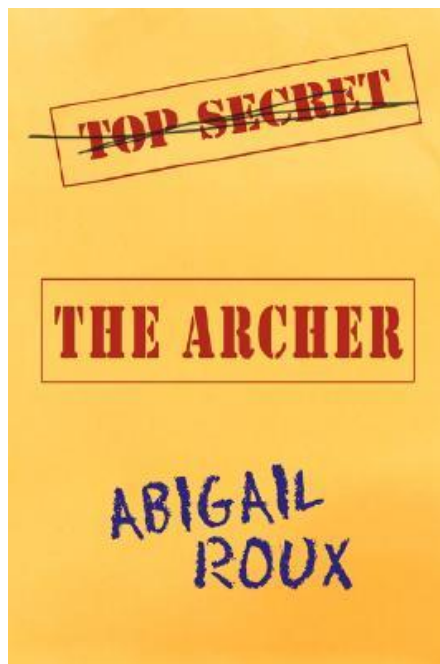




The Archer

Abigail Roux

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The Archer Abigail Roux

Rocked to the core by traitors and spies, the Organization made an unprecedented move in bringing together six highly trained men to track down one rogue wolf: The Archer.

There are three field agents: one at the top of his game, one hoping to retire, and another walking the line; a cold-blooded assassin who can use any weapon known to man; a demolitions expert who can't resist the allure of fire; and a computer hacker with more tricks in his mouse than Houdini. This team is made up of the best of the best, and if it can't succeed in this impossible mission, no one can. But no plan survives first contact with the enemy – especially when you can't even find out who he is!

Despite what a cluster the assignment is from the start, the six men try to get their act together to track down the rogue operative, and in the process they discover there's more to life than the next assignment. Now it's up to them to survive by working together and determining who the real traitor is: an unknown friend, a close-by enemy, or the Organization itself.

The Archer Details

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Author : Abigail Roux

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Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Mystery, Contemporary, Suspense



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From Reader Review The Archer for online ebook

MostlyDelores says

Explosions, musical beds, and a perplexing inability of the world's "greatest spies" to figure out what the hell is going on. Plus, it takes 8 months to read the thing.

What Richard said.

Devi says

Wow. I can't believe I actually finished it. I'm trying to articulate how painful it was to read but I'm not sure I can find the words. It started out okay, but that was the first 200 or so pages. Then the numerous flaws that I had been excusing up until then in exchange for just assuming it was a 'light hearted gay-sex romp about spies' as opposed to a 'taut spy thriller with gay protagonists', became too much to bear. By the end I'd passed through rage and settled for laughing at the ridiculousness of it all, just to prevent myself from hurling my ebook device across the room in disgust.

I wanted to like it; I really did. I gave it every chance. It had a very few small bright moments - where the action was engaging or when the characters quirks were entertaining, but overall narrative development seemed slapped together at best and nonsensical at worst. I could write a dissertation to support this opinion but suffice it to say that when, late in the book, one of the characters asks another "Are you the Archer?" and then asks, on receiving confirmation: "Then why the hell don't you ever know what's going on?" it is a moment of beautiful irony. That pretty much sums up the book's most fundamental flaws. No-one knew what was going on, ever, least of all the characters, least of all the author, and ultimately, least of all me.

Katie says

Man, I love this book...

Jennifer says

It took me forever to read this book and to be honest I'm not sure whether I liked it or not. I feel like I missed a huge portion of information which would make the entire book make sense, but I'm not interested enough to read the book again. I don't mind contradictory actions and even words, but these characters' thoughts had no cohesion.

Remy was the only character that I actually cared anything about and he was basically the pathetic heroine who would do anything for a man who treated him like dirt because "he loves him" (cough, gag, vomit!!!).

Valentina Heart says

It's long, complicated, hard to grasp at times and pretty much amazing.

I loved the connection between characters even through the rough patches and betrayal. The way they were always there for each other despite the fact that all of them worked on different sides.

The first half of the book was much better. The anticipation and the jokes kept me flipping the pages until I found out that my first guess was correct about the Archer. That was also the best part, the guessing, eliminating them by every sentence they said.

