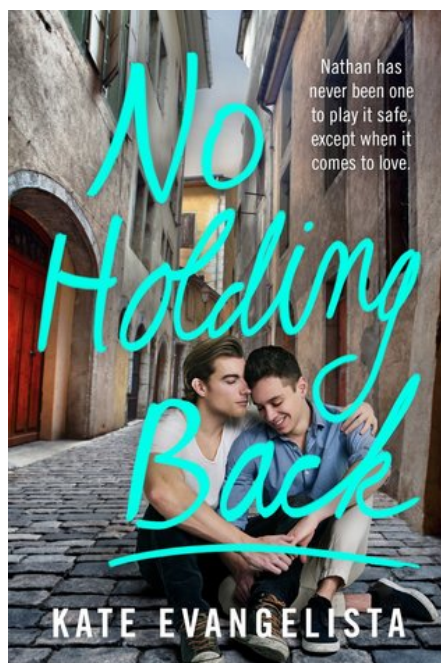




No Holding Back

Kate Evangelista

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A romantic European vacation is the perfect excuse to let go in this highly anticipated sequel to *No Love Allowed* by Kate Evangelista.

Everyone knows that Nathan is in love with his best friend, Preston...Everyone except Preston. Nathan has always accepted that Preston was too focused on his swim training to worry about love. But Preston is heading off to train for the Olympics soon, so if Nathan wants his chance at love, he has to speak up now. But saying "I love you" is surprisingly difficult, even for someone as confident as Nathan. Maybe a whirlwind vacation in Europe could help? But... what if it doesn't work out and he loses the best friend he's ever had?

No Holding Back Details

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Author : Kate Evangelista

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From Reader Review No Holding Back for online ebook

Rafael says

The only words that I could think of to summarize No Holding Back by Kate Evangelista are innocence and tease! I have read No Love Allowed which is the first book and I could confidently say that No Holding Back has a lot of improvement in terms of writing style. I was so immersed in reading No Holding Back that I'm not even aware what time is it when I was closely in the end. And at the end, it looks like I enjoyed it more than I expected.

Let's talk about Preston and Nathan. Apparently, I am both relatable to the two. One who is so inclined that doesn't even think about the love aspect of life — is so me. I was so inclined on pursuing my dreams and to be in a relationship with books. On the other hand, the other one is an event planner. I was once in a student council. So, I know how it works to organize a full-scale event. And I tell you, Eleanor is scaaaaaaaary! (That escalated, quickly) Like, she is the oldest hag that you will encounter in real life and she's like looking at you, intimidating, commanding you with her words. I applaud Ms. Kate here because she nailed back1writing Eleanor's character!

The thing is I like how Kate Evangelista builds the characters of the Preston and Nate. They both have different personalities and it seems that they balanced each other out. It is kind of unique because when the two of them are in a scene, I couldn't get it off in my mind that they are perfect being together. It feels like I'm also on a tour with them while they stroll, eat food and had their time while reading. I just wish I could go to Europe. Let's add this to my bucket list.

No Holding Back feels like an introduction on what we will see on the third book or what will happen to Natasha's story. I think, I could see a little glimpse of that story but that's one of the things that I am getting excited for! I've been wanting to know what happened back2to her and what kind of story that she has. Caleb and Didi also appeared in this book and they doing great. I kind of wanting more of their story. No, scratch that. I'm going to be selfish here, I kind of wanting more of the everyone's story. I don't want their story to end yet.

It feels like I want more of Preston and Nathan because of that ending! Holy Guacamole! That's what you called a major cliffhanger and a major tease! Anyway, what was I like about this book is that it tackles LGBT or same-sex relationships which are being discriminated or most of the time in our country (Philippines). I commend Ms. Kate for having the courage to write this kind of book. I hope that this kind of story doesn't have a huge negative impact on the society and I also hope that people have an open mind to read this kind of novel.back3

What I learn from No Holding Back is that love can have a lot of definitions – It could be love why the people you love the most is putting a wall between you two, maybe it is for you to keep on focusing attaining your dreams or just someone who is staying on your side is enough or you don't even know it but appreciation is the least that she could offer but she loves you. There's many forms of love and Ms. Kate Evangelista just gave her readers more than just one love. That's what I like about her. She keeps on loving.

MY RATINGS: 5 STARS!

Chelsey Ellice says

I really enjoyed the second book in this series. So glad to find out at the end that there is going to be a third! I wasn't sure at first if i would like it as I havent read a love story involving a gay couple. But it was still a love story and I am happy with any love story. Im a hopeless romantic waiting for my prince charming. Until then i'll read books like this one. If you loved the first you will love the second.

Alice-Elizabeth (marriedtobooks) says

I had seen No Holding Back previously mentioned on the Swoon Reads website and when the opportunity arose to take part in a promotional tour for the book, I leapt at the chance. I have to say, I was not disappointed by what I read. This novel is the 2nd in the Dodge Cove series HOWEVER, you can read this one without reading the first book first. The story follows Nathan and Preston, two close friends. Nathan, an event and party planner and Preston, a swimmer with ambitions to go to the Olympics.

