



Catalysts: The Scientific Method

Kris Ripper

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Sometimes all it takes is meeting one person to turn your world upside down. Will Derrie likes girls but he isn't honest with them; he wants kinky sex and lots of it. When Hugh offers to dominate him, no sex required, Will realizes it might not be so easy to separate the two.

Sometimes all it takes is a new angle on an old idea to change everything you thought you wanted.

Hugh Reynolds holds the world at arm's length. He lives alone, works alone, and he thinks he's as happy as he'll ever be. But Will gets under his skin and once he's gone, Hugh realizes he doesn't want to go it alone forever.

Sometimes all it takes is a random encounter to open your mind (and your heart). Truman Jennings hits on a cute guy at a conference and he's smitten by the end of their first date. Hugh's not the kindest or the easiest boyfriend Truman's ever had, but he brings one thing to their relationship that no one else could: kinky, adventurous, sweetly submissive Will.

Sometimes you can't find the right man till you find the wrong one. Three men. Three sides to love, and intimacy, and laughter. Three people who don't know what they're looking for...until they find it in each other.

This book is the first book in the Scientific Method Universe, and was originally published as two volumes: *The Scientific Method* and *Hugh's New Dude*. The new version has some additional bits here and there, but covers most of the same ground. Information about the rest of the series can be found at krisripper.com/smu

Catalysts: The Scientific Method Details

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From Reader Review Catalysts: The Scientific Method for online ebook

Courtney says

This author keeps throwing me for a loop. This book starts with a straight (?) boy (Will) who is ashamed of his fantasies spending time with a male Dom (Hugh), who is helping him experiment with submission and other aspects of BDSM. It's not sexual . . . until it is.

Now, in your average romance, you could pretty much call it from that point. Oh, yeah, Dom will fall in love, straight boy will realize he's maybe not entirely straight, and they'll ride off into the sunset. Only . . . that's not quite what happens.

If you're a blurb reader, you know that the Dom gets a boyfriend (Truman). I am a possessive, jealous person on behalf of fictional characters. I was prepared to HATE the boyfriend when he finally showed up, on behalf of poor Will, who I was sure would be feeling angst-ridden and left out. But it is written so beautifully, and makes it CRYSTAL clear that Will is happy for them, and actually has a girl he's started seeing. Yet, even though Hugh and Truman are starting to build a future together, they're still finding a place for Will that meets needs for all three of them.

The dynamics of these three guys is just fascinating. I am really glad there are many more books to read in this series, because I want to delve deeper into their minds and see how all of this goes. From the synopses I read of the other books, there will be many twists and turns along the way. Normally, that's something I avoid, but in this case, I'm entranced and can't wait to dive in.

Cat M says

Fuck. This is so fucking hot. And kinky. But also intense and emotionally revelatory and unconventionally romantic and one of the most honest depictions of poly I've ever read.

Also, it has one of my favourite types of relationships progressions: non-sexual kink to sexual kink to relationship with kink.

Will and Hugh and Truman (who comes in halfway through the story) are all very different men, with different needs and desires and vulnerabilities. And their relationships with each other are very different. Not better or worse, not more or less real or important, but different.

I especially love that while Will is the one who is inexperienced and frightened of his own desires, in the end it's Hugh who's the most vulnerable of them all.

Laxmama says

4.5

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

Kindle freebie 1/25/18!

Joyfully Jay says

A Joyfully Jay review.

4.75 stars

Oh, I really loved this one! I found these guys amazing and so fascinating and I was engrossed in their relationships from the very start. But before I go to far, a bit of background here. I was reading the Lead Me into Darkness anthology when I came across a short story featuring Hugh, Will, and Truman. I had never read anything by Ripper before but I loved the story, so much so that I immediately went looking for other works by the author. I was surprised to find that the short was part of the larger Scientific Method series, a series that looks to be about 7-8 books, plus a lot of extras. So I immediately went to pick up the first of the series to get more of these guys.

Catalysts is actually a revised version of the original first two books in the series. It combines Scientific Method (which itself is a combination of a bunch of shorts into one volume) and Hugh's New Dude. My understanding from reading the notes from the author is that Catalysts has actually been revised and cleaned up with a new ending for the two stories in order to better set up the relationships over the rest of the series. This book definitely doesn't read like a bunch of individual stories put together. It is very seamless and flows easily into one long novel.

Read Jay's review in its entirety here.

WMD says

Kinky relationship romance

Will is finding he can't be satisfied in vanilla sexual relationships...he has to use fantasies to even make it thru the night. He hates what he wants, fears it, and he is spiraling out...and then he is introduced to Hugh...whose own complex history makes him very very helpful.