I think it really worked that you discover the Archer before everything gets so complicated. I must admit I got lost at the end. I have no idea who worked for whom and why the book ended the way it did. I think it needed more clarification and the same tempo the first half of the book had. Because once the admissions and complications started everything sort of rushed to that half ending where one love story is sort of a happy ending, the second is everything but a HEA and the third one is a big unknown.

Maybe I read too much m/m and am just used to different endings, but this one to me screams a sequel.

The characters were really portrayed well, and you can't but adore Brandt. I think it's great he stayed true to himself all the way to the ending, but also found mates in his insanity. It was definitely fun;)

The only ones lacking the same treatment were Nikolaus and Gray. Maybe because Niko didn't end up with anyone, not sure about that one, but at one point he was this shy, easily scared comp tech and later on he's this specialist that can actually take care of himself. There was never much talk about it, and by the end he was again that sweet lovable boy.

Gray was introduced too late. And all his brilliance didn't have time to shine really. I was very interested in his relationship with Thiago, and that was also the one thing I definitely didn't expect. I'm very sad about the way that story ended. It didn't strike me as fair, but I'm a romantic, I want them all to just kiss and make up.

I loved the intrigue in the book and the very length was a welcome challenge. For me this book is not a standard 5 star read, but the work invested in it and the beauty of the characters deserve every single star.

Oh, and another thing, Croatian doesn't sound anything like Spanish ;)

Plainbrownwrapper says

I'm giving this book 4 stars based on its overall fun readability value. If I was rating on literary merit it would get about 2 stars, and if I was rating on plot logic and consistency it would probably only deserve about 1 star -- maybe less than that!

This book is pretty much like a summer blockbuster. Lots of action, lots of blood and explosions, and it doesn't pay to look too closely at the details. It's sort of like Ty and Zane had bastard children with both "Oceans Eleven" and "The Expendables". There are way too many "main" characters, and way too many shifting POVs. Nobody is what they seem, and confusing complications abound. There are plot holes and logic flaws big enough to drive a 747 through, and nothing -- and I do mean NOTHING -- ever truly gets resolved.

Nonetheless, it's undeniably a fun read. Everyone screws everyone else (in pairs, never a single menage, which I actually found a little odd), everyone alternately falls in love with and/or betrays everyone else, and they all either try to kill each other or try to keep each other alive, depending on one's perspective and the day of the week. Never a dull moment. Just check your brain at the door and enjoy the ride!

Trish says

a really really good spy story with some really hot mm MCs!

The men were an awesome group and the story kept ya on your toes that's for sure.

i had a feeling who the Archer was from a early on but that's only b/c i have some detective dna in my blood! and i was determined to read back and gather my clues :P but, the archer was only part of this story, so much more happens.

these men were scary, sexy, damn funny and a bit clueless as well.. lol!

Brandt was my fave funny man and Remy was fave loyal and sexy cajun!

Another great read from Abigail Roux.

MallyReads says

UPDATE:

Asked Miss Roux some questions about a possible sequel:

There are still some rights issues tied up with that book.

When I asked why there are right issue she replied:

Because I changed publishers and do not intend to go back.

Emanuela ~plastic duck~ says

01/18/13: Revised rating after a couple of years of reading m/m: from 5 to 4.

What can I say? Epic!

I like mammoth books with lots of characters. If there were another 600 pages after this, I'd read them right now. I'll tell you: I was ok with the ending because I like open endings, but now I really want to read more! I'm so happy and frustrated at the same time!

The first half of the book was incredible, then it deflated a bit but picked up again at the end. The plot is

twisted and since it's about an organization of secret agents there is not only double, but also triple and quadruple and n-tuple play. I have to admit that this part (the spy part) was probably not the best of the book and I can't believe these guys were so disorganized and impulsive (but they admitted it themselves).

What made me turn the pages were the personal relationships of the protagonists. The one-on-one dynamics was great but also the group dynamics was interesting (and also funny at times). All the characters border on some kind of insanity. All of them were at the same time insane and logical and rough and sweet and they went through all these phases constantly. The emotional sides of the personal relationships made everything unstable and it spilled over the mission. There was a lot of introspection and speculation because we watch the story develop through the eyes of every character and they all share their feelings and give their opinions on what's happening. There is also a lot of repetition, because every character sooner or later finds himself in the same position of one of their colleagues and has to justify his actions, to defend himself or one of the others.