The novel follows their journey from leaving Dodge Cove and travelling all over Europe as Nathan starts to fall head over heels in love for Preston. Having kept things a secret until now, this journey around Europe could change everything. I love how the romance wasn't predictable, there were twists and turns at every corner which kept me reading till the end. Both showed a clear emotional connection to each other, I enjoyed Kate's writing style and descriptions of the places the guys visited (Paris, Cork, Venice) to name a few. Would happily recommend this novel to readers of LGBT and those who like their M/M Romances with a journey of self-discovery.

For more bookish awesomeness, follow my social medias:

Twitter- @marriedtobooks3

Instagram- @aliceandthebookslover

Blog- www.marriedtobooksreviewsandblog.wordpress.com

Sarah says

(Source: Read for free at swoonreads.com)

This was such a good MM romance, and Nathan and Preston were just so good together.

I really like Nathan and Preston, even though they both hesitated to become more than friends. It was obvious how much they cared for each other, and how much they each cared for their respective families, and they both just had such big hearts.

The storyline in this was pretty good, even though Preston and Nathan's relationships had plenty of bumps in the road! I really liked the way these two were when they were together, and I was desperate for them to really make a go of things. I also loved the way we got little snippets about Caleb and Didi (from 'Warning: You Might Fall In Love With Me') during the course of the story.

The romance in this was really good, and these two really knew how to make a situation steamy without there being anything graphic. I mean wow these two were hot!

The ending to this was really good, and I was so happy with the way things ended. I really want more of these stories now! Natasha and Jackson next please ;)

Overall; great MM romance,

7.5 out of 10.

Abbie says

This was another good read, and i'm glad Nathan and Preston's story got told.

I really liked Nathan and Preston together! They didn't have an easy ride, but they always got through it. Their love for one another was really nice to see.

It was good that they mentioned Didi and Caleb, (Even if those snippets weren't anything new) as they were another cute couple!

The ending to this was really good, and i had a smile on my face while reading it. I loved Didi and Caleb together, but i think i loved these together even more.

Overall, Great read.

Jamie (Books and Ladders) says

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Actual Rating: 3.5*

Full review to come closer to release date! but this one was really cute. Most of my issues with it stem from the writing itself and the little bit of lag in the middle. Definitely recommend checking it out though!

Read this as part of the #ReadProud Challenge.

Books and Ladders | Books Are My Fandom | Twitter | Instagram | Bloglovin'

Suze Lavender says

Nathan has been in love with his best friend Preston for years, only Preston is oblivious to everything that happens around him, because he's so focused on his swimming career. His dream is to be a successful Olympic swimmer. He's tried out for his dream team, but he has to wait a month for the results to come in. Nathan thinks he needs a distraction and he's determined to take Preston away from his sorrows during their last few weeks of freedom.

Nathan has always been supportive of Preston's dreams and is cheering from the sidelines. He has a busy life, but he makes sure he has plenty of time for his best friend. Nathan loves parties and likes nothing more than planning them for other people, so he's setting up his own business. Preston's mother is his first prestigious client and she can give Nathan's career an enormous boost. Before her terribly important event Nathan takes Preston to Europe though. Will he finally have the chance to tell Preston how he feels and does he dare to risk their friendship?

No Holding Back is an incredibly sweet love story. Nathan is very easy to like. He's enthusiastic, he has good taste, he's cheerful and he's kind to everyone around him. He's a fabulous whirlwind and his animated chatter kept putting a smile on my face. Preston's main focus is swimming and he needs the water to make sense of his feelings. He's pretty single-minded and focuses mainly on two things, swimming and spending time with his best friend Nathan. He's a caring guy with a lot of talent and promise. Nathan and Preston are endearing together and they treat each other with so much tenderness, love and sympathy that it's obvious they're meant for each other. I couldn't wait to find out if their journey through Europe would bring them what they both need the most.

Kate Evangelista has a wonderful sensitive way of looking at the world. It's what I like most about her books. She writes about true love in all forms. She also makes the imperfections in the personalities of her characters their most adorable characteristics, which is something else I like a lot about her stories. Her writing has a nice natural flow and she writes books I just have to read in one sitting. I can never put them down and am always spellbound by the way she describes emotions. There's so much going on between Nathan and Preston and most of it is cute, but there's an underlying layer of depth in the form of insecurities about the future and the consequences of risking a childhood friendship as well. Nathan is the outgoing one and while Preston is quiet he has plenty of lovely hidden qualities. I fell in love with both of them, they're absolutely amazing and they have great chemistry. I highly recommend No Holding Back, it's such a charming fast-paced romantic story.

Paige says

No Holding Back is the second book in the Dodge Cove series, but you needn't have read the first one to enjoy this one (I didn't!).

This book was originally brought to my attention (not only because of that gorgeous cover) through Bookevin's awesome review, and I knew I had to pick it up IMMEDIATELY.

I haven't dabbled in much of SwoonReads' catalogue and I'm kicking myself as to why not because if the other titles follow this sickly sweet formula then you can sign me right up.

