



Under the Stars

K. Sterling

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Dr. Noah Claridge could charm the stripes off a tiger. He's dazzlingly handsome, intelligent, kind, British and loves to laugh at everything, especially himself. He's perfect. Unfortunately, the love of his life is in love with someone else. Desperate to avoid sympathy and starting over, Noah goes on their romantic holiday alone, hoping to quietly drown his sorrows in wine for two weeks.

Everyone knows Jackson Carter is the sweetest, shyest, gentlest man in Waterloo Falls. But no one actually knows Jackson because the words get tied up before he can find them and he blushes like a girl whenever the wind blows. Which is absurd and unfortunate for a man of his size and strength. So, Jackson quietly rents out his lake house to people with the types of lives he dreams of.

Under the Stars Details

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Author : K. Sterling

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From Reader Review Under the Stars for online ebook

Mercedes says

2.5 stars

That was not that great. Awkward pacing, awkward sex and sticky sweet and sappy finish. Blergh!

Gigi says

Warning! This book will send you into sugar shock.

“That was the most beautiful, intensely perfect moment of my life,” Noah declared then laughed as his hands captured Jackson’s face. His fingers splayed and traced as he lowered his head and sighed with delighted satisfaction. “I love you, Jackson.”

“This is the most beautiful, intensely perfect moment of my life,” Jackson decided as he wrapped his arms around Noah.

Now, I'm all about the sugar and fluff and this one *really* delivers, but my low rating is because of Noah. He was kind of a jerk for the first half of the book. He teased shy, inexperienced Jackson and it left me cold. He did make up for it by falling in love, but it made me feel yucky beforehand.

The sex was hot, I'll give you that. 5 flames on the 5 high sex-o-meter.

It would have been candy perfection, but I just didn't buy Noah. Jackson was a dream.

Recommended.

This review is also posted at Gay Book Reviews

***~*~Fawkes, Padfoot, and Prongs~*~* says**

I'm giving this 5 stars as it hit JUST the right spot. Very very sweet book ... Cardeno C. type of sweet ;-) ... and in the midst of some of the darker books I've read lately, this one hit the spot and was just what I was looking for. It was heart warming and scintillating and grin inducing and wonderful and romantic and light and heart melting and scorching and hot and beautiful.

Was it a little too perfect and neat? Sure. But sometimes that's exactly what we're going for in a book and sometimes it's that ultra sweetness that we seek. This was an uplifting story that was executed wonderfully, and holy hell the sex scenes were scorching!! I absolutely adored Noah; I didn't see in him what others were a bit bothered by. I thought Noah was fabulous ... and Jackson ... Jackson was a sweetheart too, for sure

(even in those moments where I wanted to shake him awake). These two were perfect together. I definitely recommend this :-))!!

Forget the grammar, punctuation, syntax, and/or sentence structure here :-P. I'm jotting down thoughts as quickly as they formulate and haven't put much time to proofread or revise. I always manage to jot these thoughts down when I'm in a rush and/or on the go. Haha.

Note: Decided to just borrow this from KU - on the fence and wanting to plow through my "intrigued but on the fence" shelf :-).

Maria R. says

So great

Wonderful mixture of romance, humor, and sexy. Great setting and cast of characters. Can't help but to swoon and sigh as you follow this love story.

Ramsi says

Sooo I'm not quite sure what to say.

There were some things that I did not like - for example that Noah somehow came across as an a** for most of the time.

And I was not impressed that the timelines didn't always match up. Or that the whole town was sugary sweet and totally accepting.

Most of the times I thought Jackson - the other MC - deserved someone better than Noah but in the end I got the feeling that they fit and that Noah genuinely loved him.

The declaration at the fair was a bit over the top and cheesy but I can live with that. It was somehow cute too. What bugged me the most about this scene was that they used the exact same sentence. Like one couldn't find his own words and just had to repeat what the other said. Ok, that being Jackson and 'knowing' him that's at least a bit believable.

And yet I enjoyed this book. Perhaps because I really fell in love with Jackson.