In all this cast of characters I think the Archer was given the less development and he was a bit disappointing. His myth was larger than him as a person. I had all these expectations, but when he revealed his identity he lost all his charm and power for me. In the end he was a guy like everyone else, but probably that was what the author wanted. Or maybe, since it seemed the Archer found himself almost by chance in that role, he didn't really want to be that mythical agent. He is probably not the best agent and he is vulnerable like everyone else.

Sex was a mean for the men to bond, release pressure, communicate, exchange power, soothe each other, control each other and express themselves. It was not overly descriptive but it was really a part of the plot.

The book is complicated. But good. But if you don't have patience, don't read it. If you don't mind wanting to bitch slap characters, read it. But if you don't like irrational behavior on the part of the characters, don't read it. If you want your books to be real, don't read it. But if you can concede the suspension of disbelief liberally when you're deep into a story, read it. But if I were you, I'd invest 600 pages of my time and read it.

Adara says

This is a spy thriller that keeps you guessing who the Archer is well into the last half of it. I actually kept track of my guesses at each point something new about the Archer was revealed, and I have to admit that I was continually way off-base with my guesses.

If you're looking for lots of sex between lots of tough assassins, you certainly won't be disappointed, but the story that winds them up together is really engaging and twists and turns regularly. It's a roller coaster of the best kind. I'd love to eventually see a sequel to this one.

Edit: It has re-readability for me, so I'm upping it to 5 stars. =)

Edit: Don't expect monogamy between your leads in this one. Everyone sleeps with everyone else *at least* once. It's quite entertaining to figure out who'll end up with whom next. However, that's not to say there's not romance or actual caring between some of the leads. There are actually relationships here, even if they're as open as the Grand Canyon.

JenMcJ says

It is very much centered on the relationship these men build together. There is action and there is suspense and there is sex (not a lot of explicit description all the time, but enough to be interesting and very erotic at times)

The "romance" so far is in how these men relate to each other and make decisions. I would not say that this is not a romantic story at all or that the romance takes a backseat. It drives nearly every decision (good and bad) being made, although all the MC's don't realize it at all. What it isn't is an exclusive relationship between just two men. There are 6 strong, smart men that have mostly lived as loners for a long time. It is an evolving, revolving relationship between this new team that doesn't hold back in any regard.

About ½ way through, there is the first big reveal and some broken hearts and betrayal. This first reveal begins to drive the rest of the book.

It starts right off the bat with a somewhat long-term committed pair. There is a ton of betrayal and secrets (as you would expect of spies) so while the pairs are "committed" it isn't exactly how a regular m/m romance would go. There is more outright and complete devotion between some of the characters from practically page 1 then you would see in any romance without anything near what these relationships are put through

There is true love and devotion between pairs of the group but they are guys and they have sex with each other in varying pairs depending on the situation, availability, the need and the emotions that drive them. They don't have any threesomes although they have some voyeuristic scenarios. It is not a free for all orgy at any time. There is no sneaking around either. Everyone knows who is doing what to whom at any given time. Sometimes they are brutally honest and other times they keep secrets that just crop up to bite them on the ass time and again.

You have to read the story to understand how it is as much about guys being less prissy about the finer emotions of sex sometimes, sometimes about adrenaline and celebrating life and at times how it is about total and utter devotion. There are also lies, miscommunication, lack of communication, jealousy, envy, sacrifice and heartbreak.

After investing this much time with these guys and loving each of them now...while it doesn't end with a traditional HEA (more of a HFN and thank god we're alive) it does end on a more positive note than expected considering all the twists and turns and ways that this could have gone worse.

This is definitely a wonderful long term investment of your time. My only complaint is that after so much time spent with these guys, the ending was abrupt. I expected an epilogue that would wrap things up more, but at the same time, I am now free to use my imagination to figure out how things turned out in the long run.

It would be fair to expect the author to update us on the fate of the group at a later date.

Fangtasia says

Glad this was not my first book by this author, because I would not have read anything else by her and would have missed a whole lot of my favorites in this genre.

