



Breakthrough

Kris Bryant

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Kennedy Wells is desperate to get back her dream job writing for *Mainstream*, Waters Publishing's celebrity magazine. She's worked too hard over the years to have it snatched away because of one tiny indiscretion that ended with a giant lawsuit. After five months of writing mind-numbing articles about current events, her boss agrees to let her get back to reporting on the rich and famous after one last story.

A born and bred city girl, Kennedy is sent to cover fishing in Alaska, which has her feeling just like a fish out of water. When Brynn Coleman, director of Alaska's Wildlife Rescue and Sanctuary, comes to her rescue time after time, Kennedy can't help but lower her guard and open herself up to Brynn's standoffish charm. Falling for the sexy ranger is one thing, but is the possibility of love worth giving up a career she's always dreamed of?

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From Reader Review Breakthrough for online ebook

Arien says

ARC received from NetGalley for a fair review.

5 stars! Really enjoyed this one. Such a breath of fresh air after uncountable insecurity driven books. It's lovely to read about two strong women finding each other. And I love nature so that's another thing I enjoyed amongst the ocean of city-based stories.

Usually, I don't like first person view but this time it was used really well and I think it's even one of those rare occasions when it fits better than anything else. Kennedy's misadventures in the Alaskan wildlife were funny and her reaction to all that's happening even more so. And Wally is my spirit animal.

Overall a really enjoyable, light read. Recommended for everyone!

Lexxi Kitty says

I received this book from Bold Strokes Books and Netgalley for an honest review

Edited to add: I just recalled how I wanted to start this review. I'll insert it here.

You know how men are described, a favorite joke that goes around, pops up everywhere? It involves what's on their mind, what they are thinking about. I'm not trying to be vague here - the joke is that they think about sex 24/7, and on every day that ends in y (even during sleep they dream about sex; even when eating they . . . etc.).

Why do I mention this point in a lesbian fiction work that is a solo point of view from the point of view of one of the lesbians? Because Kennedy reminds me of that joke. No, she doesn't think about sex 24/7, but it could very well be roughly 10/7? Well, it seemed that way at least. Every time a moment turned to something else, something new, there she is drooling or the like (okay, now I know I'm going to far, but there was a distinct vibe going on here). She seemed to alternate between clothing related thoughts, work related thoughts, and food related thoughts (mostly about how she can't allow herself to eat, must count calories, etc.) - mixed in throughout are thoughts of sex. Like the first scene she meets the other main character, she's just been attacked by a moose, her car is totaled, she's in the middle of no-where in too thin clothing and heels, and her first thought on seeing her rescuer? Well at least after she got a good look at her was sex related. She's sex obsessed, basically, is what I mean. Unless she's writing an article, then hours could go by without her noting the time (or the need to eat food).

I'm not sure I've read a book like this one before. I do not mean anything good or bad by making that comment, just making a note about it. I'm specifically referring, here, to the main character – the solo point of view character.

I've read many books that involved players or people with play reputations. Oddly, or not, most of those

involved non-femme characters (or, at the very least, not high femme). Have I seen that character in books? Yes, but not high femme player.

Going over to the player side of the characterization I tend to find three versions: 1) players wanting to stop being a player and to settle down (most of the time I see this in the form of rakes in historical fiction who have spent the good portion of their early adult lives sleeping around with every woman they could find, but now they've decided they need to be responsible); 2) people with player reputations who were never players but that reputation got stuck to them for one reason or another (I'm reminded of two characters: Brayden has a character with a player reputation who feeds that reputation, not because they are specifically a player, but because they use it as a shield against . . . I forget now what; and Galli has one who got that reputation by being seen going home with different women every night from a bar, except she was driving them home as a designated driver type, not for romance); 3) players who have no intention of being anything but players (rarer character to find as main character). Well the character in this book is something of a fourth type. A woman who lives in a world, a situation, in which being a player is the norm, and she doesn't even realize that she lives in a somewhat 'different' type of world. She knows she's a player, but everyone is a player.

Kennedy Wells has spent her life going from one party to another, drinking, partying, sleeping around, and getting paid to do it. Quite well paid. She works as a celebrity journalist. The kind who writes articles about 'her friend the actor', instead of hit pieces. Her life was tossed off-course, though; when one of her flings with a random woman, her interview subject, lead to a lawsuit. So she was moved off the high flying celebrity circuit and wants back on. Her boss, Erin, promises that she'll be put back into her old position if she helps her brother, Erin's brother, Travis settle in at another magazine – one that's more about fishing, hunting, and the like. Help by writing a feature article, not help in person with Travis. Travis makes no appearance in this book (other than via one or two emails).