Preston and Nathan were so adorable! I loved getting the backstory on their relationship and how that was a foundation through the entire novel. They were constantly supporting each other (even through their fights) and I was definitely rooting for them from the start.

While the plot was predictable, I actually enjoyed that? I haven't read a book like this since high school (aka, a long time ago) so it was nice to dabble in something short and fluffy. I'll definitely be checking out the first book in the series, No Love Allowed (and eagerly anticipating the next one, even though this one just came out!).

Are you a fan of Stephenie Perkins? Then check out this one and fall in love along with Nathan and Preston (there's descriptions of hot swimmer's bods. You know you need that in your life).

Jessica says

This book was surprisingly good. As I am not usually a huge fan of the romance genre, I was worried that I would dislike this book, however, I was pleasantly surprised.

Nathan (the main character) was very substantial and wholesome, as was Preston. They both had positive traits and flaws- something which made them feel much more realistic than typical YA characters. They were in no way idealised to make them seem perfect.

Another thing that I enjoyed was how their relationship also had it's flaws. It was never perfect (even their friendship had moments of jeopardy. This also made it easier to relate to in terms of how we as humans interact with each other- I've definitely had arguments with my closest friends before.

I also really enjoyed how both of the characters had aspirations and goals separate to being in a relationship with the other.

The only thing I felt was a bit lacking was the plot, as I found it quite predictable. I do think that this could be partly because my usual genre of choice (being fantasy or mystery) is quite fast-paced, and something exciting is always happening.

Overall, I really enjoyed this book, and would love to read the first book in this series at some point in the future.

Lola says

3.5 stars

Favourite quote: “*One pot brownie changed everything.*”

Alright, alright, perhaps not the best of the quotes to choose from, but it's what it unravels in the story that makes it so darn important and hilarious.

No Holding Back is supposedly the sequel to *No Love Allowed* but, to tell you the truth, I had no idea when I requested it, and I fully understood everything about this one. Even the secondary characters charmed me.

That's what it is: charming to the max.

It's a “best-friends-to-lovers” trope, which seems to be extremely popular in gay romance stories—or maybe it's just me being a human magnet for them and attracting them all my way.

Regardless, I spent such a great afternoon in *No Holding Back*'s company; therefore I really hope (though perhaps it's only wishful thinking) that this couple will make its reappearance as lead characters in a future Kate Evangelista book.

I was thoroughly entertained by Nathan and Preston's adventures in Paris, Ireland, Greece, Amsterdam, etc. What better way to mentally travel through Europe than with books?

The romance is also very sweet—BUT, it does have a GFY (gay for you) vibe. I didn't find it 100% realistic, but since I was having too much of a great time with it, I decided to shake the unrealistic elements off for the duration of my reading time.

But really, I'm surprised—impressed, even. I doubted I would be disappointed with it, since I have yet to be disappointed with any Swoon Reads title, but I honestly had no idea I would finish it so quickly and that b/c of how enjoyable it was.

Definitely recommended.

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Stacee says

I have always loved the BFF to more plot line and coupled with Nathan as one of the MCs and I was sold.

I loved Nathan from the first book, so I was thrilled to see that we got this book and it was awesome being in his head. He's confident and insecure and his inner monologue is so authentic. Preston needed some shaking. He's a good person, but laser focused on swimming and that boy needed to buy a clue.

Sure the structure of the plot was a bit predictable, but it was sweet and swoony and heartbreaking. Extra fun seeing Caleb and Didi. I really enjoyed every page of this book. Now I'm ready for my Tash book, please.

****Huge thanks to Swoon reads for providing the arc in exchange for an honest review****

Dahlia says

Whoops, forgot to note when I read this earlier this year. This book is exactly what I mean when I say not all m/m is actually LGBT - it's nice to think a queer couple of guys would have a charming trip through Europe holding hands whenever they like without ever thinking about their surroundings and where that'd be safe, including in religious countries, but I think that's m/m fantasy, not LGBT reality, and I really struggle to get behind that.

Bookevin says

Finished this in one day. So satisfying. The swoony romance was everything and that hot shower scene? Drool.

Full review: <https://bookevin.wordpress.com/2016/1...>

Sharon Mariampillai says

I received a copy from the author, in exchange for an honest review.

Actual Rating: 4.25

Thank you Kate Evangelista for the opportunity to read your book. This was a great read. The storyline was enjoyable. Also, I really enjoyed see the love between Nathan and Preston. They really are meant to be together. They do not have an easy love, but they have a love that is worth fight for. I think that is what made this book for me. It showed how to people really fight for the love they shared even if it was hard. Also, I loved the bits with Didi and Caleb. The ending of the book made me smile. Also, I loved the Maroon 5 song reference. Overall, a sweet romance.

Elena (The Queen Reads) says

Nathan and Preston is loveeee. Add some Caleb and Didi and Tash and a hunk of a mysterious guy and some family and career drama the voila! One amazing book. Full review on :
<https://thequeenreads.wordpress.com/2...>