Way too long, complicated, inconsistent, and confusing. Great characters, loved Remy, had some laughs off of Brandt, but just could not buy into super-agent, hardened criminals behaving as they were depicted. And let's not go into the ending, ugh!!!

Yes, it's fiction, but it's got to be believable. After reading the Cut & Run series by Ms. Roux with Ms. Madeline Urban, and Zero at the Bone by Jane Seville, just to name a couple, The Archer just doesn't cut it.

Snowtulip says

I absolutely loved these six men! This was such a character driven story...they were what kept me going through all the pages. They were a five star read, while the plot was a three star read.

They had me fuming, wanting to inflict bodily harm and laughing(vampires! still makes me chuckle)the whole time I was reading. Normally, their ineptitude at being secret agents, while being touted as the best, would have turned me off the story, but I was so firmly engaged in their interactions.

At about 10% into the book I almost stopped because I didn't feel like the story was moving along and I felt as though I knew more about being a secret agent than these men. As the story moved on, there were definately issues with the pacing of the story. But I continued and was happy to be absorbed into these characters; the friendships and the romance. The romance component was often heartwrenching, but what do you expect after learning about how antisocial their lives have been.

This book isn't for everyone. I think that many will be frustrated at the pacing, the disorganization of these men, the information overload at the end of the book and the ending itself. But if you can just ride along and enjoy the characters, I think you will be pleased. Enjoying a book isn't always about structure, it's often how you feel reading the book. These guys made me feel.

Richard says

Six of the words best, highly skilled Undercover Agents.

Brandt, Remy, Shawn, Nikolaus, Carl & Thiago

They gather in a remote cabin for their mission. A massive explosion. Remy is severely wounded., They locate a Veterinarian to administer first aid.

In cold blood, Brant wants to execute the innocent Vet. to cover tracks.

The other agents convince him not to.

6 agents, 1 we know is evil.

How will this potentially exciting 600 page story play out?

Let me help you out?

Above where it says, the "best highly skilled undercover agents".

Yea, ignore that.

In it's place put:

1 evil and 5 bumbling, idiotic, dick driven, stooges.

synopsis

You're a slut,
No I'm not.
Yes you are
Somebody please run your hands through my curly hair
I love him.
And he loves you. Let's fuck. But someone please run their hand through my curly hair as a tear falls from my face.
I love you and you love me but what about him?
I thought I loved you but it wasn't love. Let's watch those 2 fuck. But please rub your hands through my curly hair while stroking my chin.
I need to blow up something. But if you butt fuck me I won't need to blow up something.
Oh my god I killed him, I want to die. But please fuck me first before I kill myself, and don't forget to rub your hands through my curly hair.
You're a liar
No I'm not
You are a liar.
No I'm not.
You betrayed us-
Yes, but I'm not a liar.
I am going to kill him
You shot me and it was my fault, won't you forgive me?
No, it was my fault, please forgive me?
I do forgive you but do you forgive me?
Yes I forgive you.
But how can you forgive me after I shot you?
Because I love you and it was my fault that you shot me.
Wha? Fuck me and run your fingers through my curly hair.
I thought you loved him.
That was yesterday.
Oh!
Won't somebody gently wrap their arms around my waist and nuzzle my neck while running your hands through my curly hair and brush the single tear from my face. But I hate you.
I need to blow up a building with innocent people. But first won't somebody dump their load up my ass?
I love you-wait-YES I'm right, it's you I love and it's you I hate. Right, wait, wha? Of fuck-just somebody run their hands through my curly hair.
I killed him- I want die.
But you can't die, we all love you-
Fuck you I want to die. But please stroke my chin gently and rub your hands through my curly hair.
I love you-
No, you loved me yesterday. Today you love him.
Oh right, thanks.
Oh I love you. Please fuck my hole while the other 4 watch and run your hands through my curly hair.
I killed him.
Again?
Yes, I want to die but fuck me first and run your hands through my curly hair.
He doesn't love me, oh god, I have to blow up something.
Wait, who do I love?
Will somebody fuck me and PLEASE RUN YOUR FINGERS THROUGH MY CURLY HAIR.
Dang-I shot him again.

Page 576, YES 576 pages!
THE END!

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ps-evil guy finds love instead of accountability.

next...