The feature article involves interviewing a jerk asshole reality star type person who has a fishing show. In Alaska. And she has to leave immediately. All mentioned because she heads off with barely adequate clothing and without even reserving a room. Which is where I get back to reminding people that the main character is a high-maintenance high femme princess type – who, upon arrival in Alaska, proceeds to disdain the offer of an SUV, takes instead a luxury sedan, then drives around in high heels somewhat randomly. Until getting lost. Because she's a city girl and stuff.

This reminds me of my initial problems with this book. Very early on there was a very strong vibe of 'my gosh, I can't believe how nice and helpful these folks are out here far from the big city; they'll help without wanting something in return' (very early on? This goes on, at least the vibe about 'help without an agenda', throughout the book) compared with the city dweller who only helps if they have an agenda. I'm not really sure why that particular trope comes up so often. I live in New York, I've helped people and people have helped me without needing to be blackmailed into it, or with an ulterior motive. But, eh, I've never lived in Los Angeles, where Kennedy is based, maybe it's as hellish as Kennedy describes.

Got distracted by tropes. Where was I?

So, Kennedy, the main and only point of view character, heads off to Alaska to write some articles. While there she bumps into several people, some nice (all of whom, weirdly, are described as super thin), some less than nice (from a waitress who isn't as helpful as Kennedy would expect, up to . . . people with guns and evil intent). Stuff happens. Personalities change. Etc. etc. I really hope Kennedy is supposed to be seen, how to word this, as a not tremendously likable person. She does grow, though, so that's good.

Four things I wish to note before wandering off and doing whatever else: 1) there's a bunch of sex in this

story, lots and lots of sex; 2) I like Wally the pet raccoon; 3) it is hard to get a handle on Brynn, the other main character, since her point of view is not present; 4) thinness. As in, every bloody person meet is described as being super thin. From the 40+ year old librarian who is described as eating a mountain of food, but is just so thin despite that; to the main character Kennedy who is described as being 30 pounds underweight (Kennedy describes herself as being thin, too thin, because she needs to be for her job; Brynn describes her somewhat more negatively as needing 30 more pounds on her); to Brynn herself who is tall, lean, and all muscle; I do not specifically recall if Lara, the police officer, is described as thin or not, but she is described as being gorgeous by vain Kennedy so, since it's a thought by Kennedy that probably means Lara's super thin also.

Oh, a fifth thing: Kennedy is really into the fact that she's a high femme, and likes that Brynn is butch. Though it gets slightly confusing at times – what with Kennedy thinking to herself how Brynn is exactly her type, shortly after making note that everyone she normally sleeps with are all high femmes. Eh, whatever.

Rating: 3.89

May 10 2018

Gaby LezReviewBooks says

Romance story with the beautiful setting of Alaska. Kennedy Wells is an LA based showbiz journalist sent to Alaska to write an article on fishing after a scandal almost finished her career. Feeling completely out of her comfort zone, she gets into trouble almost immediately and is saved by sexy ranger Brynn Coleman who introduces Kennedy to the vibrant wildlife and breathtaking landscape of the 49th state. Kennedy slowly falls for both Brynn and Alaska but her home and career are back in LA. Will they have a happily ever after?

Written in first person from the point of view of Kennedy, Brynn appears as the epitome of the stoic butch and enigmatic knight in shining armour ready to save Kennedy from her blunders but at the same time, unwilling to open up to her. Ms. Bryant plays well with a few contrasts such as butch - femme, outdoors girl - city girl, hot LA - cold Alaska, all done with wittiness, humour and sizzling chemistry. Nature takes a big role in this book sometimes acting as a beautiful background of the romance, other times at the forefront raising issues such as illegal hunting, wildlife conservation or environment protection. Even though this is mainly a romance novel, there is a mystery subplot that adds a bit of fast-paced action that keeps the reader turning pages. Add a cute atypical "puppy" to the mix and the result is a very enjoyable story.

Overall, a very entertaining romance with a bit of fast-paced action. 4.5 stars.

ARC provided by Netgalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

See all my reviews at
www.lezreviewbooks.wordpress.com

Rach (Les Rêveur) says

Well who'd have thought that Breakthrough would be the best novel Kris Bryant has ever published! I am

not shy to admit that I'm probably Bryant's biggest fan. She's had this way of drawing me in from the get go on all her books and I'd be lying if I said this book drew me in as much because truly, Breakthrough is better, unbelievably so. She has raised the bar with this novel and 5 star reviews frankly, no longer cut it... because it was worth much more.