I think part of why I rate this book so highly is I like Kris Ripper's whole universe of overlapping stories that follow. But this would be my favorite, I think, because it centers around Will and him finding a space and people who make him feel better than sane....he feels warm and accepted and "embraces his kink." And he, in turn, tunes his partners' perspectives.

This book is solely focused on relationship development and growth in personal honesty and self-knowledge. Not something I would usually rate so highly, I usually want some other layers of adventure or richer context of jobs or events. But why this one? Maybe because the relationship diving is the big adventure here, not just some rote themes of the heteronormative type. The characters are sarcastic (both in dialogue and thought) and the stretching of relationships perspectives and norms is done in a way that pulled me in. Not focusing

on labels. Also, kinky bdsm and/or power exchange relations is a central theme to this series, so hot.

I got invested in Will and there was no irritating insta-perfect-love or single layered characters that usually reduce my interest in contemporary m/m romance (and, often, in any bdsm themed books).

I find this book humorous and the characters, their observations and thought processes and dialogue all engaging. There is some chewing on angst to understand and master it, but it is not an angsty book. I really love Will Derrie and the other characters he connects with. Many characters are introduced that we meet in more depth in later books in the Scientific Method Universe...all with a central themes of embracing kink and being brave enough to risk connecting with others.

This book involves what I would call polyamorous relations (with different types of love), some intense but probably realistic sadism/masochism in a consensual adult relationship, power exchange and mm and mmm intimate scenes.

If you end up liking the Scientific Methods Universe, I suggest viewing Kris' blog, which has several short stories and scenes available, or consider supporting zim/zir through Patreon (where extra scenes or shorts are frequently available, depending on donation level).

If you like the sound of Catalysts, I do recommend the whole Scientific Methods Universe.

I can also highly recommend
For Real by Alexis Hall (bdsm)

Also
Special Delivery by Heidi Cullinan (dom/submissive/some polyamory)

Not many polyamory books on my list of top mm stories. I can recommend the Falls Chance Ranch series of books (free online) which center around a poly group and domestic discipline (top/brat) lifestyle.

Neeuqdrasil says

This is SO smokingly hot.

It hit ALL of my kinks. Including some I didn't know I had.

Ash says

Loved it. Loved Will. Loved Hugh. Loved Truman. Just... Loved. Onto Unexpected Gifts!

~nikki the recovering book addict says

It was okay...

I don't know... it was a little too long for my liking and rather lopsided in storytelling. I mean, more than 50% was dedicated to Will and Hugh's relationship building. Then it took way shorter time for Hugh and Truman to connect. That in and of itself confused me because I felt Will and Hugh had a more developed and stronger bond than Hugh and Truman. But it was like Will and Hugh weren't really in a relationship and on the flip side, Hugh and Truman jumped into one so quickly and apparently so strong that I just didn't see it.

Then there was Will and Truman in the last few chapters. I suppose I have to cut the author some slack because it has a sequel. But I guess I was just more invested in Will and Hugh than in Hugh and Truman. Oh wells....

Lotta says

Review March 2017: I've read this story (at least) three times, though only two in this form. It still makes me teary, emotional *and* hot and bothered. It's so incredibly easy for me to fall for these characters.

Second review, March 2017: So, I had to read it again. I am so deep in the Scientific Method Universe, it's not even funny. Or maybe it is. I'm trying to work out a timeline, but I realise I should have started that earlier, because I will not read through *all* the books twice in a month. But I've more or less worked out when this book takes place, so that's something at least.

Lennan Adams says

Ohhhh this book is AMAZING. Straight to my favorites shelf. I really could NOT put it down, I was staying up late, reading at stoplights, even late for work reading this. It is really unusual, so interesting psychologically and super erotic, too.

Basically it is about a straight guy who is seeing a gay male Dom for BDSM stuff but they end up having a sexual and romantic-ish relationship too. Then the Dom ends up in a more traditional romantic relationship with another guy, then all three end up in a hard-to-categorize (but BEAUTIFUL) relationship.

This book challenged some of my thinking about romance and relationships and I love that! It also resonated with me in a lot of ways and I learned some new stuff about myself through reading it. There are lots more Kris Ripper books in this Scientific Method Universe and I can't wait to read them all. Kris is amazing, I am so excited to have found zir. *squeeee* !!!

Leyna says

Free on Amazon 01/25/2018

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B01...>

M. Arbon says

A wonderful depiction of a tender, emotionally and physically intimate relationship between three people as it unfolds. I loved the slow character growth in this.

Update: I'm not going to review all of the books individually, because it's a long series, but I binged them and they're all really enjoyable. Or heart-wrenching. Or both.

Anna says

Wow. This was right up my ally. Kinky. Poly. All about relationships and friendships and family, both found and not.

Very recommended, since I kind of have to go read all the rest now.

Iben says

This entire series is fraking awesome. That's all I've got at the moment.
