up going to the party and meets Nick and his friends partying together in the basement of the frat house. Soon, a friendship develops between them and Gabe finds himself hopelessly falling for the naïve Nick. To Gabe's delight, Nick starts slowly admitting his attraction for Nick, and their relationship slowly starts to deepen into something truly special. But even though they fool around, Nick still has a hard time admitting his attraction to Gabe, much less to anyone else. Soon, both men are forced to come to terms with their feelings toward each other and Nick knows he must make a life changing decision. Will he chose a new life with Gabe or will he embrace his old life with his straight best friend, John?

I loved this book! I thought both Gabe and Nick were interesting and well-written characters. At first, they seem to exist on very opposite spectrums of life. Nick comes from a poor family and has had to work hard for everything he's gotten. Although he's been attracted to men in the past, he really doesn't think much about it. He's resolved to get through college, graduate, get a good job and settle down with a wife and kids. Gabe on the other hand, looks to come by things a little more easily. Gabe's very sure of himself and embraces his sexuality and the lifestyle he lives. I loved his zest for life and his sense of humor cracked me up at times. They really balance each other out. Nick makes Gabe settle down and Gabe makes Nick not to be so serious and enjoy life. The banter and camaraderie between Nick and Gabe was very apparent throughout their story and I loved the connection they had together.

I also thought the confusion and fear Nick goes through as he faces his sexuality, and what changes it will make in his life should he embrace it, was very realistically written. I did love how pure I thought Nick's feelings were for Gabe, and it was very obvious that there was a strong emotional bond between them that could not be denied. I loved the chemistry between these two characters and I hated to see their story come to an end.

Although I do believe that The Townie and the Twink could be easily read as a stand-alone book, I recommend you read the entire series. This way you will truly understand and love the dynamics between Ms. Harris's amazing characters.

Here are the Men of Holsum College books in series order:

College Boys
Diva and the Frat Boy
The Townie and the Twink