Breakthrough follows main protagonist, Kennedy to Alaska on a writing assignment for her boss in a bid to get her back into the good graces and finally start writing what she loves again after a scandal sent her back to the bottom of the beloved magazine. She arrives in Alaska and has run in after run in with the wildlife, locals and the very handsome, Brynn. Brynn is perfect in so many ways but unfortunately she lives in Alaska and Kennedy is desperate to return to the city and her beloved job. Brynn doesn't do casual but her attraction to Kennedy is taunting her. So it's better that they stay friends... right?

If there was ever a novel I'd want to act out this is the one. I'd happily play Kennedy's part and go through all her clumsiness to be close to Brynn. Brynn is this handsome, androgynous Wildlife Director and she is such a gentlewoman, I was a little crazy for her to be honest. At first her stand-off nature and the walls she carefully had placed around her heart intrigued me but as Kennedy knocked each of her walls down it was like revealing new and more alluring facets of her already beautiful personality.

Kennedy was just fun. She brought the light and fun to this book that no other character could do but her. Her personality and clumsiness made me chuckle more than a few times but what really made me love her was her chemistry with Brynn, it was palpable. Also I can't not mention my favourite character from the book, Wally. I won't tell you much about him but look out for him because he'll steal the show.

The sex scenes as per usual blew me away and really connected the characters on another level. It made the chemistry increase and both Kennedy and Brynn's love really shone in those moments. Kris Bryant still writes the best sex scenes for me... every single time, wow.

Reading this book as made me add Alaska to my 'Must See' travel list. Alaska almost felt like a third protagonist because of how it was beautiful one minute and throwing poor Kennedy around the next. I really saw its beauty and breathtaking landscape through Bryant's words.

All in all this is an exceptional book that has a few twists and turns that catch you out and make you wish the book would never end. I was captivated from the beginning and can't wait to see how Bryant will top this.

5 stars

Netty says

"Loved it", a really nice romance with actual chemistry, the characters were really great, I found myself chuckling at Kennedy, she's what I would call a dosey cow and Wally the raccoon made me want to jump in the book and steal him :0.

oh I'd better mention that the sex scenes were very sexy and nicely done, I loved the push and pull of this romance, it wasn't boring or average at all, it was funny, sexy and had an interesting storyline, kept me glued and for once i picked a romance that didn't bore me to death!

An ARC was given for an honest review

vacatedboat says

I am so glad that I gave this a shot because I was really hesitant after 'Touch.' I've liked most of Bryant's works, but that one made me wonder. After reading a lot of great reviews, I gave in to 'Breakthrough' and I'm so happy that I did.

After some business-mixed-with-pleasure drama, journalist Kennedy is sent to Alaska to do a piece on a reality star. She's reluctant because she's crazy...seriously, who wouldn't want to go to Alaska?! Anyway, there is a world of difference between Los Angeles and Anchorage and our protagonist's learning curve is steep. Luckily, Brynn is around to save her ass from trouble at every turn.

There is a wee bit of drama in this story, which has nothing to do with the romance. It's merely another circumstance that Brynn needs to save Kennedy from and it brings them closer to one another in the process.

Kennedy is a city girl that I couldn't really relate to, but loved nonetheless. She actually grows a lot in two-hundred-some-odd pages, which is always a pleasure to experience. There's a lesson here and she learns it. Brynn, on the other hand, is a rugged butch without many faults. Still, it was nice to get some background on her (since neither is she a native Alaskan) and learn that her experiences weren't always perfect, either.

All in all, I liked these two together and individually. There is some minor miscommunication, but it felt authentic when thinking about their circumstances from the perspective of a new relationship. There is good chemistry here, physical and emotional both, and some passion to keep fans of steam happy.

This is pure romance and it's well written, so if that's your thing, then I recommend this wholeheartedly.

Sandra says

What a wonderful and funny romance.

When Kennedy, the epitome of a city girl who barely knew what nature means, other than a beach, is sent to Alaska for an interview and a story about fishing, she thinks her boss is joking. But no, she's not. This setting is just fantastic. From the first day in Alaska, Kennedy, one of the best celebrity journalist from California, is entirely out of her element and finds herself in more trouble than she likes. But there is one bonus in Alaska, her name Brynn.

The director of Alaska's Wildlife Rescue, Brynn Coleman, more than once rescues not only animals in distress but also a journalist in distress. While there is an immediate attraction between the two women, it's not instant love. As opposites attract, tall and gorgeous Brynn is Kennedys perfect match.