Because nevertheless the 'issues' I had with the story, I could not put it down and had to read it in one go. I felt connected to the little city and the people we meet, especially Jackson. Like I said, I fell in love with him.

Aki | nose buried in books | ♥? | says

It took me some chapters to warm up at the story, but then I really enjoyed it!

It's such a sweet and lovely book. It also has steam and an adorable epilogue. It isn't a 5 stars because I think there were some unnecessary fillings.

I recommend it for a sweet, sweet and heartwarming reading ?

Lorraine Lesar says

3.5*

Not my favourite from the K. Sterling Stable, but still a nice little sweet read. Thank you Aki for putting this book in my reading path.

Ivana says

A lumbersexual masterpiece. I love this author and she has definitely not disappointed with this one. It's a giant ball of fluff and very romantic. A perfect combination for a much needed light read. Really lovely and as always with K. Sterling, really well written.

The drama is over pretty much as soon as it starts and there is love from all the families. It was wonderfully light.

Santy says

Such a sweet read!

The story could've & should've have ended around 75% in my opinion ... It dragged on quite a lot after that with "filler" scenes that would've been assumed anyways..

It was still a good read overall for me :)

Colleen M says

Sweet, easy, read with little to no drama.

Title: Under the Stars

Author: K. Sterling

Genre: M/M Contemporary Romance

Main Characters :

Noah Claridge is a pediatrician whose once great relationship has fallen into complacency, and so he plans a romantic getaway to the Finger Lakes to get back into the groove with his partner. When his partner shows no interest in rekindling anything except a younger version of Noah, Noah is upset, but soon realizes that he isn't all that heartbroken.

Jackson Carter is a reclusive, shy man who lives his life vicariously through the people who rent his lake

house for their vacations. Everyone in town thinks he's simple, verging on slow, but in reality he's incredibly intelligent but shy, and closeted to boot.

Plot/Conflict:

Noah goes on his romantic getaway himself to gain some perspective on his life after his partner of four years leaves him. Meeting the sexy lumberjack whose renting him the lake house gives Noah the idea to have a fling, if he can convince Jackson to experiment...

Jackson knows he is gay, but hasn't told anyone in town. He has only ever had a few casual hookups, so seeing gay couples rent his lake house is always an exercise in torture... he can look, but he'll never have. When Noah shows up alone, without his partner and potentially looking for a rebound fling, it's perfect for Jackson. He can have a taste of what he's wanted, without anyone in town finding out he is gay once the good doctor heads back to the city.

Only Noah ends up loving the small wine country town, and decides to put down roots. What turned into a vacation fling is going to start getting messy once the two live permanently in the same town.

Loves:

I loved Noah, I thought he was charmed and sweet, the consummate flirt, and I enjoyed watching his discover the hidden depths to Jackson, talk with the locals, especially Jackson's mom.

Likes:

I liked the focus on Jackson's hobbies and hidden depths, it was a great way to build his character out since Noah wasn't all that dynamic.

Peeves:

There was no real conflict other than Jackson's closeted nature. It didn't really give enough contrast to the story to give it that depth of plot I was looking for. It just made it a sweet, easy read, which is fine.

Favorite Quote:

Noah to Jackson, on learning that Jackson volunteers at the animal shelters and takes puppies to visit the elderly.

"If you want to get in just about anyone's pants, tell them about the puppies."

Aeren says

Romántica con mayúsculas, personajes monos y la única pega es que en realidad, no pasa mucho desde más o menos el 30% del libro. Pero aún así es entretenidillo.

Shaztwirl says

Unlike everybody else, I wasn't quite so enamoured with this book. Despite coming across as an absolute darling, Noah came across as an arrogant a** sometimes and the "outing" was totally his fault despite claims to opposite effect.

Some of the jumps in the timeline were a bit odd. One minute Noah is thinking of looking into a potential new business (only a few days into his holiday) then suddenly he's refurbishing? Big leap.

I also found some of the sentence structure a bit odd. Almost immature? Not what I expected from this author. All in all, the story is ok. An enjoyable enough read but I didn't love it.