ElaineY says

Forget about what the author herself said about this book not being a typical romance. It IS a romance. Or rather, several romances, each one unfolding at the same time they're trying to kill each other. In fact, from the start to the end, the six - later, seven - men are either fighting or fucking each other. Nine out of ten times, one follows the other. They don't just stick to one guy, either, so it's a free for all even as each develop deeper feelings for one or the other.

THE PLOT

In their words - "this is getting fucking complicated". I can't write beyond what's already in the blurb for the simple reason I lost the plot from um...page 8 after the six men meet up at the rendezvous point. I didn't feel so bad, though, coz until the last few chapters, none of the men knew what was going on either. They, like me, just knew the shit had hit the fan, they were being hunted, they were on the lookout for the guy known as The Archer, that everyone was lying to each other and that's the extent of it.

THE CHARACTERS

Remy, to my surprise and disbelief, is only 5' 6" tall. In romantic fiction, that's like featuring a midget as the hero. But sigh...I loved him. He stood out from the rest and is clearly the main protag. Okay, so he has this habit of nailing every guy with his dick yet I didn't mind it the way I definitely would in any other book. He's got a lovely heart despite his slutty ways and at least all his catting around has been limited to the team and Gray, who wasn't part of the team but ends up with them, making it all 7 guys.

Thiago really puzzled me. He was hard to figure out right to the end but at least he did fall in love with Gray. At least, I think it was Gray. They were all doing each other that I lost track who was who and was in love with whom!

I was glad that Brandt, the big Aussie, wasn't subjected to overdoses of Strine and (thank you Ms Roux!)he didn't refer to the waitress (the only appearance of a female in the book) as "sheila".

Nikolaus is another smallish guy, though not as small as Remy the Cajun, I think. The rest of the men are tall with Carl being 6'3" and Brandt 6'5".

Between the convoluted plot, the sex and the screw-up, the best way to describe this team of covert operatives would be use Gray's description: "You six are the most unorganized, half-assed group of slipshod piece of shit agents I've ever --"

THE SEX & ROMANCE

No way is this book not a romance! Yes, it isn't the typical MM romance with the HEA between the couple or couples but the relationships do, indeed, drive their decisions and the entire book. They are an extremely touchy-feely bunch of guys that can't get through a single day without hugging, kissing, caressing or

snuggling up to each other.

I loved it that.

There's plenty of sex but it's not explicit and in some instances reminded me of those old movies where the couple goes into the bedroom and the door shuts in your face. Did I miss the explicit sex? Yes, I did. I would have liked at least a couple of explicit, intensely erotic scenes but there weren't any though towards the latter half of the book, it does get a little hotter than two guys stumbling down the hall to their bedroom. A couple of scenes are more explicit but in case you like your sex really hot, it isn't graphic, okay? The emphasis is always on the feelings and motives behind the act yet it is precisely because of this that I felt short-changed. They were all always so charged up and constantly needing the angry sex that it felt odd to skimp on the sexual details. Besides, they were all falling in love with each other as the chapters went by so yes, I do feel rather cheated.

CONCLUSION

If I had the energy, I'd read this book all over again to try and follow the plot but it's way too long, too complicated and the characters and reader are left clueless so...I'll have to wait for the sequel - if there's one - and then I might just buy the print version cos the ebook is far too strenuous on the eyes.

THE ENDING - SPOILER ALERT!!! No, I'm not telling who the Archer is but don't read further if you don't like Any info on the ending.

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:> Everyone survives which - in my book - makes it a romance. But you won't get any HEAs. Not even for the main couple, Remy and Shawn. There's no doubt that Remy and Shawn will meet up again and there're no doubts even between them that they can't live without each other. I liked the ending even though the plan Remy and Shawn hatched was predictable.

So...yes, I would definitely classify The Archer as an MM romantic suspense with some mild sex scenes thrown in. I can't give it 5 stars because I felt injecting more heat into the sex between Shawn and Remy would have lifted their relationship from the rest a bit, at least. As it was, the entire book consisted of seven men fucking and fighting each other at every turn and putting me through 576 pages of it without giving the main couple some differentiation was a minus IMO.

Now, I'm going to take a break and read a "real" MM romance. LOL!