What I liked most, was how Kennedy reflects on her life. How she comprehends, that her life in California is extremely superficial and that she's capable to change her mind. I like her ability to laugh at herself as a city girl in the rough nature. And there was Wally, Brynn's amazing and funny pet.

The romance is wonderful, without angst but some push and pull with two great main characters. The

chemistry was there from the beginning, despite the different personalities. The sex scenes are hot and steamy. And the story contains also some excitement. I also love the setting in Alaska, it's one of my dream destinations, I hope, I will be able to visit one day.

I highly recommend this book to all romance fans.

My rating 4.5 stars

Rosi says

This has been a pleasant book, good paced, fun and sweet. Certainly, for the premises and the first chapters of the book, you can expect another typical story of a woman accustomed to luxury and urban life, transported by work circumstances to a rural environment, in this case the extreme environment that Alaska represents. This is so, in a certain way. But even being able to fall into the usual clichés, the book goes further in some way.

Kennedy is clumsy, stubborn and frightened but eager to enter into this new environment so different from the one she is used to living. And Brynn is tall, dark and handsome, with that bit of mystery that makes her even more attractive, a huge heart and above that, she fits beautifully the ranger uniform.

There is this episode with the poachers that goes around since half of the book and never seems to disentangle, and finally it does, too quickly perhaps. A little bit of tension that does not ruin the story at all. All in all, a very recommendable and pretty enjoyable romance.

An ARC was sent to me from Bold Strokes Books through NetGalley for an honest review

Ted says

The concept that one MC is only going to be around for a limited time helps with the push/pull of the romance arc but it is exasperating in some aspects as well as slightly tired in its originality.

Having said that, the setting of Alaska was well done. I lived there for 7 years. So this was particularly well done. Alaska is singularly unique to the US and it was well represented here. I've had my fair share of wild life run ins. Momma moose included.

As far as Brynn and Kennedy goes, they present with great chemistry but it's all pretty much just wasted because of the prolonged 'I'm leaving' arc that I said above. The bow at the end was less than fulfilling. It only highlights the lack of communication between MC's throughout the book. That isn't really great IMO.

I'm a huge fan of the author though. Her novel 'Jolt' is one of my all time favorites (as well as 'Taste'). This one here just didn't work as well for me. It falls firmly into the, it's 'ok' category.

Lex Kent says

4.25 Stars. I'm a fan of Bryant, so I always look forward to reading her books. I'm happy to say this book was much better than her last two. This book is getting back to the Bryant I know and enjoy. I think romance fans and Bryant fans are going to be very happy with this one.

The story is about a Kennedy, a city girl reporter, venturing to Alaska for a few stories. She is unprepared for the wilds of Alaska and soon finds herself in need of rescuing from Ranger Brynn. While the attraction is immediate, neither woman is really looking for a relationship. Alaska has other plans in mind and makes sure to keep putting the two of them together. Can Kennedy survive Alaska or might it just capture her heart?

Alaska is such a wonderful setting to place a story in. The wildlife and breath taking views, Bryant used Alaska perfectly in this book. Going there is on my bucket list, and Bryant just made me want to visit even more. In Bryant's book *Forget Me Not*, I didn't think she used the beautiful setting of Ireland to the benefit of the book. This book she absolutely did and brought the beauty of Alaska to life.

Kennedy, as a character, was not immediately likeable for me. But what I really liked it she grew through the whole book. By the time the book was done, I realized I really did like the "new" version of her. The other main Brynn is pretty much the perfect butch character. Talk, dark and handsome, with a great heart. The two of them made a convincing and likable pair. I was also happy with how steamy the sex scenes were. These two had a lot of chemistry in and out of the bedroom.

Besides the fantastic setting, one of the best pets in a lesfic book, and the good romance, this book also had a little bit of excitement. I don't want to give away what happens, but it was just exciting enough, that it kept me happily turning the pages. This is mostly a romance, but the little bit of excitement was just a cherry on top.

As I said before, this was a big step up for me from Bryant's last two books. This is the kind of good story I expect when I read her books. I'm really happy that Bryant is back and I think romance fans are going to be happy too. I can't wait to see what she writes next.

P.S. I just wanted to add, I don't think the cover does the book justice. There is nothing wrong with the cover. It looks to be the Alaska state flower breaking out of the snow. I get the symbolism and it is perfectly fine. I just think with the breath taking views and wildlife of Alaska, the cover should be something encompassing that beauty. I'm just worried people won't be as attracted to this book as they should be.