Alp Mortal says

Another sweet little gem from K and I really liked it, especially the scene at the fair, which was dynamically very intricate but played out perfectly.

Alp
x

Chris Kottner-Kirschner says

Eigentlich wollte der Kinderarzt Noah mit seinem Lebensgefährten einen romantischen Urlaub verbringen. Dieser setzt ihn jedoch unerwartet drei Tage davor an die Luft und trennt sich von Noah – für einen jüngeren Mann. Noah, der sich der Blicke und des Mitgefühls seiner Kollegen nicht aussetzen will, fährt alleine weg und versucht zu vergessen. Alkohol könnte helfen. Oder ein anderer Mann, denn mit Sam, seinem Ex, lief in den letzten Monaten sowieso nicht mehr sehr viel.

Schon bei seiner Ankunft in Waterloo Falls lernt Noah auch einen Mann kennen, den er äusserst ansprechend findet. Zu dumm nur, dass es sein Gastgeber ist und dieser augenscheinlich so gar kein Interesse an Männern hat.

Doch stille Wasser sind tief. Und Jackson ist definitiv still und tief wie der Ozean. Der überaus gebildete und geschickte Mann hat nur wenige, enge Sozialkontakte und lebt sehr zurück gezogen. Wichtig ist ihm nur seine Mutter, die in der Stadt ein Diner betreibt. Jackson weiss schon lange, dass er schwul ist. Doch er hat zu große Angst sich zu outen und zu sich zu stehen. Die Leute betrachten ihn als lebenswürdigen Sonderling, der jedoch offenbar ein wenig langsam im Denken ist. Dabei ist Jackson ganz und gar nicht langsam und das erkennt Noah ziemlich schnell. Und sehr schnell kommen sie sich auch näher. Doch alles ändert sich, als Noah beschliesst zu bleiben und in Waterloo Falls einen Neuanfang zu wagen.

Die Geschichten von K. Sterling sind immer von Trennungen und viel Herz-Schmerz geprägt. Das ist hier nicht anders. Der Plot ist ziemlich vorhersehbar und die Protagonisten wie immer sehr liebevoll und auch sehr detailliert beschrieben. Das kommt bei Kurzgeschichten ja nicht so häufig vor, doch K. Sterling bekommt das gut hin.

Damit die Geschichte nicht gleich zu ihrem Happy End kommt, müssen die Helden doch einiges

überwinden. Vor allem Jackson braucht lange um aus seinem Schatten zu kommen und sich zu nehmen was ihm zusteht. Hier liegt auch der Grund, wieso ich der Geschichte nicht die vollen Punkte geben kann. Für mich gab es eben überhaupt keinen nachvollziehbaren Grund wieso Jackson so verschüchtert und scheu durchs Leben stolpert, ohne endlich richtig zu leben. Mir waren seine Ängste bis zum Schluss einfach nicht verständlich. Dennoch ist er ein wunderbarer und sensibler Charakter, der schnell mein Herz gewonnen hat.

Noah hingegen ist sich seiner selbst sehr sicher und er tritt auch so auf. Mit Jackson erlebt er eine großartige Zeit, die ihm aber auch vor Augen führt wie leer und sinnlos sein Leben mit Sam eigentlich war. Und dass er absolut etwas Besseres verdient. Doch Noah ist auch sehr großzügig und kann vergeben. Das ist ein großer Charakterzug an ihm, der mich sehr eingenommen hat. Schade halt, dass es so lange gedauert hat bis Jackson den Kopf aus seinem Hintern bekommen hat.

Nerea says

2.5*

Is very sweet story! Cute characters and environment but I wish it have had a deeper plot or at least more scenes together between the mcs when they meet.

For my personal tastes I feel they go to the sex part very fast and we have 80% of it at the first half of the book. The short plot interludes were lovely at least. VERY ROMANTIC and with beautiful metaphors in their narration.

Must say too that this book has one of the longest and more detailed HEA I read xD