An ARC was given to me by BSB, for a honest review.

Farah says

. "Where am I going? Channel Islands? San Diego? Baja?" I wracked my brain and listed off all of the ocean fishing near LA. "Anchorage, Alaska," Erin said. "Are you fucking kidding me?"

Okay, raise your hands if you want to spend 3/4 weeks in Alaska accompanied/rescued by a sexy, butch ranger with a lean muscular body and full to die for kissable red lips.

A romance with a side of adventure in Alaska between a born/bred Cali lady and the local hottie, featuring the beautiful landscape of Alaska, its famous animals and Brynn Coleman. What an irresistible combo..

Ms.Bryant nailed it with the built-up to their first kiss - first intimate scene. I was as excited as Kennedy when those scenes finally happened and pretty sure that the temperature in Alaska increased when they finally hit the sink... Sighs.. Kennedy, I was certain that most of the readers + myself were envious of you.

Loads of page time for the hs accompanied by a good story and a glimpse into their future.

Alexis says

Can someone turn this into a lesbian Lifetime movie?

After reading this book I walked away with a crush on both main characters and a raccoon! Why is it always so difficult to review a book that I love? I've been staring at my screen wondering how to convey just how good this book is. Do I start with my love for city slicker Kennedy who just like me is allergic to all things nature and bugs related? Or do I talk about Brynn, the raccoon loving, damsel in distress saving, ranger with a heart of gold?

Maybe I should just mention how funny this book is because of all the crazy things that happen to Kennedy. This walking disaster in couture seems to have the worst luck of anyone to have ever set foot in Alaska. If she's not upsetting the local wildlife she's probably being the cause of Brynn turning grey prematurely.

I guess it's a good thing that Brynn is a total sweetheart and they have great chemistry. Seriously though these two are such a good pairing. I loved the banter between them but when Brynn turns on the charm make sure you have a cold drink nearby, you'll need it as these two are scorching hot together.

I really can't say enough about this book. It's well written with great characters, full of hilarious situations, sweet moments and just a little bit of angst. Did I also mention there's a pet raccoon? Don't miss out on reading this. Full 5*!

Joc says

Kennedy Wells is sent off to Anchorage, as continued penance for an indiscretion, to interview a celebrity who wants to do a reality fishing show. A total city-slicker, her disastrous first day in Alaska is brightened only by her rescuer: tall, gorgeous wildlife ranger, Brynn Coleman.

I'm a fan of Bryant and I've been waiting impatiently since *Taste* and I relieved to say that this did not disappoint. Kennedy's unashamed and blatant cluelessness about the outdoors is hysterical. It also serves to highlight how ill-suited she and Brynn are. I thought that this was all there would be to the story but I was wrong and the suspense that wove itself into the plot was a wonderful surprise. I liked that Kennedy was aware of how incompetent she was in the wilds but that she was also there to do a job and would do it to the best of her ability.

Brynn was a bit more of a dark horse and mostly because of the first person point of view being all Kennedy.

I don't mind this viewpoint but it does mean limited insight into the other characters. The chemistry between them is palpable and the sex scenes steamy. I had a couple of misgivings about Brynn's backstory and the way Kennedy felt the issues could be resolved but to go into that would be an unnecessary spoiler.

This is a good, well-paced read and easy to recommend.

Book received from Netgalley and Bold Strokes Books for an honest review.

Arien says

ARC received from NetGalley for a fair review.

5 stars! Really enjoyed this one. Such a breath of fresh air after uncountable insecurity driven books. It's lovely to read about two strong women finding each other. And I love nature so that's another thing I enjoyed amongst the ocean of city-based stories.

Usually, I don't like first person view but this time it was used really well and I think it's even one of those rare occasions when it fits better than anything else. Kennedy's misadventures in the Alaskan wildlife were funny and her reaction to all that's happening even more so. And Wally is my spirit animal.

Overall a really enjoyable, light read. Recommended for everyone!

Tinything says

I really enjoyed this book. I like how the author described Alaska beautifully, the nature, wildlife and animal recuers. It just made me want to apply for the job. I love nature but i dont think i can survive and being helpful when i afraid of bugs and insects that roaming and crawling around the forest. ?

I like both main characters. The chemistry between them were obvious. I also like the character like Kennedy, the city girl that came to the rural area but didnt know a thing and with her misfortune that kept happening to her, it was amusing and i enjoyed how she grew to love the place. Oh! And i like Wally the raccoon too!
